

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey,

We write to urge your support for international family planning and reproductive health programs in the FY16 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill. We respectfully request that international family planning and reproductive health programs be funded at no less than \$669.5 million, including \$630 million in bilateral assistance from the Global Health Programs and Economic Support Funds account and \$39.5 million for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). We believe this would be an important step toward meeting the estimated \$1 billion U.S. share of the global need for these critical programs, which are cost-effective, save lives, and support our broader global health, development, and foreign policy priorities.

Our nation's investments in international family planning have had a significant sustained impact. The funding appropriated for the U.S. assistance for international family planning and reproductive health programs for FY2014 made it possible for:

- 31 million women and couples to receive contraceptive services and supplies;
- 7 million unintended pregnancies to be averted;
- 3 million induced abortions to be averted (2 million of them unsafe);
- 13,000 maternal deaths to be averted;
- 60,000 fewer children to lose their mothers.

These investments not only save and improve lives, but are also highly cost-effective. In a recent report released by the Guttmacher Institute it was found for every additional dollar invested in contraception it will result in \$1.47 saved in pregnancy related care.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Guttmacher Institute. "Just the Numbers: The Impact of U.S. International Family Planning Assistance" (June, 2014). <http://www.guttmacher.org/media/inthenews/2014/06/13/index.html>

Despite these investments there is still work to be done. Every year 290,000 women die largely from preventable complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. At least 225 million women in the developing world would like to prevent or delay pregnancy but lack access to safe, effective contraception; this demand is projected to increase. For the health of women and girls around the world, we firmly support international family planning and reproductive health programs and urge you to provide this level of funding in the FY 2016 Appropriations Bill.

We appreciate your consideration and thank you for your ongoing leadership.

Sincerely,



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Member of Congress



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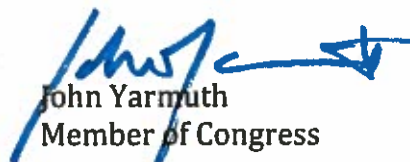
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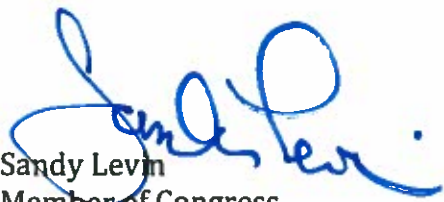
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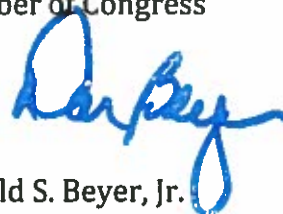
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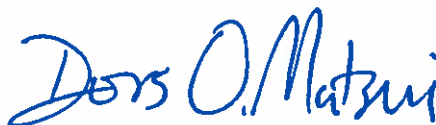
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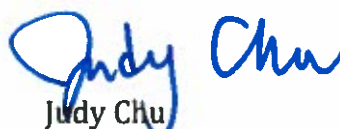
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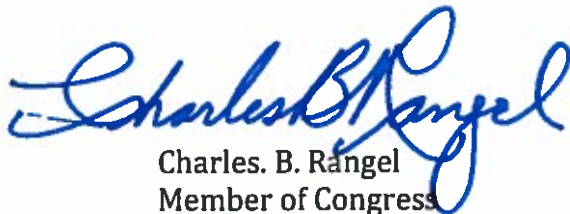
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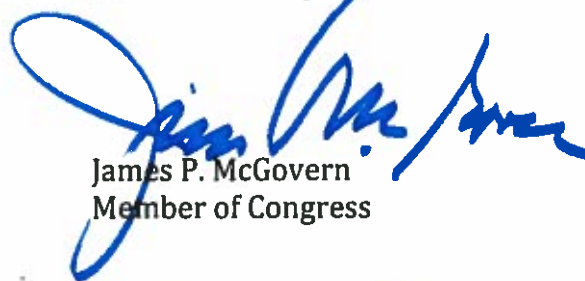
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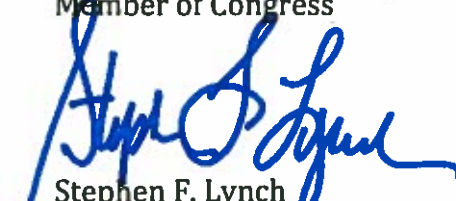
  
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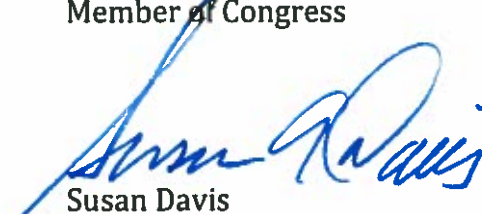
  
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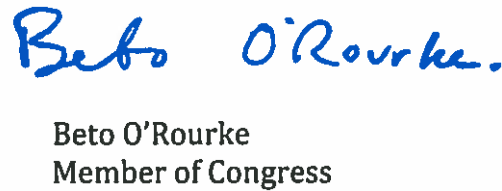
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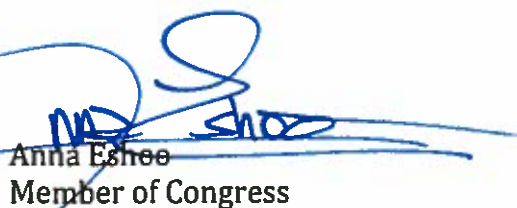
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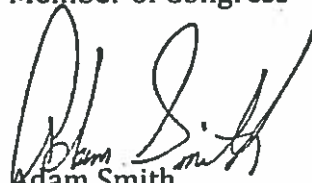
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