

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 17, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St., NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Burwell:

We respectfully request that you support domestic and international family planning in the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request by providing \$1 billion for international family planning and reproductive health, including \$65 million for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and \$337 million for the Title X domestic family planning program. We strongly urge this Administration to maintain the commitment it has demonstrated to cost-effective programs which build health systems that meet the need of women and young people across America and in the developing world.

Despite widespread public support for contraception and significant advances toward making it broadly accessible, such as contraceptive coverage being covered at no cost to women as a preventive service under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), domestic and international family planning funds have faced systematic attacks within the House of Representatives in the past several years. Bills have been introduced that would repeal the ACA's contraceptive benefit, eliminate the Title X family planning program, bar Planned Parenthood from providing vital preventive health care to millions of women and men, reinstate the Global Gag Rule, and eliminate funding for UNFPA. Many of these ideologically-driven attempts have been made through appropriations bills. We appreciate the Administration's leadership in support of family planning and ask that you continue to protect these crucial programs by including them at increased levels in the FY 2015 Budget Request.

Title X is the only federally funded program in the United States dedicated to family planning for low-income and uninsured women, men and young people. Since 1970, Title X has been a key component of our nation's health care infrastructure and an essential element in the winning strategy to reduce unintended pregnancies. In fact, 6 in 10 women who access care from a family planning health center consider it their main source of health care.¹ Every year, 5 million individuals rely on Title X health centers to provide essential life-saving and preventive care, including cancer screenings, sexually transmitted infections (STI) tests, and HIV tests. In 2011 alone, Title X health centers provided 1.5

¹ Gold, RB et al., *Next Steps for America's Family Planning Program: Leveraging the Potential of Medicaid and Title X in an Evolving Health Care System*, Guttmacher Institute, 2009.

million Pap tests, 1.9 million breast exams, and over seven million tests for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including 1.2 million HIV tests. In addition, contraceptive services provided at Title X clinics allow families to plan for their futures, helping to prevent more than one million unintended pregnancies each year.² Not only does Title X help save women's lives, it is also cost-effective; for every dollar invested in publicly-funded family planning programs, taxpayers save \$6.00 in Medicaid related costs. Furthermore, Title X is fundamental to the successful implementation of the ACA. Title X providers will fill in gaps in the delivery system, increasing women's access to health care services where there are few providers. For example, after Massachusetts enacted health care reform, 30 percent of women still needed publicly-funded family planning services even though only two percent of the state's population is uninsured.³

Today, at least 222 million women in the developing world would like to prevent or delay pregnancy but lack access to safe, effective contraception, despite nearly two decades of international consensus on individuals' right to make their own decisions about when and how often to have children. Our request for the international family planning/reproductive health program represents the U.S. fair share of the investment necessary to address the existing unmet need for family planning. This cost-effective investment continues to position the U.S. as a leader on family planning and reproductive health in the global arena and delivers real results.

The funding appropriated for the U.S. assistance for international family planning and reproductive health programs for FY 2012 made it possible for:

- 31.6 million women and couples to receive contraceptive services and supplies;
- 9.4 million unintended pregnancies to be averted;
- 4 million induced abortions to be averted (3 million of them unsafe);
- 22,000 maternal deaths to be averted;
- 2.8 million fewer healthy years of life (DALYs) lost among women; and
- 96,000 fewer children to lose their mothers.⁴

In addition, we strongly support a robust contribution to UNFPA, the world's principal multilateral provider of family planning and reproductive health services. UNFPA has played a tremendous role in combating maternal mortality and morbidity, obstetric fistula, female genital mutilation, gender-based violence, and HIV/AIDS, and providing voluntary family planning services and contraceptive supplies in low-income countries, often where USAID is not present. They have also taken a lead role in responding to reproductive health needs in humanitarian crises and conflict areas, including Syria and Afghanistan. Together, USAID and UNFPA improve the health of women, youth and children, support the fight against HIV/AIDS, and advance women's rights and opportunities for education, employment, and full participation in society.

² Fowler, Cl, Lloyd, S, Gable, J, Wang, J, and McClure, E. *Family Planning Annual Report: 2011 National Summary*. November 2012. Available at: <http://www.hhs.gov/opa/pdfs/fpar-2011-national-summary.pdf>.

³ Ibis Reproductive Health and the Massachusetts Department of Health. "Low-income women's access to contraception after Massachusetts health care reform" (2009). http://ibisreproductivehealth.org/work/contraception/documents/Ibis-MDPH_womencontracepMAHCR10-09.pdf.

⁴ Guttmacher Institute. "Just the Numbers: The Impact of U.S. International Family Planning Assistance" (May 2012). <http://www.guttmacher.org/media/resources/FB-Family-Planning-Assistance.pdf>

For the health and human rights of all Americans and women around the world, we firmly support domestic and international family planning programs and urge you to provide these increases in the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



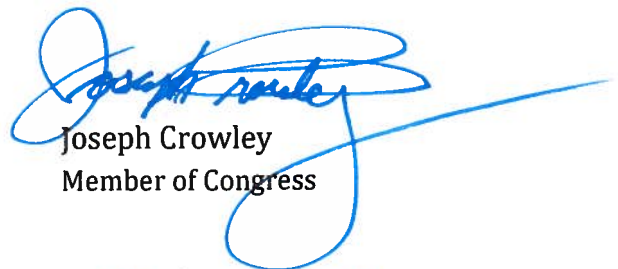
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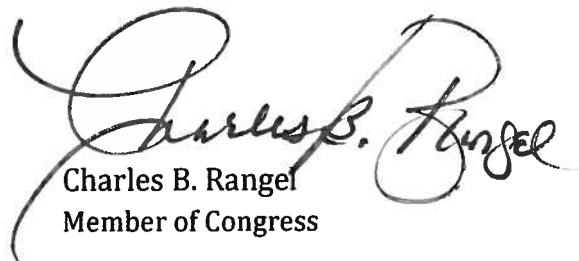
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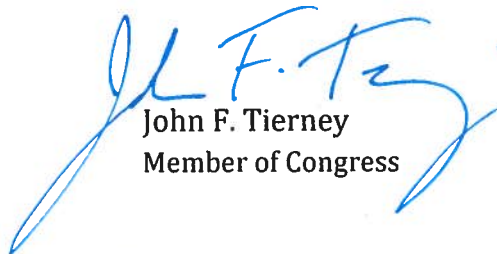
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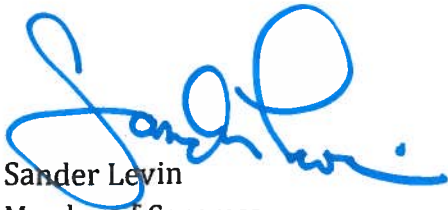
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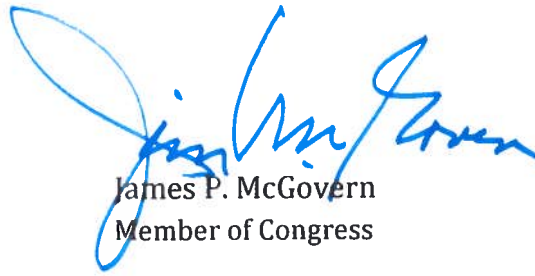
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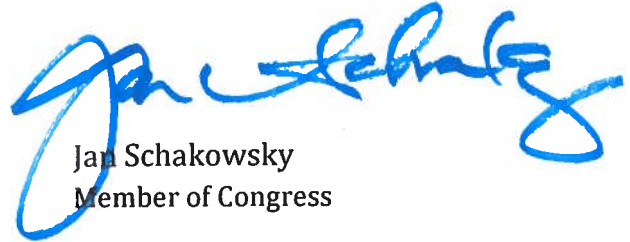
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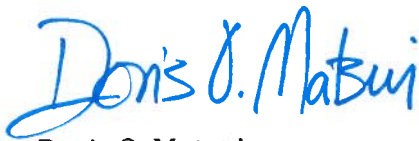
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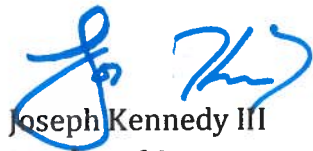
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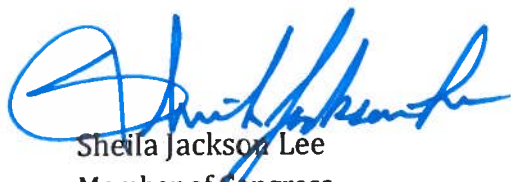
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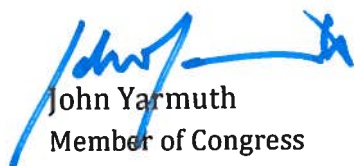
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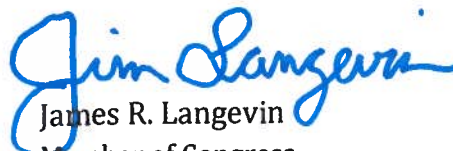
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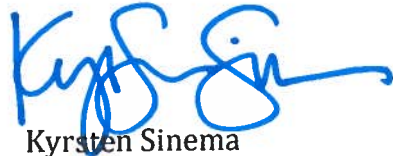
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Peter Welch
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Grace Meng
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Mike Honda
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna F. Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Donna Edwards
Member of Congress