

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2015

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St., NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Donovan:

We respectfully request that you support domestic and international family planning in the President's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Request by providing at least \$1 billion for international family planning and reproductive health, including \$65 million for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and \$327 million for the Title X domestic family planning program. We strongly urge this Administration to solidify the commitment it has demonstrated to cost-effective programs that meet the needs of women and young people across America and in developing countries in its final budget request.

Despite wide spread public support for contraception, significant improvements in public health outcomes and advances toward making it broadly accessible, domestic and international family planning programs have faced systematic attacks from Congress in the past several years. Bills have been introduced that would dismantle the ACA's contraceptive benefit, eliminate the Title X family planning program, eliminate Planned Parenthood as a provider of choice, 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 support for family planning and ask that you further demonstrate your leadership by proposing increased funding for these crucial programs in the FY 2017 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, more than 4 million individuals rely on Title X health centers to provide essential life-saving and preventative care, including birth control, cancer screenings, sexually transmitted infections (STI) tests, and HIV tests. In 2014 alone, Title X health centers provided 800,000 Pap tests, 1.3 million breast exams, and almost five

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 tests for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including 1 million HIV tests.² 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.³ Not only does Title X help save women's lives, it is also cost-effective; for every dollar invested in publically funded family planning programs, tax payers save approximately \$7.09 in Medicaid related costs. Furthermore, Title X is fundamental to the successful implementation of the ACA and integral to the health care system's move towards promoting overall prevention and wellness. Title X providers play a key role in the evolving delivery system, ensuring women's access to health care services where there are few providers.

Today, at least 225 million women in the developing world would like to prevent or delay pregnancy but lack access to modern methods of contraception, despite more than 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 and reproductive health (FP/RH) program represents the U.S. fair share of the investment necessary to address the existing unmet need for safe, effective contraception. This cost-effective investment continues to position the U.S. as a global leader on family planning and reproductive health and saves and improves the lives and health of women, youth, and children.

The funding appropriated for the U.S. assistance for international family planning and reproductive health programs for FY 2015 made it possible for:

- 28 million women and couples to receive contraceptive services and supplies;
- 6 million unintended pregnancies to be averted;
- 2.4 million induced abortions to be averted (1.9 million of them unsafe); and
- 12,000 maternal deaths to be averted.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 plays a critical 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 in countries where USAID does not operate FP/RH programs. They have also taken a lead role in responding to reproductive and community health needs in humanitarian crises and conflict areas, including Syria and neighboring countries, Afghanistan, Burundi, South Sudan, Nepal, and Yemen. Inside Syria, UNFPA remains the only agency distributing reproductive health vouchers and is the only provider of normal childbirth delivery services in Zaatari refugee

² Fowler, CI, Gable, J, Wang, J, and Lasater, B. (August 2015). Family Planning Annual Report: 2014 National Summary. Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International.

³ Frost JJ, Zolna MR and Frohwirth L, Contraceptive Needs and Services, 2012 Update, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2014, <<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/win/contraceptive-needs-2012.pdf>>.

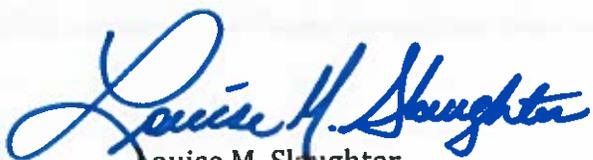
⁴ Guttmacher Institute. "Just the Numbers: The Impact of U.S. International Family Planning Assistance" (April 2015). <http://www.guttmacher.org/media/inthenews/2015/04/10/>

camp in Jordan, where there have been more than 4,000 deliveries and no maternal deaths. In the immediate aftermath of the Nepal earthquake in April 2015, UNFPA, in coordination with the Nepalese government, reached out to the most vulnerable populations in the 14 most-affected districts to deliver integrated reproductive health and gender-based violence prevention services, and build the capacity of the health service providers.

Together, USAID's family planning and reproductive health program and UNFPA are central to the success of the Administration's two signature global health goals: ending preventable child and maternal deaths and achieving an AIDS-free generation, as well as the President's commitment to promoting gender equality in U.S. foreign policy.

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 2017 Budget Request. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



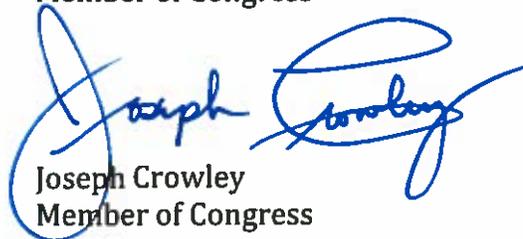
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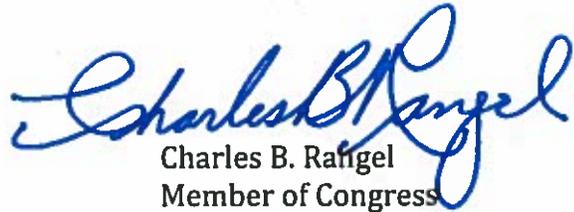
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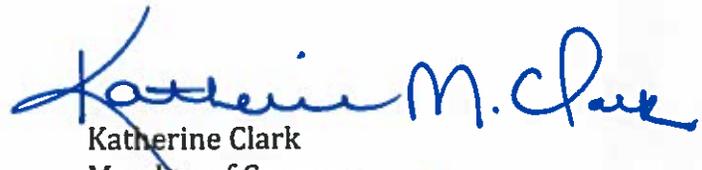
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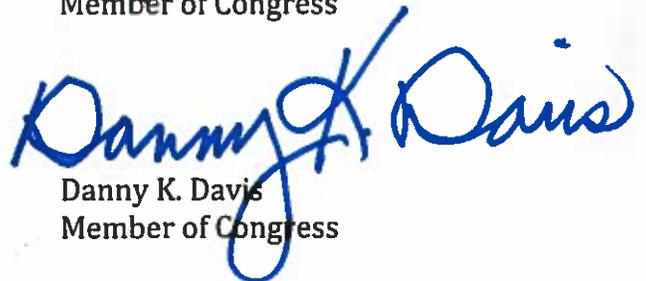
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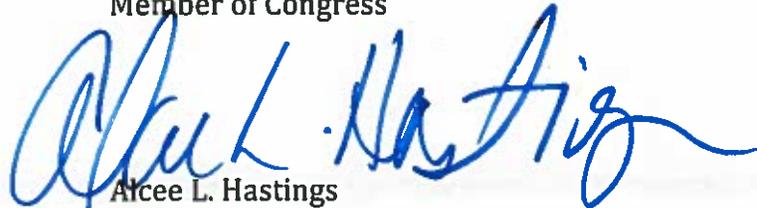
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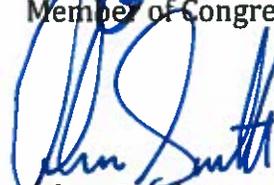
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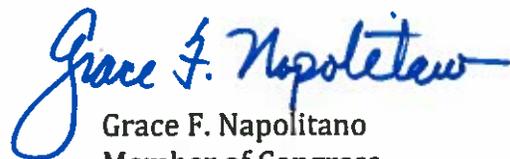
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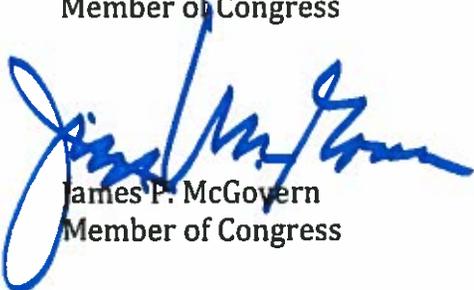
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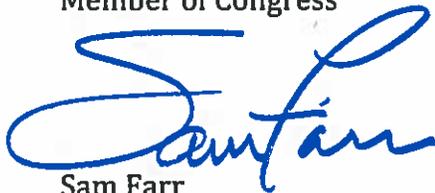
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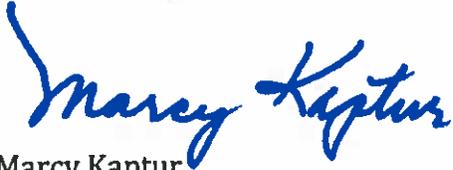
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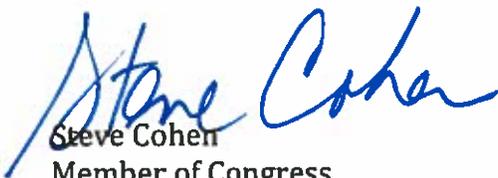
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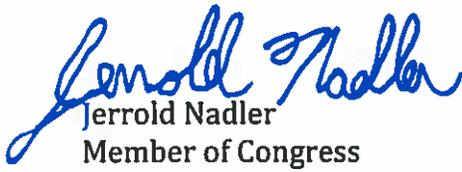
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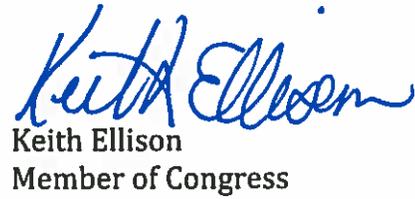


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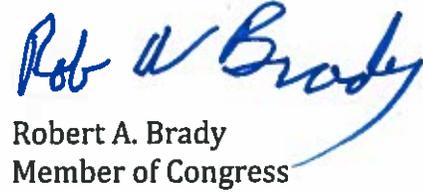


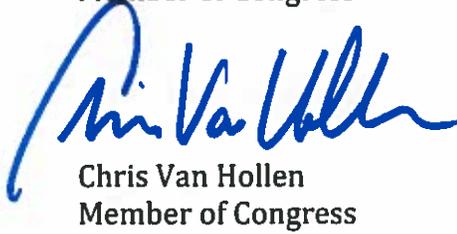
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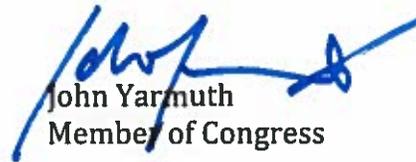

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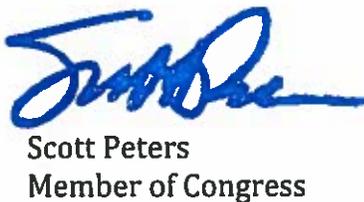

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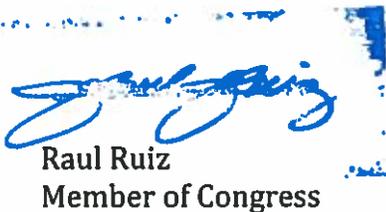

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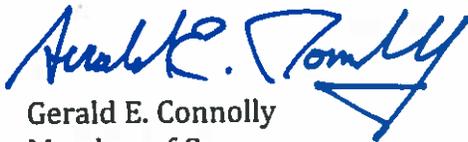
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