

December 12, 2023

<p>The Honorable Kay Granger Chairwoman House Appropriations Committee 1026 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515</p>	<p>The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Ranking Member House Appropriations Committee and House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies 2413 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515</p>
<p>The Honorable Robert Aderholt Chairman House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies 266 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515</p>	

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Chairman Adherholt:

Global Health Council (GHC) is the leading member organization with more than 130 members devoted to advancing global health priorities by uniting advocates, implementers, policymakers, and other stakeholders. As a community of global health and development advocates, we are deeply concerned with the steep cuts proposed in the fiscal year (FY) 2024 House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) bill which, if enacted, would severely undercut critical global health and research programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The bill drastically cuts funding for the CDC Global Health Center’s Division for Global Public Health Protection (DGHP), whose programs bolster critical health system capacities in partner countries. For instance, DGHP supports field epidemiology training programs around the world, building the public health workforce needed to detect, investigate, control emerging health threats, and respond to the public health impacts of natural disasters and humanitarian crises. DGHP’s work is vital to our shared global health security, which the proposed cuts undermine. Furthermore, the bill completely eliminates funding for CDC’s global HIV work with the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which is responsible for more than half of PEPFAR’s annual results across key HIV testing, treatment, prevention, and other interventions known to have the greatest impact on HIV incidence and mortality. If funding to CDC’s global HIV work were to be eliminated, lifesaving treatment and care for approximately 700,000 mothers, children, and adults would be eliminated, resulting in additional deaths and increasing transmission of the HIV virus among adults and children worldwide.

The bill also includes harmful amendments prohibiting funding to the World Health Organization (WHO) which, if enacted, significantly increases the risk to Americans at home and abroad to deadly and

debilitating infectious diseases, like measles, polio, and malaria— all of which have been recently detected here on U.S. soil. The hundreds of global immunization experts that CDC supports around the world through WHO amplify a broad range of other longstanding, bipartisan U.S global health priorities, including polio eradication and malaria treatment and control. Prohibiting funding would result in the erasure of WHO immunization activities for polio eradication, while disrupting the collection of genetic information about viruses that vaccine manufacturers depend on to create vaccines that protect Americans. Additionally, the prohibition on WHO funding risks U.S. economic interests by weakening countries' ability to detect, prevent, and control disease outbreaks at their source, before they become even more deadly and costly to contain, and jeopardizes U.S. health diplomacy by ceding influential decisions to competitors.

The bill's proposed cuts to NIH run counter to lessons learned by U.S. successes in responding to public health threats and pandemics through leadership in global health research and development—most starkly in the proposed cuts to the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which was pivotal to bringing the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to the American public and the world. As global health threats, like neglected tropical diseases and malaria begin to reappear in the U.S., it will be past, present, and future research conducted at NIAID that will underpin our response. Similarly, cutting NIAID's funding will have a direct impact on our understanding of antimicrobial resistance, one of the world's most pressing health threats, as NIAID researchers are actively supporting the development of more effective diagnostic tests, new antibiotics, and novel treatments effective against drug-resistant microbes.

This bill is a dangerous signal to the rest of the world that the U.S. is ceding leadership on the global stage. Therefore, as FY24 appropriations negotiations progress, GHC, and the undersigned organizations, strongly encourage robust funding for global health and research programs within the Health and Human Services (550) account and, at a minimum, support investments for these programs in line with the FY23 enacted levels. Additional funds should come as an increase to the overall topline and not at the expense of any other accounts.

If you have any questions about our recommendations, please feel free to contact the Global Health Council at advocacy@globalhealth.org.

Sincerely,

1. Academy of Integrative Health & Medicine (AIHM)
2. American Academy of Pediatrics
3. American Heart Association
4. American Public Health Association
5. American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
6. Americas TB Coalition
7. Amref Health Africa
8. Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
9. AVAC
10. CARE
11. Children's HeartLink

12. Christian Connections for International Health
13. Community Health Impact Coalition
14. CORE Group
15. Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative
16. Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
17. Family Centered Treatment Foundation
18. Fast-Track Cities Institute
19. FIND
20. First Focus Campaign for Children
21. Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, TB and Malaria
22. Funders Concerned About AIDS
23. Georgia AIDS Coalition
24. Global Alliance for Rheumatic and Congenital Hearts (Global ARCH)
25. Global Health Council
26. Global Health Technologies Coalition
27. Health GAP (Global Access Project)
28. Hearts Unite the Globe: A Nonprofit for the Congenital Heart Defect Community
29. Housing Works, Inc.
30. Integrate Health
31. International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research
32. International Association of Providers of AIDS Care
33. International Medical Corps
34. Ipas
35. Malaria No More
36. Management Sciences for Health
37. mothers2mothers
38. NASTAD
39. Ollie Hinkle Heart Foundation
40. Operation Smile
41. PAI
42. Pandemic Action Network
43. PATH
44. Pathfinder International
45. Policy Cures Research
46. Project HOPE
47. Research!America
48. Resolve to Save Lives
49. RTI International
50. Shot@Life
51. Stop TB USA
52. Task Force for Global Health
53. TB Alliance
54. The G4 Alliance
55. The Mended Hearts, Inc.

56. Treatment Action Group
57. UNICEF USA
58. United to Beat Malaria
59. U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP)
60. VillageReach
61. WaterAid
62. World Hepatitis Alliance
63. World Vision
64. 1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI 360