



January 1, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President-Elect
United States of America

Dear President-Elect Trump:

As leaders within the U.S. Christian community, we write to offer our congratulations on your recent election victory and to offer our prayers for you and your transition team as you prepare to assume office at the beginning of next year.

Our faith calls us to tend to the most disenfranchised and vulnerable, and we believe that our nation and our government have a responsibility to lead global efforts to combat extreme poverty and disease and to respond to humanitarian emergencies.

During the last two presidential administrations, we have taken a stand to champion the historic funding to fight the HIV/AIDS global pandemic. When we began in 2002, less than 50,000 people who were victims of HIV in Sub Saharan Africa had access to anti-retro viral medications. Today, because of the legislation of PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, over 17 million people have access to the medicines which have saved their lives. We are proud that the United States has been the international cornerstone leader of this funding as a moral response, a charitable response, and a response based on smart power—national security, foreign policy, and economic reasons.

Now, we need that same type of leadership initiated by the Bush Administration and continued by the Obama administration for HIV/AIDS for women and girls' health.

When women and girls lack access to the education and resources they need to create a healthy plan for becoming mothers, the result is tragic—303,000 women in developing nations die from preventable complications during childbirth, and 5.9 million children die before their fifth birthday each year. In many cases these mothers and children are without a home or the resources needed for basic care due to conflict, as women and girls make up 80 percent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees globally.

For the last four decades, the U.S. has led in the global efforts on international family planning. With our leadership, we influence the donor investments for the rest of the world. We know that if women have access to contraceptives and information they need to time and space their

pregnancies healthily, lives are saved. The latest studies also suggest that when women have access to contraceptives for healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies, we can dramatically reduce abortions worldwide.

Saving the lives of women and children to allow for families to live in greater abundance: to combat hunger and extreme poverty, attend school, and go back to work not only is the beginning of creating a virtuous cycle of sustainability among communities and low-income nations, it's the right thing to do. Investing in healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies is consistent with our Christian values in protecting life and recognizing the inherent dignity and value of all lives.

As you build your foreign policy and national security teams and policy agendas, we urge you to prioritize investments in Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health and International Family Planning. We ask that they maintain the current funding levels at a minimum.

Our organizations and the broader faith communities that we represent look forward to working with you and your Administration to advance U.S. leadership in global health and development, and we once again offer our congratulations on your election to the Presidency.

Sincerely,

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