

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Chairwoman
House Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs DeLauro and Lee and Ranking Members Granger and Rogers,

As members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the House Committee on Armed Services, we are keenly aware of the importance of foreign aid in undergirding American global leadership, and we are deeply concerned that an inadequate American response to the global COVID-19 pandemic will have significant negative consequences for both global health and American strategic objectives. In order to restore American moral leadership on the world stage and strengthen bilateral relationships between the United States and our allies in Africa, Asia and Latin America, we strongly support a comprehensive US-led global COVID-19 response, and we are prepared to support additional robust funding through the FY22 appropriations process to achieve this goal.

The United States, through taxpayer investments like Operation Warp Speed, played an essential role in incentivizing the development of the first safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines at unprecedented speed, and the severe global need for these vaccines presents an unparalleled opportunity for the United States to strengthen international relationships and burnish our international reputation through good-faith humanitarian efforts to end the pandemic globally as soon as possible.

According to the Department of State, the United States has now shipped over 480 million donated doses abroad, surpassing the vaccine donations of any other country.¹ However, billions of people across the developing world remain unvaccinated, and while the United States currently leads the world in donated doses, China is by far the world's largest exporter of vaccines. The CCP has already delivered 1.4 billion doses to countries around the world.² This is all the more concerning in light of reports that China is not just selling vaccines; they are extracting concessions from countries in exchange for vaccines. Paraguay has been pressured to cut ties with Taiwan in exchange for Chinese vaccines, while Ukraine was coerced into withdrawing support for a Human Rights Council statement criticizing China's human rights abuses in the Xinjiang region.³

It has now been more than one year since the first COVID-19 vaccines were approved for use, and yet, only 13.6% of people living in low-income countries have received a single dose of these lifesaving vaccines.⁴ If we do not take any and all steps necessary to ensure

¹ COVID-19 Vaccine Donations. *Department of State*. <https://www.state.gov/covid-19-recovery/vaccine-deliveries/>

² China COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker. *Bridge Consulting*. <https://bridgebeijing.com/our-publications/our-publications-1/china-covid-19-vaccines-tracker/>.

³ Londoño, Ernesto, Santi Carneri, Amy Qin and Sui-Lee Wee. April 16, 2021. Overwhelmed by the virus, Paraguay considers ditching Taiwan for China — and its vaccines. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/16/world/overwhelmed-by-the-virus-paraguay-considers-ditching-taiwan-for-china-and-its-vaccines.html>. Keaten, Jamey. June 25, 2021. Diplomats say China puts squeeze on Ukraine. *AP News*. <https://apnews.com/article/united-nations-china-europe-ukraine-health-a0a5ae8f735b92e39c623e453529cbb9>

⁴ Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccinations. *Our World in Data*. <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>

the delivery of pledged doses to countries in need, it would be both a catastrophic moral failing and a strategic blunder of American foreign policy that will have significant ramifications for American global leadership for years to come.

We have been informed by USAID on several occasions that the agency expects to have expended or obligated all of the funding it received through the American Rescue Plan Act by the end of February. We are therefore prepared to support additional robust funding through the FY22 appropriations process to expand and accelerate the U.S.-led global COVID-19 response and end this pandemic around the world.

How we act in this moment will define our nation for a generation. We must rise to meet the challenge, for our own citizens and for the world.

Sincerely,



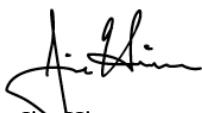
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



María Elvira Salazar
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Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



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Tom Malinowski
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