

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 4, 2021

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear President Biden,

Your administration's plan to provide 500 million mRNA vaccines to low- and middle-income countries around the world is a commendable and significant step toward ending the COVID-19 pandemic globally, and we appreciate that your administration has already delivered over 110 million vaccine doses to 65 countries. However, given the magnitude of the problem—with almost 6 billion people worldwide who have yet to receive a single dose, only 0.3% of all vaccine doses administered in low-income countries, and the continual formation of new and deadly variants such as Delta and Lambda—this necessitates an even greater commitment from the United States to provide vaccines and ensure their secure end-to-end delivery around the world.

Specifically, we want to draw your attention to a letter¹ led by our offices, together with Senators Merkley and Warren, calling for \$34 billion in the reconciliation package to establish an American-led global vaccination campaign, which now has the support of 116 Members of Congress and counting, including more than half the Democratic Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives. Much like PEPFAR, an intergovernmental effort formed by President Bush to combat the AIDS epidemic, we must implement a comprehensive program to combat the spread of COVID-19 abroad to protect Americans at home. This level of congressional support attests to the importance of this issue for the 116 Members who signed this letter and the millions of Americans they represent in Congress.

This is not just a humanitarian mission; this is a necessary prerequisite to ending the pandemic here in America. The current surge in COVID-19 cases across the United States, caused by the Delta variant, can be directly traced back to the scarcity of vaccines in low- and middle-income countries. Allowing the coronavirus to spread unchecked around the world is no longer an option. To end the pandemic here, we must end it everywhere.

We appreciate your efforts to increase global vaccination rates and respectfully ask that you continue to lend your voice to this cause and support the inclusion of robust funding in the reconciliation package to implement a global vaccination program sufficient to vaccinate at least 60% of the populations in the 92 COVAX AMC countries. We respectfully submit, Mr. President, that any legislative package focused on American jobs and families must address the biggest issue facing American jobs and families. Today, that issue is the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more details, please see the attached letter to congressional leadership, signed by 116 Members of Congress. Please contact our offices if you have any questions or concerns; we are eager to assist in any way that we can.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

¹ The letter and a full list of cosigners are presented on the following pages.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 4, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer:

We write to ask that the budget reconciliation bill provide up to \$34 billion in funding to significantly accelerate the production of COVID-19 vaccines for global distribution, both to save lives and to reinforce America's leadership in combatting the pandemic worldwide. We applaud President Biden's recent announcement that the U.S. government will purchase and donate to lower income countries 500 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine, as well as its financial contributions to COVAX, made possible by the American Rescue Plan. These steps have been extraordinarily generous and consistent with our national interest, because if the pandemic continues to rage in other countries, variants could emerge that defeat existing vaccines.

However, the magnitude of the problem—only 1% of people in low-income countries vaccinated and over 6 billion worldwide who have yet to receive a dose—necessitates an even greater commitment from the United States to provide vaccines and secure end-to-end delivery at a global scale.¹ Even if we set a relatively modest goal of vaccinating 60 percent of the population in the 92 lower-income countries eligible for assistance from COVAX, billions more doses will be needed. **To this end, we respectfully request that whatever is needed on top of unspent COVID-19 relief funds to get to \$34 billion be set aside in the upcoming economic development and jobs package to reach such a goal.**

Part of the answer will be stepped up production of COVID-19 vaccines in developing countries. More must be done to make this possible, and the Biden administration is working with partners around the world to address the complicated challenges involved. Meanwhile, the most practical step the United States can take is to do our part in mass producing the vaccines our companies helped develop and enabling the most rapid and equitable distribution of those vaccines to the countries in greatest need. This vision is specifically outlined in the broadly supported *Nullifying Opportunities for Variants to Infect & Decimate (NOVID) Act* (H.R. 3778/S.1976), which details a plan for achieving these goals through a comprehensive production and distribution strategy.

¹ T.V. Padma, *COVID vaccines to reach poorest countries in 2023 — despite recent pledges*, Nature (July 5, 2021). <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01762-w>

The United States accounts for almost 25 percent of the global economy, and we control an even larger share of the manufacturing capacity for the uniquely effective vaccines that our companies have patented.²³ As such, the 500 million doses we have already promised represent less than our fair share of the billions of doses needed to meet this global challenge. Recent COVID-19 outbreaks in countries that relied on Chinese vaccines reinforce how dependent lower income countries will be on American assistance to defeat COVID-19. In rising to this challenge, we can show once again that in moments of great need, America does great things.

Estimates indicate that it will cost up to \$25 billion to create enough vaccine manufacturing capacity around the world to vaccinate 60% of the populations in the COVAX countries, plus another \$8.5 billion to ensure end-to-end delivery of the vaccines.⁴ **We therefore urge Congress to provide whatever funds are needed in the reconciliation bill, in addition to any unspent ARP funds that may exist, to achieve this goal.**

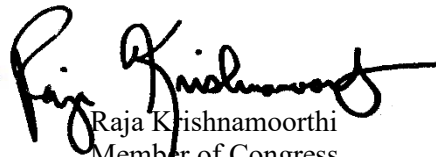
No investment in the fight against COVID-19 is more urgent and cost-effective now than an investment in getting the world vaccinated as quickly as possible. Even assuming wealthy countries will be fully vaccinated by mid-2021, the global economic cost of not vaccinating lower-income countries is estimated to be \$9 trillion per year, or nearly ten percent of global GDP.⁵ \$34 billion is a small price to pay to help return the U.S. and global economy to normalcy, and we request that such an amount is included in the upcoming spending package.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

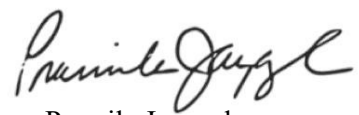
Respectfully,



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senator



Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator



Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator

² Congressional Research Service. *U.S. Trade Trends and Developments*. (December 3, 2018). <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R45420.pdf>

³ Estabn Ortiz-Prado, et al., *Vaccine Market and Production Capabilities in the Americas*, Trop Dis Travel Med Vaccines 7, 11 (April 13, 2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40794-021-00135-5>

⁴ Public Citizen. *\$25 Billion to Vaccinate the World*. (February 18, 2021). <https://www.citizen.org/article/25billion-to-vaccinate-the-world/>

⁵ Peter S. Goodman, *If Poor Countries Go Unvaccinated, a Study Says, Rich Ones Will Pay*, The New York Times (January 23, 2021). <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/23/business/coronavirus-vaccines-global-economy.html>

Members of Congress:

James P. McGovern	Jahana Hayes	Joseph Morelle
Peter A. DeFazio	Mary Gay Scanlon	Stacey Plaskett
Raul Grijalva	Colin Allred	Juan Vargas
Jerrold Nadler	Jake Auchincloss	Frank Mrvan
Derek Kilmer	Mark Pocan	Adam Smith
Ted Deutch	Ritchie Torres	Al Green
Emanuel Cleaver, II	Rashida Tlaib	Lori Trahan
William R. Keating	Marilyn Strickland	Brendan F. Boyle
Albio Sires	Ayanna Pressley	Donald Norcross
Karen Bass	Earl Blumenauer	Jackie Speier
Jim Costa	Jesús G. “Chuy” García	Paul Tonko
David Cicilline	Melanie Stansbury	Madeleine Dean
Andy Levin	Tom Suozzi	Kweisi Mfume
Ro Khanna	Anthony G. Brown	Daniel T. Kildee
Eleanor Holmes Norton	Adriano Espaillat	Bonnie Watson Coleman
Dina Titus	G.K. Butterfield	Salud Carbajal
Lloyd Doggett	Dwight Evans	Sanford Bishop
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.	Norma Torres	Mark Takano
Katie Porter	Sara Jacobs	Kathy Castor
Jamie Raskin	Conor Lamb	Doris Matsui
Danny K. Davis	Steven Horsford	C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
John Garamendi	Sheila Jackson Lee	David Trone
Joe Courtney	Ron Kind	Mike Levin
Andy Kim	Marie Newman	Haley Stevens
Marcy Kaptur	Seth Moulton	Jason Crow
André Carson	Grace Meng	Jennifer Wexton
Steve Cohen	Veronica Escobar	David Price
Joaquin Castro	Jared Huffman	Filemon Vela
Bill Foster	Jim Cooper	Peter Welch
Suzanne Bonamici	Eddie Bernice Johnson	John Sarbanes
Kathy Manning	Cori Bush	Gwen Moore
Ted Lieu	Yvette Clarke	Carolyn Bourdeaux
Vicente Gonzalez	Tony Cárdenas	Mike Quigley
Dean Phillips	Ed Perlmutter	Jackie Speier
Jamaal Bowman	Raul Ruiz	Kaiali‘i Kahele
Deborah K. Ross	Nydia M. Velázquez	

CC: Chair John Yarmuth, U.S. House of Representatives Budget Committee Chair
Bernard Sanders, U.S. Senate Budget Committee