

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations

House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State and Foreign
Operations
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey,

As you determine priorities for the FY 2017 State, Foreign Operations and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we respectfully request that you provide \$230 million for the Nutrition sub-account within the Global Health Programs account at USAID.

We applaud your leadership and share your commitment and support to these critical, life-saving investments in global health, food security and nutrition. In FY 2016, Congress provided \$125 million in Nutrition funding under the Global Health Programs account. This request would nearly double that FY 2016 enacted level. The President's budget requested a \$17 million reduction for FY 2017, which we believe is not in the best interest of the United States, undermines the investments the U.S. has already made in nutrition funding, and weakens U.S. leadership and leverage at the upcoming Nutrition for Growth Summit in Brazil.

Congress has played a significant role in championing nutrition and increasing the nutrition sub-account over the past 5 years, which has undoubtedly been life-saving for millions of children since almost half of all under-5 child deaths are nutrition related. A substantial increase in the Nutrition account would address the leading cause of child mortality by significantly scaling-up investments in nutrition.

The Nutrition funding supports many specific and vital nutrition activities, such as nutrition education to improve maternal diets, nutrition during pregnancy, exclusive breastfeeding, and infant and young child feeding practices. It further supports diet quality and diversification through fortified or bio-fortified staple foods, specialized food products, and community gardens, as well as the delivery of nutrition services such as micronutrient supplementation and community management of acute malnutrition.

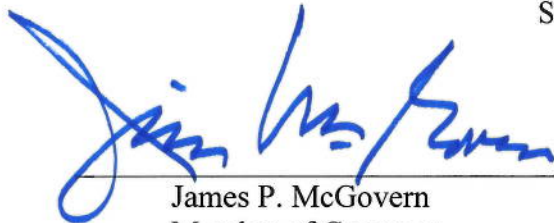
In just five months, the Brazilian Government will host the second Nutrition for Growth summit, where donor and developing country governments have an opportunity to make financial and policy commitments to address the global scourge of maternal and child malnutrition. A strong U.S. government commitment in Rio is critical to helping to put the world

on track to meet the global nutrition targets, and ultimately, preventing malnutrition in millions of women and children worldwide.

An increase to \$230 million for this account will send a clear signal that the United States is committed to evidence-based nutrition-specific interventions that are critical to ensuring that children not only survive, but thrive and that their mothers will live to see it. The United States is poised to lead at the Nutrition for Growth conference and that needs to start with a strong prioritization of nutrition in the FY17 budget.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request to significantly increase the Nutrition funding in the Global Health Programs account.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



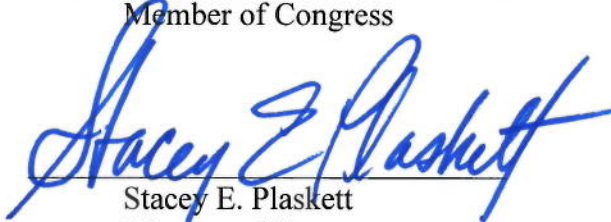
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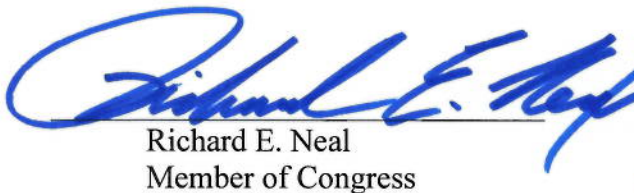
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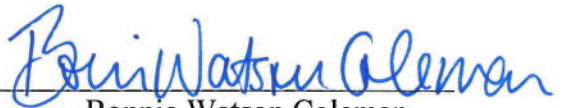



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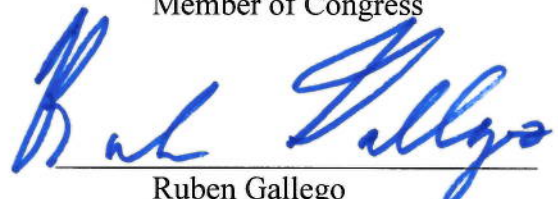

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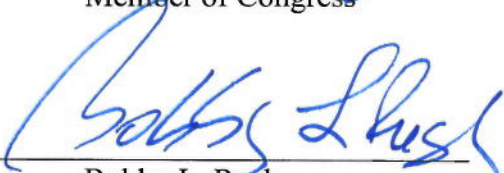

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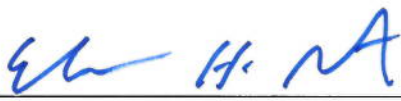

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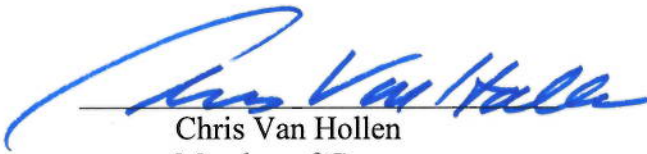
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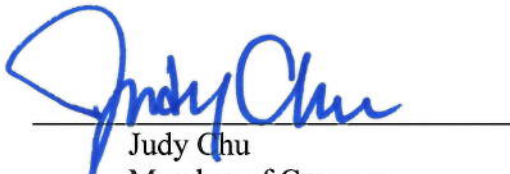
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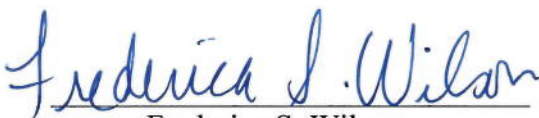
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