

July 1, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

As faith leaders from across the country who are committed to ensuring that the United States reflects our values and principles on the world stage, we write to share our strong support for our nation's efforts to assist our most vulnerable neighbors and brothers and sisters around the world in response to the COVID-19 global health emergency, and to urge you to prioritize critical emergency resources for America's international humanitarian and infectious disease response in upcoming legislation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported that more than 70% of the world's nations are ill-equipped to handle outbreaks due to a lack of public health infrastructure, and if we neglect the international dimension of our pandemic response, we worry that many lives could be at risk. A recent report estimated that up to 3 million deaths could occur in these countries without additional humanitarian assistance, and millions more stand on the brink of starvation given the economic upheaval in the world's poorest countries.

America's vital humanitarian, global health, and diplomatic programs can help save lives through prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of COVID-19 and the provision of personal protective equipment to front-line health care workers around the world. It is also critical that our country respond to the dire economic, food security, humanitarian, and development needs heightened by the effects of COVID-19, and to continue critical ongoing humanitarian operations including treating malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and promoting religious freedom around the world.

Jesus taught that "from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." At this critical moment, we cannot turn our back on our brothers and sisters around the world. As a nation, we have both the ability and obligation to provide resources which will prevent the worldwide spread of this disease and alleviate the suffering of those afflicted – and in so doing, we are certain it will also protect us here at home as well.

As leaders of faith-based organizations and communities, we implore you to take urgent action to support a robust international response to address the impacts of COVID-19 as part of any new emergency funding legislation. We pray that as our nation's duly elected representatives of a generous people, you will collectively find a way to meet our nation's responsibility to serve those less fortunate.

Sincerely,

Sean Callahan
President and CEO
Catholic Relief Services

Russell Moore
President
Southern Baptist Ethics &
Religious Liberty Commission

Walter Kim
President
National Association of Evangelicals

Ralph Reed
Founder and Chairman
Faith and Freedom Coalition

Chad Hayward
Executive Director
Accord Network

Scott Arbeiter
President
World Relief

Santiago “Jimmy” Mellado
President and CEO
Compassion International

Colin Hanna
President
Let Freedom Ring

Chad Connelly
Founder and CEO
Faith Wins

Brent McBurney
President
Advocates International

Dr. Carl Herbster
President
Advance USA

Eli Oswald
Executive Director
Faith to Action Initiative

Edgar Sandoval, Sr.
President
World Vision U.S.

Samuel Rodriguez
New Season Lead Pastor
NHCLC President

Most Reverend David J. Malloy
Bishop of Rockford
Chairman, Committee on International Justice & Peace
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Honorable J. Kenneth Blackwell
Former U.S. Ambassador
UN Commission on Human Rights

Doug Fountain
Executive Director
Christian Connections for International Health

Philip Langford
President, US
International Justice Mission

Dr. Joseph Mattera
President
United Coalition of Apostolic Leaders

Erick Erickson
Editor
The Resurgent

Mark Viso
President and CEO
Food for the Hungry

Ann Corkery
President
Sudan Relief Fund

Nate Bult
Senior VP of Public & Government Affairs
Bethany Christian Services

Justin Murff
Executive Director
The MENA Collective

Dr. Mark Smith
President
Columbia International University

Jeff Hunt
Director
Centennial Institute

Terry Schilling
Executive Director
American Principles Project

Dr. Gus Reyes
Director, Christian Life Commission
Texas Baptists

Rev. Dean Nelson
Chairman
Frederick Douglass Foundation

C. Preston Noell III
President
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

Deal W. Hudson, PhD
Publisher
The Christian Review

Arlene Samuels
Editor
Blog Times of Israel

Aaron Baer
President
Citizens for Community

George Landrith
President, Frontiers of Freedom
Former Bishop of the Fair Oaks Ward
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Larry Cirignano
President
Catholic Alliance

Robert K. Fischer
Meeting Founder
Conservatives of Faith

CC:

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Chairman, Senate SFOPS Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Chairwoman, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Harold Rogers, Ranking Member, House SFOPS Appropriations Committee