

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  
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Let Freedom Ring

Chad Connelly  
Founder and CEO  
Faith Wins

Brent McBurney  
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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

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The Resurgent

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Food for the Hungry

Ann Corkery  
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Nate Bult  
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Executive Director  
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Director  
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Terry Schilling  
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American Principles Project

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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