

May 29, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

As members of non-governmental and civil society organizations who support U.S. leadership on global health and immunization, we are deeply grateful for this Administration's historic support for access to COVID vaccines globally and the leadership it showed rallying the G7 behind this cause. We are now looking to your leadership to ensure access to new and underutilized vaccines that can save millions more lives, with an early U.S. pledge of no less than \$1.4 billion over four years to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

Since 2000, the U.S. Government has been partnering with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance through USAID, to ensure children everywhere receive life-saving vaccinations. Gavi has a phenomenal track record of achieving results; their routine child immunization programs have reached more than one billion children and prevented more than 17 million deaths. Gavi also co-led the roll out of COVID vaccines globally, through its COVAX initiative, leveraging U.S. and other donor support to save millions more lives.

Our organizations have been working together for decades to build longstanding, bipartisan support for global immunization. If the Administration makes a bold pledge to increase resources for Gavi's next strategic period, we are confident of strong support from Capitol Hill. For both FY2024 and FY2025, more than 135 bipartisan members of Congress called for \$340 million for Gavi in the State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill. Even in a constrained budget environment, there is deep bipartisan support for global access to lifesaving, cost-effective vaccines that can return over \$50 for every \$1 invested.

Each of the previous two U.S. multi-year pledges to Gavi, under the Obama and Trump Administrations, marked a step-change in U.S. support, which Congress delivered in a bipartisan way. We are looking to the Biden Administration to continue this strong leadership, with another bold increased pledge this year. With the need to reach the newest generation with life-saving vaccines – and seize transformational opportunities like scaling up HPV vaccine delivery and introducing the new malaria vaccines – we are looking to the Biden Administration to commit no less than \$1.4 billion over four years. Without this increase, the U.S. would be missing the chance to play a role in these new opportunities, which require significant new funding.

An early and increased U.S. pledge for the upcoming replenishment is also a critical opportunity to influence other donors, who will look to the United States to determine their own multi-year pledges to Gavi. Following the Biden Administration's historic leadership on COVID vaccines at the G7 three years ago, both the G7 Summit this June and the launch of the Gavi Investment Opportunity, hosted by President Macron and Africa CDC, present powerful opportunities for an early, bold pledge that could rally other donors. At the Investment Opportunity launch in Paris, we hope you will personally make an ambitious announcement on behalf of the United States. Should you not be able to attend, we hope that you will send Vice President Harris to represent the U.S. government.

Gavi's investments in routine immunization, cold chain technology, and global health security serve as a backbone of health systems, and the organization's model supports country ownership through a robust co-financing mechanism. Gavi is central to a long list of areas where your Administration has been a leader – from building the delivery systems to support future emergency vaccines in a new pandemic, to scaling up access to HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer, or launching the new malaria vaccine.

Support for Gavi is more crucial now than ever. We are fighting the largest sustained decline in childhood immunization in a generation. Sixty-seven million children missed routine vaccinations between 2019 and 2021. Immunization coverage has started rebounding--but in 2022, 14 million children around the world still did not receive a single vaccine. Half of all vaccine-preventable deaths occur among children in this group, and many of them live in countries the U.S. government has identified as priorities for maternal and child survival programs. Gavi and partners are leading a global catchup campaign to reach these children with the lifesaving vaccines they deserve.

As Gavi launches its next five-year strategic period, our community stands ready to work with you to ensure U.S. leadership and support for Gavi remains strong. We firmly believe contributions to Gavi provide remarkable value for taxpayer dollars and represent the best of U.S. leadership in global health. We know there is significant bipartisan support for child survival and we will work as advocates to ensure that Congress delivers on a bold and increased U.S. pledge to Gavi.

Sincerely,

Action Against Hunger
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
CARE USA
Christian Connections for International Health
CORE GROUP
Education for All Coalition
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
First Focus on Children

Food for the Hungry
Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Global Citizen
Global Health Advocacy Incubator
Global Health Council
Global Health Technologies Coalition
GlobalPartnersUnited
IAVI
Maestral International
Malaria No More
Management Sciences for Health
No Borders Humanity Organization (NBH)
PAI
Partners In Health
PATH
Project HOPE
Public Citizen
RESULTS
RISE Institute
Save the Children
Shot@Life
The Borgen Project
The ONE Campaign
Together for Girls
Treatment Action Group
UNICEF USA
United to Beat Malaria
World Vision

CC:

Antony Blinken, Secretary of State
Samantha Power, USAID Administrator