

The Honorable Albio Sires
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
436 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2015

Dear Representative Sires and Representative Diaz-Balart,

As members of the global health community, we thank you for your sponsorship of the *Global Health Innovation Act* (H.R. 2241) and express our support for this important legislation.

Each year, nearly 9 million people worldwide lose their lives to infectious diseases and emerging health threats. The United States has long been a leader in developing the innovations that help save the lives of the world's poor. New vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, and other tools are desperately needed to combat systemic and emerging health challenges that perpetuate poverty. The *Global Health Innovation Act* works to uphold US leadership in this field by strengthening global health research and development (R&D) programming at the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and supporting the development of health products that are key to advancing global health around the world.

As you know, the *Global Health Innovation Act* is no-cost, bipartisan legislation that will support the development, advancement, introduction, and scale-up of health technologies at USAID and help ensure the agency is incorporating new innovations for global health across all of its programming. The bill does not create new programs or entities, but rather leverages existing resources to improve efficiency and coordination throughout the agency by requiring USAID to submit an annual report to Congress on all its health-related R&D activities. Not only will this report ensure that the agency continues to coordinate, streamline, and organize its use and development of global health technologies—a practice area that spans many departments and bureaus—but it will also help the agency gauge performance, share best practices, and understand gaps in service to more effectively serve its mission.

This legislation will provide transparency around the role of R&D in USAID's broader global health strategies—including in health areas where USAID has made little to no investment in R&D (e.g., drugs for neglected tropical diseases and tuberculosis vaccines). It will encourage a whole-of-government approach to product development priority setting and coordination between agencies to ensure that countries ultimately receive the tools they need to address their most pressing health challenges.

The *Global Health Innovation Act* highlights the United States' leadership in developing innovative health technologies and underscores the need for new health innovations as a critical piece of the global health agenda. We thank you for introducing this important, no-cost legislation and look forward to working with you to advance the bill through Congress.

Sincerely,

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American Academy of Pediatrics
American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Aids Foundation
EngenderHealth
Global Health Council
Global Health Technologies Coalition

Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Partnership for Microbicides
Medicines for Malaria Venture
PATH
Treatment Action Group
Washington Global Health Alliance