



August 19, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

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

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

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

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

As implementers and advocates of America's foreign assistance, we urge Congress to take immediate and permanent action to end the administration's repeated threats and use of rescissions to cut congressionally approved funds meant to end poverty, advance democracy and human rights, and alleviate human suffering globally.

By impounding or canceling congressionally approved foreign assistance that the President signed into law, the administration not only subverts Congress' constitutionally-mandated role but also reduces the effectiveness of life-saving programs and undermines America's global leadership.

We support the bipartisan leaders of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House Foreign Affairs Committee and the message they delivered on August 9 to the Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney and Acting Director Peter Vought. Our community agrees that such an attempt – by any administration – to override Congress' most fundamental power would be “a direct affront to the separation of powers principle upon which our nation was built.”

We thank Vice Chairman Leahy and Chairwoman Lowey for their letter that emphasized the targeted funds “were appropriated by overwhelming bipartisan majorities and after lengthy negotiations between the House and Senate, and including the White House.” We also thank Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Rogers for their letter expressing, “The U.S. Government Accountability Office's December 2018 legal opinion concluded that the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act does not permit the withholding of funds through their date of expiration and notes the President's responsibility in ensuring prudent obligation of funds.”

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Global Communities

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We ask Congress to take swift bipartisan action and reject any rescission proposal. Bipartisan support for foreign assistance has been an enduring feature of U.S. foreign policy for decades. Furthermore, we urge Congress to ensure that rescission threats and proposals are no longer used as a tool to hinder and defund U.S. foreign assistance and undermine congressional intent. This will reassert Congress' power of the purse and halt actions that impact the lives of millions of poor and vulnerable people around the world.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days	Giving Children Hope
Action Against Hunger	Global Communities
ADRA International	Global Health Council
Airlink	Global Water 2020
Alliance for Peacebuilding	Habitat for Humanity International
Alliance to End Hunger	Heartland Alliance International
American Jewish World Service	Heifer International
American Red Cross	Helen Keller International
Americares	HelpAge USA
AVSI USA	Helping Hand for Relief and Development
Basic Education Coalition	Humentum
Bethany Christian Services	IDCE, Clark University
BRAC USA	IHC Global
Bread for the World	IMMAP Inc.
Brother's Brother Foundation	INMED Partnerships for Children
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation	InterAction
Cadasta Foundation	International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
CARE USA	International Eye Foundation
Catholic Relief Services	International Medical Corps
CDA Collaborative Learning	International Relief Teams
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
ChildFund International	IntraHealth International
Church World Service	IREX
Concern Worldwide US	Islamic Relief USA
Congressional Hunger Center	Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
CORE GROUP	Keystone Human Services
Dining for Women	Lutheran World Relief
Food for the Hungry	Mennonite Central committee, U.S Washington Office
Freedom House	

Mercy Corps
Mercy Without Limits Inc
Mercy-USA for Aid and Development
Mines Advisory Group (MAG) America
National Cooperative Business Association
CLUSA International
Norwegian Refugee Council USA
Oxfam America
PATH
Physicians for Peace
Plan International USA
Project Concern International (PCI)
Project HOPE
Refugees International
Relief International
RESULTS
ReSurge International
RTI International
Save the Children
Solar Cookers International
Solidarity Center
The Global Hunger Project
The International Foundation for Electoral
Systems (IFES)
Trickle Up
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
UNICEF USA
United Methodist Committee on Relief
Village Enterprise
WaterAid
Women's Refugee Commission
World Hope International
World Learning
World Renew
World Vision
Zakat Foundation of America