

MOTHERS
DAY
EVERY
DAY



May, 2011

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations and Related Programs
H-307, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations and Related Programs
1016 Longworth House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership, which is saving lives and building healthy families around the world. We write to you on behalf of the *Mothers Day Every Day* Advisory Committee, a campaign of the White Ribbon Alliance and CARE representing a bipartisan group of former Administration officials, Members of Congress and advocates on our commitment to improving the survival and health of mothers and newborns.

This is a uniquely challenging time for our country, and we recognize that budget cuts need to be made to ensure a stronger and more secure tomorrow. However, funding for maternal, newborn and child health is among the most cost-effective, life-saving and security-enhancing investments the U.S. can make today. These investments emphasize measured outcomes and accountability, save lives and continue to bring stability to many areas of the world.

We urge you to support the Global Health and Child Survival (GHCS) account in your Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations bill, including investment in women and children, without reducing funding to other critical humanitarian accounts. These investments are proven to increase the world's stability and economic productivity. Cuts to this account will have a direct impact on the health of women and children globally, reversing the significant gains we've seen in reducing maternal, newborn and child deaths over the last decade. Maternal and newborn deaths cost the world \$15 billion in lost productivity each year according to USAID.

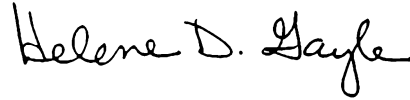
Women play a fundamental role in the physical, social and economic health of their families, communities and nations. Their health before, during and after childbirth is critical to the health of the family and to the long-term security and economic stability of their community and country. Children with healthy mothers are more likely to receive immunizations, attend school and to grow into healthy, productive members of society as adults. An investment in maternal and newborn health is an investment in the health and security of a nation.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the United States maintains its strong leadership and proud legacy of supporting cost-effective approaches to improving the health of women and children.

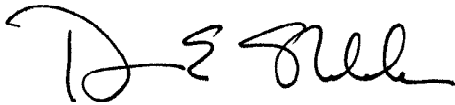
Sincerely,



Theresa Shaver
Co-Founder, *Mothers Day Every Day*
President & Executive Director,
White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood



Helene Gayle
Co-Founder, *Mothers Day Every Day*
President & CEO, CARE USA



Donna E. Shalala
Co-Chair, *Mothers Day Every Day*
President, University of Miami;
Former US Secretary of Health and Human Services



Ann Veneman
Co-Chair, *Mothers Day Every Day*
Former Executive Director, UNICEF;
Former US Secretary of Agriculture



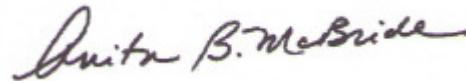
Christy Turlington Burns
Founder, Every Mother Counts
Filmmaker



Ambassador Mark Dybul
Distinguished Visiting Scholar & Co-Director, Global
Health Law Program, Georgetown Univ
Inaugural Global Health Fellow, George W. Bush
Institute



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