

**106 Faith-Leaders Sign Letter to Congressional Leadership  
Supporting U.S. International Affairs Budget**

March 16, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
The Capitol S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
The Capitol S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Capitol H-232  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Minority Leader  
The Capitol H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

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

As Christian leaders, it's an honor to represent dedicated and faithful citizens living in every congressional district in this country. We're writing to share our support for the International Affairs Budget that every day brings hope to poor, hungry, vulnerable and displaced men, women and children around the world.

America is blessed with fertile land, abundant natural resources, a strong economy, and faithful citizens who value religious freedom. But beyond our borders, many countries experience unparalleled suffering and loss of life due to extreme poverty, disease, natural disasters, and conflict. Today, there are 65 million displaced people, the most since World War II, and 795 million people still go to bed hungry every night.

Matthew 25 tells us when we serve the least of these, we are serving the Lord. As people of faith, we cannot turn our back on those in desperate need. We are grateful for America's global development and diplomacy programs that have been instrumental in saving lives, safeguarding religious liberties, and keeping America safe and secure. Both Republican and Democratic administrations have strong legacies of supporting humanitarian and development programs that enable countless people to pull themselves out of poverty and live life with dignity. It is through these diplomatic and development tools that we've seen countries and communities build peaceful, productive societies that do not turn to violence or terrorism.

At a time when we're especially security conscious, the International Affairs Budget is crucial to demonstrating our values to the world, building friendships with other nations, and lowering security risks around the world.

With just 1 percent of our nation's budget, the International Affairs Budget has helped alleviate the suffering of millions; drastically cutting the number of people living in extreme poverty in half, stopping the spread of infectious diseases like HIV/AIDs and Ebola, and nearly eliminating polio. Additionally, it promotes freedom and human rights, protecting religious freedom for millions around the world.

As followers of Christ, it is our moral responsibility to urge you to support and protect the International Affairs Budget, and avoid disproportionate cuts to these vital programs that ensure that our country continues to be the “shining city upon a hill.”

Thank you for your consideration.

Timothy Cardinal Dolan  
Archbishop of New York

Rev. Dr. Samuel Rodriguez, President  
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference

Leith Anderson, President  
National Association of Evangelicals

Rich Stearns, President  
World Vision USA

Bishop Gregory J. Mansour, Chairman of the Board  
Catholic Relief Services

Michael W. Smith  
Singer/Songwriter

Dr. George O. Wood, General Superintendent  
Assemblies of God

Dr. Ronnie Floyd, Immediate Past President  
Southern Baptist Convention

Amy Grant  
Singer/Songwriter

Shirley V. Hoogstra, J.D., President  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Tom Lin, President & CEO  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

Third Day  
Christian Rock Band

Jonathan Reckford, CEO  
Habitat for Humanity

Mark Labberton, President  
Fuller Theological Seminary

Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent Emerita  
The Wesleyan Church

Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone  
Archbishop of San Francisco

David Wilson, General Secretary  
Church of the Nazarene

Rev. Gabriel Salguero, President  
National Latino Evangelical Coalition

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.  
Archbishop of Louisville

Santiago "Jimmy" Mellado, President & CEO  
Compassion International

John Crosby, Senior Pastor  
Christ Presbyterian Church

Rev. Johnnie Moore  
Author

Bob Bower, Reverend  
Faith Church (8 locations)

John K. Jenkins Sr., Senior Pastor  
First Baptist Church of Glenarden

Keith Stewart, Senior Pastor  
Springcreek Church

Alec Hill, President Emeritus  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

Scott Arbeiter, President  
World Relief Corporation

Martha Newsome, President & CEO  
Medical Teams International

J. Ron Byler, Executive Director  
Mennonite Central Committee

Mike Mantel, President & CEO  
Living Water International

Carol Bremer-Bennett, Executive Director  
World Renew

Gary Edmonds, President & CEO  
Food for the Hungry

Anita Smith, President  
Children's AIDS Fund

Shepherd Smith, President  
Institute for Youth Development

Bruce Wilkinson, President & CEO  
Catholic Medical Mission Board

Steve Stirling, President & CEO  
MAP International

Peter Vander Meulen, Coordinator in Office of Social Justice  
Christian Reformed Church in North America

Joel K. Johnson, Pastor  
Westwood Community Church

James H. Barnes III, President  
Bethel University

Steve Moore, Board Chair  
World Relief

Deborah Smith Pegues, Board of Directors  
World Vision USA

Rev. Jonathan Odom, Pastor  
Asbury UMC

Dr. Mark Wilbanks, Senior Pastor  
Wieuca Road Baptist Church

Dr. Stephen Treash, Senior Pastor  
Black Rock Church

Laura Truax, Senior Pastor  
LaSalle Street Church

Jeffrey Moes, Senior Pastor  
Sunnybrook Community Church

Gino Grunberg, Co-Pastor  
Harbor Christian Center

Rev. Jay Madden, Pastor for Mission  
Peachtree Presbyterian Church

Chris Cramer, Pastor  
Orchard Grove Community Church

Chad Hayward, Executive Director  
Accord Network

Galen Carey, Vice President of Government Relations  
National Association of Evangelicals

Scott Garber, Author

Ken Wytsma, Senior Pastor  
Antioch Church

William Minchin, Pastor of Business Administration  
Grace Fellowship Church

Rev. Eugene Cho, Lead Pastor & Founder  
Quest Church/One Day's Wages

Bishop Horace E. Smith, MD, Senior Pastor  
Apostolic Faith Church

Ted Esler, President  
Missio Nexus

Rev. Dr. Michael L. Henderson, Senior Pastor  
New Beginnings Church

Dr. G. Craig Williford, President  
Multnomah University

Carmen Fowler Laberge, President  
Presbyterian Lay Committee

Colin P. Watson, Sr., Director of Ministries and Administration  
Christian Reformed Church in North America

Dr. Don Argue, Ambassador at Large  
Convoy of Hope

Scott Ridout, President  
Converge

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Quest Church

Gregory Loewer, Pastor for Missions,  
Columbia Baptist Church

Jim Lyon, General Director  
Church of God Ministries

Constantine M. Triantafilou, Executive Director & CEO  
International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

Alan Robinson, National Director  
Brethren in Christ, U. S.

Mark S. Young, President  
Denver Seminary

M. Craig Barnes, President  
Princeton Theological Seminary

Adam Pray, Minister  
theChurch.at

Dennis Hollinger, Ph.D., President  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Alan Cureton, President  
University of Northwestern

Jon Middendorf, Pastor  
OKC First Church of the Nazarene

Rev. Bobby Griffith, Jr., Pastor  
City Presbyterian Church

Rev. David Cassidy, Pastor  
Christ Community Church

Dr. Timothy J. Brooks, Lead Pastor  
South Portland Church of the Nazarene

Rev. Doug Serven, Pastor  
City Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dan Claire, Rector  
Church of the Resurrection

Rev. Joel St. Clair, Pastor  
Mosaic Community Church

Dr. O. Alan Noble, Assistant Professor of English  
Oklahoma Baptist University

Rev. Dr. Irwyn Ince Jr., Pastor  
City of Hope Presbyterian Church

Rev. Russ Whitfield, Pastor  
Grace Mosaic Church

The Right Rev. Dr. Steven A. Breedlove, Diocese  
Christ our Hope, Anglican Church in North America

Rev. Alan Cross, Executive Director  
Community Development Initiatives  
Montgomery Baptist Association

Rev. Dr. James C. Howell, Senior Pastor  
Myers Park United Methodist Church

Rev. Don Flowers, Jr., Senior Pastor  
Providence Baptist Church

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach, Archbishop  
Anglican Church in North America

Dr. Chris Ellis, Minister of Mission and Outreach  
Second Baptist Church

Dr. Stephen Cook, Senior Pastor  
Second Baptist Church

Dr. Christopher Pollock, Lead Pastor  
Midtown Church

Peter Greer, CEO  
HOPE International

David W. Kendall, Bishop  
Free Methodist Church, USA

David T. Roller, Bishop  
Free Methodist Church, USA

Matthew A. Thomas, Bishop  
Free Methodist Church, USA

Justin B. Fung, Pastor of Teaching & Formation  
The District Church

Jason Surratt, Pastor of Stewardship and Global Missions  
Seacoast Church

Dr. Gregg Okkesson, Dean  
Asbury Theological Seminary

Stephanie Summers, CEO  
Center for Public Justice

Ruth Anne Reese, Ph.D., Professor of New Testament  
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Dr. Stephen Offutt, Assistant Professor of Development Studies  
Asbury Theological Seminary

Matt Maher  
Singer/Songwriter

Jonathan Martin  
Writer and Speaker

Aaron Graham, Lead Pastor  
The District Church

cc:  
President Donald Trump  
Vice President Mike Pence  
Secretary of State Rex Tillerson