

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2026

Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write to express concerns about transparency and oversight of the Administration's new bi-lateral international assistance model, which grants money directly to foreign governments. Following the dissolution of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the transfer of foreign assistance to the U.S. Department of State, the Administration announced roughly \$16 billion in bi-lateral assistance programs for 36 countries and launched the America First Global Health Strategy. While we applaud efforts to build up global health mechanisms that fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, Ebola and other infectious diseases, this new model raises significant concerns about the efficient and transparent use of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Since the bi-lateral international assistance agreements were signed with host countries, only a handful have been made available to the U.S. public for review. Furthermore, many of the foreign governments that have signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the State Department have a history of corruption with respect to foreign assistance.¹

USAID had several layers of accountability mechanisms built to help monitor funds sent to non-governmental organizations (NGO) and other implementing partners, including country-based contracting officers, programmatic officials and U.S.-based technical officials, as well as the USAID Office of Inspector General (OIG). Testimony from the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the USAID OIG indicate that there is limited ability to track or audit U.S. taxpayer dollars sent directly to foreign governments.² While many development stakeholders agree that a foreign assistance model based primarily on international NGOs needs improvement and modernization, the wholesale adoption of government-to-government assistance without accountability or transparency raises serious questions.

¹ Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index 2025, <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2025>

² Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Foreign Assistance: Lessons Learned and Charting a Path Forward; <https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/waste-fraud-and-abuse-in-foreign-assistance-lessons-learned-and-charting-a-path-forward>

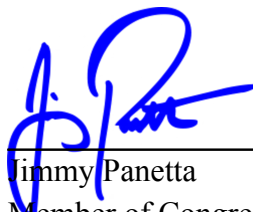
Given that the Administration's dismantling of USAID was triggered by alleged wasteful spending, we want to ensure this new foreign assistance model is free of waste, fraud and abuse. We therefore request written responses to the following questions:

- 1) Please detail how the Administration will monitor and evaluate these health agreements to ensure they meet their objectives. How will success be defined?
- 2) Who will be charged with monitoring and evaluating these bi-lateral assistance agreements? What resources, including staffing, technical capacity, and financial support, are being deployed to support these efforts?
- 3) How will the State Department respond to allegations or evidence of improper use of U.S. taxpayer dollars used in foreign assistance? Do you plan to immediately cut off all aid if U.S. taxpayer money is not used for its intended purpose? If not, please explain why.
- 4) Please detail how the Administration plans to track and audit U.S. taxpayer dollars sent to foreign governments to ensure they are used for their purposes of supporting global health programs. What systems, tools, and safeguards are in place to ensure adequate monitoring and evaluation?
- 5) We request that all previously signed, as well as all future, global health agreements be made publicly available. If you are unable to do so, please provide a detailed explanation of why you can't make these agreements publicly available for review to U.S. taxpayers.

Failure to implement these programs thoughtfully, while ensuring accountability to the taxpayer, jeopardizes American leadership in the global health space, which is second to none. It also encourages nations to seek partnerships with our adversaries, while making America less safe, less strong and less prosperous.

Thank you for your attention to these questions as we work toward a shared goal of ensuring quality oversight of a critical tool in our national security apparatus.

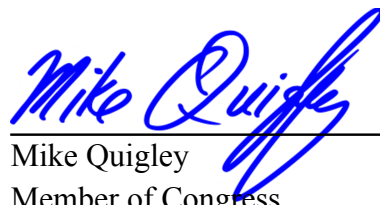
Sincerely,



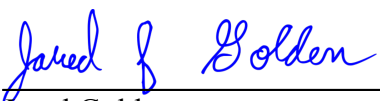
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



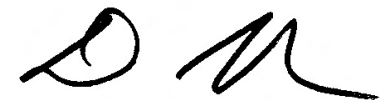
Jared Golden
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



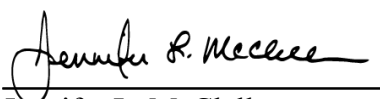
Adenta S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



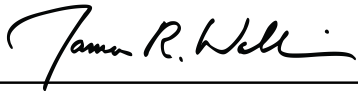
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



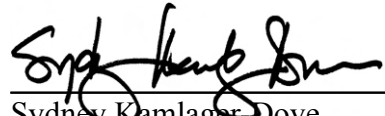
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



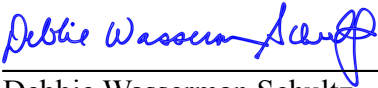
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



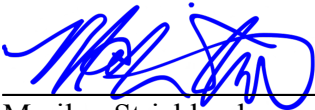
Sydney Kamlager Dove
Member of Congress



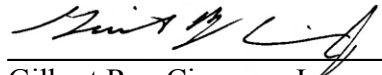
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



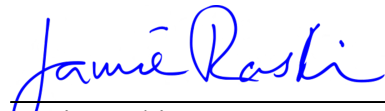
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



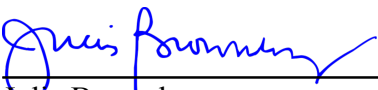
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



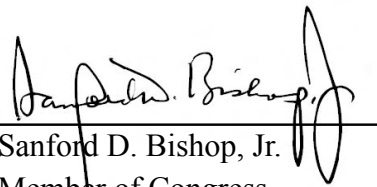
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



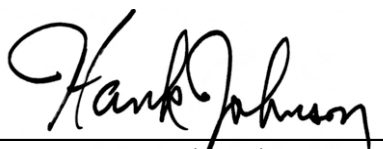
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



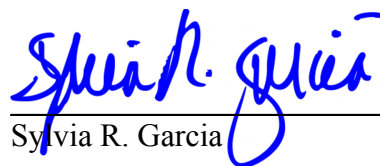
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



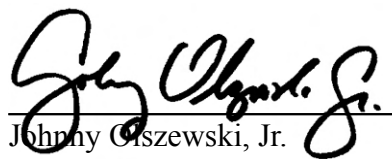
Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



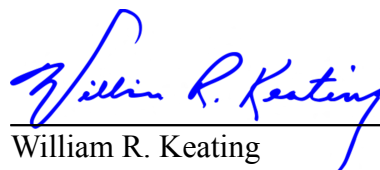
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Johnny Oiszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress