

May 23, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-128 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-146A Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Mikulski and Shelby,

As you consider the 302(b) allocations for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittees, we ask that you support the President's budget request funding level of \$51.8 billion for the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee. Adopting the President's funding level helps to ensure the highest possible funding for international humanitarian and poverty-focused development assistance for fiscal year 2014.

The Federal Budget expresses our character and values as a people. Drastic cuts to international humanitarian and poverty-focused development programs will exacerbate poverty and hunger around the world. That is why we are deeply concerned that the allocations in the House State Foreign Operations Subcommittee are approximately 19 percent lower than the current fiscal year 2013 levels.

Many of our organizations and our U.S. constituencies work as humanitarians around the world to alleviate the devastating impact of poverty, disease, humanitarian disasters, violent conflict and environmental degradation. Our efforts are grounded in the common commitment of our faith traditions to alleviate suffering and help all people experience the fullness of life that God intends.

Many of the programs that our organizations operate overseas are supported through church donations and our associated international development agencies. This work helps to break the cycles of poverty and introduce productive opportunities for individuals, families, and communities around the world. U.S. federal humanitarian and poverty-focused development initiatives are an irreplaceable element in our shared commitment to eradicating extreme poverty and greatly multiply life-saving and life-enriching achievements.

Congress must give priority to programs that protect and support the lives and dignity of those most vulnerable and impoverished. Our nation has the resources and the responsibility to support the alleviation and elimination of global poverty, which is why we urge you to adopt the President's fiscal year 2014 budget request for State and Foreign Operations.

Sincerely,

American Friends Service Committee  
American Jewish World Service  
Bread for the World  
Catholic Relief Services

Children's Medical Ministries  
Church of the Brethren, Office of Public Witness  
Church World Service  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men  
Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice  
The Episcopal Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Franciscan Action Network  
IMA World Health  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Lutheran World Relief  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Mennonite Central Committee, U.S.  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
United Methodist Church, Imagine No Malaria Campaign