

Dear Senator Murray,

We, the undersigned organizations based in Washington State, strongly urge you to oppose further deep and disproportionate cuts to the International Affairs Budget when considering deficit reduction plans. We recognize the imperative of reducing the deficit, but our choices must support the economic, strategic and moral values of our country and reflect a balanced approach that considers all aspects of the federal budget.

Hundreds of organizations in Washington State are actively engaged in improving the economic, social and environmental conditions in the developing world, and their diverse programs include: direct service delivery, capacity building, education and training, research, and advocacy. Together, the global development community in Washington forms a strong constituency for the International Affairs Budget.

Global development and health programs are a critical part of the economic and intellectual livelihood of the state of Washington, and this state is at the epicenter of the nation's global health response. A workplace mapping project completed this year revealed that global health programs are employing nearly 3,000 workers in the state of Washington and 17,275 more out of state, also employing numerous Washington residents¹. These workers are providing life saving research and services to impoverished people throughout the world. As health stakeholders in the state of Washington, we request that you defend funding for important programs needed to protect the lives of vulnerable populations at home and abroad, while defending the jobs of many thousands of Washington workers.

The International Affairs Budget funds the essential tools of development and diplomacy, which reflect American values and advance our interests in addressing the global challenges of the 21st century. It is a strategic and moral investment that spurs our own economic growth, protects our national security and saves millions of lives. International Affairs programs tackle extremism, conflict and despair by addressing the root causes of poverty. They also build new markets for U.S. goods and services by providing the tools people need to pull themselves out of poverty. Yet, despite its vital role and valuable contributions, the International Affairs Budget shouldered nearly 20% of all discretionary spending cuts in fiscal year 2011. Further deep and disproportionate cuts to International Affairs programs will not balance the budget, but they will jeopardize our country's future security and prosperity.

Most importantly, the International Affairs Budget tangibly demonstrates what America stands for by reflecting our moral and humanitarian values and by building goodwill for our nation around the world. We know from our diverse experiences — as humanitarian workers, social service providers, development professionals, and community and faith leaders — that these

¹ "State groups work toward global health," Seattle Times 13 September 2011, accessed online at http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/2016197621_globalhealth14.html

programs meet the economic and strategic needs of America by bettering lives and recognizing the dignity of people who are often relegated to the margins. Poor and vulnerable people abroad do not have powerful lobbies, but they have a claim on our national conscience and play a critical role in securing our country's future.

One example of the moral and geopolitical benefits of U.S. foreign assistance is the recent HIV Prevention Trials Network study 052² conducted by scientists from the University of Washington and other academic centers that demonstrated conclusively that antiretroviral therapy reduces new HIV transmission by more than 96%. Thanks to this seminal multicountry study, the globe is now, for the first time ever, on the precipice of effectively halting new infections and ending the AIDS epidemic--as long as we continue to fund global AIDS initiatives programs at current levels.

The moral measure of the debate will be determined by how the most vulnerable fare. We come together to ask that programs serving the most vulnerable in our nation and around the world be protected within the Joint Select Committee's recommendations and in any other deficit reduction plan.

We stand as a broad coalition to express our support for the following:

- The substantial reduction of future deficits, but not at the expense of those most vulnerable at home or abroad.
- The protection and improvement of sustainable poverty-focused development and humanitarian and health-related assistance, domestically and internationally, to promote a better, safer world.
- A balanced and sustainable approach to solving our nation's fiscal problems. Committee members and national leaders must review and consider tax revenues, military spending and entitlements in search for ways to share sacrifice and cut deficits. We call your attention particularly to the Financing for Development Paper³ being drafted by Bill Gates for the G8/G20 that proposes innovative and sustainable financing, including a small levy on financial transactions already in the process of being adopted by the Euro zone. Mr. Gates' proposals are the kinds of new strategies needed for our nation to honor its global commitments and balance its budget sheet at the same time.

² Prevention of HIV-1 Infection with Early Antiretroviral Therapy, M. Cohen, Y. Chen, M. McCauley, et al. for the HPTN 052 Study Team, N Engl J Med 2011; 365:493-505 August 11, 2011. Fact sheet and Q&A accessed online at <http://www.hptn.org/>

³ Bill Gates, "Staying Committed to Development" April 11, 2011 accessed online at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bill-gates/staying-committed-to-deve_b_848213.html

Global Washington

We, the undersigned organizations, respectfully urge you as Congressional leaders to give moral, economic and strategic priority to programs that help secure America's future by protecting the life and dignity of people around the world.

Sincerely,



Bookda Gheisar
Executive Director
Global Washington



Jonathan Scanlon
Lead Organizer, Aid Effectiveness
Oxfam America



Action Corps
SEATTLE

- Deanna Wallace, Executive Director, All As One
- Tom Clement, Chief Executive Officer, Cardiac Insight and Chairman, Washington Biotechnology and Biomedical Association
- Robert Bortner, Director, Community Empowerment Network
- Samuel Snyder, Executive Director, Create Good Foundation
- Celeste Mergens, Executive Director, Days for Girls International
- Craig E. Rubens, MD, PhD, Executive Director, Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth
- Paul Davis, Director of Global Campaigns, Health GAP
- Steve Gloyd, Executive Director, Health Alliance International
- Stewart Parker, CEO, Infectious Disease Research Institute
- Dr. John Aitchison, Executive Director for Integrative Biology, Institute for Systems Biology
- Sammie Rayner, Executive Director, Lumana
- David Mesenbring, Vice President, Oikocredit NW
- Jeannie Berwick, Executive Director, One Equal Heart Foundation
- Allan Paulson, President, Pangea Giving

Global Washington

- Robin Jafari, Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board, Pre-vent
- Bob Dickerson, Group Leader, RESULTS – Seattle
- Arthur Donnelly President, The Seattle Biochar Working Group
- Ken Stuart, President, Seattle BioMed
- James B. Hendricks, PhD, President, Seattle Children’s Research Institute
- Mark Schlansky, Founder & CEO, Uplift International
- Neal Sobania PhD, Executive Director, Wang Center for Global Education, Pacific Lutheran University
- Lisa Cohen, Executive Director, Washington Global Health Alliance
- Eric Schinfeld, President, Washington Council on International Trade and Federal Policy Director, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
- Rick McKenney, Executive Director, Water for Humans