

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to you today with deep concern regarding your Administration's actions to undermine the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), thus eliminating programs and projects that directly support women and girls worldwide.

USAID programs to address women in developing countries were first authorized in 1973 under the "Percy Amendment" as part of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, which necessitates that foreign assistance funds work to integrate women into the national economies of developing countries¹. This enacted legislation recognizes gender inequality as a global policy issue and supports efforts focusing on healthcare, education, and policy improvements. USAID works to tackle the underlying causes of gender inequality and subsequent gender-based violence (GBV), strengthen legal protections for victims, and ensure survivors can access justice, security, and economic resources. These efforts contribute to the prevention of violence and the development of stronger, more sustainable and empowering communities².

Countries in which USAID operates are experiencing turmoil, including violent organized crime, widespread corruption, and the growing displacement of women and families. USAID supports health, education, and governance programs to support women and girls around the world. In fact, this work has enjoyed longstanding bipartisan support, including support from the White House during your first term. Despite long-standing bipartisan support for USAID initiatives that fight violence against women and girls, the proposed elimination of USAID and its funding would roll back years of progress across the globe and violate U.S. law.

The repercussions of these actions will be felt in the form of increased maternal and child mortality, reduced access to education, economic hardship, and heightened vulnerabilities to gender-based violence and exploitation of women.³ At a time when women and girls are disproportionately affected by global conflicts, climate crises, and economic instability, continued programmatic and financial support in conflict zones such as Afghanistan, Syria,

¹ Congressional Research Services. (2024, July 15). *Global Women's Issues: Background and Selected U.S. Efforts*. (CRS Report No. IF11804). <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11804/6>

² Congressional Research Services. (2024, July 15). *Global Women's Issues: Background and Selected U.S. Efforts*. (CRS Report No. IF11804). <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11804/6>

³ Press, T. A. (2025, January 19). Funding cuts to Afghanistan are the biggest threat to helping women, aid agency chief warns. AP News. <https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-taliban-aid-agencies-women-8e6b00ad31a4b6a192c32f7b9ed8070f>

Ukraine, Haiti, and Democratic Republic of Congo amongst many others are essential to combatting global health challenges.⁴ The United States has long been a global leader in championing the rights and opportunities of women and girls, and we must not waver in this commitment now.

We demand that you take immediate action to protect USAID and funding for women and girls.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



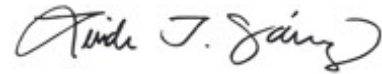
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress
Policy Co-Chair, Democratic
Women's Caucus



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

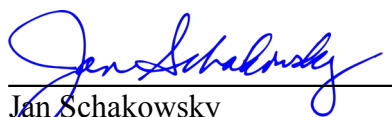


Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress




Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress


⁴ Congressional Research Services. (2025, January 6). U.S. Agency for International Development: An Overview. (CRS Report No. IF10261). <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10261>




Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



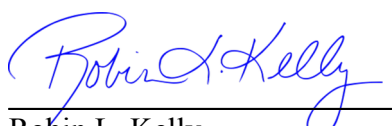
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress




Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress




Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



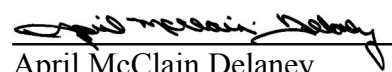
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



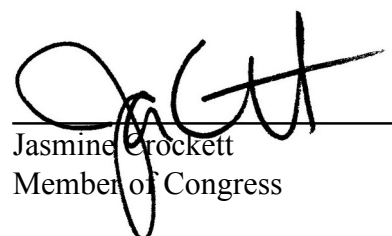
Raúl M. Grijalva
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Terri A. Sewell
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April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



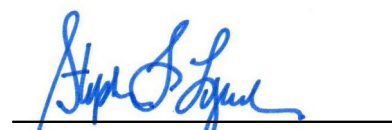
Jasmine Crockett
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Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



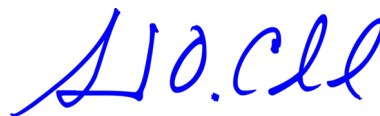
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress
Policy Co-Chair, Democratic
Women's Caucus



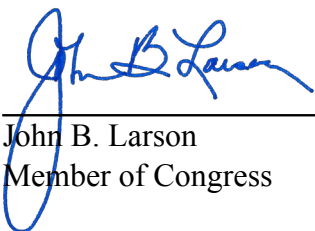
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



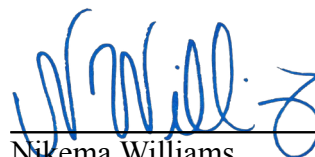
Dina Titus
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Salud Carbajal
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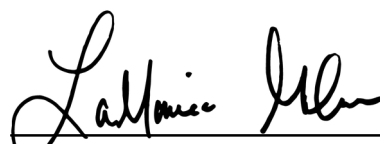
John B. Larson
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LaMonica McIver
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Chellie Pingree
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Rashida Tlaib
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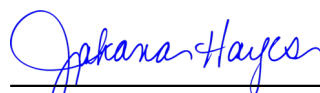
Yvette D. Clarke
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Jahana Hayes
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Doris Matsui
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Laura Friedman
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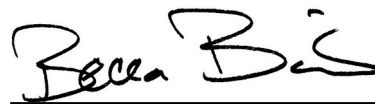
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



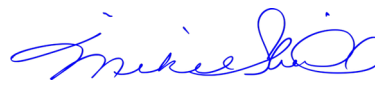
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



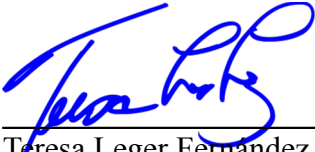
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



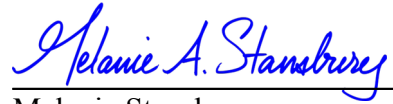
Mark DeSaulnier
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Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
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Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



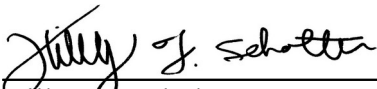
Yassamin Ansari
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Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
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Summer L. Lee
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