

January 28, 2025

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We are concerned by your decision to initiate a withdrawal of the United States from World Health Organization (WHO). It is critical that the U.S. remains a global leader in public health to protect the interests of Americans. We urge you to remain in the WHO and to provide continued guidance on reforms that make the organization even more accountable and cost-effective, that strengthen America's leadership role, and that advance our national interests. U.S. leadership in WHO will make our country safer, stronger, and more prosperous – but only if America continues to lead.

For a fraction of the budget of some U.S. state departments of health, WHO works with over 150 nations to detect, prevent, and combat deadly diseases abroad before they threaten the American people. Every month, the agency provides critical intelligence, analyzing over 100,000 health threat alerts circling the globe – any one of which could become an outbreak or the next pandemic. Continued U.S. leadership within WHO ensures that we maintain access to this vital early knowledge of diseases that could reach American soil in a matter of hours.

America's smart investments in global health benefit hardworking people and communities here at home. In 2023 alone, WHO and the UN bought \$812 million in medicines and other health products from the United States – more than any other country and nearly twice as much as America contributed to WHO that year. These investments support American jobs, foster innovation, and contribute to our national economic strength.

With America at the forefront, WHO has conquered some of humanity's biggest killers, eradicating smallpox, eliminating polio in 145 countries, and declaring 44 countries and territories malaria-free. The organization also works with the private sector and premier U.S. research institutions to approve safe and effective medical products for the global market, while also monitoring and alerting the world to the spread of substandard or counterfeit medicines. The next four years are a chance to build on these capabilities and achievements and address new and evolving health threats that endanger Americans, including bird flu and deadly fentanyl.

U.S. leadership is critical to preventing geopolitical adversaries, including China and Russia, from influencing global public health to their own benefit. Our country's influence includes hundreds of American staff who play a pivotal role representing U.S. policy priorities and directing the organization's global work – outnumbering employees from China by a margin of three to one. Being at the table provides a unique opportunity to shape and influence the election of the next Director General, which is likely to take place within the next four years. Our country's leadership has already helped WHO implement major reforms that have transformed the agency's accountability, cost-effectiveness, and country impact, and we must continue to guide the agency's evolution.

Simply put, America's national health, economic, and security interests are best served by leading WHO from within. The recent announcement should mark the beginning of this discussion, not the end. We stand ready to support your Administration's efforts to engage with WHO to advance America's health security and ensure our nation's priorities remain at the forefront of the institution.

Sincerely,

Act Now: End AIDS (ANEA) Coalition

Advancing Synergy

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for Dental, Oral, and
Craniofacial Research

American Association of Colleges of
Pharmacy (AACCP)

American Association of Veterinary
Medical Colleges

American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists

American College of Osteopathic Family
Physicians

American College of Physicians

American Council of Academic Physical
Therapy

American Public Health Association

American Society for Microbiology

American Society of Tropical Medicine and
Hygiene

Americas TB Coalition

Association of Academic Global Surgery

Association of Accredited Naturopathic
Medical Colleges

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of Asian Pacific Community
Health Organizations (AAPCHO)

Association of Schools and Colleges of
Optometry

Association of Schools and Programs of
Public Health

AVAC

AVCIM

Better World Campaign

Catholic Medical Mission Board, Inc.

Catholics for Choice

Center for Reproductive Rights

Children's HeartLink

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Community Health Impact Coalition

Conquering CHD

CORE Group

Fast-Track Cities Institute

Feminist Majority Foundation

First Focus Campaign for Children

Fòs Feminista

Foundation for International Education in
Neurological Surgery

Fundacion Estrellita de Belen Corp

Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric,
Trauma, and Anaesthesia Care (G4
Alliance)

Global ARCH

Global Citizen

Global Colon Cancer Association

Global Health Advocacy Incubator and the
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

Global Health and Development, Dickey
Center, Dartmouth College

Global Health Council

Global Health Strategies, LLC

Global Health Technologies Coalition
(GHTC)

Global Network of Black People working in
HIV

Healthcare Information and Management
Systems Society (HIMSS)

Helen Keller Intl

HelpAge USA

Hesperian Health Guides

HIV Medicine Association

Hoemeke Global, Ltd.

Housing Works, Inc.

IAVI

Infectious Diseases Society of America

INROADS

Institute Global Perioperative Care

International Association for Dental, Oral,
and Craniofacial Research

International Association for the Study of
Pain

International Association of Providers of
AIDS Care

International Collaboration of
PeriAnaesthesia Nurses

International Medical Response Foundation

International Veterinary Outreach

IntraHealth International

Ipas

Johns Hopkins University GAPP

Last Mile Health

Less Cancer

Metrics for Management

MPact Global Action

NASTAD

National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners

NTI | bio (Nuclear Threat Initiative Global
Biological Policy and Programs)

Ohana One International Surgical Aid &
Education

PAI

Pandemic Action Network

Panorama

Partners In Health

Patient Advocates In Research (PAIR)

Physicians for Human Rights

Population Council

Population Institute

Prevention Access Campaign

Project HOPE

Public Citizen

RedRoad Medicine
ReSurge International
Rose Academies
Shot@Life
Sightsavers
Solidarity Bridge
Spark Street Advisors
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Stop TB USA
Student National Pharmaceutical
Association
The American Council of Academic
Physical Therapy
The Ehlers-Danlos Society
The Episcopal Church
The Task Force for Global Health

Together for Girls
Treatment Action Group (TAG)
UNITE Parliamentarians Network for
Global Health
United Nations Association of the USA
United to Beat Malaria
Universal Access Project
University of Miami Public Health Policy
Lab
US Association for the Study of Pain
VillageReach
Women in Global Health
Women's Refugee Commission
World Hepatitis Alliance
World Vision