

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations  
House Appropriations Committee  
Room HT-2, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Graham and Rogers and Ranking Members Leahy and Lowey:

We write to ask you to ensure that funding to address cholera in Haiti is included in the FY2018 appropriations bill. We welcome the Senate Appropriations Committee's unanimous approval of the authorization of \$11.7 million for this purpose in the 2018 Department of State, Foreign Operations appropriations bill, and support the inclusion of such language in the omnibus bill.

For years, we have been deeply concerned by the United Nations' inadequate response to the ongoing epidemic, which was introduced to Haiti in 2010 via reckless sanitation procedures at a UN peacekeeping base. The staggering death toll from cholera in Haiti—at least 10,000 people so far—approaches that of the 2014–2015 West African Ebola outbreak, yet only a fraction of the resources invested in stopping the spread of Ebola have been mobilized against the cholera epidemic. In the meantime, Haitians continue to die, families that borrowed money for funerals struggle to repay loans, those who lost breadwinners plunge still deeper into poverty, and children orphaned by cholera cannot attend school.

We are especially mindful that the Haitian diaspora in the United States is bearing a heavy burden of caring for sick and surviving family members in Haiti. Moreover, while the infection rate has decreased recently, the epidemic continues to pose a direct threat to the 50,000 Haitians facing a return to Haiti following the rescission of Temporary Protected Status.

We now have a timely opportunity to contribute to ending the cholera crisis. As you know, following persistent calls by members of Congress on this issue—including bipartisan letters from both the Senate and House—the UN launched a \$400 million “New Approach” fund designed to end cholera transmission and provide material assistance to those most directly affected. The UN has not raised the funds it needs to implement the New Approach, but Congress can now move it several steps forward without a new appropriation.

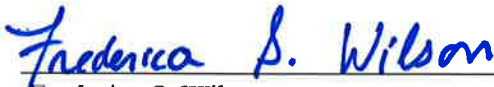
The Senate State & Foreign Operations appropriations bill (S.1780, p.16, 2017) authorizes the use of \$11.7 million left over in UN credits to the United States to support the UN Haiti Cholera Response

Multi-Partner Trust Fund. This reallocation will provide much-needed resources toward elimination in 2018, and reduce Haiti's long-term need for aid to address this ongoing public health crisis and cholera victims' urgent needs. This use of funds is also likely to unlock additional investments by other UN member states, many of which are looking to follow our lead on the issue.

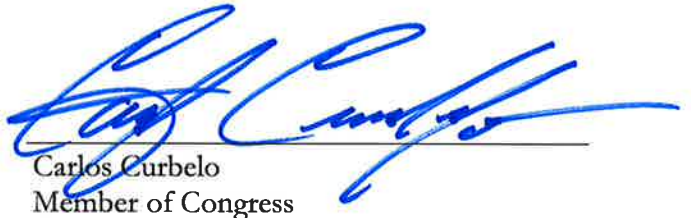
The United States has been at the forefront of calling for stronger UN accountability and stood with Haiti following the outbreak, including through important bilateral funding. But we have yet to directly support the New Approach, which is currently the only comprehensive plan to address cholera in Haiti, and was developed with expert input from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the Haitian government, and international organizations specializing in cholera control. Providing such support is especially critical right now, with public health actors in Haiti predicting that implementing the New Approach could reduce cholera transmission to zero this year. We urge you to support this provision in the current conference negotiations and ensure that the allocation is maintained in the final FY2018 bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



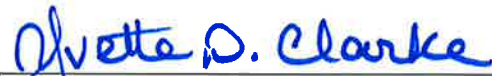
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Salud O. Carbajal  
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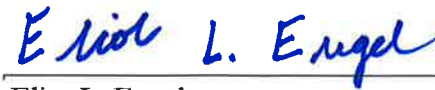
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Mark DeSaulnier  
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Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress

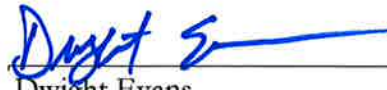


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Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



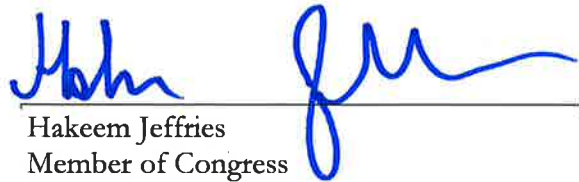
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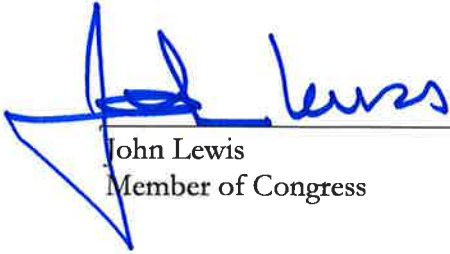
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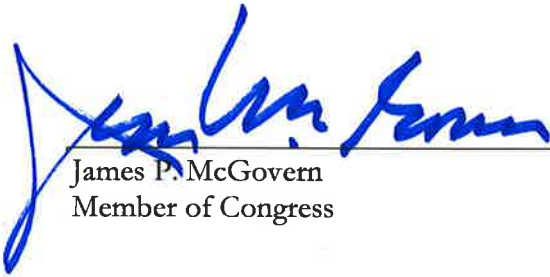
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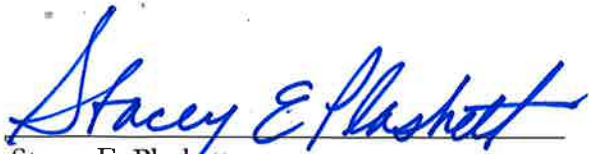
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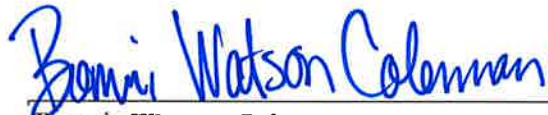
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