

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	Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Advancing Synergy	Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
American Academy of Family Physicians	Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
American Academy of Pediatrics	AVAC
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research	AVCIM
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP)	Better World Campaign
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges	Catholic Medical Mission Board, Inc.
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists	Catholics for Choice
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians	Center for Reproductive Rights
American College of Physicians	Children's HeartLink
American Council of Academic Physical Therapy	Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
American Public Health Association	Community Health Impact Coalition
American Society for Microbiology	Conquering CHD
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene	CORE Group
Americas TB Coalition	Fast-Track Cities Institute
Association of Academic Global Surgery	Feminist Majority Foundation
Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges	First Focus Campaign for Children
Association of American Medical Colleges	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