

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

April 7, 2017

The Honorable Rex Wayne Tillerson  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

We write today to express our serious concerns regarding the Administration's decision to halt U.S. support for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

We agree with the Kemp-Kasten prohibitions surrounding United States foreign assistance, and believe that U.S. funds should never support organizations that promote or perform coercive abortions or involuntary sterilizations. These are gross human rights violations. However, the Department's *Memorandum of Justification for the Determination Regarding the 'Kemp-Kasten Amendment'* fails to provide any evidence whatsoever that UNFPA violated the Kemp-Kasten Amendment. In fact, the memorandum explicitly states that such evidence does not exist.

UNFPA does not currently support - nor has ever supported or participated in - the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization. This finding was confirmed under Secretary of State Colin Powell.<sup>1</sup> Your *Memorandum* confirms this finding, but also declares that, solely by virtue of coordinating with China's National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC), UNFPA somehow supports the country's coercive policies.

Using this logic, any U.S.-funded entity that operates in a country in which the state is engaged in human rights violations would be guilty of those violations itself. We believe this to be a lazy assumption that will cost lives that could have been saved by aid agencies like UNFPA.

It appears there was no visit to UNFPA's China program to make this determination. In 2015, the last time the State Department visited UNFPA's China Program, officials praised the work of UNFPA's Executive Board, saying, "Following a recent visit in June of this year by representatives from the United States Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development, it is evident that UNFPA's activities in China continue to have a positive impact at all levels of government."<sup>2</sup>

UNFPA works in more than 150 countries to facilitate safe births, protect girls from child marriage and female genital mutilation, and provide access to voluntary contraception for women and men. In more than 100 of these countries, USAID does not operate a family planning program, rendering UNFPA's presence all the more crucial. UNFPA's work is especially critical

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<sup>1</sup> The U.S. State Department. Review of UNFPA Program in China. May 29, 2002.  
<http://maloney.house.gov/sites/maloney.house.gov/files/documents/olddocs/UNFPA/unfpausreport.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The U.S. State Department. U.S. Statement on UNFPA's 8<sup>th</sup> Country Program in China UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board. August 31, 2015.  
<http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/7650964/united-states-pm-.pdf>

in humanitarian crises. For example, during a single month in 2016, UNFPA supported more than 10,000 childbirths within Syria – including more than 4,000 Caesarian sections.<sup>3</sup>

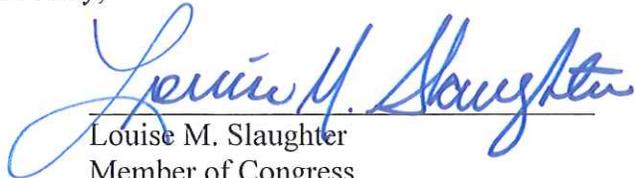
Given the vital importance of UNFPA’s work, and the absence of any evidence that UNFPA violated U.S. law, we urge you to rescind the Department’s misguided determination. Doing so will ensure that the United States remains a leader in supporting essential emergency responses during health and humanitarian crises, as well as life-saving health care for women and girls.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



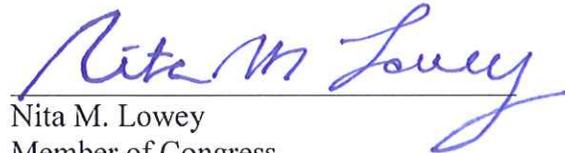
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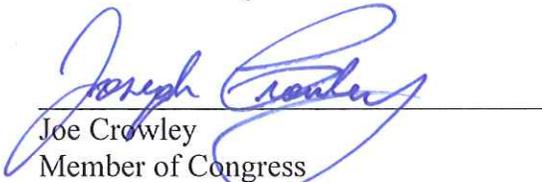
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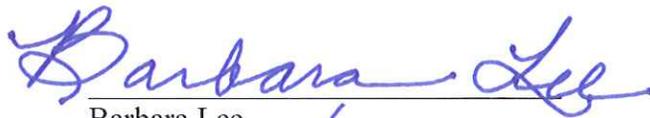
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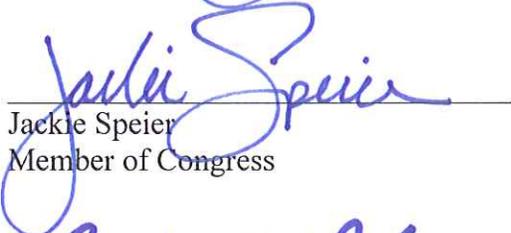
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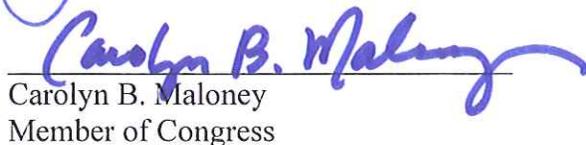
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<sup>3</sup> The United Nations Population Fund. Regional Situation Report for Syria Crisis. Issue No. 45. May 31, 2016.  
<http://www.unfpa.org/resources/regional-situation-report-syria-crisis-45-1-31-may-2016>

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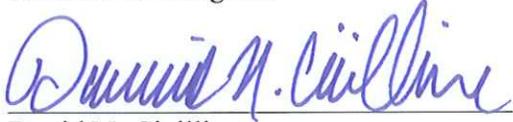
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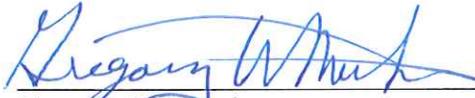
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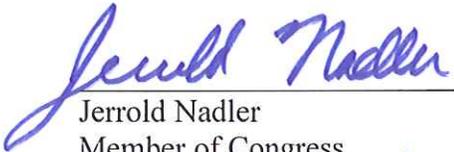
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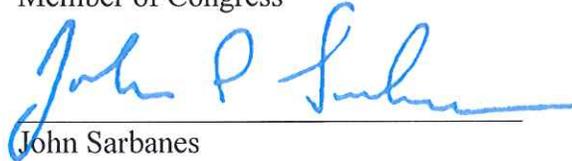
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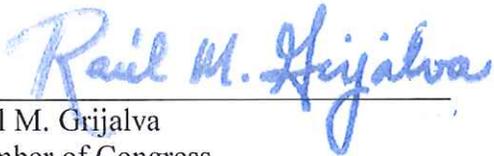
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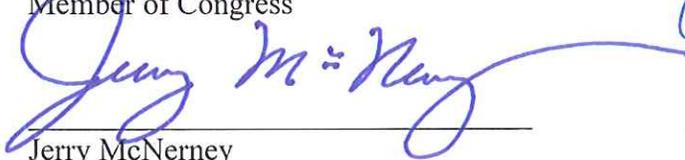
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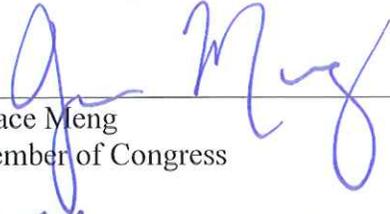
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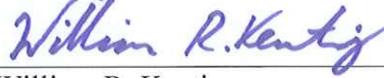
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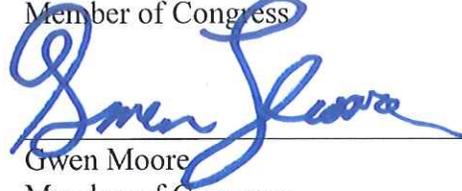
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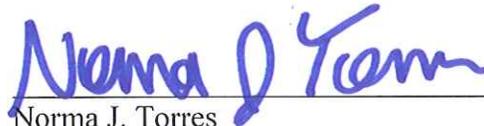
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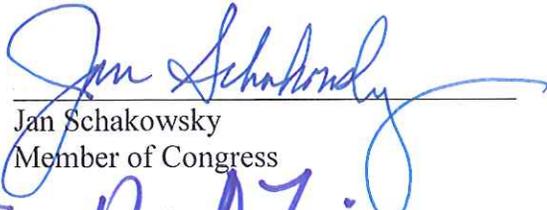
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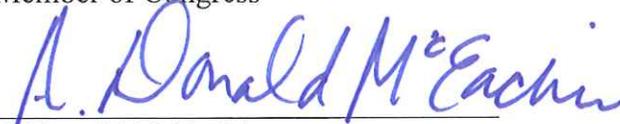
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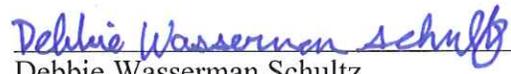
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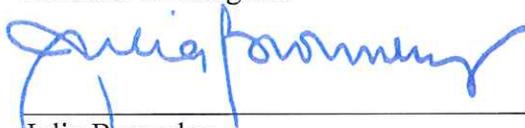
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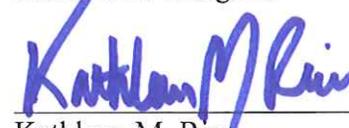
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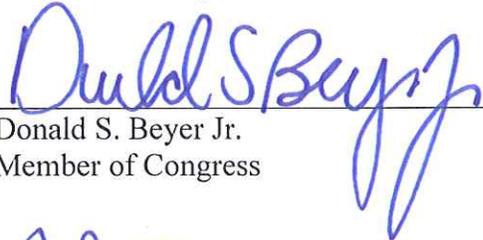
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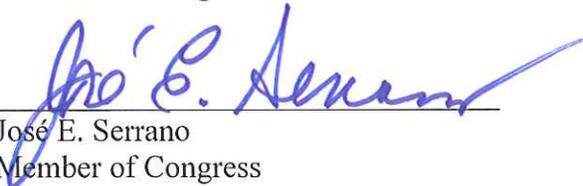
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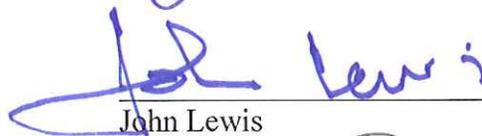
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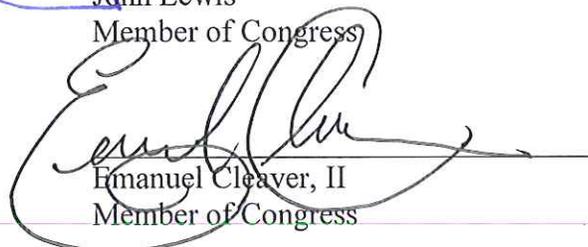
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CC: United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley