



Actions Needed by Congress in Support of Health Workers Joint Statement

We, the undersigned organizational members of the [Frontline Health Workers Coalition](#) and others, are writing to advocate strongly for action in support of health workers in the remaining days of the 118th Congress. Items within the appropriations bills and passage of House Resolution 389, if passed, would substantially strengthen U.S. support for health workers around the globe, restoring and accelerating global health gains, saving millions of lives, advancing United States national security, and expanding global economic prosperity.

The Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations bill passed in the Senate includes funding dedicated to the global health workforce as well as language creating new reporting requirements. If incorporated into a final funding package, the funding and reporting language together would create greater support, transparency, and focus across the U.S. government's array of global health funding around the vital core health workers. And the bipartisan Global Frontline Health Worker Resolution ([H.Res. 389](#)) introduced in the House of Representatives acknowledges the essential contributions of frontline health workers including nurses, midwives, community health workers, doctors, and many more professionals around the world and the pivotal role they play as the primary link to essential health services, especially in remote, rural, and conflict-affected areas.

Investing in frontline health workers aligns with United States and global interests, offering a potential [10:1 return](#) on economic growth for every dollar invested. A strong health workforce plays a pivotal role in preventing the spread of health threats, stabilizing countries in transition, and managing and curtailing epidemics and pandemics, ultimately safeguarding Americans at home. Of note, a significant portion of the U.S. health workforce, also facing substantial strain, was originally trained in low- and middle-income countries.

Health workers provide crucial lifesaving care and treatment and serve as trusted sources of information, aiding in the prevention, detection, and response to global health threats such as pneumonia, measles, malaria, HIV, TB, as well as

emerging and re-emerging outbreaks that threaten Americans and the world alike such as MPOX, Ebola, and Zika. Frontline health workers are also vital in providing maternal health care, ending preventable mother and child deaths, and addressing the growing burden of non-communicable disease. Despite their critical role, health workers are often underpaid or not paid at all. A 2022 *Lancet* commentary highlighted that [up to 85%](#) of community health workers across Africa may not receive direct compensation for their services .

The world is grappling with a significant crisis as at least [55 countries](#) lack sufficient doctors, nurses, and midwives to meet the World Health Organization's minimum staff ratios, severely compromising health care service quality and patient safety. Despite improvements in many countries, the WHO estimates a global shortage of [10 million](#) health workers by 2030, with the most severe shortages in low-and lower-middle-income countries. Investing in primary health care and frontline health workers has the potential to save millions of lives, increase life expectancy by [3.7 years](#), and enabling people to lead healthier, more self-sufficient lives.

Frontline health workers serve as the backbone of sustainable and resilient health systems, benefiting families everywhere. Increased U.S. focus and investment in health workers, encompassing support for recruitment, development, training, retention, and safety is not only essential for achieving healthy lives and well-being for us all but is also crucial for global health security. We urge you to support health workers in the upcoming appropriations discussion and call on the House to pass the bipartisan Frontline Health Worker Resolution.

Sincerely,

Frontline Health Workers Coalition

Action Against Hunger

Advancing Synergy

American College of Surgeons

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Amref Health Africa

CARE

Catholic Medical Mission Board, Inc.

CORE Group

FHI 360

Fund for Global Health

GAIA Global Health

Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma, and Anaesthesia Care - G4 Alliance

Global Health Council

Management Sciences for Health

Medical impact

No Borders Humanity Organization (NBH)

Operation Smile

Partners In Health

Pathfinder International

Project HOPE

ReSurge International

RTI International

SAF-Teso

Seed Global Health

Treatment Action Group

UNICEF USA

WaterAid