

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

July 23, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer:

We write to ask that the budget reconciliation bill provide up to \$34 billion in funding to significantly accelerate the production of COVID-19 vaccines for global distribution, both to save lives and to reinforce America's leadership in combatting the pandemic worldwide. We applaud President Biden's recent announcement that the U.S. government will purchase and donate to lower income countries 500 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine, as well as its financial contributions to COVAX, made possible by the American Rescue Plan. These steps have been extraordinarily generous and consistent with our national interest, because if the pandemic continues to rage in other countries, variants could emerge that defeat existing vaccines.

However, the magnitude of the problem—only 1% of people in low-income countries vaccinated and over 6 billion worldwide who have yet to receive a dose—necessitates an even greater commitment from the United States to provide vaccines and secure end-to-end delivery at a global scale.<sup>i</sup> Even if we set a relatively modest goal of vaccinating 60 percent of the population in the 92 lower-income countries eligible for assistance from COVAX, billions more doses will be needed. **To this end, we respectfully request that whatever is needed on top of unspent COVID-19 relief funds to get to \$34 billion be set aside in the upcoming economic development and jobs package to reach such a goal.**

Part of the answer will be stepped up production of COVID-19 vaccines in developing countries. More must be done to make this possible, and the Biden administration is working with partners around the world to address the complicated challenges involved. Meanwhile, the most practical step the United States can take is to do our part in mass producing the vaccines our companies helped develop and enabling a rapid and equitable distribution of those vaccines to the countries in greatest need. This vision is specifically outlined in the broadly supported *Nullifying Opportunities for Variants to Infect & Decimate (NOVID) Act* (H.R. 3778/S.1976), which details a plan for achieving these goals through a comprehensive production and distribution strategy.

The United States accounts for almost 25 percent of the global economy, and we control an even larger share of the manufacturing capacity for the uniquely effective vaccines that our companies have patented.<sup>ii,iii</sup> As such, the 500 million doses we have already promised represent less than our fair share of the billions of doses needed to meet this global challenge. Recent COVID-19 outbreaks in countries that relied on Chinese vaccines reinforce how dependent lower income countries will be on American assistance to defeat COVID-19. In rising to this challenge, we can show once again that in moments of great need, America does great things.

Estimates indicate that it will cost up to \$25 billion to create enough vaccine manufacturing capacity around the world to vaccinate 60% of the populations in the COVAX countries, plus another \$8.5 billion

to ensure end-to-end delivery of the vaccines.<sup>iv</sup> **We therefore urge Congress to provide in the reconciliation bill whatever funds are needed, in addition to any unspent ARP funds that may exist, to achieve this goal.**

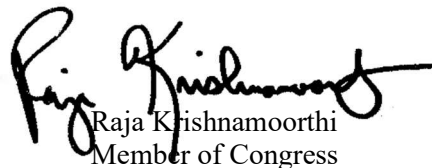
No investment in the fight against COVID-19 is more urgent and cost-effective now than an investment in getting the world vaccinated as quickly as possible. Even assuming wealthy countries will be fully vaccinated by mid-2021, the global economic cost of not vaccinating lower-income countries is estimated to be \$9 trillion per year, or nearly ten percent of global GDP.<sup>v</sup> \$34 billion is a small price to pay to help return the U.S. and global economy to normalcy, and we request that such an amount is included in the upcoming spending package.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,



Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Jeff Merkley  
U.S. Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
U.S. Senator



Edward J. Markey  
U.S. Senator

Members of Congress:

James P. McGovern  
Jerrold Nadler  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Karen Bass  
Andy Levin  
Dina Titus  
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Danny K. Davis  
Andy Kim  
Steve Cohen  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Vicente Gonzalez  
Deborah K. Ross  
Colin Allred  
Ritchie Torres  
Ayanna Pressley  
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Adriano Espaillat  
Troy Carter  
Conor Lamb  
Ron Kind  
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Peter A. DeFazio  
Derek Kilmer  
William R. Keating  
Jim Costa  
Ro Khanna  
Lloyd Doggett  
Katie Porter  
John Garamendi  
Marcy Kaptur  
Joaquin Castro  
Kathy Manning  
Dean Phillips  
Jahana Hayes  
Jake Auchincloss  
Rashida Tlaib  
Earl Blumenauer  
Tom Suozzi  
G.K. Butterfield  
Norma Torres  
Steven Horsford  
Marie Newman

Raul Grijalva  
Ted Deutch  
Albio Sires  
David Cicilline  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Bobby L. Rush  
Jamie Raskin  
Joe Courtney  
André Carson  
Bill Foster  
Ted Lieu  
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Mary Gay Scanlon  
Mark Pocan  
Marilyn Strickland  
Melanie Stansbury  
Anthony G. Brown  
Dwight Evans  
Sara Jacobs  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Seth Moulton

CC: Chair John Yarmuth, U.S. House of Representatives Budget Committee  
Chair Bernard Sanders, U.S. Senate Budget Committee

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<sup>i</sup> T.V. Padma, *COVID vaccines to reach poorest countries in 2023 — despite recent pledges*, Nature (July 5, 2021). <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01762-w>

<sup>ii</sup> Congressional Research Service. (December 3, 2018) *U.S. Trade Trends and Developments*. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R45420.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Estabn Ortiz-Prado, et al., *Vaccine Market and Production Capabilities in the Americas*, Trop Dis Travel Med Vaccines 7, 11 (April 13, 2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40794-021-00135-5>

<sup>iv</sup> Public Citizen. (February 18, 2021). *\$25 Billion to Vaccinate the World*. <https://www.citizen.org/article/25-billion-to-vaccinate-the-world/>

<sup>v</sup> Peter S. Goodman, *If Poor Countries Go Unvaccinated, a Study Says, Rich Ones Will Pay*, The New York Times (January 23, 2021). <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/23/business/coronavirus-vaccines-global-economy.html>