

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

April 10, 2008

Henry M. Paulson, Jr.  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Paulson:

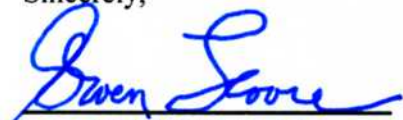
We write to you to express grave concern about the lack of progress being made to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals. We, like the world leaders who issued a call to action during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in January, see that "The world is witnessing a 'development emergency,' and we need a world wide effort to get back on track to meet the MDGs." Indeed, we are hopeful that when the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Development Committee next meets in Washington, DC, you will carry this same sense of urgency into their deliberations, thus, strengthening their capacity to promote economic growth and poverty reduction in the developing world.

Specifically, we draw your attention to the tragedy of maternal mortality, the leading killer of women of reproductive age in the world today. According to the World Health Organization, while an annual decline of 5.5% in maternal mortality is required to reduce maternal deaths by 75%, figures released in 2007 show an annual decline of less than 1%. Countries with the highest initial levels of mortality have made virtually no progress over the past 15 years. Yet, even in the poorest nations, when women have access to basic life-saving care, the vast majority of maternal deaths are prevented.

Maternal mortality is a marker of a health care system that is failing to take care of society's poorest, most vulnerable girls and women. Furthermore, dangerously low and declining investment in women's health jeopardizes achievement of critical development goals, including reduction of infant mortality and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

We resolve that the United States make a stronger commitment to reduce maternal mortality at home and abroad. We urge you to work with other nations to strengthen the investment in our health care systems, and hold governments accountable for the women's lives that are needlessly lost in childbirth. We thank you for representing our country during the upcoming meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank and raising our appeal to move from pledges and promises to decisions and actions that sustain tangible results.

Sincerely,



GWEN MOORE  
Member of Congress



MARY BONO MACK  
Member of Congress



LOIS CAPPS  
Member of Congress



BETTY SUTTON  
Member of Congress



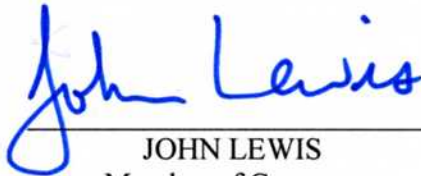
TAMMY BALDWIN  
Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM  
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member of Congress



JOHN LEWIS  
Member of Congress



SAM FARR  
Member of Congress



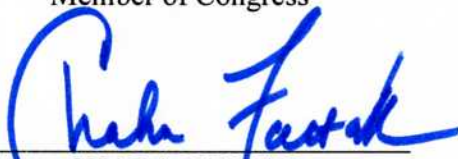
ROSA DELAURO  
Member of Congress



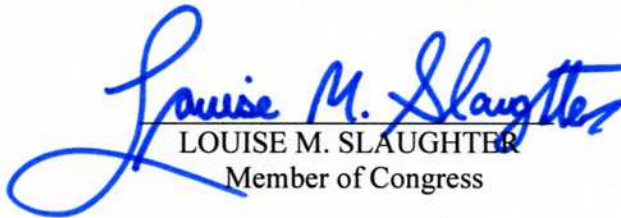
MICHAEL HONDA  
Member of Congress



CAROLYN MALONEY  
Member of Congress



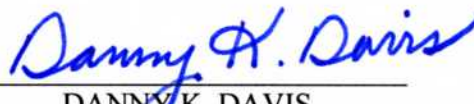
CHAKA FATTAH  
Member of Congress



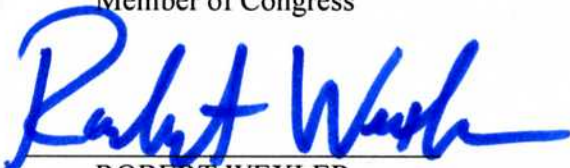
LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER  
Member of Congress



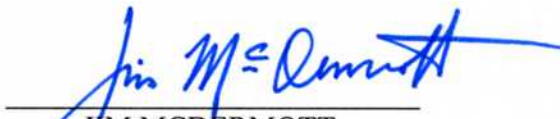
KEITH ELLISON  
Member of Congress



DANNY K. DAVIS  
Member of Congress



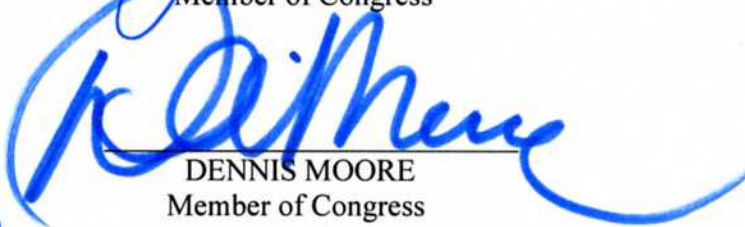
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DENNIS MOORE  
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ALCEE HASTINGS  
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*Ron Kind*

RON KIND  
Member of Congress

*George Miller*

GEORGE MILLER  
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*Eddie Bernice Johnson*

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON  
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*Ellen Tauscher*

ELLEN TAUSCHER  
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*Diana DeGette*

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*Neil Abercrombie*

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
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*Mazie Hirono*

MAZIE HIRONO  
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*Albert R. Wynn*

ALBERT WYNN  
Member of Congress

*Rahm Emanuel*

RAHM EMANUEL  
Member of Congress

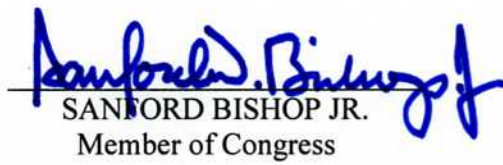
*Dennis J. Kucinich*

DENNIS KUCINICH  
Member of Congress

*Paul Hodes*

PAUL HODES  
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RAÚL GRIJALVA  
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JAMES MCGOVERN  
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AL GREEN  
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HILDA SOLIS  
Member of Congress

  
JOSEPH CROWLEY  
Member of Congress

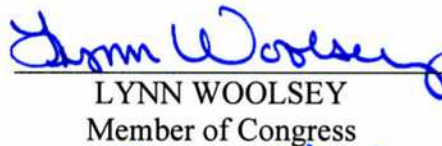
  
SUSAN DAVIS  
Member of Congress

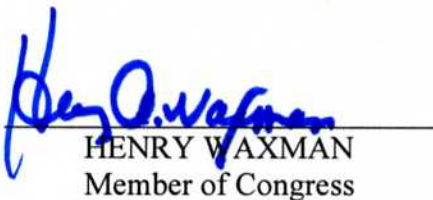
  
FORTNEY "PETE" STARK  
Member of Congress

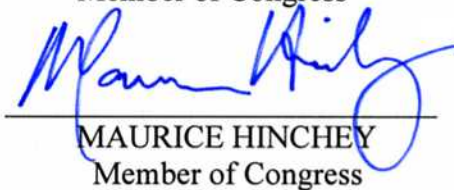
  
EDOLPHUS TOWNS  
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Member of Congress

  
STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES  
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WILLIAM DELAHUNT  
Member of Congress

  
MAXINE WATERS  
Member of Congress