

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chair
Subcommittee on National Security,
Department of State, and Related Programs
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lois Frankel
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security,
Department of State, and Related Programs
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Diaz-Balart, and Ranking Member Frankel:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2027 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs (NSRP) Appropriations Act, we write to express our strong support for sustained and strategic investments in global nutrition programs that save lives, strengthen resilience, and advance U.S. leadership.

The world is reeling from various onslaughts to the global food system, from protracted conflict, weak supply chains, weather-induced disasters, and regional food price inflation. Conflict in Ukraine, Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Haiti, and various other regions, coupled with weather-induced disasters like flooding and drought have crippled the global food system.

Amid these crises, over 45 million children are wasted – the term used to describe the most immediate, visible and life-threatening form of malnutrition.¹ It results from the failure to prevent malnutrition among the most vulnerable children. Wasted children are too thin and their immune systems are weak, leaving them vulnerable to developmental delays, disease and death.

American-made ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) – a simple medical food paste made of peanuts, powdered milk, vegetable oils, soy, sugar, and multivitamins – is the gold standard treatment for severe wasting. Access to RUTF has been limited, with treatment reaching only about one in four children in need, but following increased federal funding for RUTF in 2024²

¹ https://www.who.int/health-topics/nutrition/infographics-wasting#tab=tab_2

² <https://amo.house.gov/press-release/rhode-island-delegation-applauds-usaid-announcement-of-200-million-to-address-global-malnutrition>

and 2025³, Congress made a historic \$300 million commitment in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) to scale up the procurement of RUTF. RUTF production in the United States supports domestic manufacturing jobs while reinforcing the reliability and quality of humanitarian supply chains. It also supports American farmers, as American-made RUTF is sourced from farmers across 27 states who grow peanuts, soy, dairy, sugar, and vegetable oils.⁴

American-made prenatal vitamins, specifically multiple micronutrient supplements (MMS), are key to supporting nutrition. MMS combines 15 essential vitamins and minerals into a single, lifesaving tablet, dramatically improving birth outcomes and reducing maternal anemia. MMS represents a targeted and evidence-based investment in maternal and child health. MMS have been shown to reduce the risk of low birthweight, preterm birth, and stillbirth compared to traditional iron-folic acid supplementation, while improving maternal nutritional status and early childhood outcomes.

For the FY27 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs bill, we request that the Committee to maintain the FY26 enacted level of no less than \$300 million in Title III Bilateral Economic Assistance toward the procurement and distribution of American-made Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to ensure that all children have access to this lifesaving treatment. We also request that the Committee once again include the language mandating that no less than 50% of funding for the global nutrition subaccount – within Global Health Programs – be devoted to the most cost-effective and evidence-based nutrition interventions, including American-made RUTF, MMS, breastfeeding support, and vitamin A supplementation. These interventions have demonstrated strong returns on investment, reduce mortality and morbidity, and contribute to improved educational and economic outcomes over the long term. Also, we request robust funding from the global nutrition subaccount to be directed toward the procurement and distribution MMS. Dedicated funding for MMS will help accelerate the ability to provide MMS to high-burden countries.

We also support maintaining language to prioritize investments in the procurement and delivery of RUTF and MMS through public-private partnership mechanisms that leverage co-financing from other donors, while utilizing transparent and performance-based platforms to maximize cost-efficiency and coverage. Aligning U.S. investments with complementary donor resources can expand coverage, strengthen country ownership, and improve the efficiency and sustainability of nutrition programming.

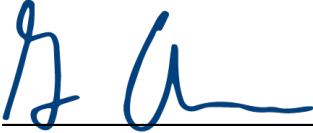
Congress has long demonstrated bipartisan leadership in advancing global nutrition, including support for therapeutic foods, maternal supplementation, and community-based interventions. Building on these efforts, robust FY27 funding for American-made RUTF and other evidence-based nutrition interventions like MMS will help close treatment gaps, respond to rising humanitarian needs, and reinforce the United States' commitment to saving lives and promoting stability in vulnerable regions.

³ <https://www.state.gov/announcements-office-of-global-food-security>

⁴ American-made RUTF is sourced from Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Thank you for your continued leadership and consideration of this request. We stand ready to work with the Committee to ensure that U.S. nutrition investments are targeted, effective, and reflective of our shared commitment to combating global malnutrition.

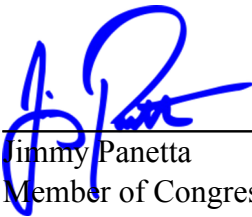
Sincerely,



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



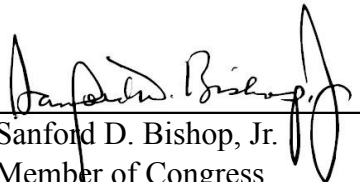
Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
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Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress




Lucy McBath
Member of Congress




Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



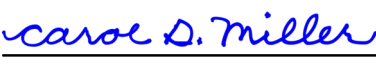
Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress




Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress




Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



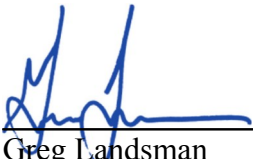
Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



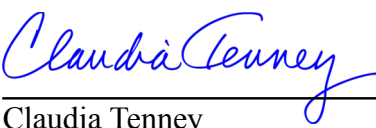
Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



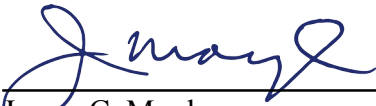
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress




Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



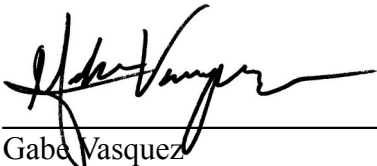
Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



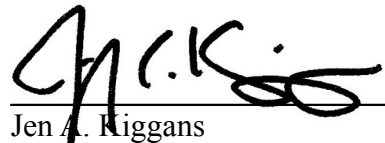
James C. Moylan
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Dina Titus
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Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



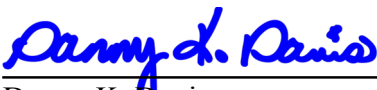
Jen A. Kiggans
Member of Congress



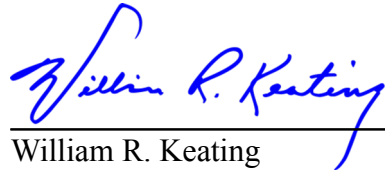
Maxine Dexter
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Laura Friedman
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Danny K. Davis
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William R. Keating
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Ted W. Lieu
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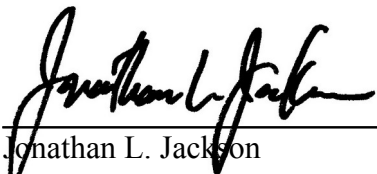
Lloyd Doggett
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James P. McGovern
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



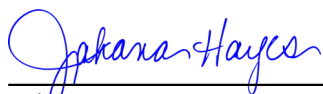
Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



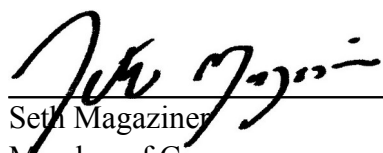
Terri A. Sewell
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Jahana Hayes
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David Scott
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Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
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Greg Stanton
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Frank D. Lucas
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Pablo José Hernández
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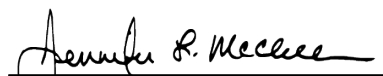
Don Bacon
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Brad Sherman
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Jennifer L. McClellan
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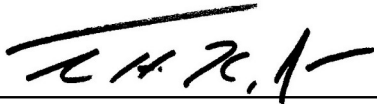
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



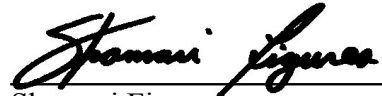
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



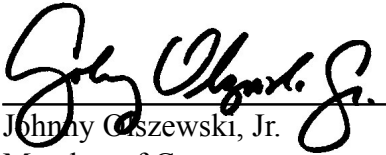
Bradley Scott Schneider
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Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress



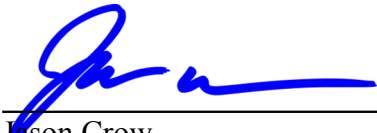
Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



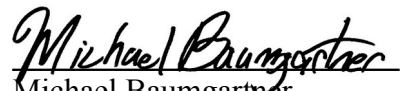
Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



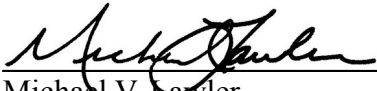
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Michael Baumgartner
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress