

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
House Appropriations Committee
Room HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Rogers and Ms. Lowey,

We write in support of including bill and report language in the FY2019 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs bill providing \$22 million to support the United Nations' New Approach initiative to eradicate cholera in Haiti.

We are deeply concerned by the UN's inadequate response to this ongoing epidemic that was introduced to Haiti in 2010 through reckless sanitation procedures at a UN peacekeeping base. The devastation it wrought has been staggering: at least 10,000 people have died and almost a million have fallen ill. The epidemic has raged for years because of a shortage of funds for elimination activities. Public health actors now say they believe they can reduce cholera transmissions to zero this year if funding for urgent treatment and response is assured, but this support has not been forthcoming. As a result, Haitians continue to die.

Every cholera death and illness has grave effects that further impoverish and destabilize Haiti. Families that borrowed money to bury loved ones struggle to repay loans at the expense of their basic household needs and those that lost breadwinners plunge still deeper into poverty. The Haitian government estimates that thousands of children have been orphaned, condemning another generation to poverty as they are pulled out of school and face homelessness. We are especially mindful that the Haitian diaspora in the United States is bearing a heavy burden of caring for sick and surviving family members in Haiti and that the epidemic poses a direct threat to the 50,000 Haitians facing deportation from the rescission of their Temporary Protected Status.

As you know, following persistent calls by members of Congress on this issue—including bipartisan letters from both the Senate and House—the UN acknowledged its role in the cholera outbreak in late 2016 and launched a \$400 million plan called the “New Approach” to end cholera transmission and provide material assistance to those most directly affected. The New Approach is the only comprehensive plan to address the cholera crisis and was developed with expert input from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the Haitian government, and international organizations specializing in cholera control. It is the only plan that aims to support thousands of affected families as they work to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

The United States co-sponsored the General Assembly resolution welcoming the plan and calling on member states to provide the necessary funding. We publicly noted the “clear ethical duty to respond the cholera epidemic,” stating that the U.S. “recognizes that more must be done and supports the UN’s ongoing efforts to design an assistance package for those most affected by

cholera.” But our nation has yet to contribute to the trust fund and we believe it is time for us to do our part.


The US has always exercised global leadership in responding to disasters around the world, helping to care for victims and rebuild communities. We help because we can, because those affected need us, and because that is what leaders do. For years the people of Haiti have suffered the devastating effects of cholera through no fault of their own. They need our help.

It is in this context that we request the inclusion of bill and report language in the FY2019 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs bill providing \$22 million for the UN trust fund to respond to cholera in Haiti.

We propose the following report language:

The Committee notes the tragic deaths of more than 9,700 Haitians from cholera resulting from the negligence of personnel of the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti. The Committee recommends not less than \$22,000,000 to support a multi-party UN trust fund to address the epidemic and assist cholera victims in Haiti

Sincerely,



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Hakeem Jeffries

Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
M.C.

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence

Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



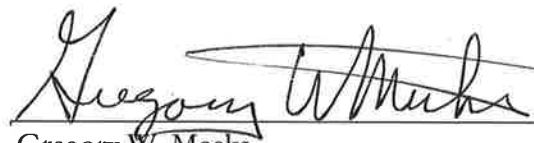
Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress