

January 18, 2013

Dear Representative/Senator:

As women who lead organizations that promote global development, health, and human rights, we would like to congratulate you on your recent election, and extend a warm welcome to a United States Congress that will be, because of you and your female colleagues, a historic one, with women accounting for nearly 20 percent of members.

We would also like to encourage you to make the 113th Congress a historic one for women worldwide. As Congress makes landmark decisions about the country's budget, we would welcome your solidarity in protecting and prioritizing the foreign assistance that supports the health, well-being, rights, and empowerment of women and girls worldwide.

Around the world, women and adolescent girls remain acutely and disproportionately affected by poverty, poor reproductive health, and limited opportunities for education or employment. Evidence from the field has proven that investments in women globally bring substantial dividends for U.S. policy goals. We hope you will support efforts to ensure that the U.S. strengthens and expands its leadership in ensuring that gender is no longer a roadblock to health or opportunity.

We invite you to get to know our organizations and leverage the expertise we offer in global development, health, and human rights. We appreciate the depth and breadth of new responsibilities that you are faced with, and would like to offer our support on any efforts to champion funding and policy to benefit women and girls globally during the next Congress.

Sincerely,

Nancy A. Aossey
President and CEO, International Medical Corps

Radhika Balakrishnan
Executive Director, Center for Women's Global Leadership

Pamela Barnes
President and CEO, EngenderHealth

Carmen Barroso
Director, IPPF Western Hemisphere Region

Kelly Blanchard
President, Ibis Reproductive Health

Kathy Bonk
CEO, Communications Consortium Media Center

Kathy Calvin
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Elizabeth J. Clark
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Sarah Costa
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