

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 28, 2022

The Honorable Samantha Power
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Ambassador Power:

As the U.S. Agency for International Development finalizes its Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) programmatic and policy priorities, we write to support a robust funding request for the administration's Global Health Worker Initiative. We appreciate the administration's commitment to prioritizing global health programs, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and urge you to include \$200 million in discretionary spending within your budget request to expand the Global Health Worker Initiative.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen enormous strains on health care systems at home and overseas and have witnessed the resilience of frontline health workers day in and day out. We must match their fortitude with the funding necessary to deliver healthcare directly to communities in need throughout the world, as envisioned in President Biden's G7 Summit announcement regarding global health systems infrastructure. Prioritizing the education of health care workers and development of community, regional, and national health care capacities will better prepare the world, and the United States, for the next pandemic; it will also build on USAID's work to combat diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS.

We are facing a shortage of health workers around the world. This workforce crisis is exacerbated by a gender pay gap; while women make up 90 percent of health workers in patient-facing roles, they face a significant gender pay gap and hold just 25 percent of leadership roles. Without a more intentional investment in the global health workforce, we will be ill prepared to continue to address the global health challenges of today or the next pandemic. That is why robust funding for the Global Health Worker Initiative is essential to USAID's capacity to meet the objectives the administration has laid out to expand the health workforce. Full funding is necessary to ensure workers are fairly compensated and paid in a timely manner. Improving wages is not only the right thing to do, but it also increases economic opportunities for workers, their families, and the communities in which they live. Furthermore, adequate funds will allow USAID to expand access to essential training for health workers and expand its work with local partners to secure a sustainable health workforce in communities going forward.

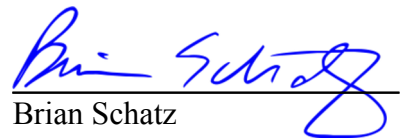
Without proper funding, we fear the full potential of the Global Health Workers Initiative will not be realized. Therefore, we urge USAID to request funding sufficient to fulfill the Global

Health Worker Initiative's mission at \$200 million in the Agency's FY24 budget submission, consistent with the administration's call for \$1 billion over five years, to further develop community healthcare providers throughout the world. We commend the administration for their commitment to investing in global health initiatives, and we stand ready to support this request.

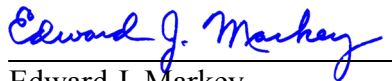
Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Shalanda Young, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)