

# Cosponsor the Bipartisan Global Frontline Community Health Worker Resolution

*Led by Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA) and Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA), with 30 cosponsors*

**Who are frontline community health workers?** They are at the last mile delivering services and connecting health systems to communities. Most of these providers are women from the very communities they serve, which enables them to reach the most vulnerable children and adults with the language skills and cultural knowledge needed to help patients access care and provide basic health treatments and health education.

*Investing in frontline health workers aligns with United States and global interests, offering a potential [10:1](#) return on economic growth for every dollar invested. A strong health workforce plays a pivotal role in preventing the spread of health threats, stabilizing countries in transition, and managing and curtailing epidemics and pandemics, ultimately safeguarding Americans at home.*

## **Specifically, the Bera-Kiggans resolution:**

- Reaffirms the central role of frontline health workers in expanding and sustaining gains in global health, saving the lives of millions of women, men, and children around the world, and strengthening U.S. national security, global economic prosperity, and pandemic preparedness;
- Urges greater global attention and support for frontline health workers to ensure their protection and ability to respond effectively during humanitarian and public health crises;
- Recognizes the damaging effects of economic disparities in the health workforce, given that most frontline health workers are women, and that most are unpaid or underpaid;
- Calls on Federal agencies to utilize existing flexibilities to implement programming across global health accounts to strengthen frontline health workforce teams and the systems supporting them with concrete targets and clear accountability mechanisms to support delivery of resilient and sustainable access to quality health services, and encourages agencies to facilitate collaborative learning between domestic and global frontline health workforce strengthening programs to improve effectiveness.

**Endorsing Organizations for H. Res. 389:** Accelerate Global, Advancing Synergy American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Americas TB Coalition, Amref Health Africa, AVAC, CARE USA, Catholic Medical Mission Board, Children's HeartLink, Community Health Impact Coalition, CORE Group, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Faiths for Safe Water, of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Frontline Health Workers Coalition, Fund for Global Health, GAIA Global Health, Global Health Council, Global Network of Black People working in HIV, GRIT Strategies, Housing Works, Inc, Integrate Health, International Association of Providers of AIDS Care, IntraHealth International, Ipas, JSI, Management Sciences for Health, Medical Impact, mothers2mothers, Operation Smile, Partners In Health, Pathfinder, Project HOPE, Resolve To Save Lives (RTSL), ReSurge International, RTI International, Save the Children, Smile Train, Stop TB USA, Task Force for Global Health, The Borgen Project, The Fred Holows Foundation USA, The G4 Alliance, Treatment Action Group, UNICEF USA, United to Beat Malaria, VillageReach, WaterAid, We Are TB, What to Expect Project, Women in Global Health, Women's Refugee Commission, and World Vision.

# Global Health Worker Shortages

At least 55 countries lack sufficient doctors, nurses, and midwives to meet the international minimum target, severely compromising service quality and patient safety. While progress is being made, the WHO estimates a global shortage of 10 million health workers by 2030, with the most severe shortfall in low-and lower-middle-income countries – particularly in Africa. With only 3% of the world’s health workforce, sub-Saharan Africa is home to 24% of patients with infectious or noncommunicable diseases.

## INVESTMENTS TO PROTECT THE FUTURE

Strategic and sustained investments in the global health workforce are key to catalyzing the U.S. Government’s efforts in global health.

Investing in primary health care and frontline health workers could save up to 60 million lives, increase life expectancy by 3.7 years, and promote health equity. Investment in nurses and midwives, who are mostly female, yields improved health outcomes, education opportunities, job prospects, gender equity, and global health security. A strong health workforce plays a pivotal role in preventing the spread of health threats, stabilizing countries in transition, and managing and curtailing epidemics and pandemics, ultimately safeguarding Americans at home.

Health workers provide crucial lifesaving care and treatment and serve as trusted sources of information, aiding in the prevention, detection, and response to global health threats such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, HIV, TB, as well as emerging and re-emerging outbreaks like COVID-19, cholera, Ebola, and Zika. Frontline health workers also play an essential role in providing maternal health care and ending preventable mother and child deaths.

## Health Workforce

At least **55** countries lack enough doctors, nurses, and midwives to meet the WHO minimum staff ratios

**70%** of the health and social workforce around the world are women

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to only **3%** of the world’s health workforce, but **24%** of infectious or noncommunicable diseases

