

That is why Congress appropriated almost two billion dollars for international assistance across two emergency relief measures. Our Department of State and USAID have pledged almost \$500 million, with more on the way. American businesses, philanthropies and non-governmental organizations are contributing their assistance as well wherever possible.

These are important first steps, but our country can and must do more to lead a global effort against this pandemic. We must coordinate pathways for assistance from developed to developing countries to enhance the capacity of their health care systems to combat future waves of this pandemic. We must lead the way in bringing together the best and brightest around the world in fully understanding this virus and developing a vaccine. We must forge a path towards global economic recovery, restoring old supply chains and creating new ones, and leading our world economy to be stronger, more resilient and more just than it was before this crisis. Above all, we must lead in repairing the frayed fabric of global order, restoring trust in and commitment to our shared institutions among all countries.

Seventy-five years after the Second World War, let us recall the courage and sacrifice of the greatest generation. Let us find the realities and opportunities in this crippling pandemic and recommit ourselves and the United States to global leadership and to the values of freedom, prosperity and peace at home and abroad. And as we do so and overcome this pandemic, let us, the Americans of this age, with our bravery, generosity and greatness of spirit, prove to be as celebrated an example as that greatest generation to Americans of future eras.

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AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP  
DURING COVID-19

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020*

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic we face today has made it abundantly clear how truly connected to one another we all are and how widely our connections span the globe. This pandemic is the greatest global challenge we have faced since World War II and cooperation has never been more important.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee for Europe, Eurasia, Energy and the Environment, it has been one of my top priorities to strengthen and support our transatlantic alliance. Together, the United States and our friends and allies in Europe have worked side by side to tackle challenges while advancing democratic values. Through our NATO alliance and as members of multilateral institutions like the United Nations and the World Health Organization, we have consistently worked together to maximize our resources to address shared security threats.

Now as we face the COVID-19 pandemic, our cooperation today is more important than ever. Although it has caused many to look inward and focus on those in our own communities, it is critical to remember that the threat from COVID-19 will not end once we have flattened the curve here at home. If we fail to

rally support and resources for countries struggling with COVID-19 abroad, especially developing countries and countries marred by conflict, we risk this disease once again finding its way to our shores. Beyond the disease itself, we will face threats from the security and economic conditions COVID-19 is already leaving in its wake including famine, a global recession, and heightened instability and the extremism that often follows it.

However, we must also remember that we don't have to go it alone and that in fact we are stronger in meeting our shared challenges when we work together. We can learn from each other to better understand the pathology of COVID-19 and how we may ultimately begin safely reopening our economies. We can share resources to ensure all of our medical and health personnel have access to personal protective equipment, ventilators and other medical devices, and eventually to vaccines as well. We can work together to debunk myths and combat disinformation so our communities are not misled by malign actors. Our NATO alliance is already working to coordinate these kinds of assistance and we must build on these successes to be most effective in ending this pandemic for good.

We are capable of meeting this challenge if we do so together, and for that, American leadership is crucial. We have seen American leadership raise critical resources to fight pandemics in the past and improve the effectiveness of multilateral institutions like the World Health Organization. If we cede this leadership role, we relinquish our ability to shape a safer, more secure future for all Americans, their families and friends overseas, and the myriad business and educational opportunities they have created together to grow the global economy and connect so many communities all around the world. Only together with our friends and partners, can we rise to meet this unprecedented challenge so that we may soon reunite with our loved ones, safely reopen our economies, and return to the lives we once knew.

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AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP  
DURING COVID-19

**HON. AMI BERA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020*

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, as a doctor, I'm proud that the United States has been a leader in global health. Around the world, millions of people are healthier and more safe because of the efforts of the United States. Through smart and strategic investments in the State Department and USAID, we have led the international fight against diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. We should all be proud of the far-reaching impact of our global health, development and humanitarian assistance programs.

Several decades of leadership and investment in global health have not only saved the lives of people across the world, but have proved vital to protecting the health, security, and economic interests of Americans within our own borders. In our interconnected world, it can take 36 hours for a virus to travel from a remote village to all six continents. The sooner we act to contain a public health emer-

gency abroad, the safer our citizens are back home.

The urgent need to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and protect our constituents has reinforced the importance of contributing to global health challenges abroad. Since originating in China in December 2019, the virus has quickly spread to 170 countries and has now reached over 200,000 deaths worldwide.

The United States has been hit particularly hard. With over 50,000 reported deaths, the pandemic is putting significant strain on our first responders and health systems. States are beginning to make the difficult decision whether to lift stay-at-home orders in hopes of jumpstarting the economy.

But no matter how successful we are in fighting the pandemic here at home, we will never defeat it unless other parts of the world are equipped to prevent outbreaks from occurring in the first place and to contain them when they do occur. Left unaddressed globally, COVID-19 will find its way back to the U.S.

Before the virus hit the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warned that a staggering 70 percent of countries were underprepared to prevent, detect, and respond to a public health emergency. Many nations, particularly in the developing world, aren't equipped to deal with COVID-19 or future pandemics. Far too many countries suffer from weak health systems, with challenges such as unsafe water and inadequate sanitation tools to lack of health centers altogether.

Other nations are reeling from years of conflict, natural disasters or other humanitarian conflicts, doing their best to support inadequate health systems already operating well below capacity. COVID-19 does not recognize borders. It doesn't know the difference between someone back in my district and one of the over 65 million forcibly displaced persons in the world.

The secondary economic and food shortages have hit us hard here in the U.S. and we in Congress are doing our best to address them. The predictions for the future around the world are bleak—the World Food Program recently estimated that by the end of 2020 the number of people around the world who are starving could double, reaching 265 million people.

All these risk factors around the world only increase the likelihood of this virus reemerging at our doorstep. They also leave us exposed to future public health threats. Now, more than ever, the U.S. must continue to lead on global health. As Congress works towards additional funding and response efforts to fight this global pandemic, it's critical that our actions include funding to fight COVID-19 around the world.

Decades of U.S. global leadership in foreign assistance has shown us that smart and strategic investments are critical to protecting the homeland. Our efforts have defended the safety of our nation and saved countless lives. I ask my colleagues to join me in calling for the prioritizing of a U.S.-led global response to combatting coronavirus. If we don't keep one eye abroad, we unnecessarily leave our families, friends, and neighbors at risk.