

public health disaster the world has seen in over a century.

The United States and the rest of the world cannot afford to relinquish authority over global health security, or to isolate ourselves from protecting the wellbeing of other nations. We must continue to think aggressively and plan for the long term while supporting international public-private partnerships like GAVI and CEPI. Let this be a watershed moment for our nation as a mistake to never repeat. With countless human lives and livelihoods at stake, the time for gambling with global health security is done.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
DURING COVID-19

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Ms. FRANKEL. Madam Speaker, in my travels around the world as a Member of Congress one thing has become abundantly clear. Advancing prosperity and stability internationally is not just a moral imperative, it's a national imperative—because instability anywhere is a threat to stability everywhere.

Human rights violations, terrorism, and infectious diseases don't stop at the border. We have seen that tragic reality reinforced through genocide, international terrorism, and global pandemics.

So what is the lesson as we fight COVID-19?

No matter how successful we are in combatting this pandemic here at home, we will never fully stop it unless we also combat it around the world. After all, we saw COVID-19 jump from Wuhan, to Westminster, to West Palm, in a matter of weeks. Outbreaks in remote villages don't stay in remote villages. According to the CDC, 70 percent of the world remains underprepared to prevent, detect, and respond to any public health emergency.

So while there is still so much more we need to do domestically to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of the American public, part of that effort needs to focus on U.S. global leadership to fight this disease and future pandemics.

America remains the world's most critical defender of human rights and prosperity around the globe. And that role is needed now more than ever.

Before this pandemic, millions were already fleeing war and persecution in countries around the world, including the devastating impacts in Syria. And COVID-19 is now a force multiplier, increasing the risk of violence, displacement, hunger, and suffering.

It is crucial that we support the State Department, USAID, the World Health Organization, and others on the frontlines responding to this pandemic and advancing American interests around the world every day.

More emergency funding is needed for the International Affairs Budget to support the global response to combat this pandemic.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
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HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of Congress taking immediate action to help people and countries around the globe to fight the COVID-19 Pandemic. I wish to thank my colleagues Dr. BERA and Dr. YOHO for organizing this important Special Order. The need around the world to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic is immense. I and other Members are joining the call for Congress to provide twelve billion dollars for international efforts to fight the virus, with a specific focus on helping African countries and multilateral institutions who are on the front lines of this crisis. This is a small fraction of what we are spending at home, but it can make a huge difference in stopping the virus around the world.

Right now, America is hurting from COVID-19. Too many families are dealing with the suffering and death of loved ones from the virus. Many more are struggling to cope with an economic crisis unlike any we've seen in our lifetimes. And while this suffering is wide and deep, it's also deeply unequal. It's true that Coronavirus itself doesn't discriminate on who it infects. But the inequality that has built up in our health care system and our economy means that Black and Brown people are more likely to get sick, and more likely to get sub-standard care. And people already living on the edge of poverty are bearing the worst of the economic crisis, unable to telecommute, unable to make rent, and last in line to get help.

When so many are suffering at home, it's fair that some people might ask, "why should Congress be looking to help other countries? Why shouldn't we take care of our own first?"

Madam Speaker, that is a false choice. The bottom line is that we cannot defeat COVID unless the whole world works together. There are too many countries that simply lack the resources to tackle the pandemic on their own. There is a practical reason why we need to help these countries—because if we don't, we run the risk that both this virus and the economic shock will fester, creating more risks for us here at home. But more importantly, we need to help because of the moral imperative, the fact that an America that seeks to be just and moral needs to play a leading role in making sure that every country can weather this crisis. America serves both our interests and our values when we act in service of our common humanity. Regardless of what disagreements we might have with particular governments, it is our mission to make sure that people everywhere have basic public health protections, and a lifeline to whether the economic impact of this crisis.

The good news is, we have a road map for how this is done. When in the past, the world has faced pandemic challenges, America has taken action to contribute to the global effort. When HIV and AIDS threatened Africa with widespread suffering and demographic disaster, I and many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle here in Congress worked with the Bush Administration to respond. I am proud to have helped author the legislation

creating both PEPFAR and the Global Fund, which have helped to turn the tide on the crisis, providing extensive bilateral and multilateral investment in strengthening health systems and expanding treatment, as well as funding the search for a vaccine. When Ebola threatened to overwhelm West Africa, the United States mobilized an array of resources to respond. In these past crises, America has sought to work collaboratively with the global community. There is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all solution, and it's important to support the global institutions, such as the World Health Organization and United Nations, that help coordinate our international response. These organizations don't just act in ways that protect us all, they also help advance our shared humanitarian values. They deserve our full moral and financial support.

Madam Speaker, the Coronavirus doesn't stop at the border, nor does its economic and moral impact. I urge my colleagues to resist the urge to score political points by pulling back from shared international efforts and join us here in our efforts to help mend the single garment of our destiny. I urge my colleagues to support a robust international investment in fighting COVID-19 and restoring the global economy so that it works for all people, here at home and around the world.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
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HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise in the midst of a global pandemic to emphasize importance and need of America's global leadership to combat COVID-19. I have seen firsthand in my district in Queens, NY—the epicenter of the epicenter—that those who were the most vulnerable before this crisis, such as individuals who were experiencing homelessness or housing instability, economic instability, or food insecure—are also the most likely to be affected by this pandemic.

There is a temptation, in this moment of extreme personal suffering, to buy into the dichotomy that we can either help Americans or we can help our allies. This is a false choice. By only focusing on "flattening the curve" in America, we not only risk the lives of allies and partners in other countries, but we risk a resurgence of cases as the global economy re-opens.

As a Member of the House State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, I believe it is more critical than ever to pass a robust international affairs budget that supports the healthcare systems of developing countries. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene programs, for example, are more critical than ever. Vigorously washing our hands has become our new normal in the U.S., but that requires access to a safe, reliable water supply, which is not available in many communities around the world.

Americans leadership is not only needed to stop the physical spread of the virus, but also to deal with its serious, secondary consequences. For instance, crises and emergencies exacerbate cases of domestic violence; we have already seen this evidence

here at home during this pandemic. Humanitarian programs, like the Safe from the Start program which I have strongly advocated for, supports surges in rapid deployment of senior gender advisors to at-risk communities during humanitarian emergencies. This type of programming seeks to mitigate gender-based violence and develop ways to include women in decision-making processes. With that, I am proud to have spearheaded my bipartisan legislation Safe from the Start Act (H.R. 4092)—to codify this critical program.

Madam Speaker, American leadership is critical in the global fight against COVID-19; without it, this global health crisis will continue to devastate countries around the world and rebound back to our shores.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
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HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in recognizing the need for the United States to take clear, decisive leadership in a genuinely global collaboration to confront the threat COVID-19.

The threat of COVID-19 is truly global—the virus does not understand borders or nationalities. Until and unless the virus is contained everywhere on Earth, it is not truly contained anywhere. The United States leads whether through action or inaction. We have a responsibility both morally and to our own national security to coordinate an international response to COVID-19 that meets the enormous challenge it presents. It is a sad state of affairs that this White House has preferred transparently political international squabbles to the type of American leadership the world is counting on.

In Congress, we have been understandably focused on our districts and our constituents, who are facing job losses, evictions, and the closing of their small businesses. We have needed to ensure that our health care professionals have access to the equipment that they need, and that our constituents abroad could be safely returned home.

And as we know today that there is still much to do on the homefront, the threat of COVID-19 in the rest of the world is incredibly grave. The Central African Republic has three ventilators in the entire country. In Somalia, there are 15 ICU beds total. Millions of refugees who have already fled unspeakable brutality and violence now live in camps where social distancing is impossible, and there isn't clean water to wash their hands every time they've touched a potentially contaminated surface. In Yemen, where conflict has already decimated infrastructure and public health, the confirmed cases of COVID-19 cast yet another long shadow on a long-suffering population. From Gaza to Guatemala, and from Lagos to Lahore, the toll of this disease could reach levels still unthinkable.

It is also important that we remember that it is women who are on the front lines, making up 70% of global health workers. The United States must stand in solidarity with these women and other healthcare workers and be

a global leader in ensuring there is funding so that they have supplies and infrastructure to do their jobs and the long-term support to address mental and physical health issues as a result of their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Not only are women impacted as health workers by health systems being overwhelmed by the pandemic, but women and girls are also facing new and exacerbated barriers in access to services, particularly sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence prevention and response services, services that are essential. Pre-existing barriers to essential health services are exacerbated as overwhelmed health systems shift their attention solely to COVID-19 response. Experience has shown us that access to sexual and reproductive health care is critical in a pandemic. During the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone, reduced access to reproductive healthcare is estimated to have caused at least as many deaths as Ebola itself.

We must not turn our back on the world. We must put aside our grievances and work toward the common good, to find a common solution. This pandemic is clear, tragic evidence that the outlook that favors international cooperation over isolationism, institutions over improvisation, is not just more moral but safer. Just as the ravages of this terrible disease know no borders, neither must the cure. Our national interest and our moral duty are one and the same. Now is the time. It is clearer now than ever that our destinies are linked, and that we are all in this together.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
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HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am honored to add my voice to this important special order. Let me commend my colleagues, Congressmen AMI BERA and TED YOHO for their leadership on global health.

As a global leader in the international community, the United States has a duty to support global health. No one can match our resources, our talent, our infrastructure.

As chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, I am proud to fight for global health. And, I am proud that in the congressional relief packages we have passed to help support the health and economic wellbeing of our families and working people, we secured vital dollars for global health. In total, at least \$800 million. This funding is critical because if we stop outbreaks abroad, we prevent outbreaks in the United States.

But, our work for global health cannot stop once we stop this pandemic.

Let us not lapse in complacency. Instead, let us honor the sacrifice of those frontline workers fighting to save our humanity, the courage of those overcoming this illness, and the grief of those who have said goodbye too soon.

Let us invest in global health. Otherwise, we risk American health.

So, once again, I want to thank my colleagues for their leadership in raising this im-

portant issue. Let us keep fighting this virus. Let us win this battle. And let us make sure investing in global health is always an American priority.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
DURING COVID-19

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Representatives YOHO and BERA for their leadership in hosting this special order during a particularly difficult period not only for the United States, but the whole world.

With more than 3 million confirmed cases across 185 countries, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that infectious diseases know no borders. They thrive on inequality and exacerbate societal schisms. The only proven way to avert an unchecked humanitarian disaster is through a united, global response.

During times of crisis, it has been the United States that has stepped into the void to provide a path forward. This is a global moment that requires the mantle of bold leadership that our nation has assumed in the past. The path toward overcoming the specter of COVID-19 lies not in xenophobia and isolationism, but rather an embrace of a coordinated international response.

It demands we chart a course for global health that extends beyond the urgency of this moment into the future; so that we are prepared for whatever challenges lie beyond the horizon. This effort requires a multipronged approach to global health programs that the United States has the capacity and the scientific expertise to lead.

First, we must help developing countries to improve their ability to more effectively combat disease. This pandemic has proven once again that our health security is only as strong as the international community.

Second, we must recommit to helping the tens of millions of people fleeing war, persecution, and hardship around the world. Refugees already suffer from food insecurity and are uniquely vulnerable to the devastation of a virus like COVID-19.

And third, we must empower Americans serving on the frontlines as we grapple with the pandemic. That means providing our diplomats, aid personnel, and servicemembers with the resources they need to maintain their global operations and provide emergency relief for millions of people around the world.

We are strongest when we are united with our allies against a common foe, and there is no more ubiquitous enemy than the scourge of a pandemic. This is a moment when the world needs American leadership. That is why I call on my colleagues to support increased funding for the Department of State, USAID, and other federal agencies providing essential international COVID-19 relief. I am also calling on the Administration to work closely with our international partners and organizations to develop a comprehensive path forward to respond to COVID-19 and provide for our health security in the future.