

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.

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AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP  
DURING COVID-19

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**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.

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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.

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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