

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
DURING COVID-19

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
DURING COVID-19

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.