

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2025

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We are writing to express our concern about the ramifications of withdrawing from the World Health Organization (WHO) and encourage you to reconsider your decision.

On January 20, 2025, you signed an Executive Order to withdraw the United States from WHO. At a public event on January 25, 2025, you said you might reconsider that position. We hope that you will indeed reverse your decision so that the United States can retain its leadership in global health and continue to receive the benefits of being a member of WHO.

We are aware of your expressed concern of “unfairly onerous payments” by the United States to WHO. WHO is funded through assessed contributions and voluntary contributions. Assessed contributions, which account for approximately 20 percent of the World Health Organization’s funding, are the dues paid by member countries, which are based on a formula considers the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) and its population.<sup>1</sup> In 2024, the United States’ GDP was 50% higher than that of the next highest country – China.<sup>2</sup> Under the WHO formula, our country’s dues for WHO in 2024-25 of \$130 million per year are in line with China’s dues of \$90 million per year.<sup>3</sup> The remaining funds WHO receives are voluntary contributions that come from member states, philanthropic foundations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and private citizens. As of November 2024, voluntary donations from the United States totaled nearly \$700 million during the calendar year and are typically used to fund specific programs.<sup>4</sup> This level of support speaks to the leadership role that the United States has played in global health and the generosity of our country, especially that of the NGOs and private citizens. Our participation in WHO translates into incalculable goodwill in countries around the world. The United States has long been a leader in global health partnerships, and we should not cede that title.

WHO funding does not only support the organization and foreign countries. The United States receives 46 cents of every dollar we pay to WHO in assessed contributions in the form of procurement contracts that support American businesses and jobs.<sup>5</sup> WHO supports research at 72 centers across eighteen states and Washington, DC to advance health research and innovation, allowing them and public health officials in the United States access to data that is invaluable and irreplaceable.<sup>6</sup> Withdrawing from WHO would mean a loss of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/about/funding>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.forbesindia.com/article/explainers/top-10-largest-economies-in-the-world/86159/1>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/assessed-contributions-payable-summary-2024-2025>

<sup>4</sup> <https://open.who.int/2024-25/contributors/contributor?name=United%20States%20of%20America>

<sup>5</sup> <https://betterworldcampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/HealthForUS-Campaign-1.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://betterworldcampaign.org/health>

manufacturing jobs in the United States and less funding to support communities across the country that are partnering WHO in the search for treatments and cures.

In addition to the economic reasons to maintain membership, we ask that you consider the dramatic improvements to global health due to the United States' participation in the World Health Organization. Since its founding in 1948, the World Health Organization has led wide-ranging initiatives such as controlling measles, reducing mother-to-child disease transmission, addressing maternal mortality, defeating meningitis, reducing malaria, and advancing childhood cancer treatment. Due to its collaboration, WHO was successful in eradicating smallpox in 1980. After the launch of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988, the Americas were certified polio free in 1994, and the virus is now only endemic in two countries.<sup>7</sup> We are on the verge of eliminating this horrible virus as well. To withdraw the United States from WHO now may stop – or worse, reverse – the progress that has been made on so many fronts.

Withdrawing from WHO may also have implications for the health of American citizens due to the globalized world in which we live. According to the United States Travel Association, the United States welcomed nearly 67 million international visitors in 2023, or approximately 183,000 per day. Total U.S. citizen departures reached 98.5 million in 2023, or approximately 270,000 per day.<sup>8</sup> If the United States is no longer a member of WHO, Americans around the world would be more susceptible to disease, but they could also carry it back to the United States and infect multitudes. Further, health officials would have an unnecessarily difficult time tracing a new outbreak, whether a new strain of influenza or an unknown antimicrobial resistant bacteria. This could lead to increased illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths anywhere in the world, including the United States.

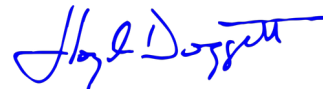
We appreciate your openness to reevaluate your Executive Order and your consideration of the many benefits that membership in the World Health Organization brings to our citizens and the world.

Sincerely,



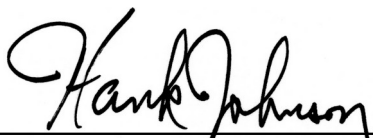

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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress




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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress




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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

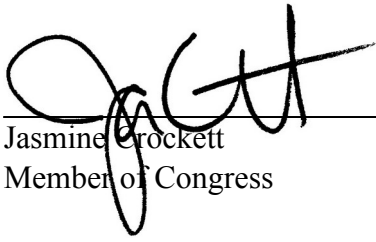



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

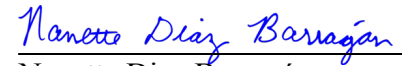
<sup>7</sup> <https://polioeradication.org/about-polio/history-of-polio/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.trade.gov/feature-article/ntto-releases-international-travel-statistics-2023>



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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress



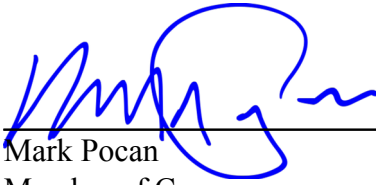
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



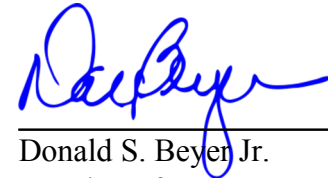
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress




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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



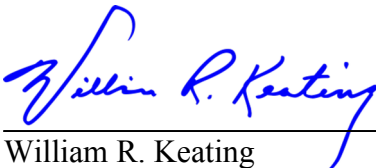
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



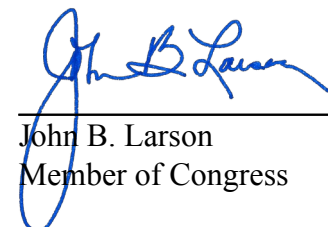
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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

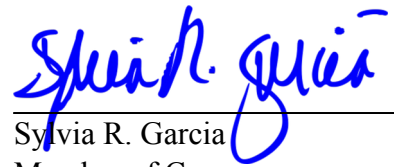


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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



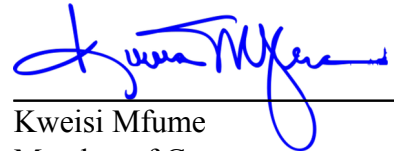
Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



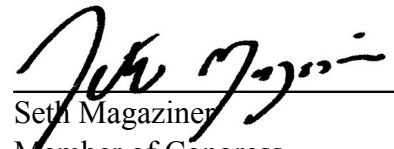
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



Ed Case  
Member of Congress



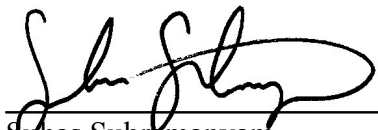
Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



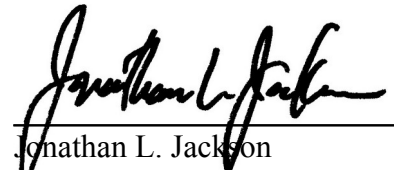
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



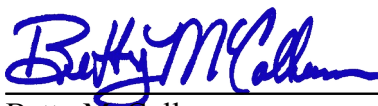
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



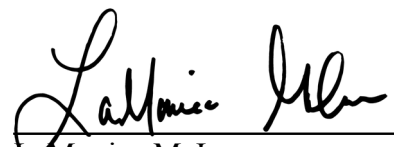
Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



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Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



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Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



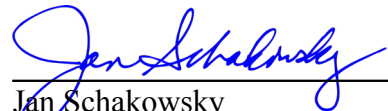
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JM Tokuda  
Member of Congress



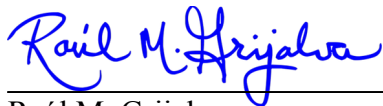
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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



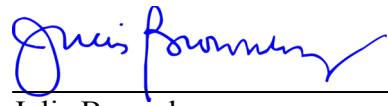
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



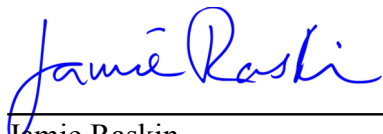
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress