

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2026

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Eric Ueland
Acting Administrator, USAID
Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Vought and Acting Administrator Ueland:

As members of the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee, we write with deep concern regarding the Administration's plan to withhold \$19 billion for the closeout of terminated foreign assistance awards, as detailed in your April 20, 2026 notification to Congress. While an orderly and responsible closeout process is necessary to meet U.S. obligations to affected partners following the chaotic and callous termination of these awards last spring, it is clear that the amount being withheld far exceeds what is reasonably required.

According to the April 20 notification, the Administration intends to reserve 100 percent of unliquidated balances for award closeouts. Yet information provided to Congress thus far indicates that closeout costs average only approximately 2 percent of total award value. The amount being set aside is therefore a gross overestimation of projected costs. We are particularly concerned that \$3.2 billion from the FY25 Development Assistance and Global Health Programs accounts is being withheld for this purpose instead of being used for the purposes for which Congress appropriated these funds.

We strongly opposed the indiscriminate termination of foreign assistance awards in 2025, which occurred without consultation with - or consent from - Congress. Withholding additional appropriated funds to support these terminations rather than investing in programs that advance both U.S. national interests and global stability is unconscionable and a misuse of taxpayer dollars. These funds remain subject to congressional direction, and their diversion will only compound the devastating consequences already caused by mass program cancellations and the reckless dismantling of USAID.

For example, approximately \$1.2 billion in Development Assistance and \$2 billion in Global Health Programs funding could:

- Strengthen partnerships in the Indo-Pacific that advance U.S. national security and economic interests.
- Prevent an estimated 4 million additional malaria cases.
- Support partners in the Western Hemisphere addressing the root causes of insecurity and migration, including corruption and lack of economic opportunity, while helping reintegrate returning migrants.
- Provide lifesaving nutrition assistance to nearly 23 million children.
- Prevent conflicts and crises that could otherwise require costly U.S. military intervention or expanded humanitarian response.
- Prevent approximately 68,000 tuberculosis-related deaths.

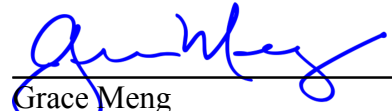
The Administration's stated goal of shuttering USAID cannot be achieved through rushed and wasteful closeouts. Any such effort requires congressional debate and legislative action to address underlying statutory

authorities. In the meantime, thoughtful disposition of assets and responsible award closeouts are necessary. However, we strongly oppose any actions - such as the unnecessary withholding of FY25 funds - that undermine international programs that directly serve the interests and values of the United States as directed by Congress.

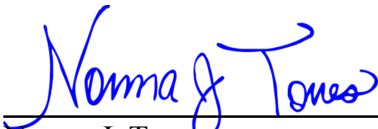
Sincerely,



Lois Frankel
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
National Security, Department of
State,
and Related Programs



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Cc: Marco Rubio, Secretary of State