

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 26, 2021

Ms. Shalanda Young  
Acting Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th St., NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Acting Director Young:

We write concerning President Biden's goal of vaccinating at least 70 percent of the world's population against COVID-19 by September 2022 and ending the global pandemic, a goal that we share. In support of it, Congress has authorized and appropriated an unprecedented amount of funding for vaccine manufacturing, production, and distribution, and for other medical supplies. To help us better understand how this funding is being distributed and spent, we respectfully request answers to the following questions by November 5, 2021.

**Funding Appropriated Through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) and Other Announced Spending**

1. For the purposes of combating the COVID-19 pandemic globally, Sections 2403 and 10003(a) of ARPA appropriated:<sup>1</sup>
  - \$3.09 billion and \$905 million for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID);
  - \$750 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and
  - \$250 million for the Department of State, in addition to \$3.5 billion allocated for the Global Fund.

Of these funds, how much has been allocated and expended to date, and for what purposes, and how much remains available?

2. Sections 2303 and 3101 of ARPA together appropriated \$16.05 billion for medical supply chain investments, including vaccine development and production, and ancillary medical products and supplies related to COVID-19.<sup>2</sup> How much of this funding has been allocated and expended to date, and for what purposes, and how much remains available?
  - While still accounting for domestic needs for ancillary medical supplies and therapeutics, has the Administration considered using remaining available funds to support efforts to expand international vaccination efforts?

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<sup>1</sup> American Rescue Plan Act, Pub. L. No. 117-2, 135 Stat. 4 (2021), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

3. Earlier this year, Politico reported that USAID had incurred a \$1.5 billion shortfall in its budget. According to that report, the Administration used funds that were intended to help strengthen countries' ability to store, transport, and administer COVID-19 vaccines to purchase 500 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine.<sup>3</sup> While we commend the acquisition of the vaccines, according to the Politico report, this budgetary shortfall would hinder USAID's efforts to help countries get shots in arms.
  - Did OMB consider using alternative sources of funds — such as the \$16 billion in ARPA funds cited in Question 2 — or requesting supplemental funding from Congress? If so, why didn't OMB use alternative funds or request additional funds? If not, why not?
  - What is OMB doing to remedy USAID's funding shortfall?
4. In September 2021, the White House announced it would invest \$2.7 billion in producing various vaccine components.<sup>4</sup> How did the Administration identify this particular need for federal investment, and from which account will the spending be drawn?

### **Spending Commitments Made at the Global COVID-19 Summit**

5. At the Global COVID-19 Summit on September 22, 2021, President Biden announced that USAID and the CDC would provide an additional \$370 million toward global vaccination efforts.<sup>5</sup> What is the source of these funds?
6. At the COVID-19 Summit, the White House set a goal of “ensuring at least \$3 billion is made available in 2021 and \$7 billion in 2022 in financing for vaccine readiness and administration, combatting hesitancy, and procuring ancillary supplies.”<sup>6</sup> How do these commitments relate to the already-appropriated funding for the global COVID-19 response? How much of this funding is the United States expected to provide?
7. What additional financial resources are needed from Congress to meet President Biden's stated goal of vaccinating 70% of the world's population by September 2022?

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<sup>3</sup> Erin Banco, *Cash shortage threatens White House global vaccine effort*, Politico (July 21, 2021), <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/07/21/global-vaccine-effort-usaid-cash-500342>.

<sup>4</sup> Sheryl Gay Stolberg, *The White House, amid calls to step up its global Covid response, says it will invest \$2.7 billion in vaccine production*, N.Y. Times (Sept. 2, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/02/us/politics/biden-covid-vaccine-production.html>

<sup>5</sup>The White House, *FACT SHEET: President Biden's Global COVID-19 Summit: Ending the Pandemic and Building Back Better* (sept. 22, 2021), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/22/fact-sheet-president-bidens-global-covid-19-summit-ending-the-pandemic-and-building-back-better/>.


<sup>6</sup> Dan Diamond, *White House lays out new global targets in coronavirus pandemic fight*, Wash. Post (Sept. 13, 2021), [https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/white-house-calls-on-global-leaders-to-set-coronavirus-targets/93fd0d4c-1610-47ea-8d94-729721989731/?itid=lk\\_inline\\_manual\\_2](https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/white-house-calls-on-global-leaders-to-set-coronavirus-targets/93fd0d4c-1610-47ea-8d94-729721989731/?itid=lk_inline_manual_2).

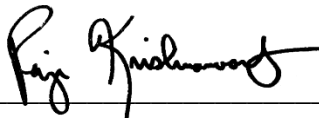
## Funding for COVAX

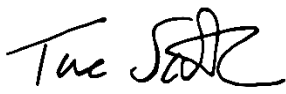
8. We are grateful that the Administration has provided \$2.5 billion to COVAX this year and pledged a total donation of \$4 billion by the end of 2022.<sup>7</sup> Has the Administration been in contact with COVAX regarding additional funding needs, including for the remainder of this year and in 2022? Is the Administration capable of meeting additional urgent COVAX funding needs if requested?

We appreciate OMB's efforts to help fulfill President Biden's global vaccination goal, and look forward to working with you to achieve it. We thank you for your prompt attention to our questions.


Respectfully,

  
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator


  
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

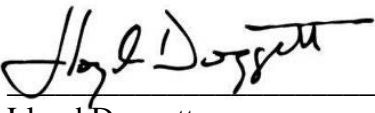
  
Tina Smith  
United States Senator

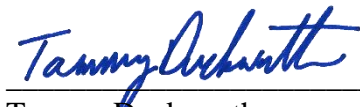
  
Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress

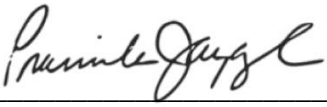
  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

  
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

  
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

  
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

<sup>7</sup> *The Governments Donating The Most Money To COVAX*, Statista (May 5, 2021), <https://www.statista.com/chart/24244/donations-to-covax-by-country/>.

Ms. Shalanda Young

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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress

cc: State Department Coordinator for Global COVID Response and Health Security, Gayle Smith  
USAID Executive Director COVID-19 Taskforce, Jeremy Konyndyk