

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 14, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

In the lead up to the August 18th summit at Camp David with the leaders of the Governments of Japan and Korea, we write to urge you to include global development and health cooperation on the summit agenda. Japan and the Republic of Korea are two of our closest strategic allies, and both countries are significantly increasing their investments in foreign assistance and global health programs as a core pillar of their foreign policy and national security strategies.

As you know, the Government of Japan is one of the largest foreign aid donors, and they have been particularly committed to pandemic preparedness and response and to supporting leading multilateral health agencies such Gavi, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Response. Japan also is leveraging their G-7 Presidency this year to marshal increased development cooperation and resources for shared global health security and development objectives.

The Republic of Korea is the fastest growing foreign aid donor, and both their government and private sector are making significant contributions to global health innovation and leadership. The Korean Government has committed to becoming a top ten donor, and it recently announced plans to increase official development assistance by 44 percent over the next year.

We appreciate the critical role that our collective soft power can play in challenging the aggressive and malign influence of the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) in the Indo-Pacific and other strategic regions. The congressional caucuses on Japan and Korea and related inter-parliamentary mechanisms between the U.S., R.O.K, and Japan offer additional platforms for increasing cooperation on global development and health, and we stand ready to partner with your Administration to advance these efforts together.

Our allies and we offer an alternative path to the PRC's debt trap diplomacy, as we invest in programs that address the core health and economic development challenges of our partners in

the developing world. These cooperative development programs are particularly important right now in the Pacific Island Countries, where the PRC is going to great lengths to coerce these nations to fall under their sphere of influence.

Our strategic partnerships with Japan and the Republic of Korea are marked by the depth and breadth of our shared values and foreign policy and national security objectives. Our cooperation on global development and health is a central feature of our alliances, and we urge your Administration to prioritize these issue areas within the upcoming summit.

Sincerely,



Young Kim
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Indo Pacific



Joaquin Castro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere

CC:

Anthony Blinken, Secretary, Department of State

Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor

Samantha Power, Administrator, USAID

Scott Nathan, Chief Executive Officer, U.S. International Development Financial Corporation