



The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

April 28, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), representing more than 60,000 physicians and partners dedicated to advancing women's health, thank you for the work the federal government has undertaken to respond to the COVID-19 global pandemic. ACOG's members are on the front lines of the pandemic caring for the nation's women and ensuring that they receive safe, quality health care during this time of crisis. The United States has and continues to see countless tragedies as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; it is critical that the United States do everything within its power to contain, mitigate, and ultimately eradicate the COVID-19 virus.

Effectively combating a global pandemic is not work that the United States can do alone. The global nature of this crisis makes it critically important that the United States partner with countries throughout the world to contain and eradicate COVID-19. We are concerned by reports that the United States is halting funding for the World Health Organization (WHO). We urge you to reinstate WHO funding to help end the pandemic and mitigate the effects of this global health crisis.

The WHO is the only organization with the technical capacity and global mandate to support the public health response of all countries during this critical time. The WHO has played an indispensable role in the containment and eradication of viruses, including during the SARS, MERS, and Ebola crises. Those experiences demonstrate that without the support of the WHO the ability to have worldwide coordinated efforts to fight this pandemic will be compromised. We urge you to demonstrate global leadership and support the WHO during this pandemic.

Beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO has been responsible for coordinating and supporting many of the steady improvements in maternal and child health worldwide. It has been a key driver of important gains in the health of women and girls globally, including increases in girls attending school, increases in utilization of birthing hospitals, and greater numbers of healthy newborns living past their first birthday. If health systems collapse due to the stresses of COVID-19, we fear there will be devastating effects on saving the lives of women and their newborns during the crisis and beyond. The WHO plays a critical role in supporting vulnerable health systems, disseminating out evidenced-based guidance, and helping to direct resources to

areas in need. It also has a global mandate and capacity to help the United States and countries throughout the globe address and strengthen their responses to the present pandemic.

It is critical that the United States continue to support WHO's work to keep people safe around the world and here at home. We urge you to reinstate WHO funding during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen G. Phipps, MD".

Maureen G. Phipps, MD, MPH, FACOG
Chief Executive Officer
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Cc: The Honorable Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State
The Honorable Alex M. Azar II, Secretary of Health and Human Services
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Minority Leader