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April 13, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

Thank you for your leadership strengthening the U.S. response to the coronavirus pandemic. We appreciate your administration's commitment to COVAX and the recently announced Quad partnership, to support vaccine access abroad. Yet without much more ambitious leadership, the scale of global vaccine need will not be met.

Even as our country expands access to Covid-19 vaccines through the broadest vaccination campaign in U.S. history, for most of the world, there is no relief in sight. Few of the billions of people living in low- and middle-income countries will be vaccinated against Covid-19 this year. Many may not be vaccinated until 2024, if ever. Virus variants threaten to deepen and prolong the crisis.

The only way to get the pandemic under control is to accelerate global vaccine manufacturing. The United States has capabilities to help the world make billions more doses of Covid-19 vaccine for about \$3 a dose, a fraction of the cost of inaction, and shorten the pandemic. **We urge your administration to announce in your fiscal year 2022 budget an ambitious global vaccine manufacturing program to end the pandemic and build vaccine infrastructure for the future.**

### **Proposal**

**The United States should help the world produce billions more vaccine doses within approximately one year.**

For example, modest capital investments (about \$2 billion) can retrofit vaccine manufacturing facilities and install additional mRNA production lines. Doses can then be manufactured for less than \$3 each. U.S. leadership is likely to inspire co-funding by other governments and international organizations. A total investment of less than \$25 billion, including whole-of-government efforts to source raw materials and provide technical assistance, can support the

rapid production of 8 billion doses of mRNA vaccine, enough for more than half the world's population.

The U.S. should support a massive expansion of manufacturing and establish hubs for vaccine production with the World Health Organization, including hubs located in Africa, Asia and Latin America. These hubs will democratize production and improve global health security, particularly if they are accountable to the public and equipped with adaptable technologies, such as mRNA platforms, believed critical to defeating the next pandemic.

The United States should ensure that technology is shared openly, including via the WHO Covid-19 Technology Access Pool, so that scientists and manufacturers worldwide can support vaccine delivery and development. Where necessary, the U.S. government should use its [power under existing law](#) to license technology, ensuring its availability and affordability now and for the future. Notably, taxpayers made substantial investments in Covid-19 vaccine research and development, and the U.S. government [owns](#) a key patent relied on by the major vaccine makers.

Without a vaccine manufacturing plan of global ambition, millions more people may die, with tens of millions pushed into extreme poverty. Black and Brown communities will bear the brunt of this preventable suffering. The progress achieved through decades of U.S. overseas development assistance will be reversed. People living in the United States may feel the ripple effects with ongoing threats of virus mutations. The economic costs to the United States are [estimated](#) at \$800 billion to \$1.4 trillion.

U.S. history demonstrates that by mobilizing extraordinary resources and the country's full capabilities, while working closely with global partners, the country can solve complex technical challenges and support humanity in times of great need. This is one such moment, and there is no time to lose. We urge you to launch an ambitious vaccine manufacturing program in your FY22 budget to help end the global pandemic.

**Signed,**

Public Citizen  
Access Challenge  
Action Against Hunger  
American Jewish World Service  
American Medical Student Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene  
Amnesty USA  
AVAC  
Be a Hero Fund  
BRAC USA  
Buddhist Global Relief (USA)

Center for Popular Democracy  
Center for Policy Analysis on Trade and Health (CPATH)  
ChildFund USA  
Chinese-American Planning Council  
Christian Connections for International Health (USA)  
CORE Group  
Doctors for America  
Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, North America  
Episcopal Relief & Development  
Families USA  
FHI 360  
Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR)  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University  
GOAL USA  
Health GAP  
Helen Keller International  
HelpAge USA  
Human Rights Watch USA  
Incentives for Global Health  
International Medical Corps  
International Rescue Committee  
International Treatment Preparedness Coalition  
Islamic Relief USA  
Jesuit Refugee Service  
John Snow, Inc.  
JustActions  
Last Mile Health  
Management Sciences for Health  
Médecins Sans Frontières, USA / Doctors Without Borders  
MSI United States  
National Council of Churches USA  
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Oxfam America  
Partners In Health  
Pathfinder International  
People's Action  
Physicians for Human Rights  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
PrEP4All  
Prescription Justice  
RESULTS  
Right to Health Action  
Salud y Farmacos  
Social Security Works  
Sojourners

SumOfUs USA  
The Borgen Project  
Treatment Action Group (TAG)  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM)  
Yale Global Health Justice Partnership