

JOHNNY ISAKSON
GEORGIA

<http://isakson.senate.gov>

131 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3643

ONE OVERTON PARK
3625 CUMBERLAND BOULEVARD, SUITE 970
ATLANTA, GA 30339
(770) 661-0999

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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FOREIGN RELATIONS

March 30, 2015

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Leahy:

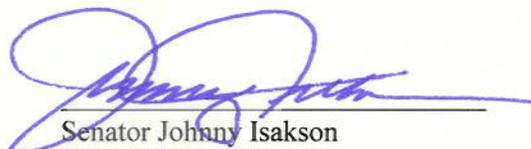
As you work on the FY2016 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, I am writing to express support for the inclusion of the following report language to United States Agency for International Development Account Global Health Programs and for Maternal and Child Health Programs:

The Committee notes that one newborn child dies every nine minutes from maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT). Tetanus in newborn children is easily prevented by a low cost vaccine for women of childbearing age. Kiwanis International has joined forces with UNICEF to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. This program will target some of the poorest, most underserved women and children in the world. USAID is also partnering with Kiwanis to expand U.S. efforts to eliminate MNT. The Committee directs the U. S. Agency for International Development to provide robust support for programs to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus.

Maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) is a deadly disease caused by toxins released by Clostridium tetani bacteria. Once contracted, a newborn usually dies within seven days, experiencing excruciating pain and ultra-sensitivity to light, sound, and touch. A newborn dies every nine minutes from tetanus, or approximately 160 newborns each day. Kiwanis International has joined forces with UNICEF to provide funding to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. This program targets some of the poorest, most underserved women and children in the world and will lead the way for other interventions that will boost maternal health and child survival.

While I am not requesting any congressionally directed spending items, I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in the above report language. I thank you for your leadership and look forward to working with you on this matter. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact me or Ryan Evans in my office at (202) 224-4640 or ryan_evans@isakson.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Senator Johnny Isakson