



Fact Sheet

Why Conservatives Should Support the United States Commitment to Global Child Survival Act of 2007 (H.R. 2266, S. 1418)

“We are a compassionate nation. When Americans see suffering and know that our country can help stop it, they expect our government to respond.

I believe in the timeless truth, and so do a lot of other Americans: to whom much is given, much is required. And I believe we have a special responsibility to help those who are not as blessed.

It is the call to share our prosperity with others, and to reach out to brothers and sisters in need.”

President George W. Bush speaking at the U.S. Global Leadership Campaign, May 31, 2007

Improves Accountability and Coordination of Money Being Spent for Child and Maternal Health

- The U.S. Government funds many effective programs that help save the lives of children and mothers. But these U.S.-funded programs are not as cost-effective as possible; they are a mish mash of uncoordinated initiatives from multiple organizations with little coordination and no coherent guiding strategy.
- Children in poor countries are at risk from not just one but a combination of diseases including diarrhea, pneumonia, malaria, measles, and HIV/AIDS. Recent research shows that bundling effective, low-cost health interventions for children, newborns and pregnant women into an integrated, cost-effective package can radically reduce preventable deaths.
- The Global Child Survival Act is a call for the U.S. to do more, and to do better, in saving children’s lives. It provides the framework for increased accountability, coordination, and efficiency of efforts in funding for child and maternal health.

Makes Investments in Programs with Long-Term Economic Benefits

- Investing in child health has long-term economic payoffs for recipient and donor countries. One study found that for each one point decrease in infant mortality, domestic product per capita increased by 0.145 percent.¹
- These investments often pay for themselves over time. For instance, since 1988, the number of polio cases has declined by 99 percent. By 2002, according to the World Health Organization, 124 countries were polio-free with savings predicted to reach nearly \$3 billion every year by 2015.²
- Life-saving interventions already prevent more than 3 million child deaths every year at affordable prices. The Global Child Survival Act calls for further investment in high-impact, low-cost, feasible interventions to save the lives of children like oral rehydration

therapy for diarrhea (\$0.06 per treatment), antibiotics to treat respiratory infections (\$0.25 per treatment), and anti-malaria tablets (\$0.12 per treatment).³

Promotes National Security Goals by Investing in People

- Foreign aid programs save lives and lift individuals from poverty, which when combined with poor health and lack of economic opportunity, create conditions that deter peace and foment instability.
- Many weak and fragile states are increasingly vulnerable to conflict, organized crime, terrorists, illegal arms dealers, and other destabilizing forces. They also have some of the highest rates of infant, child, and maternal mortality.
- In President George W. Bush's National Security Strategy of September 2002, he declared that the U.S. was for the first time in its history "now more threatened by weak and failing states than we are by conquering ones."⁴
- Increasing funding for basic primary health care as called for in the Global Child Survival Act will enhance the U.S.'s image in weak and failing states, ultimately reducing their threat to U.S. security and stability.

Advances U.S. Leadership and Values

- The significant commitment of the U.S. to reducing child mortality contributed to a 50 percent reduction in deaths of children under the age of 5 between 1960 and 1990.
- Helping children and their mothers in developing countries is both a moral ideal and a national interest. The U.S. was established on the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Values like relieving human suffering are integral to U.S. foreign policy and have been since the country's birth.
- The Global Child Survival Act restores U.S. leadership in improving the health of mothers, newborns, and children.

1 Gupta I, Mitra A. Economic growth, health and poverty: an exploratory study for India. *Development Policy Review*, 22:193-206.2004.

2 Committee on International Science and technology Working Group on Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases. *Global Microbial Threats in the 1990s*. Available from: http://clinton1.nara.gov/White_House/EOP/OSTP/CISSET/html/iintro.html (accessed July 9, 2007).

3 Global Health Council, *Our Global Responsibility to the World's Children: A Global Health Council Position Paper on Child Health*, June 1, 2007. Available from: http://www.globalhealth.org/images/pdf/conf_2007/child_health.pdf (viewed on July 9, 2007).

4 The National Security Strategy of the United States of America, September 17, 2002. Available from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss.pdf> (viewed on July 9, 2007).

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