

May 12, 2009

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of UNICEF's supporters across the country, I salute you for the proposal you have announced to develop a comprehensive Global Health Initiative. Your focus on child survival and maternal health is especially welcome.

Over 28,000 citizens have signed the U.S. Fund for UNICEF's online petition to urge you to propose a Presidential Initiative to Accelerate Child Survival. That symbolic number reflects the number of children who die unnecessarily every day: as you noted in your statement, "26,000 children around the world die every day from extreme poverty and preventable diseases." We believe we can – and must – reduce that number to zero.

We see the concerns we have raised reflected in your outline for a Global Health Initiative. In your proposal, you said, "These plans will be coordinated as part of the comprehensive global health strategy to identify specific initiatives, quantitative goals, and appropriate funding levels beginning in 2011." We at the U.S. Fund for UNICEF and all who "Believe in Zero" want to work with you and your Administration to craft an effective global strategy to promote child survival and maternal health. We look forward to joining with you to prevent children and mothers from dying unnecessarily. Our engaged constituency stands ready to help you.

Thank you for your leadership for children.

Sincerely,



Caryl M. Stern  
President and CEO