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S. RES. 578

Supporting the role of the United States in ensuring children in the world's poorest countries have access to vaccines and immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 13, 2014

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Supporting the role of the United States in ensuring children in the world's poorest countries have access to vaccines and immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

Whereas, prior to 2000, the distribution of, and the resources for, vaccines for children in the developing world were declining, immunization rates were stagnant or decreasing, and nearly 30,000,000 children born in the developing world each year were not fully immunized;

Whereas, prior to 2000, it was common for new life-saving vaccines to take up to 15 years to be introduced in the world's poorest countries;

Whereas access to routine immunization and vaccines protect children from deadly but preventable disease and con-

tribute to national economic growth and poverty reduction by ensuring people live longer, healthier, and more productive lives;

Whereas, in 2000, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United States, the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization, the World Bank, bilateral partners, developing countries, the private sector, including the vaccine industry, civil society, and other partners joined forces to create a public-private partnership called the Global Fund for Children's Vaccines (now Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance) in order to expand access to new and underused vaccines and support the introduction and scale-up of these vaccines into routine immunization systems in the world's poorest countries;

Whereas partnership and sustainability are at the core of the Gavi model by requiring eligible countries to contribute financing to some portion of their vaccine costs and directly invest in immunizing their children;

Whereas, by 2012, more than 65 developing countries working with Gavi were co-financing new and underused vaccines and more than 20 countries are projected to graduate between 2016 and 2020, moving toward fully funding their national immunization programs;

Whereas Gavi has transformed the market for vaccines by pooling demand from developing countries matched with secure, predictable financing to make vaccines more affordable and their supply more reliable, and encouraging research and development of new vaccines;

Whereas, as a result, Gavi has played a critical role in increasing the number of global vaccine manufacturers sell-

ing to the world's poorest countries from 5 in 2001 to 13 in 2014;

Whereas the price for the pneumococcal vaccine, which prevents pneumonia, is now more than 90 percent lower for Gavi-eligible countries than elsewhere, and the price of rotavirus vaccines, which prevents diarrhea, is 67 percent lower in Gavi-eligible countries;

Whereas, with innovative financing mechanisms like the Advance Market Commitment and International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm), Gavi ensures that appropriate and affordable vaccines are available throughout the developing world;

Whereas Gavi supports the financing and delivery of 11 vaccines, including those against pneumococcal disease and rotavirus, the leading vaccine-preventable causes of pneumonia and diarrhea, which kill more children under the age of five than any other disease;

Whereas Gavi collaborates closely with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative on the final push to end polio, strengthening and bringing the inactivated polio vaccine into routine immunization programs;

Whereas strong immunization systems are critical to ensuring continuous coverage and sustainability of new and routine immunization programs in implementing countries;

Whereas Gavi supports the strengthening of health systems and local civil society organizations to ensure effective immunization and health services;

Whereas, since 2000, with support from the United States, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, implementing countries, donor governments, the private sector,

and other donors and partners, Gavi has supported country-led vaccine roll outs in 77 countries to support the immunization of an additional 440,000,000 children and will avert an estimated 6,000,000 deaths in the world's poorest countries;

Whereas, in 2013, Gavi was ranked the second most transparent aid program in the Aid Transparency Index, behind only the Millennium Challenge Corporation;

Whereas, even with significant contributions by Gavi, only a small percentage of young children worldwide receive all 11 life-saving vaccines universally recommended by the World Health Organization;

Whereas vaccines are widely regarded as one of the "best buys" in global health and recognized as one of the most efficient, cost-effective, and successful health initiatives in history;

Whereas, in 2012, leading experts on health economics ranked childhood immunization as one of the three most cost-effective solutions to advance global health;

Whereas, as one of the initial six donors, the United States has been an important supporter of Gavi and through the generosity of the people of the United States has contributed almost \$1,200,000,000 for the acquisition of life saving vaccines;

Whereas, at Gavi's first pledging conference in June 2011, the United States increased its support and pledged \$450,000,000 for fiscal years 2012 through 2014 to increase access to new and underused vaccines, including pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines;

Whereas, in addition to this three-year pledge, the United States contributed an additional \$90,000,000 to Gavi in fiscal year 2011;

Whereas United States investment in Gavi complements and enhances the effectiveness of other bilateral and multilateral United States investments in global health, particularly in child survival;

Whereas Gavi is committed to working with partners, including United States bilateral programs run by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to ensure children in developing nations have access to vaccines and immunizations;

Whereas, in June 2012, the United States Government, together with the Governments of Ethiopia and India as well as UNICEF, mobilized the world around the goal of ending preventable child deaths by 2035;

Whereas access to immunizations is a key component of reaching that goal;

Whereas, in May 2014, at the World Economic Forum meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, African leaders pledged to increase investment in their countries' immunization programs by endorsing the Immunise Africa 2020 leaders' declaration;

Whereas, on May 20, 2014, Gavi called on donors to support an ambitious plan to immunize an additional 300,000,000 children against potentially fatal diseases and save an additional 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 lives between 2016 and 2020;

Whereas Gavi needs donors to invest an additional \$7,500,000,000 to support immunization programs in developing countries from 2016 to 2020;

Whereas, at the same time, implementing countries are expected to co-finance an additional \$1,200,000,000, an increase from almost \$500,000,000 in 2011 through 2015; and

Whereas, with this support from donors and the global vaccine community, Gavi can reach its 1,000,000,000th child with critical vaccines by the early 2020s, nearly double the number of lives saved since its founding, and unlock between \$80,000,000,000 and \$100,000,000,000 in economic benefits through health care savings and productivity gains: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commends Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the
3 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United Na-
4 tions Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the
5 World Health Organization, the World Bank, civil
6 society, the private sector, faith-based organizations,
7 the international community, and implementing
8 countries on the progress that has been made on re-
9 ducing child mortality through the increased avail-
10 ability and distribution of vaccines;

11 (2) affirms the continued support of the people
12 and Government of the United States for the pur-
13 chase of vaccines for the world’s poorest countries
14 through Gavi as a cost-effective, efficient means to
15 reduce child mortality and as a critical component of
16 meeting the United States goal to end preventable
17 maternal and child deaths;

1 (3) supports the ideals and goals of Gavi to—

2 (A) accelerate equitable uptake and cov-
3 erage of vaccines;

4 (B) improve the effectiveness and effi-
5 ciency of immunization delivery;

6 (C) improve sustainability of national im-
7 munization programs; and

8 (D) shape markets for vaccines and other
9 immunization products;

10 (4) upholds that the United States is a critical
11 donor in its work with other donors to perform dip-
12 lomatic outreach in seeking additional funding for
13 Gavi in order to leverage its commitment;

14 (5) recognizes that the United States, in addi-
15 tion to being an important donor, is a critical tech-
16 nical partner to Gavi, and the impact of United
17 States investments to Gavi is leveraged by providing
18 direct technical assistance to implementing countries
19 and global bodies;

20 (6) encourages the continued use of United
21 States Agency for International Development
22 (USAID) maternal and child health and Centers for
23 Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) global immu-
24 nization resources to strengthen local public health
25 capacity to introduce and sustain new and underuti-

1 lized vaccines, that are supported by Gavi, through
2 routine immunization systems; and

3 (7) encourages continued commitment and in-
4 vestment by the United States Government and
5 international donors, through Gavi, to the global ef-
6 fort to ensure that children in developing nations
7 have access to vaccines and immunizations.

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