



RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED RESCISSION PACKAGE THAT CUTS CRITICAL GLOBAL HEALTH FUNDING

Draft Approved as DID Executive Committee Letter June 3, 2025

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has proposed a rescission package that slashes funding for critical global health programs, including the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Gavi, the vaccine alliance, and the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), among others; and

WHEREAS, these proposed cuts specifically target funds for life-saving, highly effective programs that Congress has already appropriated through a bipartisan process; and

WHEREAS, attempting to "claw back" these funds through a rescission process undermines Congressional authority over federal spending, disrupts careful budget planning, and introduces dangerous uncertainty into programs that require predictable funding streams; and

WHEREAS, such a claw back on allocations already decided by Congress weakens the integrity of our legislative process, sets a troubling precedent for future appropriations, and would give a blank check to the administration with virtually no accountability; and

WHEREAS, New York City is home to world-renowned institutions such as Columbia University, NYU, Mount Sinai, and others that depend on USAID, NIH, and CDC-funded research programs, cuts to which would jeopardize ongoing clinical trials, public health research, and the employment of thousands of healthcare professionals across the five boroughs; and

WHEREAS, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provides nearly \$2 billion annually in funding that flows directly to New York State institutions, nonprofits, and global health initiatives, supporting research, healthcare jobs, and vital public health infrastructure that employ New Yorkers and bolster our economy; and

WHEREAS, PEPFAR has been instrumental in the global fight against HIV/AIDS, and drastically cutting its funding would not only reverse decades of progress abroad but could lead to the emergence and spread of HIV strains resistant to commonly used antiviral medicines, posing a direct health threat to New York City's diverse, international population; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in global HIV/AIDS funding could increase the risk of international travel-related transmission of drug-resistant HIV strains, disproportionately impacting NYC's immigrant communities and communities of color, which already face barriers to healthcare access; and



WHEREAS, Gavi has played a crucial role in helping ensure widespread immunization in lower-income countries, and undermining its efforts means opening the door to outbreaks of deadly vaccine-preventable diseases, which can easily reach New York, as demonstrated by the 2018-2019 measles outbreak and the discovery of polio in New York City's wastewater in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the international vaccination campaigns supported by Gavi directly reduce the likelihood of global outbreaks reaching NYC, where large international airports, including JFK and LaGuardia, serve as global transit hubs, making our population uniquely vulnerable to rapidly spreading infectious diseases like measles and polio; and

WHEREAS, New York City—and *Lower Manhattan in particular*—is a global tourist destination, welcoming over 60 million visitors annually through international airports, seaports, and tourist hubs such as the Statue of Liberty, the Financial District, and the World Trade Center; and

WHEREAS insufficient global investment in vaccination and treatment programs abroad increases the risk that infectious diseases such as tuberculosis—including extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB), as seen in a 2019 case involving a patient treated in New York City who had travelled from overseas—could be introduced into densely populated areas of the city; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, a case of Ebola was confirmed in a returning healthcare worker in New York City, demonstrating that local public health systems and airport screening must remain vigilant and well-resourced to rapidly contain high-consequence pathogens and protect the health of residents, workers, and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, NYC's leadership in biomedical innovation and emergency preparedness is linked to sustained federal investments in global surveillance systems and infectious disease modeling, and weakening those systems increases the probability of pandemics reaching NYC uncontained, impacting public safety, school operations, and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, global health funding is not charity but a smart, essential investment in the safety, security, and prosperity of New Yorkers and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, cutting these programs and U.S. government engagement through the CDC, National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other institutions will weaken our defenses against pandemics, threaten the health of millions, and cause economic harm to New York institutions that lead the world in medical research and public health innovation;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Downtown Independent Democrats:

1. **OPPOSE** the Trump Administration's proposed rescission package that cuts critical funding for global health programs;
2. **URGE** all New York congressional and senatorial representatives to vote against this rescission package;
3. **CALL UPON** our representatives to reaffirm New York's commitment to global public health, the well-being of all our communities, and the fiduciary role of the U.S. Congress; and
4. **AFFIRM** that a healthy world is a healthy New York, and the protection of global health funding serves the direct interests of New Yorkers and all Americans.

Submitted by: Downtown Independent Democrats Executive Committee

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