

**STATEMENT OF DR. SANIA NISHTAR,
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**SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
AND RELATED PROGRAMS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

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Chairman Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member Frankel, and Members of the Subcommittee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the Subcommittee on behalf of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi). Since its inception, Gavi has vaccinated over 1.1 billion children in lower-income countries, saving more than 18.8 million lives. With support from the United States, Gavi expanded global access to COVID-19 vaccines and delivered more than 2 billion doses to the world's lowest-income countries, including hundreds of millions of U.S.-donated doses, averting 2.7 million deaths. Thanks to a generous fiscal year 2025 appropriation from the United States Congress, Gavi can meet the first year of the historic U.S. pledge of at least \$1.58 billion over five years. For FY26, Gavi is requesting a \$340 million appropriation – no change from the FY2025 request.

A commitment by the United States to provide \$340 million to Gavi in fiscal year 2026 will help achieve the goals in our ambitious 2026-2030 strategy, including reaching an additional 500 million children by 2030 and potentially save between 8 to 9 million lives. Furthermore, Gavi aims to immunize the next billion children in *half* the time. A key priority for our strategy is the continued rollout of the world's first-ever malaria vaccines, with a goal of vaccinating over 50 million children against the disease during this period. Lastly, the support will help prevent backsliding and accelerate progress in routine immunization, promote stability in vaccine markets, and drive innovation in global health.

I would like to thank you, Chairman Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member Frankel, and the other members of the Subcommittee for your strong support of Gavi, and for providing funding to Gavi at \$300 million in fiscal year 2025. This Committee has been and continues to be an essential part of our success in bringing vaccines to the world's most vulnerable and in helping to keep America and the world safe from infectious diseases. Your steadfast support has helped inspire low-income countries to begin financing their own routine immunization programs, with all countries that benefit from Gavi support paying a share of the cost, depending on income level. Currently, 19 countries have fully graduated from Gavi support, with more countries expected to graduate in the coming years.

A Critical Time for Global Health Security

Vaccines remain one of the most cost-effective public health interventions available. With support from the United States and other donors, Gavi not only strengthens routine immunisation systems but also builds stockpiles of vaccines against potential disease threats like dengue, Ebola, measles/meningococcal, cholera, and yellow fever. In Gavi's next strategic period, Gavi is ready to prevent upcoming expected 150 outbreaks with swift call for actions on vaccines

across stakeholders as well as deployment of Day Zero Financing (a financial instrument to provide rapid financing in the case of new outbreaks) when needed. Furthermore, continued support from the U.S. will allow Gavi to expand access to its portfolio of vaccines to as many as 20 diseases and invest in critical emergency stockpiles.

Disease outbreaks and increasing fragility and displacement jeopardize national routine immunization programs and threaten global health security. Increasing birth rates in Gavi-supported countries also mean that a greater number of children must be immunized each year just to maintain the same coverage rates overall. Despite these challenges, Gavi has set ambitious goals to reach even more children and, with continued support and partnership, is well-placed to reach these goals and make further progress on closing the immunization gap.

Gavi's Contribution to U.S. Interests

Gavi's work not only benefits global health but also directly supports U.S. interests by making America safer, stronger, and more prosperous:

- **Keeping America Safe:** Gavi fills a critical gap in global health security and pandemic response. By providing cost-effective access to vaccines and facilitating the delivery of donated doses globally, Gavi helps prevent global outbreaks from reaching Americans and American soil. This proactive approach to global health security is crucial in protecting the U.S. from infectious disease threats.
- **Making America Stronger:** The U.S. seat on Gavi's board provides a powerful platform to voice U.S. priorities, such as advancing global health initiatives against malaria, polio, and other diseases. This leadership role allows the U.S. to shape global health policy and ensure that its priorities are reflected in Gavi's strategic goals.
- **Advancing America's Prosperity:** Gavi is the world's leading purchaser of U.S.-produced vaccines and vaccine delivery supplies, such as drones. Gavi directly contributes to U.S. job creation by deploying technology manufactured in states like Florida, California, Ohio, Michigan, Utah, and Washington, to deliver vaccines in the hardest-to reach geographies. Furthermore, by averting outbreaks from spreading to the U.S., Gavi indirectly supports economic stability and growth for Americans by preventing expensive public health crises.

The Alliance's 2026-2030 Strategy and the Road Ahead

Strong U.S. support for Gavi in FY26 is critical to help achieve the ambitious goals outlined in the 2026-2030 strategy. Gavi programs have been a major factor in reducing the number of deaths due to vaccine-preventable diseases by as much as 70% since 2000. Specifically, continued funding will have a clear programmatic impact and additional return on investment, directly supporting Gavi's ability to implement new tools to save lives, including:

- Accelerate availability of malaria vaccines, enabling Gavi to buy millions of doses of the new malaria vaccines, which have shown the potential to reduce all child mortality by an impressive 13%. Over the next strategic period, Gavi aims to vaccinate at least 50 million children against malaria.
- Expand investments to prevent Human Papillomavirus (HPV), aiming to immunize over 120 million girls and young women with the vaccine between 2026 and 2030, which will avert more than 1.5 million deaths from cervical cancer.

- Continued support from the U.S. will allow Gavi to expand access to its portfolio of vaccines to as many as 20 diseases and invest in critical emergency stockpiles.

The Gavi Model – Country co-financing and Graduation

Empowering countries to take ownership of their vaccination programs is a core component of the Gavi model. Every country that receives Gavi support shares the responsibility of vaccinating their children, by co-financing the vaccine costs. Over the next 5 years, low-income countries will fund a record percentage of the costs of their vaccines, contributing over \$4 billion, or 40% of the costs. This is compared to 10% just fifteen years ago, reflective of the Vaccine Alliance's unique model of country-ownership.

As a country's income grows, their co-financing obligation also grows until they reach a specific Gross National Income cap, at which point they begin to transition out of financial support from Gavi. Throughout this process, Gavi provides technical support and guidance to ensure transitioning countries have the capacity to continue implementing sustainable and equitable vaccine programs. So far, 19 countries have graduated from Gavi support, with at least one former Gavi country now becoming a donor in the next strategic period.

Gavi's impact draws on the strength of its public and private sector partners. Building healthy markets is critical to the long-term success of the Gavi mission. Since its inception in 2000, Gavi, its partners, and the private sector have been working to improve vaccine market certainty by pooling demand from Gavi-eligible countries. In fact, Gavi's purchases vaccines for more than half of the annual global birth cohort. This market-shaping power allows Gavi to leverage pooled procurement and achieve preferential pricing with manufacturers, delivering a stronger return on investment for everyone involved. These market-shaping strategies have also helped attract new manufacturers across the world to support Gavi-eligible countries, from five vaccine manufacturing firms in 2001 to 19 firms today, thereby creating a healthier global vaccine market. Partnerships with the private sector are also integral to Gavi's model, leveraging their financial resources, operational expertise, and fostering innovations that help the Alliance to deliver on its ambitious coverage and equity goals.

Conclusion

Continued U.S. investment in global health programs is essential to protect people from rising health threats and reducing preventable deaths. These programs complement the impact of Gavi-supported immunization efforts and are crucial to maintaining health security in the United States and around the world.

A U.S. contribution of \$340 million to Gavi for fiscal year 2026 is critical to maintain Gavi's gains. Continued funding for Gavi will help expand immunization efforts, support country transitions to self-financing vaccine programs, promote program sustainability, and strengthen global health security.

We thank this Subcommittee for its long history of protecting global health and other foreign assistance programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

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