

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2012

The Honorable James R. Clapper, Jr.
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Mr. Clapper,

In light of recent events in Pakistan, we write to direct your attention to apparent incompatibilities between the Obama administration's global health mission and national security policies.

We applaud President Obama for his continued support of global health programs, including the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The Centers for Disease Control and the United States Agency for International Development have been at the forefront in the U.S. Government's work to eradicate polio both nationally and internationally. This clearly demonstrates our strong commitment to leading the global effort to end this deadly disease once and for all.

As a result of this enduring commitment, polio is now endemic only in Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. However, it has recently become more difficult for international organizations to take a critical next step in eradication. Our efforts to distribute polio vaccines to children in Pakistan have come to an abrupt halt. To justify this, the Pakistani Taliban in northern Waziristan is using a convenient excuse – that health professionals such as Dr. Shakil Afridi are operating as U.S. intelligence assets. Whether this is true or false, 161,000 children stand to be deprived of much-needed life-or-death polio vaccinations.

The long-term impact of this alleged CIA operation is that it will fuel conspiracy theories and put people's lives at risk, both health professionals and the patients they serve. Thousands of Pakistan's children who could have been vaccinated now may suffer or die from polio.

Like our strong commitment to global health security, a strong commitment to our national security is essential. However, we are concerned that our national security policies are undermining our health priorities. The use of medical professionals as intelligence assets erodes trust and undermines legitimate humanitarian work. Our national security priorities must not compromise our global health security priorities.

We urge you to vigorously protect our Polio Eradication program and take all necessary care to ensure that the actions of the CIA do not undermine this critical humanitarian program.

Sincerely,



JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress



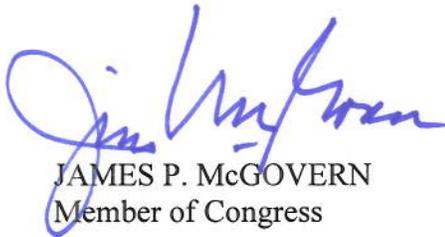
BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



BETTY McCOLLUM
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress



JOHN CONYERS
Member of Congress



DENNIS KUCINICH
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State
Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development
Dr. Thomas Frieden, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention