January 2, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20501

The Honorable Mike Pence
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20501

CC: The Honorable John Bolton, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Dear President Trump and Vice President Pence:

As Christian leaders from across the United States, we write to share our strong support for our nation’s efforts to assist our brothers and sisters around the world. As the Administration continues to seek input and guidance for the Foreign Assistance Review, we ask that you protect America’s development, diplomatic, and humanitarian programs. These vital resources and programs save lives, cure diseases, protect our freedoms, and help millions around the world lift themselves out of poverty and into a brighter, more secure future. We believe the Administration’s review and recommendations of these programs should strengthen and expand upon the achievements made over the last several decades.

Jesus taught us that “from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked” (Luke 12:48). Our nation has been richly blessed, and we have the privilege and obligation to share some of those blessings with those in need around the world. We do this through our private missionary, development, and humanitarian programs. But our government also has an indispensable role to play in diplomacy and in poverty-focused assistance programs.

We are grateful that America continues to be the world leader in providing life-saving assistance at a time when we confront more than 65 million people displaced and 30 million at risk of famine. America’s leadership is also manifested in investments in longer-term development programs that have helped to reduce by half the number of people living in extreme poverty, reduce infant mortality rates by 50 percent, promote human rights, and fight to protect the religious freedom of those persecuted around the world. These programs help make the United States a great nation, and they also contribute to our security and continued prosperity.

At this critical moment, we cannot ignore our nation’s responsibility to alleviate the suffering of those who are less fortunate or pull back from our leadership role around the world. As Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback recently observed at the first State Department Ministerial on Religious Freedom, “We need partnerships in the defense, security, foreign affairs, [and] foreign aid communities [to] help us pursue universal respect for religious freedom.”

For one percent of the federal budget, development and humanitarian programs are cost-effective and ensure America remains a beacon of hope for those in need around the world. We pray that as you lead our generous people you will find the way to meet our nation’s responsibility to those less fortunate.

Thank you for your consideration.
Leith Anderson  
President  
National Association of Evangelicals

Saul Anuzis  
President  
60 Plus Association

Sean Callahan  
President and CEO  
Catholic Relief Services

Paul Caprio  
President  
One Nation Under God Foundation

Bishop Charles Connor  
Bishop  
Church of God in Christ

Dr. Ronnie Floyd  
Past President, Southern Baptist Convention  
Senior Pastor, Cross Church

Gina Gleason  
Executive Director  
Faith and Public Policy

John Graves  
President  
Vision America

Colin Hanna  
President  
Let Freedom Ring Foundation

Dr. Chuck Harding  
President  
Awake America

Chad Hayward  
Executive Director  
Accord Network

Peter Hodges  
President  
Catholics for America
Kelly Kullberg
FindingGodIn

Dr. Jim Lagrone
Past President
Arkansas Baptist Convention

Gary Marx
Madison Strategies
Former Executive Director, Faith & Freedom Coalition

Dr. Joe Mattera
President
United Coalition of Apostolic Leaders

Russell Moore
President
Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Pastor Dean Nelson
Chairman, Douglass Leadership Institute
National Director, Human Coalition

Randy Page
Chief of Staff to President
Bob Jones University

Star Parker
President
Center for Urban Renewal and Education

Dennis Peacocke
President
GoStrategic

Pastor Sam Rodriguez
President
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Council

Edgar Sandoval
President
World Vision U.S.

Pastor Tony Scott
The Church on Strayer
Kelly Shackelford
President & CEO
First Liberty Institute

Mat Staver
Founder and Chairman
Liberty Counsel