

SECURE Health Act H.R. 8011

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA-2) and Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA-6)

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OVERVIEW

Despite the critical role of frontline health workers in improving health, advancing security, and spurring economic growth both in the United States and abroad, nearly half of the world's population—approximately 4.5 billion people—lacks access to critical health services.

By 2030, the world will face a shortfall of at least 11 million health workers, overwhelmingly concentrated in low- and middle-income countries. The consequences reach American shores through pandemic threats, supply chain vulnerabilities, and regional instability that demands U.S. military engagement. A well-trained, well-equipped, and well-supported frontline health workforce is critical to the effectiveness, sustainability, and resilience of United States global health programs, as well as to strengthening national security and global economic prosperity.



A World Vision-supported community health worker in Ethiopia transports vaccines across the Baro River. Vaccines must remain refrigerated and are carried in coolers.

WHAT THE ACT DOES

The SECURE Health Act establishes a coherent, whole-of-government framework to strategically invest in the global frontline health workforce. It does not create new programs; it instead creates accountability, coordination, and a long-term plan.

- **5-Year Strategy:** Directs the President to establish and regularly update a Global Health Workforce Strategy with measurable goals and implementation plans across all U.S. global health and humanitarian assistance accounts.
- **Workforce Coordinator:** Creates a Global Health Workforce Coordinator within the State Department to align strategy and resource allocations across foreign assistance programs — eliminating redundancy and ensuring coherence.
- **NSC Task Force:** Establishes an interagency task force within the National Security Council, co-chaired by the Coordinator, to align global health investments across Federal departments and agencies.
- **Annual Reporting:** Requires detailed annual reporting on funding by health worker cadre, training investments, salary support, and plans for transitioning to domestic financing — ensuring U.S. taxpayer dollars produce sustainable results.
- **Global Benchmarking:** Directs the U.S. to support an independent biennial global report on the status of the health workforce, produced outside the donor and U.N. system, to track progress and encourage greater international investment.

WHO ARE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS



Community health workers are health care providers who live in the community they serve. These health workers extend the reach of formal health systems and often work as volunteers, without any formal compensation. They are neighbors, trusted care providers, and community members themselves. The data and contextual insights that community health workers collect and use are the key to designing resilient health systems.

World Vision supports

193,759

community health workers
in 43 countries around the world.

On bike, boat, and foot, community health workers go the last mile to deliver medicine, vaccines, and lifesaving treatment to children, mothers, and families. Training and deploying community health workers improve access to healthcare services even in remote or underserved areas.



WHY IT MATTERS NOW

- **America First Global Health:** The bill advances the Administration's vision of health investments that protect U.S. national security, reduce dependence on foreign goods, and promote economic stability in partner nations.
- **Fiscal Discipline:** By requiring host-country salary co-financing and domestic transition plans, the bill ensures U.S. investments catalyze — not substitute for — local ownership and sustainability.
- **Integrated, Not Siloed:** Shifts away from fragmented, single-disease health worker funding toward integrated investments that reflect real community health needs and deliver greater efficiency.
- **National Security:** Disease outbreaks, health system collapse, and workforce shortages don't stay abroad. They destabilize regions, disrupt supply chains, and generate the conditions for conflict — conditions that ultimately cost American taxpayers.
- **Congress finds:** Nations with **healthier populations are more productive, prosperous, and peaceful**; countries with poorer health are more prone to instability that compromises U.S. national security. The Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth found that **health investments yield a 9x economic return** — among the highest of any foreign assistance category.

A BIPARTISAN TRACK RECORD

The SECURE Health Act builds on a long bipartisan tradition of U.S. global health leadership:

1

PEPFAR (2003): President Bush's landmark program has saved over 25 million lives — the largest global health program in history.

2

Global Malnutrition Act (2022): Signed by President Biden with strong Republican support to prevent and treat malnutrition globally.

3

U.S. Global Health Results: 60% drop in child mortality and 38% drop in maternal mortality from 1990–2020 driven by U.S. investments.

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World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. We serve all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.
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