

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

August 25, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we support the United States' commitment to fight the COVID-19 crisis domestically and globally. We urge your Administration to donate 100 million vaccines to Africa above current donations and encourage other countries to donate an additional 100 million as quickly as possible. These doses should be accompanied by support for their successful distribution and deployment.

Thanks in no small part to U.S. leadership, African nations have received 19.7 million<sup>1</sup> U.S. vaccine donations to date, meaning shipped and delivered. Yet only 2 percent of Africans have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Africa has the highest COVID-19 death rate in the world and COVID-19 infections in Africa are rapidly increasing due to lack of access to the vaccines, the emergence of the Delta variant, limited hospital capacity, and lack of health care workers. Over 1 million confirmed COVID-19 cases were recorded in Africa the past month alone, compared to the rest of the world. African nations are experiencing an increasingly urgent COVID crisis and need at least 200 million vaccine doses<sup>2</sup> by the end of September to slow the spread and prevent more needless deaths. The longer it takes to vaccinate the world, the more variants we will see and the longer this pandemic will continue. We must commit to donating more doses now and support their effective and equitable distribution.

We look forward to working with you on fighting COVID-19 both here in the United States and abroad.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/03/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-major-milestone-in-administrations-global-vaccination-efforts-more-than-100-million-u-s-covid-19-vaccine-doses-donated-and-shipped-abroad/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/africa-appeals-vaccines-combat-third-wave-covid-19>

/s/  
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Val Butler Demings  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress

/s/  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Ronald Klain, White House Chief of Staff  
Mr. Cedric Richmond, Senior Advisor to the President and Director of the Office of Public Engagement of the United States  
Ms. Gayle Smith, Global COVID-19 Response Coordinator  
Mr. Jeffrey Zients, White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator