

Dear PAI Board Member,

Since its founding in 1965 as the Population Crisis Committee, Population Action International (PAI) has remained one of the undisputed leaders in the international family planning and reproductive health movement. For 46 years, PAI has been at the forefront of global efforts to educate and influence key policymakers in donor and developing countries, and in international institutions, to support expanding access to family planning and reproductive health care services around the world. Importantly, and a key distinguishing feature since its founding, PAI accepts no government funding, supported entirely by tax-deductible contributions from individuals and foundations.

PAI was founded by a diverse group of people who were concerned about the adverse effects of unsustainable population growth on human progress. This group included retired diplomats, military leaders, legislators of both political parties, international civil servants, business people, philanthropists, women's rights activists, public health experts, and environmentalists. The volunteers and staff were able to achieve notable successes in PAI's early days, including:

- Establishment of the U.S. government's population assistance program at the U.S. Agency for International Development, whose funding has grown from \$35 million in 1967 to more than \$600 million today;
- Enlisting worldwide support for the creation of the United Nations Population Fund, the lead multilateral organization in the population field, in 1969; and
- Raising millions of dollars to support a significant expansion of the International Planned Parenthood Federation's work in developing countries during the 1970s.

PAI's considerable history of achievement continues today, building on the solid foundation laid by these early pioneers. Many of PAI's staff and Board of Directors—too numerous to name—deserve credit for these accomplishments, but during our first decade, the productive and energetic activism of retired General William H. Draper, Jr. deserves special recognition.

PAI helped bring about the declaration of 1974 as World Population Year by the UN and the holding of the first World Population Conference in Bucharest that year, where 135 countries adopted a World Population Plan of Action.

PAI engaged influential allies from around the world to move the international consensus on sexual and reproductive health and rights forward at population conferences in Bucharest, the 1984 International Conference on Population in Mexico City, and the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and at subsequent five-year commemorations. This participation has included service by PAI-affiliated individuals on the official U.S. government delegation, in formal conference leadership positions, or as informal advisors to conference organizers and other government delegations.

PAI has projected its reach and influence through financial support and technical assistance to partner organizations in both donor and developing nations since the mid-1970s despite the absence of satellite offices or full-time staff outside of the United States. In 1975, Board Member and full-time volunteer Robert B. Wallace created PAI's Special Projects Fund. The Fund demonstrated to other donors the value of modest investments in innovative, highly-leveraged, and replicable family planning and reproductive health projects to the health and well-being of millions around the world.

This cutting-edge grant-making originally took the form of supporting new health service delivery approaches and advances in contraception. Frequently, these were activities that other bilateral and foundation donors had refused to fund until their utility and cost-effectiveness could be demonstrated. The legacy of this pioneering philanthropy continues today through a small grants program that builds

indigenous advocacy capacity in support of enhanced national leadership and increased reproductive health funding, and supports and expands integrated population, health, and environment projects. More recently, strengthened advocacy capacity has addressed the problem of contraceptive supply shortages, promoted reproductive health and HIV prevention synergies, and sought to ensure that family planning is a part of emerging climate change adaptation strategies.

Since the early 1970s, PAI has encouraged parliamentary exchanges and visits to developing countries by legislators from donor countries like the United States, Japan, and Germany to view family planning programs in the field. Over the last 20 years, PAI has pioneered the use of overseas study tours, taking seven Members of Congress and 65 of their staff to see U.S. and UNFPA-supported programs first-hand in more than a dozen developing countries.

PAI has been a pragmatic, nonpartisan advocate for strong U.S. leadership in the family planning and reproductive health field through the Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush, and Obama Administrations. PAI has been at the center of efforts to increase family planning funding, promote sound policies, and mitigate political attacks seeking to slash funding for the program, block U.S. contributions to UNFPA, or impose ideologically-driven policies such as the Global Gag Rule and abstinence-only education.

PAI has been at the forefront defining new issues with links to population, family planning, and reproductive health that can attract additional, nontraditional allies to our cause. These include signature initiatives on national security, contraceptive supply shortages, climate change, and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS integration.

You have joined a Board of extraordinary individuals who share a common vision—that women and families need access to contraception in order to improve their health, reduce poverty and protect their environment. PAI has an impressive history, and an even more formidable future ahead. With your support and leadership, we can build on our successes and create more opportunities, greater equality, and a brighter future for the world's women and girls.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Ehlers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "E".

Suzanne Ehlers
President & CEO