



## Department of Social Development and World Peace

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May 22, 2006

Senator Thad Cochran,  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations,  
US Senate,  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you prepare to make 302(b) allocations to the Subcommittees of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am writing on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to request respectfully that you secure sufficient 302(b) funding levels to support critical foreign operations programs that support our country's moral obligation towards the poor and vulnerable.

For the **Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs**, I ask you to make 302(b) funding allotment that will ensure full funding for the following:

- **\$5 billion** to fund *development and humanitarian accounts*, on which many developing countries depend for survival and poverty reduction;
- **\$150 million** in assistance to address the deepening poverty and unemployment among the *Palestinian people*;
- **\$3 billion** for the *Millennium Challenge Account*, the President's initiative that promises to unite poverty reduction with better and stronger governance in poor countries;
- **\$1.2 billion** for *Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA)* and **\$55 million** for *Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA)*;
- at least **\$4.3 billion** for morally appropriate programs to combat *HIV/AIDS*, tuberculosis, and malaria (including the \$566 million increase in the Global Fund per the Santorum/Durbin amendment to the Senate Budget Resolution); and
- the **\$950 million** that is necessary to fund the Administration's commitment to cancel 100% of the debt owed by *heavily indebted poor countries* to major international financial institutions.

Without a sufficient level of funding for the 302(b) allocation for the **Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs**, full funding of the priorities outlined above will be jeopardized. The poor and the vulnerable both at home and abroad have the first claim on our consciences and our resources.

Sincerely yours,

Bishop Thomas G. Wenski  
Bishop of Orlando  
Chairman, Committee on International Policy

cc: Senate Committee on Appropriations