

Monday, December 20, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden The White House Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The spread of the new COVID-19 Omicron variant highlights the continuing global public health crisis of the pandemic with significant risks for people worldwide and American national security. The large swaths of world populations that remain unvaccinated prolong the pandemic and could benefit from robust American global immunization leadership.

As you are no doubt aware, to date, only a tiny fraction of the federal response has been focused overseas. We urge your administration to chart a new course and embark on a substantial and vigorous effort on the global stage to make available and distribute vaccines to needy populations around the world.

Financial investment is a strong sign of policy priority. Likewise, appointment of respected personnel to key leadership positions is a similar demonstration. The White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator has played a critical role in allowing the United States to gain some domestic mastery over the pandemic. We ask you to consider appointing a White House Global Coronavirus Response Coordinator, like the role of current White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain during the Ebola epidemic.

The medical community has consistently advised that the best counter to COVID-19 and its continuing mutations is to immunize world populations as quickly as possible. Your leadership in energizing a strong U.S. global immunization initiative could be the step that breaks the back of the current pandemic.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Gary Hart

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