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Washington, D.C. 20515

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Dear Friends:

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to extend warm greetings and offer my congratulations to TROPICAL CLINICS and its founder Dr. Margaret Kilibwa.

As a member of the International Relations Committee and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa and as a former US Congressional delegate to the United Nations, I am acutely aware of the many challenges facing the Continent of Africa. From the genocide plagued region of Darfur in the Western Sudan to the HIV/AIDS pandemic facing many African nations, Africa's woes often seem overwhelming. I am sure for some, the image of Africa is a continent full of problems, humanitarian disasters and civil wars. But this is far from the reality on the ground. Indeed, African countries have gone through humanitarian disasters, civil wars and other challenges. So have other countries in other regions. Media coverage of Africa is very selective; usually focused on the negative and ignoring the positive. However, there is much to be hopeful for on the continent and much to celebrate. Dr. Kilibwa's efforts to establish TROPICAL CLINICS in Kenya is one of those hopeful initiatives and a cause for celebration!

I am pleased to know that so many friends of Africa have taken time to attend this worthwhile event. I look forward to continuing my work on behalf of Africa. I want to commend Dr. Kilibwa and her colleagues for planning this wonderful evening.

Warm regards,

Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress