

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

BAY AREA NEWS GROUP
2.7 MILLION BAY AREA READERS IN PRINT AND ONLINE

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

200 AN EDITION OF THE *San Jose Mercury News* \$1.50
24/7 NEWS COVERAGE ON WWW.CONTRACOSTATIMES.COM

Encouraged by rare bipartisan support

Bipartisan support:
That's a rare occurrence in Congress for anything these days.

A resolution to fund Gavi, an international organization helping to immunize children in the world's poorest countries, is gaining support in the House of Representatives. Already, 42 representatives, one-third of them Republicans, have signed on.

Foreign development aid is not a strong campaign plank among conservatives, but supporting Gavi should be a no-brainer. Gavi bundles global demand for vaccines to reduce costs and assures future markets for drug makers. Gavi is seeking \$7.5 billion over the next five years to vaccinate 300 million more children and save an additional five million lives. That investment is expected to generate \$80 billion to \$100 billion in economic development.

Aid programs that generate this many wins — saving children from preventable deaths, strengthening countries' health systems, reducing vaccine costs, and expanding markets for pharmaceutical companies — deserve broad, bipartisan support.

Jim Driggers
Concord