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Foreign aid can help to end world poverty

In third-world countries, many mothers who send their children to school have walked miles to get any vaccinations they can get to protect their child, just in the hope that child will see its fifth birthday.

When I first volunteered with RESULTS, a citizen lobby that works to educate Congress on the importance of spending our foreign-aid dollars effectively, 40,000 children under the age of 5 were dying every day of preventable causes.

Today, 30 years later, that terrible number has dropped to 16,000 a day — which is still 11 children every minute. There is now a bipartisan bill before Congress, S1911, the “Reach Every Mother and Child Act,” that can reduce this number by half.

Ending poverty should be the No. 1 goal of the very few dollars (less than 1 percent of our budget) our country spends on foreign aid to make this a safer, saner world.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein has already signed onto this bill. Please write to Sen. Barbara Boxer and ask her to do so as well.

Bill Nicholson
Martinez