



May 23, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance:

Sen. Ron Wyden (Chair), Sen. Mike Crapo (Ranking Member), Sen. John Cornyn, Sen. John Thune, Sen. Tim Scott, Sen. Bill Cassidy, Sen. James Lankford, Sen. Steve Daines, Sen. Todd Young, Sen. John Barrasso, Sen. Chuck Grassley.

Dear Senators,

Re: Reject Section 112105 of the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” Proposing a 5% Excise Tax on International Remittances

The Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN), a Washington-based Pan-African Catholic faith-based organization representing over 34 religious congregations, one archdiocese, and individual members across the United States, respectfully writes to express our deep concern regarding Section 112105 of the recently passed House bill now under consideration in the U.S. Senate. While we share the commitment to fair and effective immigration policy, we are concerned that the proposed 5% tax on international remittances would unintentionally harm some of the most vulnerable families, both in the U.S. and abroad. As a faith-based organization guided by Catholic Social Teaching, we believe policies should promote human dignity, protect livelihoods, and strengthen—not burden—communities.

Moreover, we believe that taxing legally earned income sent to support loved ones abroad can be counterproductive to solving U.S. immigration problems. Remittances are essential for funding basic needs like food, education, and healthcare. In 2023, remittances to Sub-Saharan Africa alone exceeded \$50 billion, far outpacing foreign aid. Therefore, taxing these transfers would penalize working families and undermine U.S. development objectives.

Furthermore, this measure does not deter ‘illegal’ migration. According to the U.S. Department of State’s yearly Human Rights Report, including the most recent 2022 and 2023 editions, migration is driven by insecurity, lack of opportunity, and poor governance. On the contrary, remittances have provided an economic lifeline to families and communities potentially reducing the likelihood for migration.

Therefore, rather than punishing immigrants who uplift their communities abroad while contributing to the U.S. economy, we urge the U.S. Senate to reject Section 112105 of the recently passed U.S. House of Representatives Bill and rather support foreign policies that promote peace, economic development, human rights, and good governance. We appreciate your attention to this matter and are available to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SNR", is written over a horizontal line.

Steven Nabieu Rogers, Phd, Executive Director

Africa Faith and Justice Network Organizational Members:

Adorers of the Blood of Christ
*Archdiocese of Cincinnati Mission Office**
Comboni Missionaries
Congregation of Holy Cross Sisters
Congregation of the Holy Spirit
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa
Good Shepherd Parish (Wayland, MA)
Holy Cross Fathers
*Knights of Saint John**
Marianist Province of the United States
Maryknoll Society
Medical Mission Sisters
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa
Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit
Missionhurst
Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

*Priests of the Sacred Heart**
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
School Sisters of Notre Dame: Central Pacific Province
*Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati**
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
Sisters of St Francis, Dubuque, Iowa
Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Society of the Divine Word
Society of the Missionaries of Africa
Xaverian Brothers
Xaverian Missionaries

**Supporting or Diocesan Organizational Members*