

It is an honor to join you today. On behalf of the United States Senate, welcome to Georgetown University in this tremendous conference on child survival and setting the goals for the future that are so important.

I want to commend USAID, Ethiopia and India, the United States of America for calling this together today, and I thank all of you for being here on what is one of the most important topics of our time.

And I want to commend the organizers on the template upon which this conference is developed – and that is partnership between the public and the private sector, faith-based organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and people of compassion and care to end preventable child death, a goal that is reachable in our world.

And there are examples – and there are examples in this room of where we're making great progress. For example, on measles. In the year 2000, 500,000 children died of measles. That's been reduced by 75 percent because of partnerships between the CDC and countries around the world to inoculate and vaccinate people against measles.

Let's talk about PEPFAR. A death sentence PEPFAR was, not too many years ago. But today, 600,000 African children are alive that would have been dead five years ago because of testing of their mothers, the applying of the antiretrovirals and the treatments that are necessary for that child to be born free.

And the partnerships between faith-based organizations like the Nyumbani clinic and orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya, where children today are being raised in a continuum of care, although they lost their mother to AIDS.

We find examples all over. There are examples of measles. There's examples of HIV/AIDS. There's examples of tetanus. Neonatal and maternal tetanus is a killer of 60,000 children a year. But because of Kiwanis International and UNICEF partnership together, we're working together to reduce the death from tetanus in mothers, pregnant mothers and their children, another goal that's reachable and obtainable.

And water, the basis for many diseases that kill children – because of the partnership between The Coca-Cola Company and Water Health International in Ghana, in Africa, villages now have clean, sustainable water systems. Water systems provide potable water to their children, which only a few years ago was impossible.

So partnership is the key. Government action is important. Private sector investment is a key. Nongovernmental organizations working together and faith-based organizations working together – this is a goal that we can accomplish together.

It's now a privilege to me to do something I've never had the chance to do before, and that's to introduce the secretary of state of the United States of America.

I worked all night last night writing up a great introduction, and then I tore it up this morning and said, you know, I'm just going to speak from the heart for a second. I first met Hillary Clinton in 1998 when I was elected to the Congress of the United States and she was the first lady of the United States of America. I then had the privilege of serving with her for four years in the United States Senate. And during those four years, I saw a woman of compassion and commitment, particularly for children.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program is key, and Hillary Clinton's one of the reasons it happened and has been sustained. Her work to empower foster children, her work on adoption show her compassion for children, their health and their longevity.

But her claim to fame is her service as the ambassador to the world as secretary of state of the United States of America. She's one of the most travelled secretary of states ever. She works tirelessly for human rights and democracy around the world. Hillary Clinton is one of the most accomplished women of her time. In fact, she's one of the most accomplished Americans of our time.

And it's a privilege for me to introduce the secretary of the state of the United States of America – the 67<sup>th</sup> secretary of state – Hillary Rodham Clinton.