

RESULTS

the power to end poverty

**Welcome to the RESULTS August 2014
U.S. Poverty National Conference Call**

***Pushing Congress to Expand Economic Mobility
during the August Recess***

**Saturday, August 9, 12:30 pm ET
(888) 409-6709**

Welcome from RESULTS Executive Director Dr. Joanne Carter



Special Announcement from RESULTS Board Chair Dr. Scott Leckman (RESULTS Salt Lake City)



Scott (center) with Michael Rigby and Kay Neseem at the
2014 RESULTS International Conference

Legislative Update

House Child Tax Credit Bill (H.R. 4935)

- On July 25, the House passed H.R. 4935, the “Child Tax Credit Improvement Bill” with a 273-137 vote.
- Bill extends the Child Tax Credit to families earning \$150,000 - \$205,000.
- Fails to make permanent the 2009 improvements to the CTC that will expire in 2017.
- Bill denies the credit to over 5 million children from immigrant families, 4.5 million of whom are U.S. Citizens.
- See how your representative voted at the [RESULTS H.R. 4935 Vote Summary page](#).



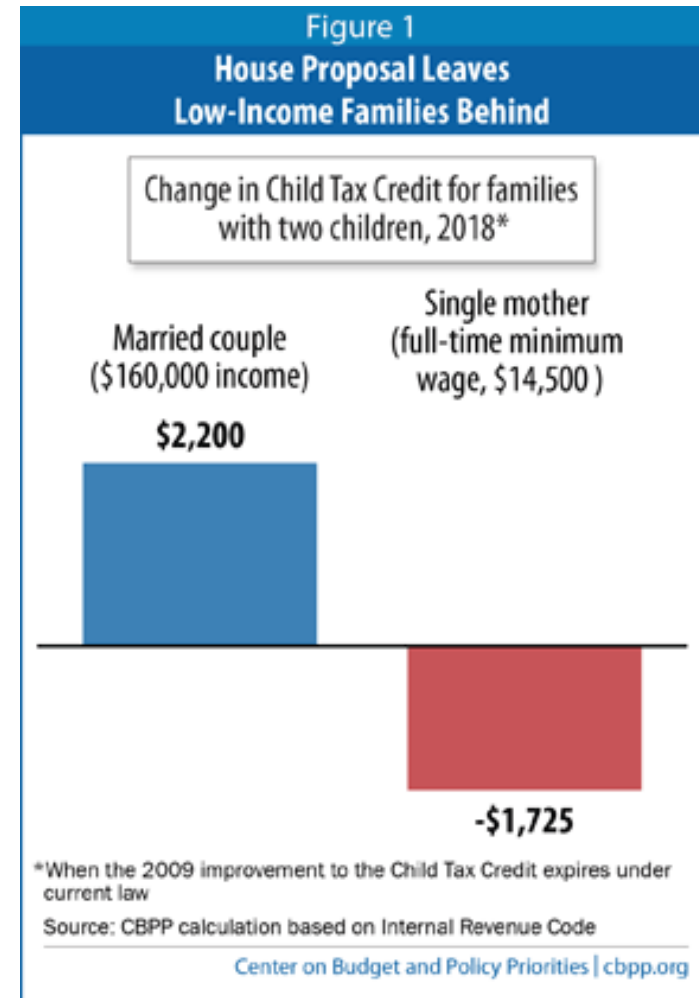
Kayla Kitson
U.S. Poverty
Intern

Legislative Update

Impact of H.R. 4935

If H.R. 4935 were to become law, in 2018 a married couple with two children making \$160,000/yr would receive a Child Tax Credit of \$2,200 while a single mother with two children working full-time at the federal minimum wage (\$14,500/yr) would lose her entire credit of \$1,725 (after the 2009 improvements expire).

(Source: [CBPP](#))



Paul Ryan's Poverty Plan

- Titled [“Expanding Opportunity in America”](#)
- Would create “Opportunity Grants” to consolidate 11 programs, including [SNAP](#) (food stamps), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF, or “welfare”), child care assistance, and low-income housing assistance.
- Block grants [Head Start](#) (lump sum payment to states).
- Expands [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) (EITC) for childless workers, but eliminates [Child Tax Credit](#) for many low-income immigrant families and eliminates the Social Services Block Grant and other programs.
- [CBPP estimates](#) that plan would increase poverty and reduce anti-poverty resources over time.
- Read more about the plan on the [RESULTS Blog](#).

Guest Speaker: Tom LaPointe

- Former member of the Maine state legislature.
- Public affairs officer of the Maine Department of Human Services.
- Political consultant at [Every Child Matters](#), national children's advocacy group, and Director of ECM in Iowa.
- Over the years, Tom advised public and private clients as to the "How To's" of moving an issue in the media and meeting with elected officials.
- He is currently retired and resides in Des Moines, Iowa.



Tom LaPointe (right) with Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)

Follow Up from Lobby Meetings

- Please keep following up with your House and Senate offices after your recent lobby meetings.
- Follow up is more than just a “thank you.” Remind them of your request and keep checking on status .
- Have they spoken to tax leaders about the making the EITC and CTC improvements permanent, expanding the EITC for childless workers, or creating the Financial Security Credit?
- Have they co-sponsored?
 - [H.R. 769](#) (House CTC bill; current co-sponsor [list](#))
 - [H.R. 2116](#) (House EITC bill; current co-sponsor [list](#))
 - [H.R. 2917](#) (House FSC bill; current co-sponsor [list](#))
 - [S. 836](#) (Senate EITC and CTC bill; current co-sponsor [list](#))



Jos Linn
Grassroots Manger,
U.S. Poverty Campaigns
(right, with Sen. Tom
Harkin and RESULTS Iowa
volunteers)

Note: New co-sponsorships only show up on the list when Congress is in session. If you get a commitment this month, plan to follow up again in September when they're back in DC.

August Action – Attend Town Hall Meetings

- **Keep pushing for face-to-face meetings** this month.
- Congress on recess until September 5.
- **Sit-down meetings should be your goal** so follow-up with schedulers about getting meetings this month.
- **Also ask about town halls and public events.**
- Town halls give you the opportunity to **address the issue in a public place** and get member of Congress/candidate “on the record.”
- **Educate members of your community** about your issue.
- Find tips and resources in the **August Action:**
http://www.results.org/take_action/august_2014_u.s._poverty_action/.
- Find **sample town hall questions** at:
http://www.results.org/take_action/u.s._poverty_town_hall_questions/.

August Advocacy Training – “Birddogging”

- Town halls and public events are opportunities for BIG WINS.
- So-called “birddogging” is asking pointed questions of members of Congress (MoCs) and candidates to see where they stand on the issues and getting that info out into the public.
- Your goal is to shine a light on issues of poverty and hopefully get the MoC or candidate to take a stand.

How do you make the most of a town hall meeting?

- **FIND AN EVENT**
 - MoC websites
 - Newsletters and newspapers
 - Social media
 - Office schedulers
 - Find MoC websites and contact info at:
<http://capwiz.com/results/dbq/officials/>



Kristy Martino
U.S. Poverty
Organizer
(right, with Sen.
Jeanne Shaheen
(D-NH))

August Advocacy Training – “Birddogging”

How do you make the most of a town hall meeting?

- **PREPARE YOURSELF**
 - Research the position of your members of Congress on our issues (find votes and co-sponsorship info at <http://capwiz.com/results/dbq/officials/>; check out their websites)
 - Get a feel for the location and audience for the event
- **GET A POSSE**
 - Go in a group if possible to increase the chance of one of you getting called on for a question
 - Sit separately
 - Designate someone to take notes
- **BE STRATEGIC**
 - Arrive early and sit where you can be seen
 - Wear conspicuous but not political clothing
 - Get your hand up FIRST, FAST, and HIGH

August Advocacy Training – “Birddogging”

How do you make the most of a town hall meeting?

- **HAVE A BACKUP PLAN** in case you don’t get a question asked
 - Stand in the handshake line and get a photo
 - See out the media and talk about issues highlighted or not highlighted
 - Find staff and ask for meeting; give them the [lobby requests](#)
- **SHARE, SHARE, SHARE:** Write about your experience, inform your network, spread photos and info via social media, engage with the media, don't keep it to yourself!

What are the Ingredients of a Good Town Hall Question?

- Short, concise but be sure to include information about the issue and your answer you seek in the question (use the [EPIC Laser Talk format](#))
- Make sure your request is specific and has a clear YES or NO

When you get a face-to-face meeting scheduled or plan to attend an event, please contact Meredith Dodson (dodson@results.org) or Jos Linn (jlinn@results.org) to help you prepare.

August Advocacy Training – “Birddogging”

Challenge Yourself to Make a Difference

Will everyone in your group commit to attending at least three town halls/public events this month?

Don't limit your town hall appearances to just your specific representative and senators. Attend events in neighboring districts and events held by election candidates. The more people who hear your message, the better!

Additional Resources:

- August Action: http://www.results.org/take_action/august_2014_u.s._poverty_action/
- Town Hall Activist Milestone: http://www.results.org/skills_center/milestone_11/
- Lobby Materials and Resources: <http://tinyurl.com/2014RIC>
- Sample Town Hall Questions: http://www.results.org/take_action/u.s._poverty_town_hall_questions/

Shares Section



Ginnie Vogts

RESULTS Columbus

Sharing about her recent conversation with Congressman Pat Tiberi (R-OH-12)

August Roll Call



Scott Smith of RESULTS San Diego (left, with RESULTS San Diego volunteers and Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA-53))

1. How many people are in the room?
2. How many face-to-face meetings will your group try to schedule this month?
3. How many town hall events will your group try to attend this month?

Announcements

Please fill out the **Lobby Report Form**. Tell us how your lobby meetings went at www.tinyurl.com/lobbyreportform.

Learn how to Tweet this summer! The Media support group wants to help you use Twitter to advocate for the end of poverty. See details in next Tuesday's Weekly Update. There is no Media support call this month; the regular Media support call will resume in September.

Wednesdays August 13, 20, and 27: Join the *Reclaiming Our Democracy* book discussion with Sam Daley-Harris, 9:00 pm ET. Sign up to participate in the discussion [here](#).

Check out the [RESULTS Blog](#) series beginning next week about the importance of face-to-face lobby meetings.



**Myrdin
Thompson**
U.S. Poverty
Organizer
(atop Mt.
Kilimanjaro in
July)

Announcements

RESULTS Introductory Call: Wednesday, August 13 at 9:00 pm ET. Register at www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSMeetandGreet/.

RESULTS U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls: Tuesday, August 19 at 1:00 pm and 9:00 pm ET. (857) 232-0476, passcode 703096 (*note the new number*).

Find a full list of upcoming events on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).

Thank you to RESULTS U.S. Poverty Interns Kayla Kitson and Jay Carroll for their great work at RESULTS this summer!



Thank you for being on today's call!

Have a Happy Book Lover's Day!

**Next RESULTS U.S. Poverty National Conference Call
Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 12:30 pm ET**