

# National Webinar Summary

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[http://www.results.org/skills\\_center/results\\_national\\_conference\\_calls/](http://www.results.org/skills_center/results_national_conference_calls/)

## Experts on Poverty Share

Kali Daugherty, Milwaukee, WI

Hello, I am Kali from Milwaukee, WI. I am very passionate about ensuring Medicaid protections because it effects many people in my community and my family in particular. My son was diagnosed with Autism when he was 3 years old. In order to get him enrolled in therapy services which I was told would change his life, I had to get him approved for Medicaid. This was not a simple process and we worked for months to get a response on this. We went to different doctors filled out countless forms and then finally they let us know that he was approved for Medicaid. This saves our family from paying \$3,000 per month in therapy costs out of pocket after my private insurance has already paid. Without the extra coverage, we receive from Medicaid I don't know how we would have been able to get my son the services he needs to help him. I look forward to going to the IC every year to be able to learn about what makes other people passionate about volunteering for RESULTS and getting to hear their stories. I also feel it's important for our Representatives to see that not only do we all do what we can in our comminutes, we also come together and take over Capitol Hill for the day and to speak up for what we believe in.

## Welcome

Jos Linn, Grassroots Manager for U.S. Poverty Campaigns (Kansas City, MO)

- Welcome to the webinar
- Very excited about this month's webinar which is chocked full of information
- Agenda
  - RESULTS' dear friend **Debbie Weinstein of the Coalition on Human Needs** will update us on health care and the budget, and in particular their impact on Medicaid and SNAP
  - We'll review the [July Action](#) and do a refresher laser talk about SNAP
  - Grassroots Board Member Maxine Thomas (RESULTS Indianapolis) will introduce us to your **2017 RESULTS Grassroots Board Nominees**
  - We'll close out the call with **Announcements and an Action** from Ashley Burnside and Kristy Martino
- Your media work has been outstanding this year

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- **You are kicking butt with to date 264 media pieces published**
- **This breaks our all-time record** of 243 (in 2001) and you did it in just six months
- Know that your media success this year has played a part in setting, or altering, the congressional agenda
- Your media is one reason Congress is still fighting over health care in July when they hoped to be done with it in January
- **It's working so we need to keep it up.** You'll hear in a moment that threats abound to anti-poverty programs so continuing to put the pressure on Congress in the media is vital
- **Let's set a new goal of getting 300 media pieces published by the end of the RESULTS International Conference!**
- Also, who will help get us in **all 50 states?** (need: DE, HI, NV, RI, VT,)

## **Guest Speaker – Debbie Weinstein**

Facilitated by Meredith Dodson, Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns

**Bio** (<https://www.chn.org/about-chn/contact/>)

- Became Executive Director of CHN in 2003 ([www.chn.org](http://www.chn.org))
- Brings over thirty years of advocacy experience to CHN on a wide range of issues at both the state and federal level.
- Prior to coming to CHN, served as Director of the Family Income division of the Children's Defense Fund, working on policy strategies to lift children and their families out of poverty.
- From 1983 to 1993, Debbie was Executive director of the Massachusetts Human Services Coalition
- Master of Social Work degree from San Diego State University

### **1. What is the current state of play with regard to the Senate health care bill? Specifically, are you hearing anything new on Medicaid?**

- Senate Republicans are struggling to get a simple majority vote
- They can't lose more than 2 republican votes
- McConnell announced new version of the healthcare bill will be released on Thursday
- Key parts of legislation currently:
  - Ends Medicaid expansion to low-income adults
    - More gradual ending of the expansion than in House bill – but will still end it

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- Caps and cuts Medicaid funding – not just the expansion part at risk – the very nature of program would be wrecked
  - Senate version at current time is worse than House because it allows spending to grow until 2025 at a rate that is related to growth in inflation in healthcare, but after that it would be dropped so cap would be tighter
  - Medicaid would be cut by over 1/3 if this Senate bill passes
- Increases premiums and deductibles and marketplace insurance
- Weakens essential benefits package and coverage for pre-existing conditions
- Eliminates individual mandate
- Provides millions of dollars in tax cuts for the wealthy
  - They may be changing some of these tax cuts – but none of the changes are satisfactory
- Senators quoted tonight saying revised bill does not change these main principles
- Cruz amendment would make bill worse by saying only one plan in the marketplace would have to meet current standards – others could be cheaper, lousy care – so those with health conditions would need to go to more expensive plans and there would be cheaper plans for healthier folks
- They may not be able to get the votes next week
- The House bill cuts Medicaid by 1/4 over 10 years

**2. Looking past the health care fight, which most expect to be resolved one way or another in July, what other threats are gaining steam regarding anti-poverty programs and the 2018 budget?**

- Medicaid is the program under greatest attack in the FY 2018 budget
- Mandatory Spending: Programs like SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid
- Right now, they want to make \$200 billion in cuts over 10 years to mandatory spending programs– we don't know how much would be to Medicaid and other programs
  - We know there was a deal SNAP may “only” be cut by \$10 billion
- Budget resolution doesn't do everything, but it sets totals for defense and non-defense appropriations and these totals must be within caps set in law – if they want to go beyond those caps they must change the law, and that requires 60 votes in the Senate
  - Since Republicans are going over the defense cap, they will need some Democratic votes to raise the caps, which is a problem for them
- Increases defense spending above the cap by \$72.5 billion– even larger than increase Trump asked for in his budget

- \$5 billion in cuts for domestic/international non-defense programs
- They started dividing the money up today
  - Estimates that the Department of HHS would be cut by \$5 billion
- Reconciliation instructions would require \$200 billion over 10 years in cuts to safety net programs
- But not every Republican agrees with this
- If they can agree to one budget resolution, they can use reconciliation instructions to fast track cuts to these programs and to tax cuts benefitting the wealthy.
  - Reconciliation instructions also make legislation filibuster proof in the Senate

### 3. What can advocates do right now to 1) protecting Medicaid in the health care fight and 2) on protecting SNAP in the budget?

- Budget Resolution is an entirely partisan document
- House side cannot lose more than 23 Republican votes – and they are in danger now, which is why they haven't released the Budget Resolution yet
- Letter to Speaker Ryan signed by 20 Republican Reps ask him not to make those cuts and fast-track it – they call for bipartisan agreement to go over cap totals in appropriations
- CHN has put out [broad joint coalition letter](#) – they hope RESULTS folks will take action by telling your reps you agree with the letter
- Tweet it out: #HandsOff
- Participate in a Thunder Clap; register for July 17 1:30 p.m.
- Check out the target list on their “Take Action” webpage on CHN website: <https://www.chn.org/take-action/action-alerts/>

## Overview of July Action

Jos Linn

Anti-poverty advocates have been busy and effective in 2017. Pushing back against attempts to gut Medicaid and SNAP has so far proven successful, but the fight is far from over. While most of America (and RESULTS) has focused on health care the last few months, Congress has been quietly laying the groundwork to make deeper cuts to anti-poverty programs. In June, House budget leaders have been working to include \$200 billion in “fast-track” cuts (reconciliation) to entitlement programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps).

RESULTS volunteers will be meeting with congressional offices in Washington, DC at the [RESULTS International Conference](#) (July 22-25). Amplify their voices by generating letters

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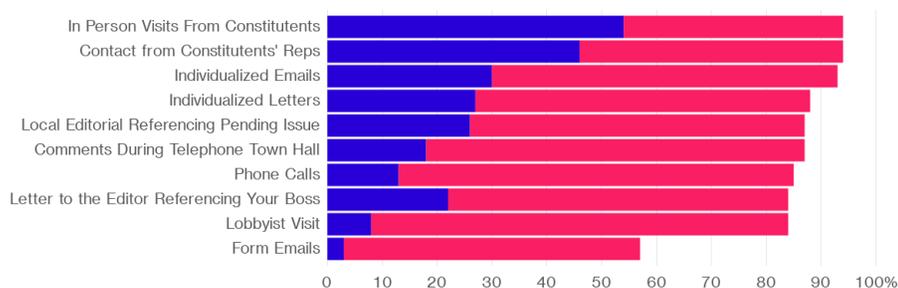
from group members and others in your community urging lawmakers to protect SNAP in the 2018 Budget. Here are some key steps to generate letters:

1. **Create a list of 10 or more people you'll ask to take action.** Make a list of people in your local action network, friends and colleagues at work, online contacts through Facebook and Twitter, and others you know who might be willing to take action. Remember that not everyone you ask will write a letter so your list should include twice as many as your goal.
2. **Make it easy for people to engage.** Host a letter-writing party (at the July 11 National Webinar or another time before the Conference) and go to events in your community and invite people to write letters. Many RESULTS groups table at community events, religious services, college campuses, etc. Download a [PDF](#) or [Word](#) version of this outreach action for background information and talking points for letters. Make sure to bring paper and pens as well.
3. **Share why you care about this issue.** More than any statistic alone, your friends and family will be more moved to action when they hear why you are passionate about ending poverty. Also, if you can enlist people who have directly experienced poverty, or know the importance of SNAP and anti-poverty programs, urge them to share their stories. They make a difference!
4. **Let people know that their letters will make an impact.** Tell people you would like to hand-deliver their letters to members of Congress at the RESULTS International Conference or in an upcoming lobby meeting in your state. Afterwards, share a picture of you in the Congressional office so they can see the impact!

### Want To Be Heard? Show Up!

Influence on Washington D.C.-based congressional staffers by communication type.

■ A Lot of Positive Influence ■ Some Positive Influence



Source: Congressional Management Foundation

\*Bars do not add up to 100 because not all surveyed categories are displayed

Bloomberg

## July Action Training

Jos Linn

Now *let's refresh our memories about SNAP and why it is important to protect it.* You can use this in brief encounters with members of Congress, town halls, or preparing for face-to-face meetings.

*We'll do the fill-in-the-blank Laser Talk. I'll read it first all the way through and you just listen.*

### SNAP Laser Talk

**Engage:** Nearly 1 in 5 children in the U.S. live in households that are struggling against hunger.

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**Problem:** Yet leaders in the new Congress want to cut basic food assistance, particularly the Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program.

**Inform:** SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) is the first line of defense against hunger in America. The U.S. Census reports that SNAP lifted 4.6 million people out of poverty in 2015. But Congress and the President want to undo SNAP's success by slashing its funding by at least \$10 billion, making it harder for many of us to put food on the table.

**Call to Action:** Will you urge congressional leaders to protect and strengthen SNAP by opposing any efforts to "fast track" cuts in the next budget?

*Now I'm going to read it through again but leave some parts out. When I get to those parts, just shout out the answer wherever you are.*

**Engage:** Nearly \_\_\_\_\_ children in the U.S. live in households that are struggling against hunger.

**Problem:** Yet leaders in the new Congress want to cut basic food assistance, particularly the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Inform:** SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) is the \_\_\_\_\_ against hunger in America. The U.S. Census reports that SNAP lifted \_\_\_\_\_ people out of poverty in 2015. But Congress and the President want to undo SNAP's success by slashing its funding by at least \_\_\_\_\_, making it harder for many of us to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Call to Action:** Will you urge congressional leaders to \_\_\_\_\_ by opposing any efforts to \_\_\_\_\_ cuts in the next budget?

*Now I'm going to read it through with blanks again but this time, instead of shouting out the answer, just think it in your head to internalize it and then I will give you the answer.*

*Thank you. We urge you to practice this with your groups after tonight's webinar and in your next meetings. Below are some additional resources to help you in taking action this month.*

### **July Action Resources**

- **July Action:** [http://www.results.org/take\\_action/july\\_2017\\_u.s.\\_poverty\\_action/](http://www.results.org/take_action/july_2017_u.s._poverty_action/)
- **SNAP Letter Outreach Action:**
  - PDF: [http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2017\\_Outreach\\_Action\\_\(SNAP\).pdf](http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2017_Outreach_Action_(SNAP).pdf)
  - Word: [http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2017\\_Outreach\\_Action\\_\(SNAP\).doc](http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2017_Outreach_Action_(SNAP).doc)
- **SNAP and Medicaid LTE Action:** [http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=64248626&MC\\_plugin=2201](http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=64248626&MC_plugin=2201)
- **June Action:** [http://www.results.org/take\\_action/june\\_2017\\_u.s.\\_poverty\\_action](http://www.results.org/take_action/june_2017_u.s._poverty_action)
  - Medicaid Fact Sheets from CBPP: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/health/house-republican-health-plan-would-shift-medicaid-costs-to-states>

- CAP Coverage Losses by State:  
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2017/06/27/435112/coverage-losses-state-senate-health-care-repeal-bill/>
- **Senate Medicaid Call in Flyer:**
  - [http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2017-06\\_Medicaid\\_Call-in\\_Alert.pdf](http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2017-06_Medicaid_Call-in_Alert.pdf) (PDF)
  - [http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2017-06\\_Medicaid\\_Call-in\\_Alert.doc](http://www.results.org/uploads/files/2017-06_Medicaid_Call-in_Alert.doc) (Word)

## Introduction of Grassroots Board Nominees

Maxine Thomas, Grassroots Board Member (Indianapolis, IN)

Maxine introduces each nominee. Each nominee speaks for approximately two minutes. You can hear their talks at the 41:30 mark of the [webinar recording](#).

The nominees are:

- Steven McGee of RESULTS Louisiana (Baton Rouge)
- Willie Dickerson of RESULTS Snohomish, WA
- Simona Combi of RESULTS Washington, DC
- Gerry Fairbrother of RESULTS Santa Fe, NM

Learn more about the positions and candidates at:

[http://www.results.org/blog/results\\_grassroots\\_board\\_nominations/](http://www.results.org/blog/results_grassroots_board_nominations/)

### Vote for your Nominees!

- Vote online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GRBM2017> or in person at the RESULTS International Conference
- You must vote by **midnight on August 9**
- Only **active RESULTS volunteers are eligible** to vote
- May vote for up to **TWO candidates**

## RESULTS Announcements

Ashley Burnside, RESULTS 2017 Emerson Hunger Fellow

- Last week, NY Times columnist ran an [op-ed](#) profiling of RESULTS and the difference everyday people can make in the shaping public policy. If you are coming to the Conference, or someone in your group is, this is a great hook for writing letters to the editor or to send to your local paper and asking them to profile your local advocates going to DC (or even your local RESULTS efforts in your community). It's a great way to highlight your work and expose RESULTS to new people.
- Our Next RESULTS Introductory Calls are tomorrow, July 12 at 9pm ET and Friday, July 28 at 1:00 pm ET. Register for an upcoming Intro Call on the [RESULTS website](#).

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- The U.S. Poverty Free Agents will meet next Tuesday, July 18 at 1pm and 8pm ET. If you want support in taking action but don't have a RESULTS group in your area yet, join the Free Agents. Contact Jos Linn for more details ([jlinn@results.org](mailto:jlinn@results.org)).
- Remember to **request face-to-face lobby meetings for the August recess**, which starts on July 31.
- Find these and other events on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).

I wanted to take the opportunity to say good bye to you all. This will unfortunately be my last webinar with RESULTS as a Hunger Fellow. I have been with RESULTS for the past six months, and I wanted to thank you all for the opportunity. I have really enjoyed working with you and I have learned so much during my time here! I know that you all will continue to do amazing work moving forward, and I *look forward to staying involved in the RESULTS network. I can't wait to meet many of you during the International Conference in a couple of weeks!*

## RESULTS International Conference

Kristy Martino, U.S. Poverty Grassroots Organizer

- **It's not too late to register!** Go to [www.resultsconference.org](http://www.resultsconference.org) to register today. If this is your first Conference, you can get \$50 off your registration (use discount code FIRSTIC17).
- **Please schedule a call to get ready for your lobby meetings** in DC if you have not done so already. Contact Jos Linn ([jlinn@results.org](mailto:jlinn@results.org)) immediately with times you are available over the next week.
- You can the **RESULTS U.S. Poverty Background Packet** and all other IC resources on the [Conference Resources Page](#).
- Be sure to **schedule your lobby meetings for Advocacy Day on July 25**. You can find a sample meeting request on the [Conference Resources Page](#).
- **Log your lobby meetings** with our Lobby Meeting Tracker Form: [www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSLobbyMtgs](http://www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSLobbyMtgs)
- We look forward to seeing you in DC next weekend!

Thank you for being on tonight's webinar! Our next National Grassroots Webinar is **Tuesday, August 15 at 8:00pm ET**. Note that due to staff vacations, the August webinar is a week later than normal.

## Final Action - E-mail Senators about Protecting Medicaid

Kristy Martino

- E-mail your Senate offices now and tell them to ***oppose any health bill that cuts or restructures Medicaid, ends the ACA's Medicaid expansion, or causes millions of Americans to lose their health insurance.***

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- Once you've e-mailed, send it out to everyone you know and urge them to e-mail too. Let's make sure cuts and changes to Medicaid never see the light of day.