



Help stop threats to anti-poverty programs

The White House has told reporters it hopes to slash funding from foreign aid and our fight against global poverty. Those federal budget decisions are ultimately up to Congress, and it's up to us to make clear that cuts to the fight against poverty are unacceptable. Use the media to make sure we don't undo decades of progress.

They say that the federal budget is a moral document, and cutting these kinds of programs is just wrong. Gutting anti-poverty programs would mean more young girls never see the inside of a classroom. More children go without vaccines that could save their lives. More people die of treatable disease like tuberculosis.

For decades, the United States has made the fight against global poverty a bipartisan priority. U.S. investment has helped support lower-income countries to save millions of lives, increase access to education, and put a dent in poverty. If the proposed cuts aren't stopped, it would not just stall progress, but reverse it. It's up to leaders in Congress now to reject threats to these programs, and instead look to how we can advance this fight.

Right now, Congress is beginning conversations about our federal spending bills for next year. Every member of Congress has the opportunity to weigh in on our nation's priorities through what's called the "appropriations" process. What they prioritize depends on what they hear from you. This year, ask your members of Congress to voice their support for building the foundation to end poverty around the world through health, education, and economic opportunity.

By getting media published on funding the fight against poverty, you can play an essential role in stopping threats to these transformational programs. Learn more about our specific requests to Congress and how you can back them up at www.results.org/issues/appropriations.

Why write a letter to the editor?

Writing a letter to the editor is a great way to make sure our government's commitment to this fight continues. Your senators and representatives are reading your local paper every day, trying to understand the issues that their constituents care about. They need to hear from you so they know that the fight against global poverty needs to be a top priority. Even one published letter can make a big difference!

Tips

- Keep your letter short. Check your newspaper for their length requirements, or simply keep the letter to 150-200 words.
- Make the letter personal. Customize with your own ideas, examples, and passion.
- Not sure where to submit your letter? Look up media contacts [here](#).
- Keep a look out for your letter in print and, if you're published, share on social media and with your members of Congress.
- Let RESULTS staff know you've been published, too!

Sample Letter to the Editor (LTE)

To the Editor:

There's talk from the White House about slashing foreign aid in our national budget. This would be disastrous. Currently, millions of kids are able to go to school and get vital medical treatment because of anti-poverty programs supported by the U.S. government. Healthy, educated children become healthy, educated adults who can contribute to their communities and economies in a myriad of ways. This benefits all of us.

It's been said that the national budget is a moral document, reflecting our values and priorities. I hope we can count on [Your Senator], [Your Representative], and [Your Representative] to protect and expand funding for global anti-poverty programs. I believe our country is at its best when we make sure everyone has the foundation for a bright future.

[Your name]

[Your city and state]

Spread the Word

1. Share this Action Sheet with others and ask them to write
2. Use the Advocacy Workshop Outline below to get a group of people to write LTEs
3. Send others a link to our Online Action Alert, where they can write and submit a LTE.

Leading with Action: Advocacy Workshop Agenda

Below is a sample agenda and script that you can use to put people in your community into action. We know that when people take action they get inspired. The agenda below would require a meeting of roughly 60 minutes. Adapt the elements to fit your style and timeframe.

I. Setting the Stage – 15 Minutes

2 min: Welcome and acknowledge people for being there.

“Thanks to all of you for coming. There are a lot of ways you could be spending the day, and I want to thank all of you for coming out and learning more about how YOU can play a role in the movement to end poverty. Can the RESULTS volunteers briefly say their name and how many years you’ve been involved? Also, can you all be sure to sign our sign in sheet?”

3 min: State the purpose of the meeting.

“Our purpose today is to inspire you all about the difference you can make, working with others, to create the political will to end hunger and poverty. In the next few minutes, we’ll . . .

- Learn a bit about RESULTS, the group organizing this.
- We will learn about an issue of poverty.
- We will take an action that will make a difference on that issue. We’ll write a letter to the editor (LTE) about protecting anti-poverty programs.
- Finally, we’ll see who is interested in continuing to make a difference with RESULTS.”

10 min: Center the room and do introductions.

“Let’s see who’s in the room tonight and get in touch with why we are here. Please give us your name and tell us briefly why acting on issue of poverty is important to you.” Other possible question, “What are you committed to in life?” or “Who do you want to be in the world?”

Afterward, “Thank you all for sharing what is important to you. We have a lot in common.”

II. The Basics of RESULTS – 10 Minutes

RESULTS is...

“So what is RESULTS? RESULTS is movement of passionate, committed, everyday people. Together we use our voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. As volunteers, we receive training, support, and inspiration to become skilled advocates. In time, we learn to effectively advise policy makers, guiding them toward decisions that will improve access to health, education, and economic opportunity. Together we realize the incredible power we possess to use our voices to change the world. “

Show the video if you have time: We Have a Vision: http://www.results.org/blog/we_have_a_vision/

1. An example of our success is the Reach Act of 2015. The bill puts the U.S. on track to lead the effort in ending needless child and maternal deaths in poor countries. In 2016 we helped gather 218 cosponsors in the House (over half), and 35 in the Senate (more than one-third), and media in all 50 states. This has set us up to reintroduce and pass the bill this year. Questions?
2. A local example of our role in creating change is: We moved Rep. _____ to cosponsor the bill as part of this—he met with us in _____ (month) of 2016, which was key in getting his/her support.

A few more details if you have time:

- RESULTS partners meet twice per month to plan and take action.
- During one of those meetings, we hook into a national conference call with hundreds of other volunteers around the country to learn more about an issue, learn to speak powerfully, and take action to communicate with our elected officials by sending them letters.
- We also develop plans for influencing our decision makers through face-to-face meetings, the media, and community action.

III. Issues & Action Component – 30 Minutes

1. Introduce the issue of appropriations and poverty-focuses development assistance with a story or video from below:
 - *Nick Kristoff oped on value of development assistance:* <http://tinyurl.com/KristoffOpedPoverty>
 - *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria:* http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/blog/2016-12-01_SALESFORCE_RED_Great_Strides_Toward_an_AIDS-Free_Generation/
 - *Maternal and Child Health & Early Childhood Development:* <http://tokeepapromise.org>
 - *First 1000 Days:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvS6ijzqfgM&feature=youtu.be>
 - *TB:* http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/blog/2016-10-25_Meet_the_Generation_Mykola_Story/
 - *Global Fund Generation:* http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/blog/2016-08-16_Meet_the_generation_to_End_It_For_Good/
 - *Basic Education and Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in Chad:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r--C6L-8LcE&feature=youtu.be>
 - *GPE accomplishments of 2016:* <http://www.globalpartnership.org/multimedia/video/2016-gpe-year-review>
2. Read the March Action Sheet together, including sample letter to the editor.
3. Decide which papers everyone will write to and determine how to submit them.
4. Everyone writes letters. Strongly encourage them to personalize the LTEs as they won't be printed otherwise. Remember to tell people to their contact information.
5. Have one or two people volunteer to read their letter out loud for feedback and encouragement.
6. Make a plan to support everyone to submit their letters to the editor.
7. Debrief on the action-taking by asking everyone how it felt to take action.

IV. Invitation to Attend the Next Meeting & Closing – 5 Minutes

“Lastly, we are planning to have future meetings like this one about RESULTS and taking people through the process of taking action by writing letters like the ones you wrote tonight.

- Who is up for doing this again?
- Who knows other people or groups who might be interested?
- We are also looking for people who want to take the next step in using their voice to work with the media and Congress with our group. Who is curious about what our chapter does and wants to learn more?
- Who is interested in learning more about supporting RESULTS financially?”

Share thank yous, and be sure to capture contact information. Those who are new should be added to the RESULTS Action Network here: <http://capwiz.com/results/mlm/signup/>