



National Webinar Summary

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Welcome

Joanne Carter, Executive Director, RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund (Washington, DC)

Welcome everyone to the RESULTS April 2017 US Poverty Webinar.

I want to start out by acknowledging and celebrating the health care victory that was just achieved. And the part we played in that.

As most of you are deeply aware, the American Health Care Act would have uninsured an estimated 24 million people including 14 million people on Medicaid, cut \$880 billion from Medicaid over 10 years and restructured it to essentially operate as a block grant. Stopping that bill from passing is an incredible victory for the right to health care and for the fight against poverty.

The failure of that bill to pass is admittedly a somewhat complex story. But having said that I want to emphasize that at its core, this victory was in so many ways a remarkable grassroots driven victory. When we look back at this time, one of the biggest stories of 2017 will be the massive grassroots outcry and mobilization from all sorts of communities across the country. The calls that flooded Congressional offices. The thousands of people at town hall meetings.

Many moderate Republicans had the support or in the pressure to oppose the bill. And it was clear that the bill was dead on arrival in the Senate — in large part because of the huge Medicaid cuts, but also because again key moderate Republicans felt the backing or the pressure to come out against the bill publicly.

Your amazing work has played a key part in that:

- We've had 139 media pieces so far in 2017, in 42 states (in the first 3 months of 2017, the media you've produced equals more than two-thirds of all the media you produced last year.)
- 43 face-to-face conversations with members of Congress, plus over 250 meetings with staff
- And you've done critical work with some key moderate Republican members who were so decisive in this victory.

We need to take hope and strength from the impact we've had. I am not being foolishly optimistic about challenges ahead, but I also think that what just happened should challenge our pessimism.

Author of [Hope in the Dark](#), Rebecca Solnit, has said that, “Optimism believes everything will be fine and therefore we don’t need to do anything; pessimism is the mirror of that — we can’t do anything, but that hope is deeply tied to the fact that we don’t know what’s possible.”

In January, almost NO ONE would have predicted that a repeal and replace the ACA would fail in a matter of weeks. We need to keep remembering and embracing our power as mobilized, deeply engaged constituents because as Rebecca Solnit also said: “One of the great conundrums is that unless we believe there are possibilities we don’t act. But the possibilities only exist if we seize them.”

As we do this work we need to keep being grounded in why it matters and so we have asked a grassroots leader in this fight and Expert on Poverty Yolanda Gordon to share what Medicaid has done for her family and why this victory makes a difference.

Share from RESULTS Expert on Poverty Yolanda Gordon (Fort Mill, SC):

Hello everyone! Good afternoon from the great State of South Carolina. Like many of you, on election night, I was glued to my television stunned by the results. I knew that the option that *American’s had was to mobilize and keep the heat on Washington* to protect the weaker among us. My concern for the state of America intensified more in the weeks after the Inauguration with the changes that the new Administration was making to our very way of life. Then when the American Health Care Act was introduced, I sat reading this piece of legislation and as the parent of three special needs children, I became engulfed with anxiety and disgust about what would happen to Medicaid. *Once I read the plan for America’s Healthcare*, I began calling my friends in other parts of the state because I no longer have a House member and I needed them *to be my children’s voice* [Yolanda’s representative, Mike Mulvaney, took a position in the Trump Administration]. I recounted the thousands of dollars I am told that I save every month *because of my children’s healthcare coverage on medication alone*. I have reached out to other members of the South Carolina delegation and I was told over and over again that all *entitlements have to be looked at and things can’t remain the same*. To Congress, these are entitlements, to families like mine, they are lifelines.

Medicaid keeps my family afloat. Their total medical cost per month I could never afford with *case management, medications, doctor’s visits once every six months, specialist, and around the clock support*. I deliver the same message to my friends with and without special needs children *every month, we can’t balance the budget on the backs of the disabled, elderly, the poor, and the middle class*. These are not entitlement programs; these are lifeline programs. The reality that sets in for my little family is that if Medicaid were to change to a block grant, two of my children would no longer be able to live with me. They would have to live in a group home where they could get the medications and the care that they need because financially I would be in a deficit every month. This is not going to happen on my watch.

As we continue to navigate and advocate for families like mine, take my story with you. As you talk to your House member and your senators, tell them about my family and remind them that there are hardworking Americans that would be decimated by their decisions. Change the narrative, stop them from calling Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, and other safety net programs entitlements, tell them they are life lines because without them, many Americans would suffer.

Remind them that they went into office to protect all Americans, not just a few and that as American citizens, *we don't have a "nuclear option"* when things are rough for us. Thank you.

This health care victory reminds us of the importance of continuing our ramped up grassroots advocacy so that we can keep defending the safety net and to also be defining what WE WANT TO SEE and DON'T WANT TO SEE in tax reform (you'll hear more on that from our great guest on the call shortly.) This is another critical issue where our voices are critical to stop regressive tax policies that widen the wealth gap and to push for policies that actually reduce that wealth gap, especially the massive racial wealth gap, and reduce not exacerbate poverty.

In moving forward, I want to flag two critical moments of influence:

- Recess: The next two weeks Congress is on recess and this is our best opportunity to get to members of Congress until the summer and at a critical time. Whether you're still trying for a meeting or you met in December or January. They need to hear from you or hear from you again.
- International Conference: The other critical opportunity is the RESULTS annual conference in Washington DC, July 22-25. We want to have the biggest presence in Washington that we have ever had and we need that kind of collective power. When we all hit Capitol Hill at the same time, our power is magnified. This is both a uniquely challenging moment for our country, but it is also the most powerful organizing moment we have had in a generation. So I am personally asking every group to attend and to bring a new person who's never attended before. Imagine the power of that. We'll have [amazing training and issues workshops](#) and we will have an exciting speakers list out next week! And don't be shy about offering the conference to people who are completely new to RESULTS. There are hundreds of thousands of people looking for the chance to learn how to engage deeply in impacting the political process and to have a community to do it with. You can offer them that. We do have some scholarship money so please don't let that be a barrier.

Before we move on to the guest speaker, I want to ask everyone in your rooms to "raise your hand if you did any of the following recently:

- called a Congressional office on the health care bill?
- Emailed their office?
- talked with a member of Congress?
- got a friend to take action?
- Wrote a LTE?
- Got a LTE or op-ed published?

I wish we could have all been in the same room to see each other.

Now I'll turn the call over to our Director of Domestic Campaigns, Meredith Dodson to introduce our very special guest speaker: Anna Chu of NWLC. She'll talk with us about the next crucial fight – tax reform.

Guest Speaker – Anna Chu, National Women's Law Center

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

Bio (<https://nwlc.org/staff/anna-chu/>)

Anna Chu serves as the Vice President for Income Security and Education, where she oversees the Center's work in lifting women and families out of poverty and eliminating barriers in education. Prior to joining the Center, Ms. Chu served as the Vice President of Policy and Research at the Center for American Progress (CAP) Action Fund, leading its economic justice advocacy work, and was previously the Director of CAP's Middle Out Economic Program. Ms. Chu has also served as the Policy Director for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and has spent time on Capitol Hill as Policy Advisor for the House Democratic Caucus. After attending the University of Southern California Law School, Chu began her career as a law clerk to former Chief Judge Jane A. Restani in her sittings before the U.S. Court of International Trade and in six different federal appellate courts. Following this, Chu spent time as an attorney at Paul Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP.

Questions

1. The House health plan got a lot of negative press because of the devastating impact it would have on the health care of millions of Americans. However, this bill was also a huge tax cut for the wealthy. Can you briefly outline how big these tax breaks were?
 - It is important to remember that plan would have cut so many off health care
 - Also, the plan would have cut Medicare taxes that only affected high income persons, costing \$275 billion over ten years
 - Millionaire households would have gotten \$50K in tax cuts each, while middle income folks would lose
 - Lowest income people would have seen a tax hike, PLUS it would have reduced the subsidies to help them buy insurance
2. Congress is beginning work on tax reform proposals, and again, there will be a big push for tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations. Can you briefly outline what some of these tax breaks for the wealthy might look like?
 - Corporate tax side: both plans would lower the tax rate while allowing corporations to bring overseas profits back into the U.S. at a steep discount
 - Estate tax would be repealed, which only helps top 0.2 percent
 - Trump also wants to do away with Head of Household tax filing status, which would hurt a lot of single parents
 - Trump plan disproportionately benefits people at the top

- People at the bottom get little
 - Ryan plan is worse
 - 3/4 of benefits go to top 1 percent in first year and by 2025, over 90 percent would go to that group
 - Direction both plans go is that people who need the least help (rich and corporations) are getting the most help
3. What are some of the tax policies that could help low-income families and reduce poverty? (action on low-income tax credits such as the EITC and CTC -- and flag threats to EITC and CTC)
- EITC: Refundable credit for low and moderate income workers; encourages work
 - 2016: Max EITC was over \$6,000
 - CTC: \$1,000 per child credit to help with costs of raising kids
 - Both EITC and CTC have powerful anti-poverty effect
 - Also improve health outcomes for children and mothers; foster better educational outcomes for kids
 - If you put more money into the hands of families, they do better
 - But we can do more
 - Expand credits to help families get up on their feet
 - Expand EITC for childless workers
 - Make the CTC fully refundable
4. Obviously, tax cuts mean less revenue and less revenue means cuts to other programs. What is the most effective message we can use to connect the threat that tax cuts are paid for on the backs of low-income families? (will see them propose these tax cuts, connect to SNAP and Medicaid)
- Tax cuts cost money, they are not free; they have to be paid for or the deficit increases
 - Where is that money coming from? Look at ACA fight, throwing people off health care to give tax breaks to wealthy
 - Some are also talking about cutting SNAP to pay for corporate tax rates
 - In mid-May, Trump will release full budget so we'll see his plans for Medicaid and SNAP
 - By mid-summer, should see Trump's tax plan
 - Meredith: we need increased revenue to cover growing costs (e.g. baby boomers retiring); also need to make the tax code more progressive

5. Question from Grassroots: Should we remind MoCs that both parties care about the deficit?
 - Should be told during tax fight; some Rs are OK with not paying for tax cuts
 - If deficits matter, they should not be enacting these tax cuts
6. Question from Grassroots: What about Kennedy tax cuts that increased revenue?
 - Research shows that tax cuts do not trickle down
 - They simply increase inequality
 - But if you increase pay for low- and middle-income workers, that makes a difference – they spend it directly back into the community
7. Tax Day Marches: Next Saturday, April 15 is Tax March Day
 - Grassroots activists coming together to see what Donald Trump's tax returns look like
 - Check it out at www.taxmarch.org; 135 marches across the country

Thank you for speaking with us, Anna.

Overview of Tax Issues

Ashley Burnside, 2017 RESULTS Emerson Hunger Fellow

- See [the webinar slides and recording](#) for full details of this section
- Tax Reform Must Address the Racial Wealth Gap
- Both wealth inequality and the racial wealth gap are large problems in the U.S. stemming from generations of discriminatory policies and lending practices that were only worsened after the Great Recession. In 2013, the top one percent owned 40 percent of the nation's wealth and the bottom 40 percent owned almost nothing. Breaking down these numbers by race is even more striking:
 - In 2011, for every \$1 dollar that White Americans held in wealth, Black Americans held only 6 cents and Latino Americans held only 7 cents.
 - In 2000, Native American median wealth was only 8.7 percent of all Americans' median wealth.
 - A Black or Latino college graduate held less wealth on average than a White high school dropout in 2013.
 - During the 2008 housing crisis, Black and Latino households lost 50% of their wealth, while White families only lost 16% of their wealth.
 - Only 1 in 10 Black Americans receive financial assistance or inheritance from their parents, while 1 in 2 White Americans receive financial assistance or inheritance from their parents.

- Wealth inequality and the racial wealth gap was created by, and is now further exasperated by, discriminatory public policies and the federal tax system. Practices such as redlining and policies like the G.I. Bill all caused families of color to have less opportunities to accumulate wealth and homeownership during multiple generations. By giving tax breaks to the wealthy, these glaring inequalities will only get worse.

Announcements

Jos Linn, Grassroots Manager for U.S. Poverty Campaigns

- With our voices, we are shaping the priorities for Congress' and the Administration's first 100 days!
 - Strategy: Meet face-to-face with members of Congress or with local staff
 - Goal: 100 percent participation of RESULTS groups and Free Agents
 - To date: 43 face-to-face conversations with members of Congress, over 250 meetings total.
- Staying motivated is difficult
 - **Why meet again?** A lot has changed since the February recess.
 - SNAP to health care to tax reform
 - **Won't they get annoyed?** Repetition is key. They need to hear from you regularly or the message gets lost.
 - **They keep saying no.** Go further out on the calendar to get a meeting. In the meantime, meet with local aides with the DC policy aide joining by phone.
 - **My MoC is already on board.** Use the meeting to thank h/er and show your support. And ask h/er to do more.

Contact your House and Senate schedulers and [request face-to-face meetings](#) with your members of Congress during the April recess. Also, ask them about any upcoming town halls or public events their bosses are doing (also look at <https://townhallproject.com/>). The [April Action](#) has tips for your meetings and town halls, as well as background on tax reform. This is a great way to finish your local [First 100 Days Campaign](#). As you get these events in your calendar, please enter the meeting info into our First 100 Days Meeting Tracker: <http://tinyurl.com/100daysmeetings> and contact Meredith Dodson (mdodson@results.org) to set up a lobby prep call to get you ready.

April Action Resources

- **April Action** http://www.results.org/take_action/april_2017_u.s._poverty_action/
- **Face-to-Face Meeting Request** http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=7268106&MC_plugin=2201
- **2017 U.S. Poverty Requests for Congressional Lobby Meetings**
 - [U.S. Poverty Nutrition \(Protect and Strengthen SNAP\) Request Sheet](#)

- [U.S. Poverty Health \(Protect Medicaid\) Request Sheet](#)
- [U.S. Poverty Economic Mobility Request Sheet - EITC](#)
- [U.S. Poverty Economic Mobility -- Wealth Inequality and Racial Wealth Gap Leave Behind](#)
- **First 100 Days Meeting Tracker:** www.tinyurl.com/100DaysMeetings (before the meeting)

RESULTS Lobby Report Form: www.tinyurl.com/RESLRF (after the meeting)

Grassroots Share – Dee Ivy, RESULTS Albuquerque

- Initially met w/ Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham to get her to co-sponsor House bills on making EITC and CTC provisions permanent; she said she would co-sponsor both bills
- Dee followed up with the office when she noticed on the RESULTS website that Rep. Lujan-Grisham had not followed through yet; they were not sure why it had not happened
- Dee called again before the RESULTS International Conference to say they would be in D.C. to discuss this
- Right before the Conference, she co-sponsored one of the bills but not the other
- When we got to DC, we met with her and Rep. said she was happy to meet with us that "you don't need me" (already on board). Dee thanked her for co-sponsoring one of the bills but pointed out that she had not co-sponsored the other.
- After that meeting, Rep. Lujan-Grisham followed through and co-sponsored the other bill
- Persistence makes a difference!

Grassroots Share – Daniel Greenhalgh, RESULTS Manhattan (KS)

Last Saturday, Congressman Roger Marshall held a town hall on K-State's campus. During the town hall, heavy topics were healthcare and immigration; neither Marshall nor the audience made reference to SNAP or similar safety net programs. Towards the end though, during some open questions, one woman brought up SNAP when addressing her concern for the possibility of it being taken out of the Farm Bill. Marshall responded by saying that SNAP belongs in the Farm Bill and he expects it to stay. A few questions later, I was given the mic and directly asked Marshall to commit to preventing any cuts or block granting of SNAP. His first response was that he is against block granting in most situations and agreed that SNAP should not be block granted. He followed that by saying he is personally against cutting SNAP in any way.

Fundraising Update: Spring Friends and Family Campaign

Lydia Pendley, RESULTS Santa Fe

What is the Spring 2017 Friends and Family Fundraising Campaign? Online, peer-to-peer fundraising campaign.

When? May 15 – 26, 2017

Why fundraise?

- Help raise needed funds for RESULTS so we can take full advantage of this extraordinary organizing moment, while protecting the gains we've made against poverty.
- Spread the word about the great work your RESULTS group is doing
- Grow your network of advocates and supporters

Resources available?

- Campaign guide with sample talking points, emails to send to your networks, and social media posts
- Personal fundraising website
- One-on-one support from Mea Geizhals, Grassroots Fundraising Manager, and staff

Next Steps?

- Discuss with your group during next planning meeting to schedule in the Friends and Family Campaign.
 - If Spring doesn't work for you, there will be another opportunity to fundraise for RESULTS in Fall 2017.
- Have questions? Contact Mea at mgeizhals@results.org or development@results.org.
- Planning to participate? Let Mea or your Regional Coordinator know.
- Look for more information including the Campaign Guide and instructions to set up your online fundraising page in early May.

Personal Story

On November 11 last year (three days after November 8) our RESULTS-Santa Fe domestic group held its annual Harvest Supper fundraiser. It was a wonderful event and Joanne Carter was our keynote speaker. We had a good time, raised a nice amount of money for RESULTS, but the next week I kept feeling I needed to do something more (probably because of the election and also Joanne's inspiring words to us at the fundraiser). I knew that the opportunity for participating in the Virtual Thanksgiving Feast was coming up, thought about it, wondered if I had the energy, then talked to Mea about how to go about it and decided yes, I could and would do it.

Last night I went to my bookmarks and opened my Virtual Thanksgiving Feast website which is still sitting there and looked at the names of the people who had given. I recall I had about forty people on my invitation list. Fifteen of those responded and I raised \$725.00.

It was remarkably easy to participate. RESULTS did most of the work setting up my website, preparing a template invitation that I then made more personal, spending time with me making sure I knew what to do. I only made one mistake. The first invitation that went out was sent

without a link to reply (and of course donate). Several people on the list wrote to my personal e-mail to ask what they should do, so I got that corrected quickly.

I urge everyone to try this out this year, either this spring or when the second opportunity is announced. You will be supported every step of the way. An added benefit for me to raising money for RESULTS was also re-connecting with out of state friends whom I had not communicated with for a long time. So the thank you note for donating was an opportunity to renew friendship.

Please join the Spring Friends and Family Campaign.

Announcements

Jos Linn

- **Keep Up the Media Success!**
 - 142 U.S. Poverty media pieces in 2017 (all-time record was 243 in 2001)
 - 42 states, plus 6 national publications and 2 international publications (UK, Guam)
 - Keep it up! Your media moves hearts and minds:
http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=74463626&MC_plugin=2201
 - Here are the remaining states we need: **DE, HI, NV, NC, ND, RI, VT, WY**
 - See the list at:
http://www.results.org/newsroom/coast_to_coast_standing_up_for_anti-poverty_programs/
- **RESULTS Webinar: It's Go Time – Tools and Practices for Engaging your Community in Advocacy, Wednesday, April 12 at 9:00 pm ET.** Get trained on doing effective outreach and hear from other volunteers who've been successful at it. To join, login at <http://fuze.me/34577774> or dial in at (201) 479-4595, meeting ID# 34577774#.
- **RESULTS “New Jim Crow” Book Club” continues, Thursday, April 13 at 8:00 pm ET.** Join this conversation around the book [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration In the Age of Colorblindness](#) by Michelle Alexander. This will be the third of four sessions to discuss the book and we'll cover chapter 4 and 5 of the book. Everyone are welcomed, even if you haven't done the previous webinars. To participate, login at <http://fuze.me/34326078> or dial in by phone (201) 479-4595 Meeting ID: 34326078#.
- **Remember to register for the RESULTS International Conference** at www.resultsconference.org. If you need help with registration or travel expenses, we have a small scholarship fund to help. Apply today at: www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSSchoIUS.
- In May, we'll do **Group Planning for the balance of the year.** Look for details and materials in the coming weeks. If you have not sent in your First 100 Days Group Plan, it's not too late. Submit to www.tinyurl.com/First100Plan.

- **U.S. Poverty Free Agents Calls, Tuesday, April 18 at 1pm and 8pm ET.** Login at <http://fuze.me/32256018> or dial in by phone at (201) 479-4595, Meeting ID: 32256018#. Meredith Dodson will be hosting this month's calls.
- Next **RESULTS Introductory Call, Wednesday, April 12 at 9pm ET.** Register for an upcoming Intro Call on the [RESULTS website](#).
- See other announcements in the slides and on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).
- We look forward to seeing on the next **National Grassroots Webinar on Saturday, May 13 at 12:30pm ET**

Final Action – E-mail Congress about Tax Reform

Final Action – E-mail Congress about Tax Reform

1. Take two minutes to start the conversation on tax reform by sending an e-mail to your members of Congress using our online alert: <http://www.capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=76694626>. Each person present should do this.
2. Don't leave today without know who is calling which scheduler to schedule a meeting and to find out about town halls.
3. When you get a meeting or plan to attend a town hall, contact Meredith Dodson to set up a lobby prep call (mdodson@results.org).