

# **RESULTS Print Media: Global Poverty**

March 11, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Date	State	Article	Outlet	Media Type
<a href="#"><u>Go to Alabama media</u></a>				
5/9/21	AL	Let's join to fight word hunger	Santa Maria Times	Letter to the editor
<a href="#"><u>Go to Alaska media</u></a>				
3/25/21	AK	<a href="#"><u>Fight Tuberculosis</u></a>	Anchorage Daily News	Letter to the editor
5/29/21	AK	<a href="#"><u>Supporting education for all children</u></a>	Fairbanks Daily News-Miner	Letter to the editor
6/1/21	AK	<a href="#"><u>Education funding</u></a>	Daily Sitka Sentinel	Letter to the editor
<a href="#"><u>Go to Arizona media</u></a>				
4/4/21	AZ	<a href="#"><u>A new normal</u></a>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor
8/3/21	AZ	<a href="#"><u>Speak up for action from Congress</u></a>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor
8/3/21	AZ	<a href="#"><u>Re: the Aug. 29. article "Jonathan Hoffman: So what exactly is herd immunity?"</u></a>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor
11/23/21	AZ	<a href="#"><u>Pass Build Back Better bill</u></a>	Miner	Letter to the editor
11/23/21	AZ	<a href="#"><u>Build Back Better offers opportunity</u></a>	News-Herald	Letter to the editor
12/2/21	AZ	Omicron underscores the urgency to pass Biden's Build Back Better	Arizona Republic	Letter to the editor

12/3/21	AZ	<a href="#">Congress must pass the Build Back Better Act</a>	Daily Independent	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to Arkansas media</u></b>				
10/5/21	AR	<a href="#">Act on vaccine equity</a>	Arkansas Democrat	Letter to the editor
10/5/21	AR	<a href="#">Act on vaccine equity</a>	Northwest Arkansas Democrat	Letter to the editor
10/7/21	AR	<a href="#">Get vaccines to the world</a>	Arkansas Democrat	Letter to the editor
10/7/21	AR	<a href="#">Get vaccines to the world</a>	Northwest Arkansas Democrat	Letter to the editor
10/7/21	AR	<a href="#">Get vaccines to the world</a>	4StateNews	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to California media</u></b>				
3/25/21	CA	<a href="#">Disabled not priority for stimulus checks</a>	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
6/2/21	CA	<a href="#">Pandemic has threatened global education initiative</a>	Marin Independent Journal	Letter to the editor
6/3/21	CA	<a href="#">Prevent an education crisis</a>	Enterprise-Record	Letter to the editor
6/11/21	CA	<a href="#">Educating kids everywhere</a>	Simi Valley Acorn	Letter to the editor
7/5/21	CA	<a href="#">Prioritize education for all, don't lose any more kids</a>	Marin Independent Journal	Letter to the editor
7/15/21	CA	<a href="#">Bipartisan initiatives could steady democracy</a>	Mercury News	Letter to the editor

7/15/21	CA	<a href="#">Bipartisan initiatives could steady democracy</a>	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
8/15/21	CA	<a href="#">U.S. officials must help world with vaccine supply</a>	Marin Independent Journal	Letter to the editor
8/15/21	CA	<a href="#">US must lead way on global vaccine push</a>	Mercury News	Letter to the editor
8/15/21	CA	<a href="#">US must lead way on global vaccine push</a>	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
8/25/21	CA	<a href="#">Instead of boosters, US should export vaccines</a>	Mercury News	Letter to the editor
8/25/21	CA	<a href="#">Instead of boosters, US should export vaccines</a>	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
9/3/21	CA	<a href="#">Don't let COVID get the last laugh</a>	Bakersfield Californian	Letter to the editor
9/22/21	CA	<a href="#">Push nation's leaders on global COVID fight</a>	Mercury News	Letter to the editor
9/22/21	CA	<a href="#">Push nation's leaders on global COVID fight</a>	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
11/7/21	CA	<a href="#">Compassionate sharing on vaccines</a>	Bakersfield Californian	Letter to the editor
11/21/21	CA	<a href="#">Fully fund global immunization programs</a>	Bakersfield Californian	Letter to the editor

**Go to Connecticut media**

6/10/21	CT	<a href="#">Education should be a right, not a privilege</a>	Connecticut Post	Letter to the editor
6/10/21	CT	<a href="#">Education should be a right, not a privilege</a>	Danbury News Times	Letter to the editor

6/10/21	CT	<a href="#">Education should be a right, not a privilege</a>	Torrington Register Citizen	Letter to the editor
6/10/21	CT	<a href="#">Education should be a right, not a privilege</a>	New Haven Register	Letter to the editor
6/10/21	CT	<a href="#">Education should be a right, not a privilege</a>	Norwalk Hour	Letter to the editor
6/10/21	CT	<a href="#">Education should be a right, not a privilege</a>	Greenwich Time	Letter to the editor
6/10/21	CT	<a href="#">Education should be a right, not a privilege</a>	Stamford Advocate	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Colorado media</a></u></b>				
8/10/21	CO	<a href="#">We need political will to help vaccinate the world</a>	Grand Junction Daily Sentinel	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Delaware media</a></u></b>				
11/11/21	DE	<a href="#">Global COVID leadership needed</a>	News Journal	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Florida media</a></u></b>				
6/8/21	FL	All children need access to quality education	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor
7/11/21	FL	<a href="#">Think globally</a>	Tampa Bay Times	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Illinois media</a></u></b>				
5/31/21	IL	<a href="#">A pledge for education</a>	Chicago Sun Times	Letter to the editor

6/24/21	IL	<a href="#">Make a bold pledge</a>	Southern Illinoisan	Letter to the editor
11/11/21	IL	<a href="#">Remember children around the world</a>	Southern Illinoisan	Letter to the editor
11/10/21	IL	<a href="#">Build Back Better lays foundation for an economy where no one gets left behind</a>	Daily Herald	Letter to the editor
11/14/21	IL	<a href="#">'Build Back Better ' plan deserves support</a>	Chicago Sun Times	Letter to the editor
11/20/21	IL	<a href="#">Build Back Better deserves to pass</a>	Daily Herald	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Indiana media</a></u></b>				
5/14/21	IN	<a href="#">Global education effort needs our support</a>	Johnson Co. Daily Journal	Letter to the editor
8/27/21	IN	<a href="#">Vaccines needed worldwide</a>	Herald-Times	Letter to the editor
9/29/21	IN	<a href="#">Get vaccine to people everywhere</a>	Herald-Times	Letter to the editor
10/6/21	IN	<a href="#">The U.S plans to double global COVID vaccine donations. We should do even more.</a>	Indianapolis Star	Op-ed
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Iowa media</a></u></b>				
11/15/21	IA	<a href="#">A historic plan</a>	Quad City Times	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Kansas media</a></u></b>				
6/10/21	KS	How can the US Support Global Education	Topeka Capital Journal	Letter to the editor

6/17/21	KS	<a href="#">Teach them all</a>	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor
6/18/21	KS	<a href="#">Kansas congressional members should support GPE</a>	Topeka Capital Journal	Letter to the editor
6/18/21	KS	<a href="#">Kansas congressional members should support GPE</a>	Leavenworth Times	Letter to the editor
6/18/21	KS	<a href="#">Kansas congressional members should support GPE</a>	Salina Journal	Letter to the editor
6/18/21	KS	<a href="#">Kansas congressional members should support GPE</a>	Hays Daily News	Letter to the editor
6/18/21	KS	<a href="#">Kansas congressional members should support GPE</a>	Hutchison News	Letter to the editor
6/18/21	KS	<a href="#">Kansas congressional members should support GPE</a>	Ottawa Herald	Letter to the editor
6/18/21	KS	<a href="#">Kansas congressional members should support GPE</a>	Garden City Telegram	Letter to the editor
9/27/21	KS	<a href="#">No title</a>	Junction City Union	Letter to the editor
9/28/21	KS	<a href="#">Think globally to help protect Kansan citizens from COVID-19</a>	Great Bend Tribune	Letter to the editor
12/19/21	KS	<a href="#">Support Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act</a>	Topeka Capital Journal	Letter to the editor
12/19/21	KS	<a href="#">Support Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act</a>	Salina Journal	Letter to the editor
12/19/21	KS	<a href="#">Support Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act</a>	Hutchinson News	Letter to the editor

**[Go to Maryland Media](#)**

7/2/21	MD	<a href="#">Want to make a difference in our democracy? Get involved</a>	Baltimore Sun	Op-ed
<b><u>Go to Massachusetts Media</u></b>				
6/7/21	MA	<a href="#">We must support educating children everywhere</a>	Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor
7/22/21	MA	Increase needed in vaccine production	Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor
8/10/21	MA	<a href="#">We must all have access to COVID vaccines to be safe</a>	Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor
10/6/21	MA	<a href="#">What should take priority in budget reconciliation talks</a>	Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor
11/4/21	MA	<a href="#">Rich nations must do more to vaccinate the world</a>	Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor
12/7/21	MA	<a href="#">We must push Congress to act on our behalf</a>	Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to Michigan media</u></b>				
11/12/21	MI	<a href="#">Biden's initiative deserves Michigan's support</a>	Detroit Free Press	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to Missouri media</u></b>				
3/17/21	MO	<a href="#">Citizens should take greater roles in advocacy</a>	Missourian	Letter to the editor
3/20/21	MO	<a href="#">Fighting pandemic globally promises a quicker end</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
3/24/21	MO	<a href="#">Regarding Missouri's vaccination rollout</a>	West Newsmagazine	Letter to the editor



3/29/21	MO	<a href="#">America needs to increase support for COVID-19 vaccines in developing nations</a>	Missourian	Op-ed
4/23/21	MO	<a href="#">Global good</a>	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor
6/23/21	MO	<a href="#">We must support educating children, everywhere</a>	St. Louis American	Letter to the editor
6/29/21	MO	<a href="#">Pandemic still globally impacting children's education</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
7/23/21	MO	<a href="#">How can we end the COVID-19 educational crisis? Start with vaccinations.</a>	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor
9/24/21	MO	<a href="#">Senate should vote for production of global vaccines</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
10/25/21	MO	<a href="#">Vaccinate the world first, then give US booster shots</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
11/13/21	MO	<a href="#">Fund global immunization effort</a>	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
11/15/21	MO	<a href="#">Show empathy and fund global child vaccine programs</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
11/17/21	MO	<a href="#">Funds needed to boost global vaccination efforts</a>	St. Louis Jewish Light	Letter to the editor
11/18/21	MO	<a href="#">Global immunization of children long overdue</a>	St. Louis American	Letter to the editor
11/29/21	MO	<a href="#">Vaccination is best way to protect our families against COVID-19</a>	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor
12/16/21	MO	<a href="#">Bipartisan effort to combat hunger is commendable</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
12/20/21	MO	<a href="#">Support Bill To "Save Millions Of Lives"</a>	Webster-Kirkwood Times	Letter to the editor

12/22/21	MO	<a href="#">Lawmakers must help support global vaccine distribution</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Montana media</a></u></b>				
7/7/21	MT	<a href="#">Opportunity to question candidates</a>	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
8/9/21	MT	<a href="#">Make sure COVID vaccine is available to all</a>	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
9/13/21	MT	<a href="#">Battle pandemic globally</a>	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Nevada media</a></u></b>				
3/24/21	NV	<a href="#">Empower women, make a difference</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
6/8/21	NV	<a href="#">Show children how we can lead</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
6/10/21	NV	<a href="#">Investment in schools needed</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
8/29/21	NV	<a href="#">Vaccine efforts must go global</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
9/14/21	NV	<a href="#">Pandemic must be a global battle</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to New Hampshire media</a></u></b>				
9/30/21	NH	<a href="#">Anti-poverty measures should be permanent</a>	New Hampshire Union Leader	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to New Jersey media</a></u></b>				

4/26/21	NM	<a href="#">COVID is not the only pandemic</a>	Princeton Packet	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to New Mexico media</u></b>				
12/12/21	NM	<a href="#">COVID – who wins?</a>	Las Cruces Sun News	Letter to the editor
12/13/21	NM	<a href="#">Pitch in!</a>	Albuquerque Journal	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to New York media</u></b>				
5/8/21	NY	<a href="#">Federal financial lifelines important</a>	Glens Falls Post Star	Letter to the editor
6/3/21	NY	<a href="#">America must act to ensure global educational opportunity</a>	Buffalo News	Letter to the editor
7/13/21	NY	<a href="#">We must help vaccinate the world</a>	Glens Falls Post Star	Letter to the editor
7/21/21	NY	<a href="#">Every child deserves an education</a>	Staten Island Advance	Op-ed
<b><u>Go to North Carolina media</u></b>				
5/30/21	NC	<a href="#">Let's be smarter about foreign policy</a>	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
6/13/21	NC	<a href="#">We must keep education front and center</a>	Asheville Citizen-Times	Op-ed
6/14/21	NC	<a href="#">We must support educating children everywhere</a>	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
6/23/21	NC	<a href="#">US should commit to working on global education</a>	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor

7/25/21	NC	An open letter to President Biden and Members of Congress	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
9/15/21	NC	<a href="#">The United States should address the need for vaccines worldwide</a>	Times-News	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to Ohio media</u></b>				
8/6/21	OH	<a href="#">Every child should have access to quality education</a>	Cleveland Plain Dealer	Letter to the editor
9/12/21	OH	<a href="#">Other nations desperately need shots</a>	Akron Beacon Journal	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to Oregon media</u></b>				
6/2/21	OR	Let's give kids around the world access to education	West Linn Tidings	Letter to the editor
6/30/21	OR	<a href="#">Thank you</a>	Columbia Gorge News	Letter to the editor
9/28/21	OR	<a href="#">U.S. must lead on vaccinations</a>	Oregonian	Letter to the editor
11/10/21	OR	<a href="#">Share vaccine technology</a>	Columbia Gorge News	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to Pennsylvania media</u></b>				
6/2/21	PA	<a href="#">Biden administration must support Global Partnership for Education</a>	Times Leader	Letter to the editor
7/19/21	PA	<a href="#">Ramp up global vaccine production</a>	Ambler Gazette	Letter to the editor
7/24/21	PA	<a href="#">Get vaccinated</a>	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Letter to the editor

### **Go to South Carolina media**

6/20/21	SC	<a href="#">Why SC lawmakers should support funding for global education initiative?</a>	Greenville News	Letter to the editor
8/24/21	SC	<a href="#">Our COVID blind spots</a>	Post and Courier	Letter to the editor

### **Go to Tennessee media**

6/10/21	TN	<a href="#">Support global education</a>	Oak Ridger	Letter to the editor
6/14/21	TN	U.S. should give generously to Global Partnership for Education	Knoxville News Sentinel	Letter to the editor
8/2/21	TN	Pandemic vaccines must be available worldwide	Knoxville News Sentinel	Letter to the editor

### **Go to Texas media**

3/24/21	TX	<a href="#">Fund tuberculosis research</a>	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor
4/15/21	TX	<a href="#">Almost there</a>	Houston Chronicle	Letter to the editor
4/23/21	TX	<a href="#">Global programs to fight tuberculosis need funding</a>	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor
5/6/21	TX	<a href="#">Gateses are inspiring</a>	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor
5/8/21	TX	<a href="#">Educating global citizens improves lives for everyone</a>	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor
5/25/21	TX	<a href="#">Don't shortchange schools</a>	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor

6/1/21	TX	<a href="#">On supporting education</a>	Waxahachie Sun	Letter to the editor
6/11/21	TX	<a href="#">We have not had much luck</a>	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor
6/13/21	TX	<a href="#">A bold pledge needed</a>	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor
7/26/21	TX	<a href="#">For all to be protected, the world must be vaccinated</a>	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor
7/27/21	TX	<a href="#">Letter on vaccines (no title)</a>	Houston Chronical	Letter to the editor
7/29/21	TX	<a href="#">We must act with urgency to provide the vaccine everywhere</a>	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor
8/16/21	TX	<a href="#">Increase global vaccine access</a>	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor
9/20/21	TX	<a href="#">Vaccine leadership matters</a>	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor
10/18/21	TX	<a href="#">Senate should support global vaccination effort</a>	Austin-American Statesman	Letter to the editor
11/28/21	TX	<a href="#">Make vaccines for world</a>	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor
12/3/21	TX	<a href="#">No child should suffer malnutrition if we know how to prevent it</a>	Austin-American Statesman	Letter to the editor
12/8/21	TX	<a href="#">Johnson works for the world</a>	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor
12/19/21	TX	<a href="#">COVID is about national Security</a>	Fort Worth Star-Telegram	Letter to the editor

[Go to Utah media](#)

6/4/21	UT	<a href="#">Don't let the education crisis make child poverty worse</a>	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Vermont media</a></u></b>				
11/11/21	VT	<a href="#">Vaccine access must be a global priority</a>	VTDigger.com	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Virginia media</a></u></b>				
4/8/21	VA	<a href="#">Global hunger</a>	Daily Press	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Washington media</a></u></b>				
4/29/21	WA	<a href="#">Global education</a>	The News Tribune	Letter to the editor
5/4/21	WA	<a href="#">Support for global education has massive benefits</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
5/26/21	WA	<a href="#">Top scholars</a>	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor
5/26/21	WA	<a href="#">Act globally, protect locally</a>	Columbian	Letter to the editor
6/2/21	WA	<a href="#">GPE program makes a difference abroad</a>	Daily News	Letter to the editor
6/6/21	WA	<a href="#">Strickland's actions address poverty</a>	Olympian	Letter to the editor
6/9/21	WA	<a href="#">Global program pushes to get students back in school</a>	Yakima Herald	Letter to the editor
6/10/21	WA	<a href="#">Reducing poverty should be an American goal</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor

6/13/21	WA	<a href="#">The value of education</a>	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor
6/23/21	WA	<a href="#">More support for students needed after pandemic</a>	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor
6/29/21	WA	<a href="#">Support global education</a>	Columbian	Letter to the editor
7/2/21	WA	<a href="#">Bipartisanship: The fruits of collaboration</a>	Seattle Times	Letter to the editor
7/16/21	WA	<a href="#">Yes, vote wisely – that's how things get done</a>	Yakima Herald	Letter to the editor
7/21/21	WA	<a href="#">Global pandemic demands a global response</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
7/21/21	WA	<a href="#">We can do this</a>	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor
8/3/21	WA	<a href="#">Battle pandemic worldwide</a>	Columbian	Letter to the editor
8/9/21	WA	<a href="#">Virus variants remain a concern</a>	Daily News	Letter to the editor
8/17/21	WA	<a href="#">Encourage vaccinations to get back to normal</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
8/28/21	WA	<a href="#">Take action now</a>	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor
9/26/21	WA	<a href="#">Global vaccine access would finally end this pandemic</a>	Walla Walla Union Bulletin	Letter to the editor
9/30/21	WA	<a href="#">Assist global fight against COVID</a>	Columbian	Letter to the editor
10/7/21	WA	<a href="#">COVID doesn't end at the U.S. borders</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor



10/10/21	WA	<a href="#">The power of vaccinations</a>	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor
10/13/21	WA	<a href="#">Fight pandemic globally</a>	Columbian	Letter to the editor
11/4/21	WA	<a href="#">Until COVID is tamed worldwide, we won't be done</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
11/12/21	WA	<a href="#">Vaccinations around the world</a>	Olympian	Letter to the editor
11/20/21	WA	<a href="#">Legislation proves that America cares</a>	Daily News	Letter to the editor
11/26/21	WA	<a href="#">A Holiday Wish for Global Safety from COVID</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
12/14/21	WA	<a href="#">We need to help Afghani children</a>	Tri-City Herald	Letter to the editor
12/14/21	WA	<a href="#">Who wins as the COVID fight continues?</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor

### **Go to West Virginia media**

6/17/21	WV	<a href="#">West Virginia voices should confirm support for inclusive education</a>	Register-Herald	Letter to the editor
9/16/21	WV	<a href="#">RESULTS WV / Seeking an End to Poverty</a>	WVU Health Science	News article

### **Go to Wisconsin media**

3/15/21	WI	<a href="#">Ask Congress to fund global health efforts</a>	The Cap Times	Letter to the editor
7/29/21	WI	<a href="#">Larson on the mark about health care for all</a>	The Cap Times	Letter to the editor

**Go to Wyoming media**

11/20/21	WY	<a href="#">Ask Congress to pass bills to impact global child malnutrition</a>	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Letter to the editor
12/26/21	WY	Ann Erdmann: Seeking RESULTS to ending worldwide poverty	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	News article

**Go to National media**

7/10/21	US	<a href="#">Africa shouldn't be forced to go it alone when it comes to Covid vaccines</a>	Guardian	Op-ed
11/4/21	US	<a href="#">Until COVID is tamed worldwide, we won't be done</a>	Yahoo News	Letter to the editor

# The Birmingham News

## Let's join to fight world hunger

May 9, 2021

In his recent speech, President Biden implored the nation to join with our allies to lead the world. He urged cooperation in addressing global crises such as pandemics, climate change, mass migration and terrorism. Another crisis, integral to each of those, is global poverty.

Impoverished nations have fewer resources to survive the pandemic and their infection rates invite variants that will spread beyond their borders. Climate change is robbing people of the ability to grow food to feed their families. Too many see migration or joining extremist groups as their only chance of survival.

The U.S. and other high-income nations need to help alleviate poverty around the world, both because it is the humanitarian response and because political stability and strong economies across nations are in our own interest.

We should provide adequate nutrition to nurture children's physical and mental development to ready them for productive lives. Enhancing their education enhances their future productivity. Moreover, across the work better educated women opt to have fewer children, which will aid efforts to mitigate climate change. Tuberculosis is an epidemic in many low and middle-income nations, threatening the employment of literally millions. It is an epidemic that can and should be ended.

**— Cale Campbell, Kristen Carlisle, Lisa Devinner, Sean M. McMahon, and Emily Northrop**

*Birmingham*

No online link

## Fight Tuberculosis

March 25, 2021

COVID-19 has replaced tuberculosis as the most lethal infectious disease. Yet people suffering with HIV/AIDS die from TB, this disgusting disease that has plagued mankind since before Egyptian times.

Since 2000, 63 million lives have been saved from the misery of tuberculosis. The world is not on track to reach goals set in 2018 by the U.S. and many others at the United Nations. The impact of COVID-19 has further undermined and reversed progress made in 1920.

The world could see an additional 6.3 million cases of TB and an additional 1.4 million deaths between now and 2025, setting the fight against TB back 10 years or more and worsening the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Biden-Harris administration should request that Congress provide a total of \$1 billion for fiscal 2022 for USAID, assisting countries to roll out the first new antibiotics in 40 years. This would allow USAID to expand efforts as TB diagnostic networks are already being used for COVID-19 as well as TB. More funds could ensure adequate equipment and facilities leading to better control of both diseases.

Thankfully, our members of Congress, Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan and Rep. Don Young, are all concerned about these two killers and are working to address, not ignore, the need for both diseases to be eradicated.

— **Mary Colleen Martin**

*Anchorage*

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/letters/2021/03/25/letter-fight-tuberculosis/>



## Supporting education for all children

May 29, 2021

At one point, almost every child on the planet was out of school and every parent was left to figure out a new daily reality. For many, this marked a transition to online or hybrid learning. But for many other children facing poverty, isolation, or pushed to the margins, it has meant no school at all.

The education crisis brought on by COVID-19 threatens the historic progress made by communities globally to get millions more children in school. Urgent action is needed so the COVID-19 education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation.

As the only international fund of its kind, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) marshals global resources for national education plans. Now, GPE and its partners have a five-year plan to support learning for 175 million more children in lower-income countries, helping recovery from the pandemic.

The Biden Administration must do its part with a \$1 billion five-year commitment to GPE. At this critical moment in global history, a bold pledge will show that the U.S. is committed to working hand-in-hand with the global community to ensure every child can achieve their dreams and reach their potential.

— **Dogan Ozkan**

*Fairbanks*

[https://www.newsminer.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/supporting-education-for-all-children/article\\_69e76264-c030-11eb-ace1-d3fda48b2da9.html](https://www.newsminer.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/supporting-education-for-all-children/article_69e76264-c030-11eb-ace1-d3fda48b2da9.html)

# Daily Sitka Sentinel

## Education Funding

June 1, 2021

Dear Editor: Most Sitka families with school-age children would agree this school year has been challenging. However, we have been fortunate to have several options in Sitka. For families around the globe, the school day routine ground to a halt as COVID-19 surged. For children facing poverty or pushed to the margins, it has often meant no school at all.

Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and its partners have a bold plan to support up to 90 lower income countries and territories in transforming their education systems. This summer, the governments of Kenya and the UK are bringing global leaders together to help fund this \$5 billion plan. With full funding from 2021-2025, GPE and its partners will support schooling for 175 million more children. Education is both about getting children into the classroom and making sure they can learn and learn well once they get there. GPE supports both.

We are requesting our Congressman and Senators support a \$1 billion, five-year commitment to GPE. This will show that the U.S. is committed to working with the global community to help every child reach their potential. For information go to <https://results.org/>.

— **Michele Friedman, Mim McConnell, Bitsy Mosher, Donna Donohoe, Mary Soltis, Kari Sagel**

*Sitka RESULTS*

<http://sitkasentinel.com/7/2012-05-10-22-08-58/letters-to-the-editor/18656-june-1-2021-letter-to-the-editor>

# Arizona Daily Star

## A new normal

April 4, 2021

Re: the March 29 article "Relief from crematorium smoke expected as COVID dies down."

Sad statement about the problems with the increase in crematorium smoke from COVID deaths. Reminds me of AIDS deaths in Africa, so many they ran out of graveyard space and buried bodies on top of each other. Both of these events are/were a wakeup call to make sure our health care systems are powerful enough to avoid this in the future. The recent pandemic relief package focused on the COVID relief in America, the future: eradicating child poverty through increasing tax credits, and also provided a small amount (less than 1%) to the global battle against this global pandemic. Time to thank our members of Congress for this and encourage them to keep passing legislation that will insure America's new normal will be one of equity for all, with opportunity for every child, and strong enough to battle future pandemics.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, WA*

[https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-a-new-normal/article\\_6872ac56-93c4-11eb-bdad-13668e6b5118.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user](https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-a-new-normal/article_6872ac56-93c4-11eb-bdad-13668e6b5118.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user)

=

# Arizona Daily Star

## Speak up for action from Congress

August 3, 2021

Re: the July 29 article "Infrastructure Senate moves ahead."

Great to see a bipartisan infrastructure deal moving forward. Congress can work together to pass legislation like this, especially if they hear from constituents. With 80% of Americans favoring improvements in infrastructure, it is time for Congressional action. Time to take the next step, speak up! Call your representative. Like the bipartisan support for global health and Americans favoring enough vaccines available for everyone on the planet to finally end this pandemic, it is time to pass infrastructure improvements. So call and make sure Congress moves forward on these important initiatives.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Northwest side*

[https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-speak-up-for-action-from-congress/article\\_21e97fac-f158-11eb-a5f0-ff34a82175e2.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-speak-up-for-action-from-congress/article_21e97fac-f158-11eb-a5f0-ff34a82175e2.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



# Arizona Daily Star

## Re: the Aug. 29. article "Jonathan Hoffman: So what exactly is herd immunity?"

September 7, 2021

The interesting discussion about herd immunity and how to reach it, leaves more questions than it answers. Granted, the final answer will most likely come years from now. The real question not discussed is the fact that variants, like the current delta variant, are putting us back into cycles of spiking cases, crowded hospitals, and more deaths. The way to stop this is universal vaccine access across the globe. While the president has promised to give extra doses, what is needed is sharing the technology to create enough vaccine for all. We can help insure this global access by asking President Biden (202-456-1111) to lead this critical effort. After all, it is global herd immunity that will end these up and down pandemic/new variant cycles.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Northwest side*

[https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-re-the-aug-29-article-jonathan-hoffman-so-what-exactly-is-herd-immunity/article\\_69fe9196-100d-11ec-b84d-0b786c05f456.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-re-the-aug-29-article-jonathan-hoffman-so-what-exactly-is-herd-immunity/article_69fe9196-100d-11ec-b84d-0b786c05f456.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# The Miner

## Pass Build Back Better bill

November 20, 2021

Arizona is in the midst of a housing crisis.

Everyday Arizonans are struggling to pay rent, and issues surrounding housing are further exacerbated for Arizonans facing poverty.

Congress is currently at a critical juncture in a more-than trillion-dollar bill that will offer invaluable support for Arizonans facing housing insecurity.

The Build Back Better bill will extend the new Child Tax Credit payments another year, meaning children already lifted out of poverty this year won't be pushed back down next year, It also provides much-needed assistance to low-income renters to help them afford rent, and it includes funding to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccines for people around the world.

This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind. It must be passed.

When the Build Back Better bill comes to a vote, I strongly urge our senators to vote YES.

— **Nathan Young**

*Phoenix*

<https://kdminer.com/news/2021/nov/20/letter-pass-build-back-better-bill/>

## **Build Back Better offers opportunity**

November 23, 2021

Arizona is in the midst of a housing crisis.

Everyday Arizonans are struggling to pay rent, and issues surrounding housing are further exacerbated for Arizonans facing poverty.

Congress is currently at a critical juncture in a trillion-dollar bill that will offer invaluable support for Arizonans facing housing insecurity.

The upcoming Build Back Better bill will extend the new Child Tax Credit payments another year, meaning children already lifted out of poverty this year won't be pushed back down next year, and provides much needed assistance to low-income renters to help them afford rent.

It also includes funding to manufacture more covid-19 vaccine for people around the world.

And the plan is paid for by making the wealthy and corporations pay a fairer share of taxes.

This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind. It must be passed.

When the Build Back Better bill comes to a vote, I strongly urge our members of Congress to vote YES.

**— Nathan Young**

*Phoenix*

# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

## Omicron underscores the urgency to pass Biden's Build Back Better

December 2, 2021

With the news of an emerging COVID-19 variant, omicron, the urgency to pass the Build Back Better Bill is greater than ever.

Not only does the BBB extend important funding for programs set to expire in December, such as the Child Tax Credit, but it also includes critical funding to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccines for people around the world.

Failing to provide this funding will only extend this grueling pandemic and the social inequalities it exacerbates. While just over half of the world population has received at least one dose of the vaccine, only 5.8% of people in low-income countries have.

This disparity is not only morally unjust, but it is bad global health policy. This inequality will result in the development of more variants, a lengthier pandemic and a world population wellversed in the Greek alphabet.

With the domestic and global benefits laid out in the Build Back Better bill, the Senate must work quickly to get it passed – not doing so will lead to more social injustices, many of which can be avoided with enough political will. With the utmost urgency, I ask Senator Sinema to vote yes on the BBB and encourage her colleagues to do the same.

— **Rayne Castillo**

*Tempe*

No online link



## **Congress must pass the Build Back Better Act**

December 3, 2021

I agree with the content and urgency of Yvonne Marley's recent letter ("Marley: Congress should pass Build Better Act," YourValley.net, Nov. 24, 2021).

Our senators do not have time to waste when it comes to getting the Build Back Better bill passed.

Not only does the BBB include important domestic provisions like the expansion of the Child Tax Credit that is expected to reduce child poverty by 45% in Arizona, but it also includes vital global measures.

With the emergence of the omicron variant of COVID-19, these are more important than ever.

Specifically, Build Back Better includes critical funding to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccines for people around the world.

As of Dec. 1, only 6% of people in low-income countries have received their first dose, compared to about 55% of the world population. There will be no end to this pandemic in sight unless we strengthen and support COVID-19 measures with an emphasis on equitable vaccine distribution.

With the CTC set to expire this month and with more COVID-19 variants inevitably on the horizon, the senate must work quickly to get the Build Back Better bill passed.

I urge Sen. Sinema to vote yes on the Build Back Better bill and to encourage her congressional colleagues to do the same.

**— Rayne Castillo**

*Tempe*

<https://www.yourvalley.net/stories/castillo-congress-must-pass-the-build-back-better-act,274809>

## **Act on vaccine equity**

October 5, 2021

For most Arkansans, receiving the covid-19 vaccination is a simple process. You walk into your local grocery store or health center and leave with your first vaccination in less than 30 minutes without ever having to worry about affordability or accessibility. This has largely contributed to our increasing vaccination rates, which are now around 45 percent.

However, as scientific experts have indicated, in the fight against covid-19, nobody is safe unless everybody is safe. Many low-income countries are imposing new lockdowns to stop the third wave of covid-19 infections because they've been denied access to covid-19 vaccines. And now they are dealing with the highly infectious Delta variant, one of the many variants which have risen in countries with low or virtually nonexistent vaccination rates.

Arkansas, like many U.S. states, has been hard-hit by the Delta variant as we have seen during the last few months with hospital ICU beds being completely occupied with covid-19 patients with several patients dying at my local UAMS hospital.

Global vaccine equity is not just about equity for the world's poorest population, but it is a way for us to prevent future covid-19 variants, which may be even more deadly or, worse, resistant to our current vaccines.

To restore the safety and livelihood of our fellow Arkansans, we must advocate for President Biden and Congress to lead a global effort to bring together industry, governments, and global health institutions to urgently increase the supply and distribution of vaccines.

The cost of inaction will be the lost lives around the world, including in Arkansas. Are we willing to bear these consequences, or will we take decisive action on global vaccine equity?

**— Chandrasimha Penthala**

*Little Rock*

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2021/oct/05/letters/>



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**— Chandrasimha Penthala**

*Little Rock*

<https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2021/oct/05/letters/>

## Get vaccines to world

October 7, 2021

For most Americans, receiving the covid-19 vaccination is a simple process. You walk into your local pharmacy or health center and leave with your first vaccination in less than 30 minutes. Within weeks, the opportunity to reconnect with friends and family becomes reality. As U.S. residents, we are fortunate that many of us are able to access the vaccine easily and without cost.

Others, outside of the U.S., are not as privileged. The global vaccination rate is approximately 33 percent. Only about 4 percent are vaccinated across the entire continent of Africa. This low vaccination rate is directly linked to the inaccessibility of the vaccine, and this inequitable distribution of the vaccine allows the virus to continue spreading. Research suggests that most of the world will not have widespread access to the vaccine until 2023.

Regardless of your stance on the covid-19 vaccine, others should have access to the vaccine now. They deserve the same opportunities and privileges that we enjoy. As a global community, our action or inaction directly impacts others. We've lost too many. We've lost too much. Let's support the fight across the world to end this pandemic. I am urging our senators and representatives to support global access to the vaccine. We must urgently increase the supply and distribution of vaccines for all.

— **Jasmine Phillips**

*Benton*

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2021/oct/07/letters/?bcsbid=3cbb75c9-38c5-4ca4-be91-360f6512b4a2&pbdialoq=reg-wall-login-created-ao>





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— **Jasmine Phillips**

*Benton*

<https://4state.news/letters-22/>

# EAST BAY TIMES

## **Disabled not priority for stimulus checks**

March 25, 2021

In society when you become disabled like me, you at times find yourself dealing with people who can be unempathetic or dismissive of your needs. Our government showed us all on SSDI/SSI that we were not a priority by not giving any notice ahead of time that we would be last in receiving the third batch of stimulus checks.

We are already living on a small fixed income that barely covers the cost of living in the expensive Bay Area. For many who are forced to be on SSDI due to an illness, a handicap or other medical condition, life is already a struggle dealing with an illness or disability daily on top of a limited income.

Our government showed us once again that the disabled, sick and elderly were not a priority. We need our government to know we are suffering just as much as everyone else.

**Chanel Falk**

*Oakland*

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/03/24/letters-318/>

## Pandemic has threatened global education initiative

June 2, 2021

At one point during the pandemic, almost every child on the planet was out of school and every parent was left to figure out a new daily reality. For many, this marked a transition to online or hybrid learning. But for many other children facing poverty, isolation or being pushed to the margins, it has meant no school at all.

The education crisis brought on by COVID-19 threatens the historic progress made by communities globally to get millions more children in school. Urgent action is needed so the COVID-19 education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation.

As the only international fund of its kind, the Global Partnership for Education marshals global resources for national education plans. Now, GPE and its partners have a five-year plan to support learning for 175 million more children in lower-income countries, helping recovery from the pandemic.

The Biden Administration must do its part with a \$1 billion five-year commitment to GPE. At this critical moment in global history, a bold pledge will show that the U.S. is committed to working hand-in-hand with the global community to ensure every child can achieve their dreams and reach their potential.

— **Warren M. Gold**

*Mill Valley*

<https://www.marinij.com/2021/06/01/marin-ij-readers-forum-for-june-2-2021/>

# ENTERPRISE-RECORD

## Prevent an education crisis

June 3, 2021

The education crisis brought on by COVID-19 threatens historic progress made by communities globally to get millions more children in school. Urgent action is needed so the COVID-19 education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation.

As the only international fund of its kind, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) marshals global resources for national education plans. GPE and its partners now have a five-year, \$5 billion plan to support child education in lower-income countries, aiding recovery from the pandemic. This investment will educate 175 million children, lift 18 million people out of poverty, and save 3 million lives.

America can and must lead this effort. At this critical moment in global history, a bold pledge of \$1 billion for five years will show that the U.S. is committed to working hand-in-hand with the global community to ensure every child can reach their potential.

— **Cara Warren**

*Magalia*

<https://www.chicoer.com/2021/06/03/letter-prevent-an-education-crisis/>



## **Educating kids everywhere**

June 11, 2021

As we celebrate the graduations of the Class of 2021 and all our local students, we recognize their challenges and struggles created by COVID-19. For students globally, however, the pandemic was disastrous.

The education crisis brought on by COVID-19 threatens historic progress made by communities globally to get millions more children in school. Urgent action is needed so the COVID-19 education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation of students in developing nations.

As the only international fund of its kind, the Global Partnership for Education marshals global resources for national education plans. GPE and its partners now have a five-year, \$5-billion plan to support child education in lower-income countries, aiding recovery from the pandemic. This investment will educate 175 million children, lift 18 million people out of poverty and save 3 million lives.

America can and must lead this effort. At this critical moment in global history, a bold pledge of \$1 billion for five years will show that the U.S. is committed to working hand in hand with the global community to ensure every child can reach their potential.

Please join with me in urging Rep. Mike Garcia and other state representatives to support this important initiative.

**— Jacqueline McLean-Jones**

*Together Women Rise, Simi Valley*

<https://www.simivalleyacorn.com/articles/educating-kids-everywhere/>

# Marin Independent Journal

## Prioritize education for all, don't lose any more kids

July 5, 2021

Families around the globe have experienced the shift to primarily online learning as the COVID -19 pandemic restrictions surged. In Marin, the Novato Unified School District officials are reaching out to try and restore enrollment. Hopefully, the district will reach pre-pandemic rates within the next five months ("Novato school district expands effort to restore enrollment," June 27).

But for children facing poverty or pushed to the margins, it has often meant no school at all. I worry about a COVID-19 gap for all our kids, but those who are missing school while growing up in extremely poor households are missing out on opportunities that assist them and their communities.

Urgent action is needed so that the pandemic education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation. I have seen reports that more than 1.6 billion of the world's school-age children have had disruptions in their education during the pandemic. There is still time to remedy the situation, but the needed solutions must have support from the United States government.

Elected officials should pledge \$1 billion to the Global Partnership for Education initiative for the next five years. This would be the only public-private fund dedicated solely to education in lower-income countries. Please urge your congressional representatives and the president to authorize this funding.

— **Gail Dolson**

*Corte Madera*

<https://www.marinij.com/2021/07/04/marin-ij-readers-forum-for-july-5-2021/>

# The Mercury News

## Bipartisan initiatives could steady democracy

July 15, 2021

Ezra Klein's piece on the worries about our democracy ("Rest of the world is worried about American democracy," Page A6, July 2) makes sad sense.

Fortunately, there are some bipartisan initiatives in Congress right now that would make a difference: like expanding the Housing Voucher Program to reach all who qualify for this program, instead of the 25% it currently covers. No wonder we have a housing crisis.

Globally, the COVID pandemic put 1.6 billion students out of school. A bipartisan letter calling on President Biden to make a pledge of \$1 billion over the next five years to the Global Partnership for Education would make a major difference, putting 175 million children in school for the first time.

Since democracy depends on "we the people," let's call our representatives and ask them to support these and other initiatives that make a difference in our country and the world.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, WA*

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/07/14/letters-461/>



# EAST BAY TIMES

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**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, WA*

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/07/14/letters-461/>

## U.S. officials must help world with vaccine supply

August 15, 2021

For most Americans, receiving the COVID-19 vaccination was a simple process. They walked into a local grocery store or health center and left with their first vaccination in fewer than 30 minutes. Within weeks, the opportunity to reconnect with friends and family became reality.

Meanwhile, many low-income countries are imposing new lockdowns to stop another wave of COVID-19 infections because they've been denied access to COVID-19 vaccines. And now they are dealing with the highly infectious delta variant. Across Africa, just 1% of the population has been vaccinated, yet no world leader has proposed a solution. Everyone deserves to have access to the COVID-19 vaccine, no matter where they live.

President Joe Biden and Congress must lead a global effort to bring together industry, governments and global health institutions to urgently increase the supply and distribution of vaccines. If the U.S. doesn't do it, who will?

— **Gail Dolson**

*Corte Madera*

<https://www.marinij.com/2021/08/14/marin-ij-readers-forum-for-aug-15-2021/>

# The Mercury News

## US must lead way on global vaccine push

August 15, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over.

If low global vaccination rates are maintained, we may see a haunting cycle of devastation emerge due to the spread of COVID-19 variants. The rise of the deadly delta variant in particular increasingly threatens developed and undeveloped countries alike.

The United States needs to do everything in its power to ramp up foreign vaccine supply. President Biden committed to donating over 500 million vaccine doses worldwide this summer. These doses are desperately needed but are not enough to stop the virus.

In addition to donating more vaccines from our surplus, we must take other creative approaches. Intellectual property barriers should be removed. U.S. manufacturers should be transparent in the vaccination technology they are using so that foreign manufacturers can boost their supply. This global predicament demands global cooperation and compassion led by the United States. The fate of millions of people's lives depends on it.

— **Danica Berry**

*San Francisco*

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/08/13/letters-495/>

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August 15, 2021

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**— Danica Berry**

*San Francisco*

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/08/13/letters-495/>

# The Mercury News

## Instead of boosters, US should export vaccines

August 25, 2021

Re. "If booster is needed, why do we wait?" Page A1, Aug. 20:

President Biden and local leaders are just plain wrong to push booster shots for these already vaccinated against COVID-19. Every day in the developing world thousands die of COVID or are hospitalized because they cannot find enough vaccines and millions of Americans are resisting efforts to receive the vaccine.

If we do not get vaccines to the millions of people in developing countries as soon as possible we will never contain COVID-19, as more and more variants emerge and it will be a race: man against the virus; in this race, the virus will win. Smallpox and polio were contained by obtaining herd immunity all over the world. We can do the same thing with the current pandemic. As global citizens we have a moral obligation to support efforts to make the world a better place.

— **Gail Dolson**

*Corte Madera*

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/08/24/letters-510/>

# EAST BAY TIMES

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August 25, 2021

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**— Gail Dolson**

*Corte Madera*

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/08/24/letters-510/>

## Don't let COVID get the last laugh

September 3, 2021

Attorney Nile Kinney's humorous piece ("If COVID could talk," Aug. 29) about COVID's "thank you" to us should actually give us pause to ponder our situation. By creating new variants, COVID has us in a spike and recover cycle that will repeat over and over until vaccinations reach every corner of the world.

Currently, billions of people in our world have no access, and too many Americans, don't choose the access they have. So let's take personal responsibility to our fellow Americans and get vaccinated. We can help ensure global access by asking President Biden (202-456-1111) to be the leader in the battle against the pandemic globally. This means more than giving surplus vaccine, it means sharing the technology to create enough vaccine so there will be enough for all. Otherwise, COVID will get the last laugh.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Wa.*

[https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-to-the-editor-dont-let-coivd-get-the-last-laugh/article\\_d2d13212-0b8c-11ec-960a-7ba9d4e50f93.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-to-the-editor-dont-let-coivd-get-the-last-laugh/article_d2d13212-0b8c-11ec-960a-7ba9d4e50f93.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# The Mercury News

## Push nation's leaders on global COVID fight

September 22, 2021

The heartbreaking story of the Macias family ("California father of 5 dies of COVID-19 weeks after his wife's death," Sept. 12), both parents taken by COVID, leaving 5 orphans, reminds us of the toll the pandemic is taking on families across the country.

This cycle of spikes caused by new variants will continue until this pandemic is conquered globally. It's time for President Biden to step up and lead a global effort, like President George W. Bush did for the AIDS crisis by creating PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief). This is more likely to happen if the president (202-456-1111) and our members of Congress (202-224-3121) hear from us. The COVID nightmare of new variants will continue until everyone has access to the vaccine, meaning sharing the technology to manufacture enough life-saving shots.

Our calls can jumpstart action, leading to finally ending this worldwide pandemic.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/09/21/letters-547/>



# EAST BAY TIMES

## **Push nation's leaders on global COVID fight**

September 22, 2021

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Our calls can jumpstart action, leading to finally ending this worldwide pandemic.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/09/21/letters-547/>

## Compassionate sharing on vaccines

November 7, 2021

Sad to read the COVID news: Five deaths and an uptick in hospitalizations. ("Kern Public Health reports 339 new COVID-19 cases, 5 deaths on Thursday," Nov. 4.)

What will it take to end this pandemic? Since it is a GLOBAL pandemic, we need to battle it worldwide. That means making the vaccine available to all, sharing the critical technology to create enough vaccines, like Merck recently did with its COVID-19 treatment. We can do our part by asking the president (202-456-1111) to lead the way out of the COVID-19 pandemic by doing this compassionate sharing.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

[https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-to-the-editor-compassionate-sharing-on-vaccines/article\\_e0bd48a0-3e6a-11ec-b172-2ff5075845ea.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-to-the-editor-compassionate-sharing-on-vaccines/article_e0bd48a0-3e6a-11ec-b172-2ff5075845ea.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

## Fully fund global immunization programs

November 21, 2021

I agree with Willie Dickerson in his letter, "Compassionate Sharing on Vaccines," (Nov.7). I would also extend these sentiments to vaccines for other diseases beyond COVID-19, such as childhood killers like measles, polio, rotavirus and pneumococcal virus.

Around the world, one in five children still lack access to basic vaccines for child killers like measles, polio, rotavirus and pneumococcal virus. Sadly, that results in 1.5 million children still dying each year of vaccine-preventable diseases.

I remind Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla not to forget about children around the world who don't experience care we have in the United States. I urge them to fully fund global childhood immunization programs in our federal budget. Expanding vaccine access is not only beneficial to country economies, national security, and global stability —it's also the right thing to do.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

[https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-to-the-editor-fully-fund-global-immunization-programs/article\\_ba8d1ffa-433a-11ec-9140-e717a4b80d69.html?fbclid=IwAR2qWXojJffhPooEOCV5IokeRS7ST8SZfVPwocnZMfVikzKEFP7jmeX-P2E](https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-to-the-editor-fully-fund-global-immunization-programs/article_ba8d1ffa-433a-11ec-9140-e717a4b80d69.html?fbclid=IwAR2qWXojJffhPooEOCV5IokeRS7ST8SZfVPwocnZMfVikzKEFP7jmeX-P2E)



## Education should be a right, not a privilege

June 9, 2021

As May comes to a close, so will the college careers of many students as they graduate. For me, I recently graduated from the University of Connecticut with not one, but two degrees. While I join the ranks of thousands, I consider myself privileged. However, education should be a right, not a privilege.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, about 258 million children and youth globally were out of school in 2018. These numbers have only been exacerbated by COVID-19 with low-income countries being the most affected. Urgent action is needed so the COVID-19 education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation.

As the only international fund of its kind, the Global Partnership for Education marshals global resources for national education plans. Now, GPE and its partners have a five-year plan to support learning for 175 million more children in lower-income countries, helping recovery from the pandemic.

The Biden administration must do its part with a \$1 billion, five-year commitment to GPE. At this critical moment in global history, a bold pledge will show that the U.S. is committed to working hand-in-hand with the global community to ensure every child can achieve their dreams and reach their potential. I urge Sens. Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal and Reps. Jim Himes, Rosa DeLauro, Jahana Hayes, John Larson, and Joe Courtney to take action and encourage their colleagues to do the same.

— **Ajshe Zulfi**

*Trumbull*

<https://www.ctpost.com/opinion/article/Letter-Education-should-be-a-right-not-a-16236291.php>



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<https://www.newstimes.com/opinion/article/Letter-Education-should-be-a-right-not-a-16236291.php>

# THE REGISTER CITIZEN

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<https://www.registercitizen.com/opinion/article/Letter-Education-should-be-a-right-not-a-16236291.php>

# NEW HAVEN REGISTER

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— **Ajshe Zulfi**

*Trumbull*

<https://www.nhregister.com/opinion/article/Letter-Education-should-be-a-right-not-a-16236291.php>

# THE HOUR

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<https://www.stamfordadvocate.com/opinion/article/Letter-Education-should-be-a-right-not-a-16236291.php>

# THE DAILY SENTINEL

## **We need political will to help vaccinate the world**

August 10, 2021

Saydie Ferris's letter in the July 25 Sentinel, "US must do more in global response to pandemic" says it quite well.

The United States needs to step up and help get the world vaccinated for the novel coronavirus. The virus did not start in our country and yet we have had more deaths from COVID than any other country. Until we take a global approach to addressing this virus, we can't hope to end it here in western Colorado or the U.S.

This COVID pandemic highlights the fact that we can not just worry about our country. It is so sad that we have an abundance of vaccines in this country and people in other countries that want to be vaccinated but do not have the vaccine. Other countries families and children with less resources than the U.S. have suffered greatly from this pandemic.

Our tax dollars helped developed the vaccine and we need to create the political will to help vaccinate the world. Please contact Senator Bennet and Senator Hickenlooper and ask them to demand that the Biden administration act boldly to support those global programs that help get the world vaccinated.

**— Andy Clarke**

*Group leader, Western Colorado RESULTS*

*Gig Harbor, Washington*

[https://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/letters/printed-letters-aug-10-2021/article\\_4538e87a-f951-11eb-a1bf-1f97f8838547.html](https://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/letters/printed-letters-aug-10-2021/article_4538e87a-f951-11eb-a1bf-1f97f8838547.html)

## **Global COVID leadership needed**

November 11, 2021

My 7-year-old granddaughter wants you to know the shot isn't a big deal! But what a big deal it is. The vast majority of Americans are incredibly grateful for the availability, safety and efficacy of the shots. And, 94% of unprotected Africa can't wait to join us.

They are instead imposing new lockdowns to stop the third wave of COVID-19 infections because they've been denied access to COVID-19 vaccines. And now they are dealing with the highly infectious Delta variant. Everyone deserves to have access to the COVID-19 vaccine, no matter where they live.

Yes, I am thrilled my granddaughter is protected but I want the same for every grandma in the world: that her grandchildren return to school and resume the upward trajectory out of poverty that the pandemic has blocked.

President Biden and Congress: You must lead a global effort to bring together industry, governments, and global health institutions to urgently increase the supply and distribution of vaccines.

Adelina Medina, 6, watches as she gets her COVID vaccination at the Pediatric Association in Reno, Nevada on Nov. 10, 2021. The Medina family had 7 family members that died from COVID.

If the U.S. doesn't do it, who will?

— **Betsy Teutsch**

*Philadelphia*

<https://www.delawareonline.com/story/opinion/2021/11/11/letter-global-covid-leadership-needed/6374318001/>



## **All children need access to quality education**

June 8, 2021

COVID-19 has disrupted and changed how children attend school and learn. It's been a difficult year for students, teachers and parents.

Now imagine a child who lives in a country that might not have access to a classroom, books or online learning. The chance to achieve their dreams and reach their potential, most likely, never will come true.

However, there is a solution: it's the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). It is the only global partnership and fund dedicated solely to quality education in lower-income countries. Urgent action is needed so the COVID-19 education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation.

This summer, the governments of Kenya and the UK are bringing global leaders together to help fund a \$5 billion plan to support education.

Ninety countries and territories eligible for GPE support in 2021-2025 are home to more than 80 percent of the world's out-of-school children.

GPE and its partners now have a five-year investment plan to support child education in lower-income countries. This investment will educate 175 million children, lift 18 million people out of poverty, save 3 million lives and has helped partner countries enroll in additional 82 million girls in school.

A bold pledge will show that the United States is committed to working with the global community to ensure every child has the opportunity to learn.

From reduced poverty, to improved gender equality, to more peaceful and resilient communities, the ripple effects of our investment in GPE will benefit communities for generations.

I call on President Biden and our members of Congress to support this investment.

— **Betsy Suero Skipp**

*Miami*

No online link available

# Tampa Bay Times

## Think globally

### *Combatting global poverty*

Though many of us here in Tampa are beginning to go back to our pre-pandemic activities and living a more “normal” life, this is a luxury that so many will not experience. The pandemic has affected all of our lives, but there is a large number of people who will continue to suffer for years to come: the more than 70,000 Tampa residents who live in poverty and the millions of impoverished people around the world. It’s a common misconception that the U.S. is already doing so much to address global poverty, but in reality less than 1 percent of our federal budget is directed to programs that provide aid and reduce poverty. It is absolutely essential that more is done to help those in need around the world. Our members of Congress need to be promoting the importance of protecting and increasing the International Affairs budget.

Reducing poverty at a global level also benefits U.S. citizens. For example, when people live in stable conditions, they are less likely to turn to terrorist groups that could become a threat to our safety. Additionally, business leaders around the world consider the poor to be the largest untapped market. Improving the lives of those who live in poverty will benefit our economy and create new jobs. In the last 20 years, the amount of people living in poverty has decreased by 50%, deadly diseases have been eradicated, and millions of children have gained access to education. Though this is certainly something to celebrate, we must also realize that much more should be done. Though many of us are extremely lucky in Tampa and do not ever have to think about things like access to clean water and sanitation, it is critical that the conversation surrounding the importance of reducing global poverty continues.

— Leah Daniels

*Tampa*

<https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/letters/2021/07/11/i-knew-jim-crow-is-the-june-letter-of-the-month-letters/>

# CHICAGO SUN★TIMES

## A pledge for education

May 31, 2021

At one point, almost every child on the planet was out of school and every parent was left to figure out a new daily reality. For many, this marked a transition to online or hybrid learning. But for many other children facing poverty, isolation or pushed to the margins, it has meant no school at all.

The education crisis brought on by COVID-19 threatens the historic progress made by communities globally to get millions more children in school. Urgent action is needed so that COVID-19 education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation.

As the only international fund of its kind, the Global Partnership for Education marshals global resources for national education plans. Now, GPE and its partners have a five-year plan to support learning for 175 million more children in lower-income countries, helping recovery from the pandemic.

The Biden administration must do its part by making a \$1 billion, five-year commitment to GPE. At this critical moment in global history, a bold pledge will show the U.S. is committed to working hand in hand with the global community to ensure every child can achieve their dreams and reach their potential.

— **Greg Stawinoga**

*South Holland*

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2021/5/31/22458419/parental-involvement-abortion-harm-education-covid-letters>





## Make a bold pledge

To the Editor:

I commend Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker for the “all in for the win” vaccine lottery which will award \$7 million in cash prizes for adults 18 years of age and older, as well as \$3 million in scholarship awards for Illinoisans ages 12 to 17. (Vaccinated Illinoisans automatically entered into the \$10 million lottery, June 17, 2021).

Vaccination is helping reopen schools and minimize education disruption. However millions across the globe don't have access to vaccines and education. An estimated 1.5 billion children (80% of the world's school-age children) have experienced disruptions in their education due to COVID-19.

Urgent action is needed now to ensure the COVID-19 education crisis does not turn into a permanent catastrophe for an entire generation. The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) has a plan to help combat this crucial issue. As the only international fund of its kind, the GPE marshals global resources for national education plans in lower-income countries. Now, GPE and its partners have a five-year plan to support learning for millions of children in lower-income countries, helping build back better from the pandemic.

I urge President Biden's administration and our Members of Congress to make a bold pledge of at least \$200 million for each of the next five years. The U.S. can and must lead this effort and work hand-in-hand with the global community to ensure every child can reach their potential.

— **Raj Jaladi**

*St. Louis*

[https://thesouthern.com/opinion/letters/voice-of-the-reader-make-a-bold-pledge/article\\_6cb6fa72-85b6-5cf3-952c-8e4a373947fa.html](https://thesouthern.com/opinion/letters/voice-of-the-reader-make-a-bold-pledge/article_6cb6fa72-85b6-5cf3-952c-8e4a373947fa.html)



## Remember children around the world

November 11, 2021

To the Editor:

The article “Latest rise in Illinois COVID cases ‘could mark the beginning of yet another wave” (November 11) echoed my concerns about the upcoming season of cold weather and holiday gatherings. Americans are blessed with access to COVID-19 vaccines for family members even as young as 5 years old. Vaccinating every eligible person is the best way we can protect ourselves as we exchange hugs in person instead of virtual Zoom greetings.

Likewise, U.S. support of global immunizations is the best we can protect lives of children as well as our economic and national security interests. Around the world, one in five children around the world still lack access to basic vaccines for child killers like measles, polio, rotavirus, and pneumococcal virus.

I remind Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth — along with Representative Mike Bost and Rodney Davis — not to forget about children around the world who don’t experience care we have in the U.S. I urge them to fully fund global childhood immunization programs in our federal budget. Expanding vaccine access is not only beneficial to global stability — it’s also the right thing to do.

— **Cynthia Changyit Levin**

*St. Louis, Missouri*

[https://thesouthern.com/opinion/letters/voice-of-the-reader-remember-children-around-the-world/article\\_3b3213e5-34b5-569a-a71f-f6fcc2799172.html](https://thesouthern.com/opinion/letters/voice-of-the-reader-remember-children-around-the-world/article_3b3213e5-34b5-569a-a71f-f6fcc2799172.html)

# CHICAGO SUN★TIMES

## **Build Back Better lays foundation for an economy where no one gets left behind**

*This plan is a transformative step forward in helping tens of millions of Americans get on their feet after the pandemic.*

November 10, 2021

The most crucial element of the infrastructure of our country is its people.

The White House and congressional leaders have reached a deal on the “Build Back Better” economic recovery plan. This plan is a transformative step forward in helping tens of millions of Americans get on their feet after the pandemic.

This plan extends the new Child Tax Credit payments another year, meaning children already lifted out of poverty this year won’t be pushed back down next year, and provides much needed assistance to low-income renters to help them afford rent. It also includes funding to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccine for people around the world. And the plan is paid for by making the wealthy and corporations pay a fairer share of taxes.

This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind because it strengthens the most essential element of the infrastructure of this great country — its people. It necessary that it be passed so we can “Build Back Better.”

When the Build Back Better bill comes to a vote, I strongly urge our members of Congress to vote YES.

**— Julia Ryan**

*Oak Park*

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2021/11/10/22772562/build-back-better-economy-joe-biden-congress-veterans-guns-letters>

## **Build Back Better ' plan deserves support**

November 14, 2021

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This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind. It must be passed.

When the Build Back Better bill comes to a vote, I strongly urge our members of Congress to vote yes.

**— Nicholas Feda**

*Cary*

<https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20211114/build-back-better--plan-deserves-support>

## **Build Back Better deserves to pass**

November 20, 2021

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<https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20211120/build-back-better-deserves-to-pass>

## **Global education efforts need our support**

May 14, 2021

When COVID-19 raced across the world, daily routines were interrupted, stopped in their tracks.

Kids were no longer racing to catch the school bus. Parents weren't racing off to work. Businesses shut down. Schools closed everywhere. Fortunately, in this country, educators were able to come up with creative ways to keep educating our children.

That was not true in many low-income countries. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted education systems world-wide. Even before the pandemic, 75 million children in crisis- and conflict-affected countries needed support to access quality education.

Quality education is the right of every child, and the benefits go well beyond learning. When children learn, and learn well, they have the keys to a more just, prosperous and equal future. That is true in this country and around the world. And the benefits of education are paid forward to future generations.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is the only public partnership exclusively focused on achieving quality education for all girls and boys. The GPE helps governments invest in innovative solutions to get all children in school. The GPE mobilizes funds in partnerships with wealthier countries to support lower-income countries' investments in education.

The GPE has been doing this transformative work for more than 20 years. Progress on education is increasingly under threat from the pandemic. Congress has supported the GPE in the past, but it is time to step up our pledge in the FY22 budget.

Ask our Senators Todd Young and Mike Braun and Rep. Trey Hollingsworth to support a robust pledge to the Global Partnership for Education. We know the far reaching importance of quality education in this country, but it is important in every country, creating a more stable and safe world for the future.

— **Diane Lindley**

*Needham*

[http://www.dailyjournal.net/2021/05/14/letter\\_global\\_education\\_efforts\\_need\\_our\\_support/](http://www.dailyjournal.net/2021/05/14/letter_global_education_efforts_need_our_support/)

# The Herald-Times

## Vaccines needed worldwide

August 27, 2021

Public investment made possible the development of safe, effective vaccines against this deadly pandemic in less than a year. It's an inspiring success.

But even in our country, where more than 50% of people are fully vaccinated, the virus continues to cause major problems. Imagine the situation in Africa, where many countries have vaccinated fewer than 1% of their people, and where economic, health, and educational systems were fragile to begin with.

Though the U.S. and other countries have sent millions of doses to low-income countries, predictions are that most won't get enough vaccine until 2023. And as long as the virus circulates unchecked anywhere, we are all in danger from the development of deadlier variants. Polling shows large majorities of voters across the political spectrum want to see vaccine available worldwide.

President Biden must lead a global effort to bring together industry, governments, and global health institutions to urgently increase the supply of vaccines and, if necessary, use his authority to compel companies to share lifesaving taxpayer-funded innovation with the rest of the world. Failure to do this would be a tragedy of historic proportions.

— **Stephen Arnold**

*Bloomington*

<https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/08/27/letter-vaccines-needed-worldwide/5574686001/>



# The Herald-Times

## Get vaccines to people everywhere

September 29, 2021

A recent Herald-Times article contrasted the easy availability of COVID-19 vaccinations in richer countries with the limited and uncertain supply in developing countries. We know vaccines can end the pandemic, but they are not being produced quickly enough to reach everyone who needs them.

Nine out of 10 people in low-income countries will not receive a single COVID-19 vaccination this year. Only 1% of Africa's population is fully vaccinated. The spread of the virus, including new variants, among the developing world's unvaccinated millions is a huge threat to our own health and prosperity.

President Biden and our senators and representatives should lead America and the world in an urgent effort to accelerate vaccine manufacture and availability to people everywhere.

— **Gene Arnholt**

*Bloomington*

## **The U.S plans to double global COVID vaccine donations. We should do even more.**

By Brendan Oliver Bow

October 6, 2021

As of Tuesday, the population of Indiana was more than 56% vaccinated. There's still a long way to go, but with 7,000 or so doses being given out per day, we Hoosiers are making progress.

The current status of global vaccination paints a much darker picture. Approximately 4% of the population in Africa—over 1.2 billion people—are fully vaccinated. In fact, the continent is only on track to vaccinate 17% of their people by the end of the year, way less than the 40% that is their goal. WHO Africa regional director Matshidiso Moeti predicts that at the current rate, Africa may only reach that goal “by the end of March 2022.”

Such a delay would be devastating. The Delta variant—the same highly transmissible variant that had recently been fueling ICU shortages in the US—has been found in 31 African countries, 19 of which are reporting high or fast-rising case numbers. Schools in Africa are just opening up for in-person classes, after being closed for over half a year. To see them close again risks losing some of these students for good.

Schools in low-income countries provide key nutritional support, provide hygiene and psychosocial support programs (often to children with disabilities), and work to increase gender equality and empower women and girls. They reduce sex exploitation and prevent forced marriages, unintended pregnancies, and child labor. Throughout the pandemic, grants totaling \$467 million from the Global Partnership for Education made it possible to keep these schools running, and to have them be forced to shut down now due to a variant would be akin to twisting one's ankle just before the finish line.

COVID-19 is already exacerbating the effects of prior struggles in global health. According to the Global Fund's annual report, in some of the poorest countries on Earth, the number of people tested for malaria in 2020 decreased 4.3% from 2019. Similarly, the number of people treated for drug-resistant tuberculosis dropped by a staggering 19% last year, and HIV tests decreased by an even larger 22%.

Pre-pandemic, great strides were being made to save people from these three diseases. Other than the novel coronavirus, they are three of the largest infectious killers on the planet. In Indiana, you can walk into any hospital and get treatment for them right away. They are each preventable, and in the cases of tuberculosis and malaria, entirely curable, but the global pandemic has put a stop on the progress of their eradication.

So what can we do about it? Thankfully, the current administration recently announced that we would be doubling our contribution of donated Pfizer jabs to try and meet Biden's goal of getting 70% of the world vaccinated within the next year. Additionally, there is pending legislation on Capitol Hill in an attempt to address the issue. The House of Representatives has proposed \$2 billion in the Build Back Better Act (Section 31025 subsection B.2) to expand the capacity to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccines.

These pale in comparison to the tools that the US truly has at its disposal. Given the circumstances, it would be wise on President Biden to freely share the vaccine manufacturing ingredients and steps with the World Health Organization. He has it in his possession, he has the legal authority to do so, and the WHO has even asked for it. The Department of Health and Human Services provided over \$1 billion in our taxpayer money for development of the vaccine, and according to former Head of Operation Warp Speed, Moncef Slaoui, "we held Moderna by the hand on a daily basis."

The pandemic isn't over anywhere until it is over everywhere. The global economy, including your wallet, is expected to feel the effects of COVID until 2022 or even 2023 (something you may have noticed if you've tried to buy anything online recently). Until we are able to halt the virus where it stands, we are always at risk for a more dangerous, less vaccine-remedied variant to come forward and erase all the progress we've made.

A global pandemic requires a global response, and it is my belief that our Indiana delegation in Washington D.C. and our President both have a lot of power in assisting that process. It's up to you and me to show some Hoosier hospitality and contact them to let them know that this is something we care about.

*Brendan Oliver Bow is a program analyst at the Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy, IU Public Policy Institute and Adjunct Faculty at the School of Informatics and Computing--IUPUI*

<https://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/2021/10/06/op-ed-giving-poor-nations-covid-vaccine-saves-us-all-variants/6004807001/>



## **A historic plan**

November 15, 2021

The White House and congressional leaders have reached a deal on the Build Back Better economic recovery plan. This plan is a transformative step forward in helping tens of millions of Americans get on their feet after the pandemic.

This plan extends the new child tax credit payments another year, meaning children already lifted out of poverty this year won't be pushed back down next year, and provides much-needed assistance to low-income renters to help them afford rent. It also includes funding to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccine for people around the world. And the plan is paid for by making the wealthy and corporations pay a fairer share of taxes.

This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind. I invite you to join me in urging Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Sen. Chuck Grassley and Sen. Joni Ernst to support the Build Back Better bill by voting "yes."

**— Sister Jan Cebula**

*Clinton*

[https://qctimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-a-historic-plan/article\\_b865124c-dac5-5edd-859b-aca1d44e8d2f.html](https://qctimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-a-historic-plan/article_b865124c-dac5-5edd-859b-aca1d44e8d2f.html)

# THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

June 10, 2021

How can the US support quality education for 175 millions children in 90 countries over 5 years; reach 140 million students with professionally trained teachers; get 88 million more children, including 46 million girls, in school; save \$16 billion in more efficient educational spending; and create more sustainable and equitable societies? The answer is a \$1 billion pledge in support of the Senate Global Partnership for Education with an additional billion for each of the succeeding 4 years.

The educational crisis brought on by COVID-19 threatens the historic progress made by communities globally to get millions more children in school, and the pandemic has worsened ongoing disparities in global education. Urgent action is needed now to ensure the current education crisis does not turn into a permanent catastrophe in dozens of low-income countries. Quality education is the right of every child. Evidence shows that quality education is linked to other broader social benefits from poverty reduction to health improvements, gender equality, economic development and more.

The GPE is the right mechanism for this moment. GPE has a strong track record of success. GPE is on the frontlines of the current educational crisis. GPE channels global funds to local-led strategies for education quality, and GPE shows the value of a multilateral and inclusive approach.

We are asking that the Biden Administration to make a bold, \$1 billion pledge to support the GPE in 2021, and that Representative LaTurner and Senators Marshall and Moran sign on to the Cardin GPE bipartisan letter calling on President Biden to make this pledge. We also are calling on Representative LaTurner to co-sponsor the bipartisan (Meng, Quigley, Fitzpatrick) House resolution in support of GPE: HRes.225. We are asking to get the best return possible on this necessary and urgent investment in global education.

**— Lila Bartel, Larry Dixon, Carolyn Weinhold, Anna Spencer, Gwen Elliott**

*RESULTS-Topeka*

No online link

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

## Teach them all

June 17, 2021

In recent news, Gov. Laura Kelly signed an education deal to increase funding for Kansas schools. Education is the cornerstone of any child's life. It is also a nonpartisan issue that can uplift our society, increase gross domestic product and enhance our workforce. Our congressional members should seek a similar pledge that could improve the world.

Education around the world has deteriorated because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For years, children have not been provided well-rounded educations. This could ruin an entire generation. GPE, the Global Partnership for Education, fights every day to prevent this and helps to increase the success of children around the world.

The group's plan is to support child education in lower-income countries, aiding recovery from the pandemic. This investment could educate 175 million children, lift 18 million people out of poverty and save 3 million lives

America has the power to help. Our representatives in Congress need to act now by pledging support of \$1 billion for five years to GPE. This would show that the U.S. and our elected officials are committed to working with the global community to ensure all children can reach their potential.

— **Marta Richenberg**

*Kansas City*

<https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article252156813.html>

# THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

## **Kansas congressional members should support GPE**

June 18, 2021

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Education around the world has deteriorated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Globally children have not been provided a well-rounded education. This could ruin an entire generation to come. The Global Partnership of Education fights every day to not let this happen and helps to increase the success of children around the world.

Their current plan is to support child education in lower-income countries, aiding recovery from the pandemic. This investment will educate 175 million children, lift 18 million people out of poverty, and save 3 million lives

America has the power to help. Our Kansas congressional members need to act now by pledging for support of \$1 billion for five years to GPE. This will show that the U.S. and our congressional members are committed to working hand-in-hand with the global community to ensure every child can reach their potential.

**— Marta Richenberg**

*Kansas City*

<https://www.cjonline.com/story/news/2021/06/18/letters-readers-upset-sens-jerry-moran-and-roger-marshall-kansas-donald-trump-joe-biden/7721178002/>



# LEAVENWORTH TIMES

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# THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

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# The Ottawa Herald

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<https://www.ottawaherald.com/story/news/2021/06/18/letters-readers-upset-sens-jerry-moran-and-roger-marshall-kansas-donald-trump-joe-biden/7721178002/>

# The Garden City Telegram

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# THE JUNCTION CITY UNION

## Letter to the Editor

September 27, 2021

In recent news, Kansas COVID-19 rates have been declining due to the abundance of vaccines. But how effective will these vaccines be when COVID-19 variants are becoming the norm and could make vaccines obsolete?

Vaccines are our passport out of this pandemic, but we are not safe until the world is. The unvaccinated and unchecked spread of COVID-19 could stop all progress we have made thus far. If countries are unable to vaccinate their population, additional dangerous variants will mutate and spread all over the world.

A recent poll of likely voters has found that most Americans want to see the US step up and take charge on the world stage. Voters across all parties, also support the US in helping distribute vaccines globally and equitably to any country in need. The US has its citizens' support to take a global action against COVID-19.

This measure will not only help eliminate COVID-19 but protect all Kansas citizens. I ask Senator Marshall and Senator Moran to step up and protect Kansas by supporting this measure in the Senate. Kansans lives are in your hands.

— **Marta Richenberg**

*Kansas City*

[https://www.junctioncityunion.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-to-the-editor/article\\_5766df80-165d-582d-8648-877a49e40108.html](https://www.junctioncityunion.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-to-the-editor/article_5766df80-165d-582d-8648-877a49e40108.html)

## Think globally to help protect Kansan citizens from COVID-19

September 28, 2021

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*Kansas City*

<https://www.gbtribune.com/opinion/think-globally-help-protect-kansan-citizens-covid-19/>



# THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

## **Support Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act**

December 19, 2021

New bipartisan bills introduced in the House and Senate could make a big impact on global child malnutrition and be a positive sign of continued U.S. leadership in nutrition and food security. The Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act (S.2956/H.R.4693) is led by Sen. Christopher Coons, D-Del., and John Boozman, R-Ark., and Reps Gregory Meeks, D-N.Y., Michael McCaul, R-Texas, Chrissy Houlahan, D-Penn., and Young Kim, R-Calif. Currently, it has 25 signers, nearly half Democrats and half Republicans.

RESULTS-Topeka (Responsibly Eradicating Suffering Using Legislation, Trim-tabling, and Support) visited the office of Rep. Jake LaTurner on Dec. 8 and urged him to co-sponsor this legislation. We find it hard to argue against lifting 3.6 million children out of poverty and feel the congressman should as well.

As we brought this to his attention, we reminded him that The Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act would accomplish this by authorizing the U.S. Agency for International Development to advance targeted and evidence-based malnutrition programs, increasing the coverage of low-cost, high-impact interventions, sometimes known as the "Power Four": prenatal vitamins, support for breastfeeding, Vitamin A supplementation and ready-to-use therapeutic food.

Young children are particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of malnutrition. The first 1,000 days of life — from pregnancy to a child's 2nd birthday — is a window of tremendous physical and cognitive development. And, as well, we know the world is safer and population growth actually goes down when women have healthier children.

The world is not yet on track to meet the United Nations goal of zero hunger by 2030. But it is not too late to continue. Let us change by passing the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act as a start. Now is the time to deliver on

global commitments. It is time for bold action on nutrition, Rep. LaTurner and Sens. Moran and Marshall.

— **Lila Bartel**

*RESULTS-Topeka*

<https://www.cjonline.com/story/opinion/2021/12/19/reader-knows-how-sens-moran-and-marshall-can-really-honor-bob-dole/8932304002/>

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# THE BALTIMORE SUN

## **Want to make a difference in our democracy? Get involved**

By Sam Daily-Harris

July 2, 2021

Ron Waltemeyer, left, of Towson, Sara Tagget, of Ellicott City, and Donna Curley, center, of Ellicott City, speak to Representative John Sarbanes, right, and his Deputy Chief of Staff Dvora Lovinger, second from right, to promote suicide prevention, education and research as a part of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's annual advocacy forum in Washington, DC on Feb. 9. Waltemeyer, Tagget and Curley have all lost a child to suicide.

Ron Waltemeyer, left, of Towson, Sara Tagget, of Ellicott City, and Donna Curley, center, of Ellicott City, speak to Representative John Sarbanes, right, and his Deputy Chief of Staff Dvora Lovinger, second from right, to promote suicide prevention, education and research as a part of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's annual advocacy forum in Washington, DC on Feb. 9. Waltemeyer, Tagget and Curley have all lost a child to suicide. (Nix,Sarah, Patuxent Publishing)

As we enjoy fireworks and cookouts this Fourth of July weekend, we should also savor the gift of democracy and pay attention to the warnings of its unraveling.

While many believe our democracy is in decline, I'm not interested in bemoaning its collapse, but instead, pointing to one of the ways that each of us can help rebuild it: Engage regularly, directly, deeply and productively with our elected officials.

I know, I can already see the eyes rolling, but let me explain.

More than 40 years of experience as a democracy activist have shown me that while most people believe they can't make a difference with their voices as citizens, I've seen that we actually can, but it must start with a serious effort to build people's confidence.

These are steps essential to building confidence. Find an organization that is 1.) committed to dissolving your powerlessness, 2.) centered on providing you with new skills and 3.) focused on encouraging you to move out of your comfort zone. That's right, confidence grows when you're encouraged to do something you thought you couldn't do and surprise yourself when you make it happen.

But finding such an organization isn't easy. Several years ago, I spoke with the head of organizing for a very large nonprofit group who said, "We can't let our volunteers write letters to the editor or op-eds because they'll get it wrong and misrepresent the organization." That's how most organizations operate. So much for building confidence. Organizations that are afraid their volunteers will screw things up contribute to our civic dysfunction and to the fraying of our democracy.

Here's a better way. Citizens' Climate Lobby is a 14-year-old advocacy organization whose website reads: "Our solution to climate change? Democracy. And we need you on our team." In 2020, its members had more than 4,000 letters to the editor, op-eds and editorials published, up from 65 pieces published in 2010. Growing to more than 4,000 published pieces is an exercise in building confidence. Their volunteers also had more than 1,700 congressional meetings last year. If each meeting had an average of six people attending, that's more than 10,000 confidence boosts.

But does any of this make a difference? Does a renewal of civic engagement amount to anything? During the first 100 days of the Biden administration, volunteers from the anti-poverty lobby RESULTS had more than 300 congressional meetings. They've lobbied each year since 1984 on child survival, and, as a result, helped global child death rates plummet from 41,000 a day in the early 1980s to 14,520 a day in 2018. For the last 19 years they've lobbied for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Over that same period the Global Fund and its partners have saved 38 million lives.

Some groups help you register to vote and cast your ballot every two years. Others can help you engage with elected officials, week-in and week-out and do so directly, deeply and productively, groups like Citizens' Climate Lobby, RESULTS, Catholic Relief Services, Friends Committee On National Legislation and American Promise.



But finding the right organization isn't enough to make it work, you also have to connect to your life's purpose. Without a desire to live a life of purpose, these steps will seem like an exercise in futility.

July Fourth is a perfect time realize that our democracy is in trouble and that there are things that each of us can do to fix it. We can engage regularly, directly, deeply and productively with our elected officials, but only if we find an organization committed to dissolving our powerlessness and only if we are serious about answering this question: What do I want my life to be used for?

*Sam Daley-Harris (sam@empoweringcitizens365.org) is the founder of the anti-poverty lobby RESULTS and of Civic Courage and the author of "Reclaiming Our Democracy: Healing the Break between People and Government."*

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/op-ed/bs-ed-op-0704-civic-duty-20210702-tihv4ybsmfd3bm26egddugyt2m-story.html>

# The Berkshire Eagle

## **We must support educating children everywhere**

June 7, 2021

To the editor: As graduations begin to take place, it's easy to forget that many of our students have been unable to keep up during the pandemic.

In rural communities like ours, many needed to sit outside publicly established Wi-Fi hotspots to attend classes. And others had no adult present and able to help them with remote classes. This digital divide has increased our educational inequities. But what about the world at large?

At some point during the pandemic, 1.6 billion children were out of school. Many will never return. The Global Partnership for Education has spent two decades building resilient education systems in lower-income countries. They invested \$500 million in emergency COVID-19 support to develop curriculum for radio, provide internet access and deliver lessons house-to-house. With full funding in 2021-2025, GPE will support schooling for 175 million more children. Our futures depend on an educated populace to build a more prosperous and sustainable world.

That is why I am asking our legislators to support an appropriation of \$150 million to GPE this year. Foreign aid represents less than 1 percent of the entire U.S. federal budget. In comparison, \$686 billion was spent on national defense in fiscal year 2019 — 15 percent of the federal budget. Isn't diplomacy in the form of support for education a much better choice?

**— Leslye Heilig**

*Great Barrington*

[https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-we-must-support-educating-children-everywhere/article\\_e3684168-c2f5-11eb-bbab-4358748b43a6.html](https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-we-must-support-educating-children-everywhere/article_e3684168-c2f5-11eb-bbab-4358748b43a6.html)

# The Berkshire Eagle

## Increase needed in vaccine production

July 22, 2021

To the Editor: Access to COVID-19 vaccines has allowed our community to reopen schools and businesses, and return to a sense of near-normalcy. Meanwhile, many countries in Africa are imposing new lockdowns to stop yet another wave of infections because they lack access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Vaccination is our pathway out of this pandemic, but there are not enough vaccines being produced quickly enough for everyone to have access. The unchecked spread of COVID-19 has devastated low and middle income countries. More dangerous variants are likely to follow, affecting all of us.

As a member of Results and Together Women Rise, I am very concerned about the ongoing impact of this on women and children all over the world. The current prediction is that 20 million girls will not return to school, decreasing their ability to succeed financially and emotionally.

I am asking our legislators to urge President Biden to allocate 25 billion dollars to increase the production and access to vaccines globally. None of us are safe until all of us are safe.

— **Michelle Krieg Bauer**

*Pittsfield*

No online link

# The Berkshire Eagle

## **We must all have access to COVID vaccines to be safe**

August 10, 2021

To the editor: Thanks to Dave Phelps for his announcement that Berkshire Health Systems will mandate COVID vaccination for employees by Oct. 1.

This is a very welcomed announcement as we make our community safer for all. But what about the rest of the world?

Many low-income countries are imposing new lockdowns to stop a third and fourth wave of COVID-19 infections given lack of access to COVID-19 vaccines. Across Africa, just 1 percent of the population has been vaccinated and the delta variant is spreading like wildfire. Everyone deserves access to the COVID-19 vaccine, no matter where they live. Vaccinating the world is the only way to make all of us safe.

According to Right to Health Action: “Experts agree that it will cost \$20 billion annually to pandemic-proof the planet. COVID-19 cost the U.S. economy \$16 trillion.” We cannot afford — economically, morally, ethically or for our mutual health — to allow the high-income countries to hoard vaccines while the rest of the world waits.

I call on Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey and Rep. Richard Neal to include \$25 billion for global vaccine access in budget reconciliation as well as supporting new legislation to prevent future pandemics.

**— Leslye Heilig, M.D.**

*Great Barrington*

[https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-we-must-all-have-access-to-covid-vaccines-to-be-safe/article\\_990e36ae-f928-11eb-8f52-6bafa7d368e7.html](https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-we-must-all-have-access-to-covid-vaccines-to-be-safe/article_990e36ae-f928-11eb-8f52-6bafa7d368e7.html)

# The Berkshire Eagle

## What should take priority in budget reconciliation talks

October 6, 2021

To the editor: As controversies over budget reconciliation mount, what takes priority?

Per Jeff Stein in The Washington Post on Oct. 2: “The choices are stark: Should tackling rising rates of homelessness be dropped in favor of confronting climate change? Should Democrats prioritize seniors over the poor? Is it more important to reduce the cost of childcare or the cost of a school lunch?”

Advocating with Results.org, here are some priorities:

Providing at least \$90 billion in rental assistance, with the highest possible funding for housing choice vouchers (targeting the lowest-income households).

Making the 2021 provisions to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) permanent, especially making CTC full refundability permanent to ensure the CTC can dramatically reduce poverty for children in the lowest-income families.

Providing at least \$2 billion to scale-up global COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing capacity.

This is not to say that expanding Medicaid, adding child care and early education aren’t equally critical goals. But, at a minimum, the above priorities broadly address the root causes of poverty. And it is essential that we address the pandemic globally and scale up global vaccine access now.

Rep. Richard Neal, Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey — will you support these?

— **Leslye Heilig**

*Great Barrington*

The writer is the Massachusetts Group co-leader of Results.org.

[https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-what-should-take-priority-in-budget-reconciliation-talks/article\\_0eec5618-2529-11ec-abc4-c7b4f4d44962.html](https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-what-should-take-priority-in-budget-reconciliation-talks/article_0eec5618-2529-11ec-abc4-c7b4f4d44962.html)

# The Berkshire Eagle

## Rich nations must do more to vaccinate the world

November 4, 2021

To the editor: I keep asking myself this question: Where is the outrage?

How have people become so numb to the struggles of those having no access to the COVID-19 vaccines as they return to a “post-pandemic” life? Ten thousand more die globally every single day in addition to the 5 million who have already died (the number is likely much larger as many COVID deaths are unreported). Yet there is still no plan to ensure vaccine access to everyone. Where is our empathy, our morality, our conscience?

“Only one in seven COVID vaccine doses promised to the world’s poorest countries have been delivered. ... Of 1.8 billion doses pledged by wealthy nations, just 261 million (14 percent) have arrived in low-income countries,” according to [The Guardian](#). As many now rejoice as they receive boosters, those in low- and middle-income countries await their first doses as family members, friends, teachers and health care workers around them die. Why are we not protesting this situation?

I commend President Joe Biden for holding a global COVID-19 summit at the recent United Nations General Assembly, but what has happened since? Recently a group of 50 global health leaders and more than a dozen public health organizations sent an open letter to the president urging him to vaccinate the world. And for those asking why this is our responsibility, the answer is that the U.S., along with other high-income countries, caused the gross inequality by pre-purchasing vaccines, paying premium prices and restricting parts of the supply chain in addition to vaccine doses. And by doing so, we have created a “variant incubator” and will suffer the consequences of both prolonging the pandemic and possibly developing vaccine-resistant strains.

In the past 100 years, pandemics have become increasingly frequent, more devastating and tremendously more expensive. Per [David Cutler and Lawrence Summers](#): “The estimated cumulative financial costs of the COVID-19 pandemic

related to the lost output and health reduction ... is more than \$16 trillion, or approximately 90 percent of the annual gross domestic product of the U.S.” But the cost of vaccinating the world has been estimated at \$25 billion, a fraction of that cost. To vaccinate the world therefore not only makes economic sense but is the morally, ethically, medically and, by far, the right humanitarian choice.

As the G-20 meets, I ask why aren't we vaccinating the world? And again, where is your outrage?

— **Leslye Heilig**

*Great Barrington*

[https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-rich-nations-must-do-more-to-vaccinate-the-world/article\\_49c5552a-3b25-11ec-86e2-974e56961495.html](https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-rich-nations-must-do-more-to-vaccinate-the-world/article_49c5552a-3b25-11ec-86e2-974e56961495.html)



# The Berkshire Eagle

## **We must push Congress to act on our behalf**

December 7, 2021

To the editor: How have we come to this — the inability of Congress to act as agents for the public good?

Every day, I check to see if Build Back Better has been brought up, let alone passed, in the Senate. And I continue to advocate for Senate bill S.2297 and House bill H.R.391, both of which would move to vaccinate 70 percent of the world by September 2022 and invest in pandemic prevention. But what I find instead is that there is infighting between members of Congress leading the bills — Sen. James Risch, R-Idaho, and Rep. Gerald Connolly, D-Va., and it's over things that really could be resolved without holding the world hostage. How did we get here?

I cannot fathom the inability of our elected officials to act on our behalf. They are sinking deeper into partisan discord and bureaucracy and failing to look at the greater good. According to recent polling by Monmouth University, "more than two-thirds of the American public say both the Democratic Party (69 percent) and the Republican Party (69 percent) do not pay enough attention to everyday economic issues that affect people like them." Support for the infrastructure deal stands at 65 percent and for BBB it's 62 percent with 60 percent supporting the climate change funding contained in it. So what gives?

We each have a responsibility to contact our elected officials and let them know how we want them to represent us. If, as constituents, we do not do this, we enable them to act with disregard for our choices, and our voices matter.

I want, and the world needs, to see global vaccine access now; a plan to prevent future pandemics; infrastructure being upgraded and providing more jobs; actions taken now on climate change; and a Congress that functions on our behalf.

Maybe my wish list is an optimist's musings, but I believe we can get there. But if we fail now, history will not look back on us kindly.

— **Leslye Heilig**

*Great Barrington*

[https://www.berkshireagle.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-we-must-push-congress-to-act-on-our-behalf/article\\_dd27900c-56bf-11ec-a721-3fac21b7ba50.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.berkshireagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-we-must-push-congress-to-act-on-our-behalf/article_dd27900c-56bf-11ec-a721-3fac21b7ba50.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Biden's initiative deserves Michigan's support**

November 12, 2021

The White House and congressional leaders have reached a deal on the “Build Back Better” economic recovery plan. This is a transformative step forward in helping tens of millions of Americans get on their feet after the pandemic.

This plan extends the new Child Tax Credit payments another year, meaning children already lifted out of poverty this year won't be pushed back down next year, and provides much needed assistance to low-income renters to help them afford rent.

It also includes funding to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccine for people around the world, which is in the interest of our own country so we can get past this global health crisis.

The plan is paid for by making the wealthy and corporations pay a fairer share of taxes.

This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind.

It must be passed. When the Build Back Better bill comes to a vote, I strongly urge all Michigan members of Congress to vote YES.

**— Sylvia Lewis**

*Rochester*

[https://freep-mi.newsmemory.com/?token=df750234afa6de6aacaee1d3b1e0ff26&cnum=b95e11b1-eae9-e411-aadc-90b11c341ce0&fod=111111STD-0&selDate=20211115&licenseType=paid\\_subscriber&](https://freep-mi.newsmemory.com/?token=df750234afa6de6aacaee1d3b1e0ff26&cnum=b95e11b1-eae9-e411-aadc-90b11c341ce0&fod=111111STD-0&selDate=20211115&licenseType=paid_subscriber&)

# MISSOURIAN

## Citizens should take greater roles in advocacy

March 17, 2021

Regarding “Congress should join global response to COVID-19 with improved funding” (Published March 4, 2021). Thanks to advocates like Cynthia Levin who raised their voices, and thanks to the Missourian for publishing citizen voices, which ultimately resulted in action.

Thanks to President Biden and our members of Congress for passing the COVID-19 Relief Bill. This bill not only provides stimulus checks to struggling Americans, an increase in rental assistance and child tax credit, but it also provides \$11 billion for a global response to the pandemic.

I urge more citizens to take an active role in our democracy, propose solutions to our members of Congress and use media as a platform for meaningful conversations that bring change.

— **Raj Jaladi**

*Raj Jaladi is a freshman at Parkway West High School in St. Louis, and a group co-leader for RESULTS global poverty advocacy organization.*

[https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/citizens-should-take-greater-roles-in-advocacy/article\\_18d33252-872f-11eb-9628-1f96e22d444b.html](https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/citizens-should-take-greater-roles-in-advocacy/article_18d33252-872f-11eb-9628-1f96e22d444b.html)



## Fighting pandemic globally promises a quicker end

March 20, 2021

Regarding "'COVID-seclusion' Alzheimer's deaths climbed as pandemic isolation took toll" (March 15): The news of the pandemic's toll on people suffering from Alzheimer's is extremely sad, and we need to take the right steps to end this soon.

President Joe Biden and our members of Congress deserve thanks for passing the coronavirus relief bill. This bill not only provides stimulus checks to struggling Americans, an increase in rental assistance, and a child tax credit, it also provides \$11 billion for a global response to the pandemic.

Fighting the virus globally is one of the right steps to end this pandemic, particularly given the surge of variants from other countries, and opening up air travel and international business. One year into the pandemic, we have finally included funding for global assistance, putting us on the road to end the pandemic and enabling us to visit and hug our parents and grandparents.

— **Raj Jaladi**

*Creve Coeur*

<https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-fighting-pandemic-globally-promises-a-quicker-end/article ffe125c5-6044-5b81-8121-50537f341e14.html?fbclid=IwAR24IKvYmskQCLYYxR4v9LdUzLAKPd2kJmEcnfhCKPRRsSLZR 3DTZC0dI>



## **Regarding Missouri's vaccination rollout**

March 24, 2021

### **To the Editor:**

Missouri is clearly struggling with vaccine distribution even as bad weather caused the cancellation of some distribution events. As frustrated as we are, we all need to remember these awful feelings of uncertainty, so we can empathize with vulnerable low-income countries dealing with poor access to vaccines in even the best of times. Our safety depends on their access to vaccines as well.

Many wealthy countries, including the U.S., ordered two to three times as many vaccines as required for their populations. Vaccine hoarding creates gross inequities and conditions for dangerous mutations. Now is the time to invest in effective programs well-placed to provide COVID-19 resources to low-income countries.

Congresswoman Ann Wagner, Sen. Roy Blunt, and Sen. Josh Hawley should urge congressional leadership to fight the pandemic worldwide by providing \$4 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria as well as fully funding the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator with \$4 billion. We need to join the global COVID-19 response to help others and protect ourselves.

**— Cynthia Changyit Levin**

*Town and Country*

<https://westnewsmagazine.com/2021/03/24/134619/letter-to-the-editor-regarding-missouris-vaccination-rollout>

# MISSOURIAN

## **America needs to increase support for COVID-19 vaccines in developing nations**

March 29, 2021

With the excitement surrounding the successful creation and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccination, America has launched into plans of getting every citizen vaccinated for coronavirus by July 4. But in the stages of a domestic health care breakthrough, it is easy to forget about the rest of the world. And this is something that shouldn't be forgotten about.

As our country, the United States of America, displays its hegemony over countries around the world, we have successfully shown that we are the leader of the free world and thereby have caused other countries to look up to us. As Americans, we are proud to be revered and looked upon as a leader. But that comes with responsibilities, correct?

One of America's avenues of progression consists of scientific breakthroughs. As we pour millions of dollars into the prevention of future illnesses and cures to ailments that seem impossible to stop, our country continues to make small discoveries that prove to be a large step. In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, the world turned its attention to us in hopes that we could provide the answer that would give a possible end to this nightmare.

American pharmaceutical companies recently provided that answer. Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson's clearing of the COVID-19 vaccine has fortified America's health care systems in the upper echelon of the world. The scientific prowess of our country has allowed for citizens to protect themselves from coronavirus. Though vaccines are readily available to people in developed countries, it isn't as easy for individuals to protect themselves from illnesses.

Enter Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Committed to the provision of vaccinations to people in low-income countries, specifically children, the organization has seen large success from its efforts.

Through specifically child immunizations, Gavi was able to help halve the childhood mortality rate, prevent more than 14 million future deaths and drive down the prevalence of infectious diseases, [according to its website](#). Gavi hopes to continue its success through providing the COVID-19 vaccine to children and adults in developing countries.

One of the mission statements of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is “all lives have equal value.” The foundation, also a partner of Gavi, correctly analyzes global health.

Every person has a natural human right to be healthy and survive. Who are we as a country to decide who doesn’t deserve the chance at better health care systems? If we have the resources and funds to give individuals in underdeveloped countries a fighting chance, we should engage in that opportunity correctly.

With our country being built on the American Dream, a phenomenon that has allowed many to rise to success from nothing, I think it is time that we begin to extend this opportunity to the world. Through increased funding toward global health, we can alleviate the burden of basic health care from a family in order to free up time for them to work toward success.

The United States took a step in the right direction this past December. In the passage of the December COVID-19 Relief Bill, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, was allocated \$4 billion dollars. This ensures millions in low-income countries will have access to a COVID-19 vaccine. This support is promising, but it is imperative that there is improved support in the future.

The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, a partner organization with Gavi and one that helps fund global health efforts, received \$3.5 billion dollars in the most recent COVID-19 relief bill. We as a nation are taking the necessary preliminary steps towards the improvement of global health, and we must ride these successes and keep our foot on the gas toward progress.



America should not rest until everyone around the world is provided with safety, care and healthiness.

— **Aashish Allu**

*Aashish Allu is a junior at Lafayette High School and volunteers with the St. Louis chapter of RESULTS, a grassroots advocacy group working to end hunger and poverty.*

[https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/guest\\_commentaries/america-needs-to-increase-support-for-covid-19-vaccines-in-developing-nations/article\\_04fba64a-8db2-11eb-9465-ffd2077e61b6.html?fbclid=IwAR2qGigRfnHXcJrdBSPmx9xpfP6V1tMvOI5\\_Q1CSLif4c72x8gSQFjv5s](https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/guest_commentaries/america-needs-to-increase-support-for-covid-19-vaccines-in-developing-nations/article_04fba64a-8db2-11eb-9465-ffd2077e61b6.html?fbclid=IwAR2qGigRfnHXcJrdBSPmx9xpfP6V1tMvOI5_Q1CSLif4c72x8gSQFjv5s)

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

## GLOBAL GOOD

April 23, 2021

I have read recent coverage of the increased rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in Missouri with relief. Along with increased eligibility, we're also seeing increased appointment availability, so more of us can have protection against the coronavirus.

Our darkest days are nearing an end as we enter a new pandemic phase. But the desperation we felt during this outbreak was comparable to the stress of people in low-income countries without access to immunizations Americans consider ordinary, such as measles shots. The measles and rubella vaccine costs less than \$2 per child, yet in 2019, measles deaths surged to 207,500 because of declining vaccination rates in many countries. The pandemic only drove this number higher last year.

Even after your second COVID-19 vaccine, hang onto your frustration in solidarity with families around the world still needing routine immunizations, and take action. Reach out to Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley, as well as Reps. Emanuel Cleaver and Sam Graves. Urge them to fully fund global childhood immunization programs in the federal budget, including \$290 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and \$134 million for UNICEF.

Everyone in the world wants to be free of disease and fear.

— **Cynthia Levin**

*Town and Country, Missouri*

<https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article250668634.html>

## **We must support educating children, everywhere**

June 23, 2021

At one point, almost every child on the planet was out of school and every parent was left to figure out a new daily reality. For many, this marked a transition to online or hybrid learning. But for many other children facing poverty, isolation, or pushed to the margins, it has meant no school at all. The education crisis brought on by COVID-19 threatens the historic progress made by communities globally to get millions more children in school. Urgent action is needed so the COVID-19 education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation.

As the only international fund of its kind, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) marshals global resources for national education plans. Now, GPE and its partners have a five-year plan to support learning for 175 million more children in lower-income countries, helping recovery from the pandemic.

The Biden Administration must do its part with a \$1 billion five-year commitment to GPE. At this critical moment in global history, a bold pledge will show that the U.S. is committed to working hand-in-hand with the global community to ensure every child can achieve their dreams and reach their potential.

**— Amy Morros**

*St. Louis City*

[http://www.stlamerican.com/reader\\_interaction/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/we-must-support-educating-children-everywhere/article\\_d37a21ca-d3ff-11eb-96b2-f7890f0adf91.html](http://www.stlamerican.com/reader_interaction/letters_to_the_editor/we-must-support-educating-children-everywhere/article_d37a21ca-d3ff-11eb-96b2-f7890f0adf91.html)

## **Pandemic still globally impacting children's education**

June 29, 2021

Regarding "Masks off for summer in some St. Louis area school districts" (June 14): As a student of Parkway School District, I cannot thank our schools enough for their leadership in juggling the unique challenges, facing heated debates and making difficult decisions to protect us from the pandemic.

However, this situation is far from reality for students in many countries across the globe. An estimated 1.5 billion children are out of school around the world because of the pandemic. This is six times the 258 million children who were out of school prior to the pandemic. Urgent action is needed so the pandemic education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation.

The Global Partnership for Education is an international fund that marshals global resources to support child education in lower-income countries and is currently aiding recovery from the pandemic. The U.S. can and must lead this effort and work hand-in-hand with the global community to ensure all children can reach their potential. Reps. Ann Wagner and Cori Bush should support House Resolution 225, and Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley should co-sponsor Senate Resolution 240 in support of the Global Partnership for Education.

**— Raj Jaladi**

*Creve Coeur*

[https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-pandemic-still-globally-impacting-childrens-education/article\\_130afce3-ceac-50f0-8e34-fd171aec5ad5.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-pandemic-still-globally-impacting-childrens-education/article_130afce3-ceac-50f0-8e34-fd171aec5ad5.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **How can we end the COVID-19 educational crisis? Start with vaccinations.**

By Raj Jaladi

July 23, 2021

Perfectly spaced black squares filled with students' names have become the school for teachers and students across our country, including myself. No matter how much I like sitting through class while relaxing on my couch in PJs, it is dampened by the worry of accidentally unmuting, arguing with my mom while in class or losing my internet connection right in the middle of a timed test.

I commend my teachers who tried to make it interesting for us through online multiplayer quizzes such as Kahoot, virtual chemistry labs that spared us from pungent odors and for offering extra credit for keeping our videos on. Yet, classes are didactic, lecture-heavy and devoid of hands-on activities.

Our school districts also deserve a round of applause for having to balance the safety concerns of students and staff with their express goal of providing us with the least interrupted and best possible education.

Despite all efforts, virtual instruction is far from optimal. Missouri is one of the 17 states researched by The Center for Research on Educational Outcomes at Stanford University. They estimated that the average student lost a third of a year to a full year's worth of learning in reading and about three-quarters of a year to more than a year in math as a result of the shift to online.

The consequences are worse in marginalized communities that lack the appropriate technology and home environment for virtual instruction. Students who were already lagging academically before the pandemic have gotten even further behind.

Internationally the situation is even more tragic. Eighty percent of the world's school-age children, which is an estimated 1.5 billion children, have experienced disruptions in their education due to COVID-19. According to UNICEF, for at least 463 million children whose schools closed due to the pandemic, there was no such a thing as remote learning.

Too much of our government's response so far has been passivity masquerading as innovation in the form of online school. Despite the earnest efforts of students, teachers and administrators, we are not very close to a remedy. Action is urgently needed to prevent the COVID-19 education crisis from plaguing an entire generation of students.

The most basic tool is one available to everyone age 12 and up: vaccinations. Not only do COVID-19 vaccines save lives; they also enable full reopening of schools in the fall.

Unfortunately, the U.S. is one of only a few nations with ubiquitous access to vaccines. Countries without the ability to vaccinate their teachers, administrators and large portions of their students will largely be unable to safely reopen schools, especially countries that lack sufficient resources to modify their schools for virus-stricken instruction. America is uniquely positioned to be a global leader in education through international cooperation. As the only international fund of its kind, the Global Partnership for Education marshals global resources for national education plans in lower-income countries. Now, GPE and its partners have a five-year plan to support learning for millions of children in lower-income countries, helping to build back better from the pandemic. On July 28-29, the GPE is holding a replenishment conference, co-hosted by U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson and President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, to raise \$5 billion to achieve the goal to educate 175 million children, lift 18 million people out of poverty and save 3 million lives.

I am proud of our country for being a consistent contributor to the GPE in the past years. The U.S. was the third-largest donor country to education in 2019, according to data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

I urge President Joe Biden and the U.S. Congress to make a bold pledge of at least \$1 billion over the next five years to the GPE.

The U.S. can and must lead this effort and work hand-in-hand with the global community to ensure every child can reach his or her potential. I further urge Reps. Vicky Hartzler and Blaine Luetkemeyer to sign House Resolution 225 and Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley to sign Senate Resolution 240 in support of GPE.

*Raj Jaladi is a student at Parkway West High School in St. Louis. He is the freshman class president and group co-leader for Results, St. Louis, which is an advocacy organization and a worldwide movement of everyday individuals who take action to end extreme poverty.*

[https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/guest\\_commentaries/how-can-we-end-the-covid-19-educational-crisis-start-with-vaccinations/article\\_684346d6-e9c4-11eb-a863-d3c5b3fa7d5a.html](https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/guest_commentaries/how-can-we-end-the-covid-19-educational-crisis-start-with-vaccinations/article_684346d6-e9c4-11eb-a863-d3c5b3fa7d5a.html)



## Senate should vote for production of global vaccines

September 24, 2021

Regarding the letter “Being unvaccinated does in fact impact the vaccinated” (Sept. 21): Thanks to coronavirus vaccines, our community is able to reopen schools and businesses and return to a sense of near-normalcy. However, this is still threatened by the pandemic’s course across our country and globally and more specifically by the emergence of new variants. Vaccination is one of our best pathways out of this pandemic.

While in our country, we are not taking full advantage of the vaccines available, countries in Africa and Asia are imposing new lockdowns to stop a third wave of coronavirus infections because they lack access to the vaccines. But there are not enough vaccines being produced quickly enough so that everyone has access. The unchecked spread of the coronavirus is devastating low-income countries. It is curtailing travel and trade, and creating grounds for new dangerous variants, which is bad for all of us.

In the recovery package currently being debated on Capitol Hill, the House has proposed \$2 billion to expand the capacity to manufacture more vaccines. The Senate now must match the House proposal to meet the global need. Missouri Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley should support the House proposal and ensure a steady supply of vaccines globally and put us on the path to end this pandemic.

— **Raj Jaladi**

*Creve Coeur*

[https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-senate-should-vote-for-production-of-global-vaccines/article\\_2362431c-253c-57fc-9191-728905fae6fe.html](https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-senate-should-vote-for-production-of-global-vaccines/article_2362431c-253c-57fc-9191-728905fae6fe.html)





## **Vaccinate the world first, then give US booster shots**

October 25, 2021

Regarding "FDA OKs mixing COVID vaccines; backs Moderna, J&J boosters" (Oct. 21): This event is deeply troubling because hundreds of millions throughout the world still remain unvaccinated. Across the continent of Africa, less than 4% of the population is fully vaccinated.

While there was hope that COVAX, the global collaboration, would accelerate the equitable access to vaccines, this body has been forced to slash its goals by 25%. This disparity can only be rectified if the United States and other developed nations take immediate action to ramp up production of vaccines in less developed nations. Not only is promoting vaccine equity the morally right thing to do, it is in our own self-interest; if COVID-19 is not eradicated in all parts of the world, the virus will continue to transform itself into more resistant variants.

The U.S. House of Representatives has recently appropriated \$2 billion to scale up global vaccine manufacture. It is critical that the Senate does likewise. Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley of Missouri must act to support this objective.

**— Greg Campbell**

*Creve Coeur*

[https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-vaccinate-the-world-first-then-give-us-booster-shots/article\\_9f9c540c-85d6-57d1-a89a-3c176fde7fc1.html](https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-vaccinate-the-world-first-then-give-us-booster-shots/article_9f9c540c-85d6-57d1-a89a-3c176fde7fc1.html)



## **Fund global immunization effort**

Nov 13, 2021

The news about a surge of children getting immunized for COVID-19 (“Strong start to kids vaccine campaign, but challenges loom,” Globe, Nov. 10) coupled with dropping hospitalizations in Joplin (“COVID-19 cases continue to trend down,” Globe, Nov. 11) is incredibly encouraging as we head into winter months.

As a mom, I feel so fortunate to have such easy access to immunizations for my family for COVID-19 and other life-threatening diseases that Americans hardly ever think about. Around the world, 1 in 5 children still lack access to basic vaccines for child killers like measles, polio, rotavirus and pneumococcal virus. Sadly, that results in 1.5 million children still dying each year of vaccine-preventable diseases.

I remind U.S. Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley, along with U.S. Rep. Billy Long, not to forget about children around the world without the care we have in the U.S.

I urge them to fully fund global childhood immunization programs in our federal budget. Expanding vaccine access is not only beneficial to country economies, national security, and global stability — it’s also the right thing to do.

**— Cynthia Changyit Levin**

*St. Louis*

[https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-fund-global-immunization-effort/article\\_4a025684-42ee-11ec-bc8d-03c7db12d51d.html](https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-fund-global-immunization-effort/article_4a025684-42ee-11ec-bc8d-03c7db12d51d.html)



## Show empathy and fund global child vaccine programs

November 15, 2021

Regarding "'Strong' start to kids vaccine campaign, but challenges loom" (Nov. 10): As a mom of teens, I remember how desperate I was to get our whole family immunized. Finally, American kids of ages 5 to 11 now have access to coronavirus

Never have I empathized so much with parents in countries where vaccines are simply not available for life-threatening diseases like measles, polio, rotavirus and pneumococcal virus. Around the world, 1 in 5 children still lack access to basic vaccines. Now, American parents know firsthand what it feels like to have an infectious disease affect the daily lives of our kids.

Our collective experience with the current pandemic underscores the need for robust funding for global child vaccine programs through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Aid for International Development. Reps. Cori Bush, Ann Wagner and Blaine Luetkemeyer, along with Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley, must not to forget about children around the world without access to immunizations. They should fully fund global childhood immunization programs in our federal budget.

— **Cynthia Changyit Levin**

*Town and Country*

[https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-show-empathy-and-fund-global-child-vaccine-programs/article 64cf070e-4c0f-5c71-bb60-2bec790da5c1.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-show-empathy-and-fund-global-child-vaccine-programs/article 64cf070e-4c0f-5c71-bb60-2bec790da5c1.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

## Funds needed to boost global vaccination efforts

November 17, 2021

As we approach colder weather and a season of Thanksgiving and Hanukkah gatherings, I'm heartened by news of so many children getting the COVID-19 vaccine now that kids 5-11 years old are eligible. Vaccinating kids is the best way for us to protect them and their grandparents, so we can exchange hugs in person instead of Zoom greetings.

I feel so fortunate that my family has such easy access to immunizations for COVID-19 and other life-threatening diseases that Americans hardly ever think about. Around the world, one in five children around the world still lack access to basic vaccines for child killers like measles, polio, rotavirus and pneumococcal virus. Sadly, that results in 1.5 million children still dying each year of vaccine-preventable diseases.

I remind Senators Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley — along with Representatives Ann Wagner and Cori Bush — not to forget about children around the world without the care we have in the U.S. I urge them to fully fund global childhood immunization programs in our federal budget. Expanding vaccine access is not only beneficial to country economies, national security, and global stability — it's also the morally right thing to do.

— **Cynthia Changyit Levin**

*Town and Country*

<https://stljewishlight.org/opinion/letters-to-editor/letters-to-the-editor-nov-17-2021/>

## Global immunization of children long overdue

November 18, 2021

The American's story of Mantra Lotus ("Mantra Lotus on finding the blessings of COVID," November 11) finding a positive way forward after her losses was inspiring. Another blessing of sorts that has come from COVID-19 is a feeling of empathy for others around the world suffering from infectious diseases like measles, rotavirus, and pneumococcal virus.

Even without the effects of COVID-19, 1.5 million children die each year of vaccine-preventable disease because one in five children around the world still lack access to basic vaccines. The current pandemic underscores the need for robust funding for global child vaccine programs through CDC and USAID. Investing in routine immunization, primary health care, and community health workers bolsters a nation's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease.

I urge Representatives Cori Bush and Ann Wagner, along with Senators Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley, to tap into the empathy we feel for our losses here in the U.S. to fight diseases around the world. They should fully fund global childhood immunization programs in the federal budget.

— Cynthia Levin

*Town & Country*

[http://www.stlamerican.com/news/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/global-immunization-of-children-long-overdue/article\\_8f52fcae-47a6-11ec-891d-1f1ef08e4676.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](http://www.stlamerican.com/news/letters_to_the_editor/global-immunization-of-children-long-overdue/article_8f52fcae-47a6-11ec-891d-1f1ef08e4676.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

## **Vaccination is best way to protect our families against COVID-19**

November 29, 2021

In this season of colder weather and holiday gatherings, I'm grateful I received a COVID-19 booster shot as all adults are now eligible to do. ("Missouri opens coronavirus vaccine booster to all adults," Nov. 20.) Full vaccination for our loved ones is the best way to protect our families, so we can exchange hugs instead of Zoom greetings.

We're fortunate to have access to immunizations for coronavirus and other life-threatening diseases. Across Africa, less than 10% of the population has been fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Around the world, 1 in 5 children still lack access to basic vaccines for child killers like measles, polio and rotavirus. Sadly, that results in 1.5 million children dying each year of vaccine-preventable diseases. Everyone deserves to have access to the vaccines, no matter where they live.

I remind Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley —along with Rep. Vicky Hartzler — not to forget about children around the world who don't experience the care we have in America.

President Joe Biden and Congress must lead a global effort to bring together industry, governments and global health institutions to urgently increase the supply and distribution of vaccines.

**— Cynthia Changyit Levin**

*St. Louis*

[https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/vaccination-is-best-way-to-protect-our-families-against-covid-19/article\\_684aa04a-5128-11ec-8a5d-930dcd7ef666.html](https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/vaccination-is-best-way-to-protect-our-families-against-covid-19/article_684aa04a-5128-11ec-8a5d-930dcd7ef666.html)



## Bipartisan effort to combat hunger is commendable

December 16, 2021

The letter "Lawmakers should be like Dole and battle world hunger" (Dec. 10) urged our area's congressional law makers to cosponsor House Resolution 4693, the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act. Rep. Ann Wagner, R-Ballwin listened to her constituents and supported this legislation. It has also been very heartening to see both parties supporting this initiative together. Reps. Cori Bush and Blaine Luetkemeyer should take the action to cosponsor as well.

We need to continue the bipartisan momentum to protect the most vulnerable people in the world from the lasting effects of hunger and starvation.

— **Summer Levin**

*Town and Country*

[https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-bipartisan-effort-to-combat-hunger-is-commendable/article\\_b5ba25ab-feaf-585c-a25c-f7c3a8a36409.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-bipartisan-effort-to-combat-hunger-is-commendable/article_b5ba25ab-feaf-585c-a25c-f7c3a8a36409.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Support Bill To “Save Millions Of Lives”**

December 20, 2021

The editorial column, “Unforgettable Acts of Kindness,” (Dec. 6 issue) detailed a couple of stories of touching individual kindnesses. It strikes me that we don’t talk much about systematic kindness in Congress, probably because it’s more tempting to complain about politics.

For instance, right now Congress is considering H.R. 4693, the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act, which would strengthen and improve global child nutrition programs. There is almost an exact balance of Democrats and Republicans supporting the bill that could potentially save millions of lives. We should celebrate when we see conservative Republicans like Rep. Ann Wagner coming together with progressive Democrats like Rep. Ilhan Omar to fight hunger and poverty. I hope that Rep. Cori Bush will join this beautiful bi-partisan initiative and that Senators Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley will support S. 2956, the senate version of the legislation.

**— Cynthia Changyit Levin**

*Town and Country*

[https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/opinion/letters/support-bill-to-save-millions-of-lives/article\\_d96b2310-5e9f-11ec-848e-77f19d152abe.html](https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/opinion/letters/support-bill-to-save-millions-of-lives/article_d96b2310-5e9f-11ec-848e-77f19d152abe.html)





## Lawmakers must help support global vaccine distribution

December 22, 2021

Regarding “Fauci says omicron variant is ‘just raging around the world’” (Dec. 19): It is tragic that the our death toll from the coronavirus tops 800,000, and the U.S. has the highest reported toll of any country. Despite vaccinations, we are far from being immune to new variants and far from stopping this death toll.

We hurt our own prospects of getting rid of the virus by failing to support and accelerate global vaccinations, especially in low-income countries. A global pandemic needs to be battled worldwide, and all countries need to be vaccinated simultaneously at the same time.

There is a bicameral (both House and Senate) sign-on letter circulating now calling for an additional \$17 billion to expand vaccine manufacturing and access. Reps. Ann Wagner, R-Ballwin, and Cori Bush, D-St. Louis, as well as Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley, should sign on to this letter and help end this pandemic.

— **Raj Jaladi**

*Creve Coeur*

[https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-lawmakers-must-help-support-global-vaccine-distribution/article\\_100d8d26-3502-55d9-a31c-9f6efa24647e.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-lawmakers-must-help-support-global-vaccine-distribution/article_100d8d26-3502-55d9-a31c-9f6efa24647e.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## Opportunity to question candidates

July 7, 2021

Great to see our democracy at work with the recent census giving Montana a second representative in the House. ("Democrat Monica Tranel running for state's new U.S. House seat," by Holly Michaels, Missoulian, July 7.)

For the people, it is an opportunity to ask questions of the candidate: Do you support America's role in global health by helping to fund the Global Partnership for Education? What would you do to end homelessness? Do you support increasing the funding for the Housing Voucher Program so more than current one-fourth of Americans who qualify will receive housing vouchers?

In this way it is easier to make informed choices and hold the victor to their promises after the election.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

[https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-opportunity-to-question-candidates/article\\_726738b7-e2a2-5db1-bac5-4856f6f40546.html#tncms-source=login](https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-opportunity-to-question-candidates/article_726738b7-e2a2-5db1-bac5-4856f6f40546.html#tncms-source=login)



## **Make sure COVID vaccine is available to all**

August 9, 2021

Excellent advice from the Missoulian Editorial Board: "Get vaccinated, if you can. It's not too late." (Missoulian editorial: "Clear choice between vaccine and virus," Aug. 1.)

The sad cases of the unvaccinated being hospitalized and dying tragically prove their point. The Delta variant reaching our shores came from places the vaccine has been sparse or non-existent. Other variants will arrive to set us back as well, perhaps even more deadly, until the vaccine reaches everyone across the globe.

President Biden understands this and has promised 500 million doses for middle and low income countries through the COVAX Initiative. In addition to being vaccinated and wearing masks as appropriate, we can ask our representatives and the president to continue the effort to make sure the vaccine is available to all who need it. Otherwise we will continue to fight the variant wars of this pandemic, continuing the tragic loss of life the pandemic has taken: 100 Missoula County folks, over 600,000 Americans, and millions around our world.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

[https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-make-sure-covid-vaccine-is-available-to-all/article\\_01e03412-f6b1-5a49-a7e7-19132f078750.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-make-sure-covid-vaccine-is-available-to-all/article_01e03412-f6b1-5a49-a7e7-19132f078750.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Battle pandemic globally**

Thanks for the excellent, fact-based editorial about safety in our public schools ("Priority should be student safety, not politics," in the Missoulian on Sept. 5).

The democratically elected school board focuses on this and the best science based decisions call for pandemic prevention: masks, social distancing and vaccinations. In addition, to control this pandemic locally, we must battle it globally. This is where presidential leadership is called for: global vaccine access is necessary to finally bring an end to the cycles of variant caused spikes in infections and deaths.

Just like the democracy of the school board, we can weigh in on this policy: Ask President Biden (202-456-1111) to right the situation and encourage our senators and representatives (202-224-3121) to support this global action to ensure vaccine for all, that will also protect us locally.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

[https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-battle-pandemic-globally/article\\_516eb5c4-5e3a-58b7-87c0-6a587346633b.html#tncms-source=login](https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-battle-pandemic-globally/article_516eb5c4-5e3a-58b7-87c0-6a587346633b.html#tncms-source=login)



## **Empower women, make a difference**

March 24, 2021

What a fabulous way to celebrate Women's History Month: "helping empower girls and women to succeed," as suggested by Lisa Levine in the March 17 column "See it, believe it, become it."

One of the most empowering paths is education, in our country and around the world. Among the organizations most effectively doing advocacy work to empower women and girls is Results (results.org). It is currently working to make permanent the increases to the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit passed in the latest pandemic relief package. This would significantly cut poverty, which too often affects women.

On the global level, Results volunteers are asking Congress to increase support of the Global Partnership for Education, helping low-income countries increase the quality and quantity of education, especially for girls. So find your way to help empower girls, women and yourself and make a difference in the process.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Wash.*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/mar/24/empower-women-make-a-difference/>



## **Show children how we can lead**

June 8, 2021

The June 4 editorial “For the sake of our children, it’s time for American adults to grow up,” calling for the adults in our country to set a positive example for the kids, was excellent.

This starts with Congress working together to battle the hunger and homelessness far too many children face. The Child Tax Credit was increased temporarily, with the power to cut child poverty in half if it is made permanent. This would be a great place for Congress to start, then move on to the housing crisis that is driving more families into homelessness. It’s no wonder, since our housing voucher program is only funded for 25% of those who qualify.

At the same time, America can show how important it is to help others by making a \$1 billion pledge over the next five years to the Global Partnership for Education, putting 175 million more kids in school.

We can help by contacting our members of Congress and asking them to step up to pass these and other initiatives that will not only set the example for our kids, but showcase America’s working democracy.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Wash.*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/jun/08/show-children-how-we-can-lead/>



## **Investment in schools needed**

June 10, 2021

The education crisis brought on by COVID-19 threatens historic progress made by communities globally to get millions more children in school. Urgent action is needed so the crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation.

As the only international fund of its kind, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) marshals global resources for national education plans. GPE and its partners now have a five-year, \$5 billion plan to support child education in lower-income countries, aiding recovery from the pandemic. This investment will educate 175 million children, lift 18 million people out of poverty, and save 3 million lives.

America can and must lead this effort. At this critical moment in global history, a bold pledge of \$1 billion for five years will show that the U.S. is committed to working with the global community to ensure all children can reach their potential.

**— Kathleen Close**

*Las Vegas*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/jun/10/investment-in-schools-needed/>



## **Vaccine efforts must go global**

August 29, 2021

For most Americans, receiving the COVID-19 vaccination is a simple process. You walk into your local grocery store or health center and leave with your first vaccination in less than 30 minutes. Within weeks, the opportunity to reconnect with friends and family becomes reality.

Meanwhile, many low-income countries are imposing new lockdowns to stop a third wave of COVID-19 infections because they've been denied access to COVID-19 vaccines. And now they are dealing with the highly infectious delta variant. Across Africa, just 1% of the population has been vaccinated, yet no world leader has proposed a solution. Everyone deserves to have access to the COVID-19 vaccine, no matter where they live.

President Biden and Congress must lead a global effort to bring together industry, governments, and global health institutions to urgently increase the supply and distribution of vaccines. If the U.S. and other countries work together, we can vaccinate the world.

**— Kathleen Close**

*Las Vegas*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/aug/29/vaccine-efforts-must-go-global/>





## **Pandemic must be a global battle**

September 14, 2021

I was excited to run across the Aug. 29 letter, "Vaccine efforts must go global," which called on the president and Congress to lead the effort for global vaccine access.

If this doesn't happen, we will be doomed to these continual new variants that reach our shore and repeat the spikes of infections and deaths. America has the power to lead the way to global vaccine access, and it will be our voices that create the political will to make it happen.

Call President Joe Biden (202-456-1111) and ask him to do what it takes to make sure this pandemic is battled globally, and encourage your senators and representatives (202-224-3121) to support this life-saving effort.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Wash.*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/sep/14/pandemic-must-be-a-global-battle/>



## **Anti-poverty measures should be permanent**

September 30, 2021

Anti-poverty measures can be made permanent in U.S.

To the Editor: Thanks to Union Leader for publishing Dr. Michelle Caughey's excellent op-ed (9-27-21). As a member of NH RESULTS, I support asking Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan to make sure that upcoming legislation makes the March American Rescue Act provisions permanent, rather than allowing them to expire at the end of the year.

We say yes to full refundability of the Child Tax Credit. With only one July payment, it has already lifted 9 million children out of poverty.

We say yes to making the EITC expansions permanent for workers without children and younger workers, so they are not taxed further into poverty.

We also encourage our senators to fund robust housing support, including at least \$90 billion in rental assistance, with the highest possible amount for housing choice vouchers, while targeting lowest income households whose families and children are suffering most in this pandemic time.

These provisions will cut child poverty in half in the U.S., stem the affordable housing crisis, and narrow the racial wealth divide. If the recovery bill also includes at least \$2 billion to scale global COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing capacity we can all emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever before.

RESULTS is a group of volunteers who use their voices to develop the political will to end worldwide poverty.

— **William Baker**

*Antrim*

[https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-anti-poverty-measures-should-be-permanent/article\\_980a854d-8369-5563-96b0-c87216c19a1f.html](https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-anti-poverty-measures-should-be-permanent/article_980a854d-8369-5563-96b0-c87216c19a1f.html)

## **COVID is not the only pandemic**

April 26, 2021

Massive efforts to develop new vaccines and put them in people's arms are protecting more and more Americans from the COVID pandemic.

However, many countries around the world, increasingly overwhelmed by COVID-19, simply do not have the resources to fight it, at least on their own. In fact, this is not the only pandemic they face.

Americans might be surprised that the deadliest infection in much of the world is still tuberculosis (TB). Between 2015 and 2019, TB infection dropped by 9% and deaths decreased by 14%. But now, as funding and medical personnel are diverted to fight the newest pandemic, over a decade of progress against TB, especially drug-resistant variants, is slipping away.

True, this is not a disease that greatly affects privileged populations in the global north—not currently anyway. But does that justify neglecting millions of lives that could be saved if Congress has the political will to fund such a vital, longterm global health priority?

The same goes for pandemic effects on education and hunger. Research indicates that COVID-19 has set back the education of about 80% of the world's school-aged children. It has also driven around 150 million additional people into extreme poverty, which means millions more children will be malnourished and permanently harmed.

By providing sufficient resources in next year's budget, Congress could strengthen education and healthcare systems globally and save countless lives. In addition to substantial appropriations to fight COVID-19, robust funding towards TB control,

global education, and global nutrition is needed to save lives and truly demonstrate America's global leadership.

I call on Senators Cory Booker and Bob Menendez, and my Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, to be bold in taking on the devastating pandemics sweeping the world. Thank you for your leadership and please continue to champion funding levels that will truly make a difference.

— **Alice Feng**

RESULTS NJ Delaware Valley Chapter Advocate

Princeton High School Class of 2021

*Princeton*

<https://centraljersey.com/2021/04/26/opinion-covid-is-not-the-only-pandemic/>

## COVID — who wins?

December 16, 2021

Thanks for your ongoing COVID coverage, including "Poll: Pandemic stress has weighed on Gen Z" 12/7/21.

It's simple. Given the global pandemic — who wins? Do the drug companies continue to win (read: billions more in profits) or the world (read: millions of lives saved, economies and schools opened up, billions of dollars saved)?

The Biden Administration simply needs to make Moderna and Pfizer share the vaccine recipe and production know-how with the world. Use moral authority or the Defense Production Act or whatever. Otherwise COVID continues to mutate and people needlessly suffer and die.

Who wins? The profiteers or the people?

— **Rich Renner**

*Las Cruces*

<https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/opinion/2021/12/12/letters-editor-cannabis-schedule-drug/6476806001/>



## **Pitch in!**

December 13, 2021

(On Nov. 20), my granddaughter celebrated her 14th birthday.

At her birthday party, she made a wish and blew out 14 candles. Her family and friends sang "Happy Birthday" and celebrated how much she has grown (5'8") this year, as well what a lovely smart kid she is becoming.

A lot of other children around the globe share the same birthday.

Tragically, many will not live to blow out 14 candles. Malnutrition is the underlying cause for nearly half of the preventable deaths in children under the age of 5. These numbers have swelled because the pandemic has increased the number of families living in poverty. It has also negatively impacted already fragile health care delivery infrastructure at a country level. Children are missing vital vaccinations and vitamin supplements. Over 149 million children are stunted, meaning they will be physically small and their brains will not develop normally.

The devastation of malnutrition can be reversed.

There is a bill in the House and Senate, The Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act of 2021. If passed, it would provide USAID with funding and require the agency to establish clear time-bound targets for delivery of such medications as Vitamin A and emergency therapeutic foods.

What better birthday present could we give our children than to help ensure other children around the world will be able to grow into healthy adults who can reach their potential?

Imagine the joy that would fill the world if all kids can blow out birthday candles to the sound of “Happy Birthday” sung by those who love them.

Please call your representatives and ask them to cosponsor this bill.

— **Louisa Barkalow**

*Albuquerque resident*

<https://www.abqjournal.com/2453358/pitch-in.html>



## **Federal financial lifelines important**

May 8, 2021

Editor:

I have a great interest in how my tax dollars are spent and so I turn to Congressional Representative Elise Stefanik and ask her to lead her Republican colleagues in support of the Earned Income Tax Credit as well as the Child Tax Credit. Tax and housing policy can cut child poverty over 50%. With housing and food security, children do better in school and are healthier. The EITC and CTC are financial lifelines for families working in low-wage jobs. Together, they lifted 7.5 million Americans above the poverty line in 2019. Unfortunately, an estimated 27 million children in low-income families do not receive the full CTC because their parents' earnings are too low. Expansion of SNAP (food stamps) and tax credits will go a long way to help people lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

I feel really happy when I hear from my friends how Section 8 vouchers or tax credits have made the difference in being housed or homeless, able to buy nutritious food for their kids, have some breath and space in their lives.

I support a permanent expansion of EITC, CTC and SNAP in upcoming tax or economic recovery legislation.

Finally, I want to thank the congresswoman for her support of funding global nutrition programs in our foreign aid budget.

**— Susan Oehser**

*Bakers Mills*

[https://poststar.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-federal-financial-lifelines-important/article\\_697a5e8e-b3f8-5814-baa8-ef7f7448900d.html](https://poststar.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-federal-financial-lifelines-important/article_697a5e8e-b3f8-5814-baa8-ef7f7448900d.html)



# THE BUFFALO NEWS

## **America must act to ensure global educational opportunity**

June 3, 2021

The May 27 headline in The Buffalo News: “Cuomo says schools can open fully in fall.” While students in Western New York prepare for and others return to in-school learning, millions of children around the world are struggling to get even a basic education. Covid-19 has wreaked havoc on even the strongest education systems. Every child has the right to a quality education. When children can learn, and learn well, they have keys to a more just, prosperous and equal future.

At the peak of the pandemic, 1.6 billion of the world’s children were out of school – and many are at risk of never returning. Urgent action is needed now to ensure the Covid-19 education crisis does not turn into a permanent catastrophe for an entire generation. The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) marshals global resources for national education plans. GPE and its partners now have a five-year, \$5 billion plan to support learning for 175 million more children in lower-income countries, helping communities to recover from the pandemic. The U.S. must do our part to support this effort with a bold pledge of \$1 billion spread over the next five years. Urge your representatives to Congress to take action on this issue.

**— Bruce Davidson**

*Group Leader, RESULTS Buffalo; East Amherst*

[https://buffalonews.com/opinion/letters/letter-america-must-act-to-ensure-global-educational-opportunity/article\\_2feb1cb6-c3c5-11eb-bbe3-475521a417e8.html](https://buffalonews.com/opinion/letters/letter-america-must-act-to-ensure-global-educational-opportunity/article_2feb1cb6-c3c5-11eb-bbe3-475521a417e8.html)



## **We must help vaccinate the world**

July 13, 2021

Editor:

This summer, I am filled with joy and gratitude to be able to travel to visit my family across the country. Access to COVID-19 vaccines has allowed our community to reopen schools and businesses and return to a sense of near-normalcy. Meanwhile, many countries in Africa are imposing new lockdowns to stop a third wave of COVID-19 infections, because they lack access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Vaccination is our pathway out of this pandemic, but there are not enough vaccines being produced quickly enough so that everyone has access. The unchecked spread of COVID-19 is devastating low-income countries, and will generate additional dangerous variants, which is bad for all of us.

President Biden, we need your leadership to urgently boost global manufacturing of vaccines, including using your authority to compel companies to share taxpayer-funded vaccine innovation with the world in order to ramp up manufacturing so that everyone will have access quickly.

**— Susan Oehser**

*Bakers Mills*

[https://poststar.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-we-must-help-vaccinate-the-world/article\\_9547695a-71a9-5d55-a1e0-9b69b6481f30.html](https://poststar.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-we-must-help-vaccinate-the-world/article_9547695a-71a9-5d55-a1e0-9b69b6481f30.html)



## **Every child deserves an education**

July 21, 2021

My grandparents immigrated from Italy, and neither of my grandmothers could read or write. My mother, the eldest of five children, was forced to leave school at the age of 14 to help support her family in the early 1930s. I was the first female in my family to attend college, and I have a master's degree in elementary education.

I'm telling you this because it's clear to me that education is the access to opportunity and fulfillment of potential. It also makes possible the building of wealth — as a single woman, I am the owner of a house on Staten Island, building on the wealth of my parents. Education is the key to a more just, prosperous and equal future for today's young people.

Today's generation of young people is the largest ever, and 9 out of 10 live in low-income countries. Even before the pandemic, there were 250 million children not in school. The pandemic has been the largest disruption to education in history, and unfortunately, not all children will return to school, especially young girls. Twenty million secondary school girls are at risk of dropping out. Many will be forced into child marriages. Girls deprived of education are deprived of opportunities and dreams.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is the largest global fund solely dedicated to transforming education in low income countries and providing a quality education. Since 2002, 160 million more children have attended school with GPE support, more than half of whom are girls. GPE works with countries with the greatest need. In 2019, 76% of GPE funding went to countries affected by conflict and fragility. Countries applying for grants from the GPE must show a commitment to education in their own national budgets, and there is a high degree of accountability.

On July 28 and July 29, the United Kingdom and Kenya will host a replenishment conference for the GPE for 2021-2025. The Global Partnership for Education's

strategy for the next five years is set to enable 175 million kids to attend school in over 90 low income countries, 88 million more than would be otherwise possible. GPE estimates that its investments over the next 5 years will lift 18 million people out of poverty, and prevent 2 million girls from being forced into child marriages. The estimated cost of this five-year plan is \$5 billion, not a huge sum when put in the context of the global economy.

The U.S. needs to support this goal with a pledge of no less than \$1 billion over five years. U.S. leadership with a pledge in this amount will encourage other countries (such as Britain, Germany, Canada, Switzerland and Japan) to also step up with pledges that will make the goals of the GPE possible. To quote Malala Yousafzai, “If we are spending billions of dollars on bombs, why not spend on pens, on books, on teachers.” Many of us take the ability to read for granted. One of the things I am happiest about in my life is that I have taught hundreds of children to become good readers and critical thinkers. Let’s give every child on the planet the opportunity to learn to read.

**— Joanne DiDato**

*Port Richmond Center*

*(Joanne DiDato, of Port Richmond Center, is a retired elementary school teacher who taught at P.S. 4 on Staten Island. For 35 years, she has been an active volunteer with RESULTS, a citizens’ lobby group dedicated to ending poverty.)*

<https://www.silive.com/opinion/columns/2021/07/every-child-deserves-an-education-opinion.html>

# Citizen Times

## Let's be smarter about foreign policy

May 30, 2021

The U.S. is winding down nearly two decades of war efforts in Afghanistan. Sadly, after spending nearly \$2 trillion and losing countless lives, we really haven't accomplished much. We need to be smarter about combatting extremism, using all three legs of our foreign policy: diplomacy, defense and development. Looking at recent attacks by the Taliban should give us a clue. Have they attacked strategic military targets? Weakened Afghan forces? No, they've attacked schools. What is it about the power of the pen and educated girls that so threatens them? We've seen the same thing in Nigeria with Boko Haram.

Perhaps we should shift strategies and invest more in development, ensuring that quality education is available to all. It would be more effective and it would certainly be cheaper. We can take step in this direction by supporting the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)—they work in resource-poor settings and support education in conflict zones. Senators Tillis and Burr and Representative Cawthorn should get behind a bold U.S. pledge for the July GPE replenishment conference.

— **Ken Patterson**

*Asheville*

[https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=1c0be1781\\_1345d86](https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=1c0be1781_1345d86)

# Citizen Times

## **We must keep education front and center**

June 13, 2021

Rarely does a day pass when you can't find something in the Citizen Times focused on education. In recent days we've seen pieces on the reduction in funding from the county (May 26), closing of Asheville Primary (May 26), the need for North Carolina to provide more equitable education (May 26), expanding pre-school in Buncombe County (May 27), and protests outside the Buncombe County School Board meetings (June 5).

Why so much coverage of education? Because we all know the importance of education in the lives of our children and our communities. If we fail to provide quality education, the region will fail. Our residents will not have the skills and learning aptitude needed to work higher-level, good-paying jobs, which will cause businesses to locate elsewhere, and people to move away. The ceaseless coverage of education is needed and appreciated, particularly given that NC has some of the biggest educational achievement gaps in the country between low-income and other students.

The bottom line is we cannot afford to shortchange education or allow gaps in quality to exist due to race and income. We also cannot afford to avoid teaching the truth about the history of oppression and discrimination in our state or country, even if it's embarrassing. The quality of education we offer each of our children will dictate their future and the future and prosperity of our community. Our people are our greatest asset, and we must ensure that every child has a quality education, even if it means spending more and targeting investment toward those who have historically been discriminated against or left out.

And as we think about the kind of community we want to live in, and the role education plays in creating it, we must not forget that 1.6 billion children around the world have been out of school at some point during the pandemic, and that most children living in poorer countries have had little or no access to remote learning. This continues to be true as low-income countries preserve social

distancing practices because they have little or no access to COVID- 19 vaccines either.

In many low-income countries, schools provide more than just education; they provide food and nutrition, safety, and psychosocial support. What will the lives of these children, denied education, look like? What options will they have? Will their countries be able to participate in the global economy? And if they can't, what kind of desperation will result? History tells us that desperation typically leads to vulnerability, instability, and extremism. That's not good for anyone.

But the global education story during the pandemic has not been all bad. Thankfully, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), an organization the U.S. supports, jumped into action at the beginning of the pandemic, investing \$500 million in emergency COVID- 19 support to low-income countries to develop educational curriculum for radio, provide internet access where was none, and support house-to-house delivery of lessons and homework. Though it is fortunate that GPE was able to act immediately, they have depleted their resources, and their investment is only a fraction of what is needed.

GPE has a replenishment conference in July where they are seeking \$5 billion from donor governments, foundations, and private enterprise to fund a five-year plan to support 90 countries to expand access to quality education. GPE estimates they can leverage the \$5 billion to provide quality education to 175 million students and get an additional 88 million children in school. They estimate these efforts will lead to 2 million fewer child marriages, lift 18 million people out of poverty, save 3 million lives, and add \$164 billion to partner economies. This is good for the children, their countries, and the U.S.

If we fail to help children in poor settings get back on track with their education, we risk losing a generation of students that will have limited opportunities in the future. Senator Thom Tillis recently signaled support for increasing funding for GPE in fiscal year 2022. He is right. But the N.C. congressional delegation should do more. Senators Tillis and Richard Burr, and Reps. Madison Cawthorn, Virginia Foxx, and Patrick McHenry should call on the Biden Administration to make a meaningful U.S. pledge at the July GPE replenishment conference. A U.S. pledge will send a signal to other countries to do their part and help GPE do the important work of creating opportunity, stability, and peace through education.

This is a critical moment to prioritize education in our community, state, and in low-income countries. Our future depends upon it.

— **Ken Patterson**

*Asheville*

*Ken Patterson is director of Grassroots Impact for Results.org, a movement of passionate, committed everyday people working to end poverty.*

<https://www.citizen-times.com/story/opinion/2021/06/13/opinion-imperative-we-keep-education-front-and-center/7606854002/> or [https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=27ef24866\\_1345dd9](https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=27ef24866_1345dd9)





## **We must support educating children everywhere**

June 14, 2021

The education crisis brought on by COVID-19 threatens historic progress made by communities globally to get millions more children in school. Urgent action is needed so the COVID-19 education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation.

As the only international fund of its kind, the Global Partnership for Education marshals global resources for national education plans. GPE and its partners now have a five-year, \$5 billion plan to support child education in lower-income countries, aiding recovery from the pandemic. This investment will educate 175 million children, lift 18 million people out of poverty, and save 3 million lives.

America can and must lead this effort. At this critical moment in global history, a bold pledge of \$1 billion for five years will show that the U.S. is committed to working hand-in-hand with the global community to ensure every child can reach their potential.

**— Gerard Stamm**

*Candler*

[https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=0070d494b\\_1345dda](https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=0070d494b_1345dda)



## US should commit to working on global education

June 23, 2021

In N.C. and across the U.S., COVID is easing and life is returning to normal. Although we have suffered greatly, we kept our economy afloat and the vast majority of children continued their education. Around the world many countries were or still are harder hit. The impacts of school closures and the social/economic impacts of COVID have increased disparities in education. Worldwide, 1.5 billion children are out of school, approximately 6X more than before COVID. They risk falling behind or permanently stopping their education. According to UNICEF, 90% of countries adopted some form of digital/remote learning. Almost 1/3 of schoolchildren worldwide (463 million) cannot be reached by broadcast or Internet remote learning. In response to COVID, Global Partnership for Education mobilized a rapid, largest-ever emergency response to prevent loss of learning. GPE is the largest provider of education grants in the global COVID response and distributed \$500 million to partner countries.

The stakes have never been higher for the U.S. to show a new level of commitment on global education. At the GPE replenishment conference in July, we call on the White House to make a \$1 billion five-year commitment. This pledge will show the U.S. is committed to working with the global community to ensure every child can achieve their dreams and reach their potential. Contact your members of Congress to urge their support.

— **Howard Berkowitz**

*Candler*

[https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?token=100df2ca91d16dbd4ad57a6dbef8d511&cnum=5bf3feb0-720c-e611-990a-90b11c343abd&fod=1111111STD-0&selDate=20210621&licenseType=paid\\_subscriber&](https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?token=100df2ca91d16dbd4ad57a6dbef8d511&cnum=5bf3feb0-720c-e611-990a-90b11c343abd&fod=1111111STD-0&selDate=20210621&licenseType=paid_subscriber&)



## **An open letter to President Biden and Members of Congress**

July 25, 2021

Much of the world is still afflicted by the COVID pandemic. While the U.S. has plentiful quantities of vaccine, many of our

fellow citizens are refusing to take it and with the Delta variant, infection rates are starting to rise. Meanwhile, in much of the world not even the health care workers have the option to receive a vaccination. Public and private efforts to develop safe, effective vaccines against the COVID pandemic in less than a year after it emerged was a Herculean effort. It is unconscionable for rich countries to hoard the resources and know-how that could end the devastation of COVID-19. Effective vaccines can end this pandemic, but they're not being produced fast enough to reach everyone who needs them. Nine out of 10 people in low-income countries will not receive a single COVID-19 vaccination dose this year. Across the continent of Africa, just one percent of the population is fully vaccinated.

President Biden, along with Congress, you have the responsibility, authority and obligation to lead a global effort to ensure communities across the globe have access to vaccines. Whatever it takes to marshal the resources within the U.S. and our allies to produce enough vaccine fast enough must be done. The cost is small compared to the loss of human lives. Whereas our annual defense expenditures make much of the world afraid of the United States motivations and agendas, a war on the pandemic will show the true nature of America while also ensuring the safety of all our citizens along with those of our fellow inhabitants of the planet.

There is NO TIME TO WASTE. The Delta variant is spreading quickly and with new cases come new variants; potentially variants will evolve that are resistant to the vaccines. We can't wait for that possibility to occur. Please act NOW !

**— Howard Berkowitz**

*Candler*

No online link

## **The United States should address the need for vaccines worldwide**

September 15, 2021

Articles in the Times-News continue to provide information about COVID in our community. Numbers are going up and hospital beds are limited even in our county as well as across the United States. Imagine what it is like in the poorer countries in the world where access to vaccines is so limited and less than 5 percent of the population is vaccinated.

The pandemic will not end until everyone has access to vaccines. If it exists anywhere, we are vulnerable. Currently we do not have the capacity to manufacture enough vaccines to distribute to countries desperately needing them. Allowing the pandemic to go unaddressed is inhumane and self-defeating as people suffer and die and the risk of variants grows.

Public Citizen has estimated that it would cost \$34 billion to enable manufacturers in the United States and regional hubs to adequately produce and distribute enough vaccines for those needing it by the end of next year. But no one is stepping up to address this need. Not only would this provide vaccines that are badly needed, but it would also add jobs for our citizens.

President Biden and Congress should step into the leadership void. Urge the president and members of Congress to announce a global plan to address the pandemic and include funds in the reconciliation bill for this purpose. This is our opportunity to provide the kind of leadership needed in the world today to stop the pandemic.

**— Barbara Clawson**

*Burlington*

<https://www.thetimesnews.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/09/15/global-plan-provide-covid-19-vaccines-poorer-countries/8265476002/>



## **Every child should have access to quality education**

August 6, 2021

Quality education is the right of every child. The Global Partnership for Education has spent nearly two decades helping low income governments invest in solutions to get all girls and boys into school and learning. At a financing summit held this year in July the Biden administration was to pledge 1 billion over 5 years to support GPE's 2021-2025 strategy for basic education, getting 88 million more children into school.

Instead, a pledge of \$305 million over 3 years was made. However, the final funding decision is up to Congress where there is strong bipartisan support for this issue. I am asking that Congress do what is right and approve the \$1 billion over 3 years.

**— Donna Galetovich**

*Chardon*

<https://www.cleveland.com/letters/2021/08/every-child-should-have-access-to-quality-education.html>

# Akron Beacon Journal

## Other nations desperately need shots

September 12, 2021

Globally, access to COVID-19 vaccines is a major challenge, with fewer than 2% of people from low-income countries being vaccinated. The effects of this are widespread, including not only the primary health effects, but the secondary effects. As my friend in Uganda recently told me, because of new COVID-19 lockdowns, children are being kept from school, and unplanned pregnancies of young women are climbing because of this.

The problems in the U.S. and abroad are linked. Without global vaccine distribution, developing countries do not have access to preventive measures. Continuing COVID-19 spread allows the virus to mutate to possibly more dangerous variants, thereby threatening the globe.

The only solution is to have an equitable distribution of the vaccine worldwide. The U.S. has the infrastructure and capacity to do this. I am calling on Sen. Sherrod Brown, Sen. Rob Portman, Congressman Tim Ryan, President Joe Biden, and all of Congress, to increase the supply and distribution of vaccines worldwide. In doing so, the U.S. can lead the effort to end the pandemic globally.

— **Keith Task**

*Streetsboro*

<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/09/12/opinion-send-covid-10-vaccines-nations-need-help-slow-virus/8259294002/>



## **Let's give kids around the world access to education**

June 2, 2021

Hates off to Rep. Ricki Ruiz for his advocacy and call for the Oregon state Legislature to pass the Civic Education Act (Senate bill 513) addressing the need for students to learn about and empathize with people of different cultures, races, creeds and color and to extend that concern to students around the globe. ("Civic education makes our democracy stronger" in the Portland Tribune, May 12, 2021.) Let's extend that empathy to students around the globe.

Now with the added burden of the pandemic, millions of students in economically-disadvantaged countries do not have access to education. Now, 1.6 billion of the world's children are out of school. Many of these students, often girls and the most vulnerable, are at risk of never returning. In caring for other global cultures, the Global Partnership for Education is gathering global resources to help prevent this. Currently, the GPE, with partners like America, are planning for 175 more children from lower-income countries to be in school over the next five years. If we pledge \$200 million for each of the next five years, American leadership can inspire other donors, and help millions of children reach their potential. Let's ask our members of Congress and the president to make the dream of education possible for children everywhere.

**— Janet Brumbaugh**

*West Linn*

No online link available

## Thank you

June 30, 2021

Thanks to the photographer who chronicled the recent graduation at Hood River Valley High, from the rainbow portend to hats in the air celebrating (PHOTO GALLERY: Hood River Valley High School graduation in the Columbia Gorge News, June 17).

Americans are lucky to have such educational opportunities, not so around the world. With COVID, 1.6 billion children were out of school, many still waiting to restart.

Fortunately the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is partnering with low income countries to turn that around. The GPE mobilized \$500 million to help countries during the pandemic to keep kids learning, like a radio school program in Zambia. The GPE's new five year plan will put 175 million more children in school for the first time.

An American pledge of \$1 billion over five years will inspire other donors to contribute the other 80% of the money needed.

We can help by calling our members of Congress (202-224-3121), asking them to support this pledge. It will give millions of children the opportunity to graduate like the Hood River students, going on to healthier, happier, and more productive lives.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Wash.*

[https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-june-30-2021/article\\_a7d17c64-d920-11eb-9a9c-f3292399e820.html](https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-june-30-2021/article_a7d17c64-d920-11eb-9a9c-f3292399e820.html)





## **U.S. must lead on vaccinations**

September 28, 2021

COVID continues to take hundreds of lives in Oregon ("Coronavirus in Oregon: September now fourth-deadliest month of the pandemic" Sept. 22) with this month bringing more than 360 deaths so far. Until we stop the spread globally, COVID will continue to spring new variants and bring on more deaths. On Wednesday, President Biden will convene with world leaders, encouraging them to up their global vaccine investment. President Biden has also just announced that the U.S. will double its vaccine purchases and distribute 1.1 billion doses globally. Until most of us are vaccinated, none of us are safe. Accomplishing this goal also means sharing the technology to produce life-saving vaccines. Call your member of Congress and urge them to continue to encourage strong U.S. leadership in getting it done.

**— Janet Brumbaugh**

*West Linn*

<https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2021/09/readers-respond-us-must-lead-on-vaccinations.html>

## Share vaccine technology

November 10, 2021

Thanks for announcing the exciting news that our kids and grandkids 5-11 can now be vaccinated and where to find the shots ("COVID-19 vaccine for ages 5-11 available locally" in the Columbia Gorge News, Nov. 4).

This is another important step in ending this pandemic and getting back to normal. Of course, in a global pandemic, the only way to defeat it is to protect everyone in our world. This means vaccine availability to all and will need to have the technology of how to make it shared, like Merck recently did with its COVID-19 treatment.

We can do our part by asking the president (202-456-1111) to lead the way out of the global COVID-19 pandemic by sharing the critical technology to create enough vaccines for all in our world. This will end the cycle of variants and result in hope and health for all.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Wash.*

[https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-nov-10-2021/article\\_21cd8978-4199-11ec-a565-7f1b17cc698b.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-nov-10-2021/article_21cd8978-4199-11ec-a565-7f1b17cc698b.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# TIMES LEADER

## **Biden administration must support Global Partnership for Education**

June 2, 2021

At one point, almost every child on the planet was out of school and every parent was left to figure out a new daily reality. For many, this marked a transition to online or hybrid learning. But for many other children facing poverty, isolation or pushed to the margins, it has meant no school at all.

The education crisis brought on by COVID-19 threatens the historic progress made by communities globally to get millions more children in school. Urgent action is needed so the COVID-19 education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation.

As the only international fund of its kind, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) marshals global resources for national education plans. Now, GPE and its partners have a 5-year plan to support learning for 175 million more children in lower-income countries, helping recovery from the pandemic.

The Biden Administration must do its part with a \$1 billion 5-year commitment to GPE. At this critical moment in global history, a bold pledge will show that the U.S. is committed to working hand-in-hand with the global community to ensure every child can achieve their dreams and reach their potential.

**— Mark Skevofilax**

*Dallas*

<https://www.timesleader.com/opinion/letters/1495119/biden-administration-must-support-global-partnership-for-education>

## Ramp up global vaccine production

July 19, 2021

Access to COVID-19 vaccines has allowed our community to reopen schools and businesses, and return to a sense of near-normalcy. Meanwhile, many countries in Africa are imposing new lockdowns to stop a third wave of COVID-19 infections because they lack access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Vaccination is our pathway out of this pandemic, but there are not enough vaccines being produced quickly enough so that everyone has access. The unchecked spread of COVID-19 is devastating low-income countries and will generate additional dangerous variants, which is bad for all of us.

President Biden, we need your leadership to urgently boost global manufacturing of vaccines, including using your authority to compel companies to share taxpayer-funded vaccine innovation with the world in order to ramp up manufacturing, so that everyone will have access quickly.

— **Dr. David Ehrenkrantz**

*Wyncote*

[https://www.montgomerynews.com/publicspirit/letter-to-editor-ramp-up-global-vaccine-production/article\\_f08fb1aa-e8ac-11eb-a7c4-976f0fcc9cbb.html](https://www.montgomerynews.com/publicspirit/letter-to-editor-ramp-up-global-vaccine-production/article_f08fb1aa-e8ac-11eb-a7c4-976f0fcc9cbb.html)

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

## Get vaccinated

July 24, 2021

While Pittsburgh-area young adults have the option to think about whether to get a vaccine or not (July 11, "Pittsburgh region's young adults hesitant to get vaccinated") millions of people all over the world, especially in Africa, do not have that privilege. They are locked out of COVID-19 vaccines.

Vaccination is our pathway out of this pandemic, but there are not enough vaccines being produced quickly enough so that everyone has access. The unchecked spread of COVID-19 is devastating low-income countries and will generate additional dangerous variants, which is bad for all of us.

I urge President Biden, my senators, Bob Casey and Pat Toomey, and my congressional representative, Mike Doyle, to use your leadership to boost global manufacturing of vaccines, including using your authority to compel companies to share taxpayer-funded vaccine innovation with the world in order to ramp up manufacturing so that everyone will have access quickly.

— **Ben Callaway**

*Lawrenceville*

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2021/07/25/Get-vaccinated/stories/202107230171>

# Greenville News

## Why SC lawmakers should support funding for global education initiative?

June 20, 2021

The U.S. is winding down nearly two decades of war efforts in Afghanistan. Sadly, after spending nearly \$2 trillion and losing countless lives, we haven't accomplished much. We need to be smarter about combatting extremism, using all three legs of our foreign policy: diplomacy, defense, and development. Looking at recent attacks by the Taliban should give us a clue. Have they attacked strategic military targets? Weakened Afghan forces? No, they've attacked schools. What is it about the power of the pen and educated girls that so threatens them? We've seen the same thing in Nigeria with Boko Haram.

Perhaps we should shift strategies and invest more in development, ensuring that quality education is available to all. It would be more effective and it would certainly be cheaper. We can take a step in this direction by supporting the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)—they work in resource-poor settings and support education in conflict zones. Senators Tim Scott and Lindsey Graham and Congressman William Timmons should get behind a bold U.S. pledge for the July GPE replenishment conference.

— **Tameica Jones**

*Greer*

<https://www.greenvilleonline.com/restricted/?return=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.greenvilleonline.com%2Fstory%2Fopinion%2F2021%2F06%2F19%2Fletter-why-sc-lawmakers-should-back-funding-global-education%2F5294270001%2F>



## Our COVID blind spots

August 24, 2021

Jan Goldman's Wednesday commentary, "Why didn't we see the Afghanistan chaos coming?" offers an excellent, if not regrettable, analysis of how our strategic blind spots can be painfully obvious in hindsight.

He asks, "Why did we not see this chaos coming?" I wonder who will write the op-ed asking the same question about our failure to appreciate how America's global COVID-19 vaccine obligations are in service of our local safety and freedoms.

For most Americans, getting vaccinated is simple. Our vaccine stores exceed demand. The Post and Courier even reported how Prisma Health alone could see 100,000 doses expire this fall.

By contrast, low-income countries that have been denied access to the vaccines are facing lockdowns. Only 1% of Africa has been vaccinated, creating ideal conditions for new COVID variants to emerge.

Eventually, we'll face variants that our current vaccines are useless against. Yet no world leader is proposing adequate solutions.

Don't they see the COVID chaos that's coming?

This paper may eventually publish post-mortem op-eds as to which world leader failed to read the intelligence in plain view. I'd prefer we avoid those tragic conversations.

Everyone in the world deserves easy access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Also, South Carolinians deserve for everyone in the world to have easy access to the vaccine.

President Joe Biden and Congress must act urgently to lead and fund the global campaign to bring together industry, governments, and health institutions to accelerate the global supply and distribution of vaccines.

— **Jim Hennigan**

*Greenville*

[https://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letters-strides-against-racism-should-not-be-divisive/article\\_4151acda-f490-11eb-91c6-3f915ac081be.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letters-strides-against-racism-should-not-be-divisive/article_4151acda-f490-11eb-91c6-3f915ac081be.html)

# OAK RIDGER

## Support global education

June 10, 2021

To the Editor:

This is the time when students, teachers and even parents were looking forward to graduation and the end of the school year. I appreciate that The Oak Ridger keeps us informed about the School Board's plans and budget priorities with local, state and federal funding for the next school year. Education is a good investment of our tax dollars.

The Global Partnership for Education helps lower-income countries create and implement their own education plans. Donor funds and creative financing supplement the major portion of funding coming locally from the recipient country. The country plan coordinates efforts and GPE's economy of scale helps drive down overall costs while putting millions more kids in school and learning.

The GPE's pledging conference in July hopes to garner global support in order to put more kids in school with more professionally trained teachers with a goal of enabling 175 million girls and boys to learn. In the long run, this will save lives, lift millions out of poverty, improve economies and will reap more sustainable, peaceful and resilient societies. A U.S. investment of \$1 billion over five years would be an excellent priority of our tax dollars.

— **Anne Child**

*Oak Ridge*

<https://www.oakridger.com/story/opinion/2021/06/08/letters-support-global-education-oak-ridge-global-partnership-educatio/7602604002/>





## **U.S. should give generously to Global Partnership for Education**

June 14, 2021

As the Knox County Schools makes plans for next year, I appreciate that they are considering the safety of the students. In Nigeria, students have been kidnapped. In Afghanistan, female students have been attacked and killed. These kids want and deserve to learn. Education promises a brighter future for them and the world.

The Global Partnership for Education helps lower-income countries create and implement their own education plans. Donor funds and creative financing supplement the major portion of funding coming locally from the recipient country. The country plan coordinates efforts and GPE's economy of scale helps drive down overall costs while putting millions more kids in school and learning, even in countries experiencing crises and conflict.

The GPE's pledging conference in July hopes to garner global support in order to put more kids in school with more professionally trained teachers with a goal of enabling 175 million girls and boys to learn. In the long run, this will save lives, lift millions out of poverty, improve economies and will reap more sustainable, peaceful and resilient societies. A U.S. investment of \$1 billion over 5 years would be an excellent priority of our tax dollars.

**— Anne Child**

*Oak Ridge*

No online link available



## **Pandemic vaccines must be available worldwide**

August 2, 2021

Are you tired of the ups and down of the COVID-19 pandemic —mask or no mask, virtual or in person, personal choice or shots required, case rates down or skyrocketing? Well, get used to it, because this pandemic will never end until vaccines are available to everyone worldwide. Countries with vaccines have pledged hundreds of millions of doses by the end of 2022. It follows that billions of people must wait even longer for a shot.

What do we know for sure? Unvaccinated people have more serious cases of COVID, more COVID-positive people create more COVID variants, and variants travel around the globe quickly. The U.S. and the governments of other countries should support vaccine companies voluntarily licensing their processes to other manufacturing hubs. Proposals include compensating companies (for example, Moderna, since the U.S. invested heavily in its development costs) to cover the cost of transferring the technical know-how, and paying the companies a per-dose price that includes a profit.

This is still a curvy path, but if vaccine companies are compensated, more vaccines manufactured and more lives saved.

**— Anne Child**

*Oak Ridge*

No online link available

# The Dallas Morning News

## Fund tuberculosis research

March 24, 2021

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria mycobacterium tuberculosis. It is an airborne disease that spreads via respiratory droplets that usually affects the lungs. Over the past 200 years, TB has killed more people than malaria, cholera, yellow fever, the bubonic plague, influenza, polio, Ebola and HIV combined.

However, to this day, there is no new vaccine for tuberculosis. The only TB vaccine available is called BCG, fully developed in 1921, exactly 100 years ago. It has very poor efficacy in preventing pulmonary TB.

Considering the speed of development of multiple COVID-19 vaccines, this raises the question of why TB care and prevention are so neglected. Half to two-thirds of tuberculosis programs report service disruptions due to COVID-19 and failure to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 would cause a loss in years of progress.

A troubling decline in new TB cases is being reported during country lockdowns with a rise in undetected cases. This is a great opportunity to make a change in the world.

In light of World TB Day, which is today, I am urging Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz to pass legislation including \$1 billion for bilateral tuberculosis research.

— **Amelie Jacobs**

*Dallas*

[https://edition.pagesuite.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=f66b18de-9642-4649-bb55-f2c6dec44c41](https://edition.pagesuite.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=f66b18de-9642-4649-bb55-f2c6dec44c41)

## Almost there

April 15, 2021

Regrading "Hotez: We'll be 'close' to normal by summer," (A27, April 11): Dr. Peter Hotez's remarks were, as always, hopeful and inspiring, especially his description of the efforts at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital to develop an inexpensive yet effective vaccine. His vaccine can provide the billions of doses that will be needed to vaccinate the populations of places that are lagging behind because "science policymakers didn't put enough attention into expanding that portfolio to make available simple, durable, low-cost vaccines."

Hotez both reminds us of how lucky we are to live in a country where science is on the road to triumph over the deadly COVID-19 virus, and inspires us with his dedication to finding the means to vaccinate the rest of the world.

To be truly safe in our home countries, the U.S. and other wealthy countries must step up to be sure that COVID-19 is eradicated in every nation. COVID-19 doesn't recognize national boundaries. This pandemic is truly a case where we can and must help ourselves by helping others.

President Joe Biden and Congress must step up to support Hotez as he fights COVID-19 everywhere in order to win the fight at home, and to let Hotez finally get a well-deserved good night's sleep!

— **Claudia Morgan**

*Houston*

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/letters/article/Opinion-Don-t-fund-the-lke-Dike-16097941.php>

# Austin American-Statesman

## Global programs to fight tuberculosis need funding

April 22, 2021

Re: April 16 article, "Blinken seeks another \$2B for UN vaccine effort."

Last year, my 82-year-old grandmother was diagnosed with tuberculosis. For 6 months, she suffered from the effects of respiratory issues and extreme fatigue. Luckily, she recovered.

Unfortunately, not so many are as lucky as my grandmother. In 2019 alone, there were a reported [1,159 tuberculosis cases in Texas](#) and [1.2 million deaths globally](#). I am urging Rep. Pete Sessions to sign the "[Dear Colleague Letter](#)" to support \$225 million to help eliminate tuberculosis in the U.S. and \$1 billion to fight against tuberculosis across the world. This funding will help support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Agency for International Development programs on the research, treatment, and prevention of tuberculosis infection and drug-resistant tuberculosis.

In Friday's Austin-American Statesman, Anthony Blinken advocated for funding for coronavirus vaccines to poor countries. We must work in alliance with these programs to help eliminate the pandemic of tuberculosis and to protect all our grandmothers.

— **Peter Kim**

*Austin*

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/04/22/austin-american-statesman-letters-editor-april-22-2021/7290630002/>

# The Dallas Morning News

## Gateses are inspiring

May 6, 2021

Re: "Bill, Melinda Gates announce divorce — Couple's joint statement goes out to 57 million followers on Twitter," Tuesday Metro & Business story.

What sad news about the Gateses' marriage. They and their foundation have made such a monumental difference in the world saving lives and lifting people out of poverty.

As an advocate for ending global poverty, our local Results group dissects their annual letter about the state of global health and gender equality issues. We always learn from it. *The Dallas Morning News* selection of Melinda Gates as the 2020 Texan of the Year was a well-deserved recognition.

The pandemic has set global health progress back decades. It has also made Americans realize the importance of investing, if not for moral reasons then for our national security. A pandemic knows no borders.

We can all ask Texas Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz to sign letters of support for robust funding for global maternal and child health, nutrition and education currently circulating in the Senate. Be inspired by the work of Bill and Melinda and make your voice heard.

— **Margaret Smith**

*Dallas/Turtle Creek*

[https://edition.pagesuite.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=37134f79-79bb-4888-a99f-50becb9d8921](https://edition.pagesuite.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=37134f79-79bb-4888-a99f-50becb9d8921)

## Educating global citizens improves lives for everyone

May 8, 2021

Vaccinating the world's citizens protects us all. It is the moral and smart thing to do.

The situation is similar with education. Educated world citizens are healthier, earn more and are able purchase more U.S. products. However, progress on education everywhere is threatened by COVID-19.

The Global Partnership for Education has been helping low-income countries improve their education systems [since 2002](#), enrolling [160 million](#) more children in schools in partner countries. With a goal of assisting [90 countries in improving and expanding their schools, the Global Partnership for Education is asking donor countries to pledge \\$5 billion](#) over the next five years so schools in poor countries can recover from the problems COVID-19 caused and enroll an additional [175 million students](#).

The pandemic has shown that working together and assisting those in need improves life for everyone. The U.S. should pledge \$1 billion to the Global Partnership for Education.

— **Eloise Sutherland**

*Austin*

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/05/08/austin-american-statesman-letters-editor-may-8-2021/4958371001/>

# The Dallas Morning News

## Don't shortchange schools

May 25, 2021

Re: "Plan would limit schools' aid spending — It requires setting aside funds; districts say help needed now," Thursday news story.

At a time when about 90% of kids around the world have seen their educations disrupted, the proposal from state Sen. Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood, to force school districts to set aside 40% of federal aid is troubling. As a middle school and high school tutor, I know how much our students have struggled. As a global education advocate, I know that quality education is instrumental to reducing poverty, improving health outcomes, stimulating economic development and building a stable and prosperous society.

Now is not the time to shortchange the next generation, but rather, the time for bold and transformative action to help build their resilience. So, I urge U.S. Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, and U.S. Rep. Beth Van Duyne to support initiatives like the Global Partnership for Education to invest in our collective hope for the future. Moreover, I urge Taylor to refrain from withholding necessary funds from Texas schools.

— **Hwa Young Lee**

*Carrollton*

[https://edition.pagesuite.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=df6187d8-af86-445a-8f7d-2e8699712a8a](https://edition.pagesuite.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=df6187d8-af86-445a-8f7d-2e8699712a8a)





## On supporting education

June 2, 2021

Reading the graduation speeches of WHS students, especially Mariel Camargo, I was reminded of just how wonderful it is to get an education. ('Waxahachie High School class of 2021 graduation speeches' in The Waxahachie Sun, May 31, 2021) America's educational opportunities are far from the norm in our world, even before COVID's caused over 1.6 billion students to be out of school. Thankfully, the Global Partnership for Education is working with countries to put millions of students back in school. With America's inspirational leadership, this effort by the GPE will empower countries to plan quality education systems, investing in their children and eventually take over all the costs. The only international fund of its kind, the GPE has a five-year program to support learning of 175 million more children lower income countries. We can help by asking our representatives and senators to support a pledge of \$1 billion over the next five years. Our calls (202-224-3121) and letters to those who represent us can help put millions of kids in school around the world, bringing them and their families' new hope.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, WA*

[https://www.waxahachiesun.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-on-supporting-education/article\\_ca07af24-c3e0-11eb-b6a5-bf41075ee759.html/?logged\\_out=1#tncms-source=login](https://www.waxahachiesun.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-on-supporting-education/article_ca07af24-c3e0-11eb-b6a5-bf41075ee759.html/?logged_out=1#tncms-source=login)

# The Dallas Morning News

## We have not had much luck

June 11, 2021

Re: "Meet with us, senator," by Larry Howe, Wednesday Letters.

Our Results.org teams throughout Texas share the frustration and disappointment as expressed in Howe's letter as similarly Sen. John Cornyn has declined to meet with our organization, despite many requests, almost every year since he assumed his current position.

We are volunteer activists working together to end poverty in the U.S. and throughout the world. We can only assume by the senator's behavior that these issues are of little importance to him or that perhaps he simply doesn't want to spoil his vision of the world — as he wishes it to be, not as it is.

— **Martin G. White**

*Dallas*

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2021/06/11/letters-to-the-editor-voting-voter-fraud-immigration-costa-rica-and-uruguay-electricity-overhaul-sen-john-cornyn/>

# The Dallas Morning News

## A bold pledge needed

June 13, 2021

At one point, almost every child on the planet was out of school and every parent was left to figure out a new daily reality. For many, this marked a transition to online or hybrid learning. But for many other children facing poverty, isolation or pushed to the margins, it has meant no school at all.

The education crisis brought on by COVID-19 threatens the historic progress made by communities globally to get millions more children in school. Urgent action is needed so the COVID-19 education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation.

As the only international fund of its kind, the Global Partnership for Education marshals global resources for national education plans. Now, GPE and its partners have a five-year plan to support learning for 175 million more children in lower-income countries, helping recovery from the pandemic.

The Biden administration must do its part with a \$1 billion five-year commitment to GPE. At this critical moment in global history, a bold pledge will show that the U.S. is committed to working hand-in-hand with the global community to ensure every child can achieve their dreams and reach their potential.

— **Sally Marie Jones**

*Bedford*

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2021/06/13/letters-to-the-editor-what-should-be-taught-in-texas-schools/>

# Austin American-Statesman

## **For all to be protected, the world must be vaccinated**

July 26, 2021

Re: July 19 article, "Inside the cutthroat race to secure vaccines."

Intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines are putting us all in danger.

While some people in the U.S., where there is an excess, are refusing to be vaccinated, most people in low-income countries have no access at all. Even though U.S. taxpayers footed a large part of the development costs, the vaccine companies don't want to allow other manufacturers to use their formula. Their present capacity to manufacture COVID-19 vaccines will leave people in poorer countries without access for years. While they wait, new variants will be developing. Some of those variants are not going to be responsive to the present vaccines, leaving all of us in danger of getting sick and dying.

Congress and the administration must step in now. The world needs to be vaccinated for all of us to be protected.

**— Eloise Sutherland**

*Austin*

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/07/26/austin-american-statesman-letters-editor-july-26-2021/8041449002/>

## ***No title***

July 27, 2021

When we first became aware of the full impact of the COVID-19 virus, the media repeatedly broadcast the phrase “we are all in this together.” Remember? But, when push came to shove, “each man for himself” became the working model. In the U.S. for some this meant making sure they and their loved ones were protected with the vaccine. Whatever the case, vaccines were easily available to all of us. Not so for poor countries. It is exciting to learn that Houston’s own Dr. Peter Hotez and his team have developed a vaccine has the potential to aid countries that have little or no access to vaccinations. Congressman Michael McCaul should also be recognized for his interest in promoting global health and his belief that we really are “all in this together.” I prefer that phrase to “what goes around comes around,” but in light of the new variant, both should be heeded.

**— Paula Djabbarah**

*Houston*

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/letters/article/Opinion-I-am-scared-for-my-kids-Gov-Abbott-16340861.php>

# Austin American-Statesman

## **We must act with urgency to provide the vaccine everywhere**

July 29, 2021

Re: July 22 article, "'More can be done': Hispanic, Black communities lag in vaccine coverage; experts attribute to mistrust, accessibility."

The intense and urgent efforts to reach Austinites living in East Austin with the protection of COVID-19 vaccination underscores the intense need for America to do all it can to reach people everywhere with the vaccine.

Drug makers like Moderna, which used National Institutes of Health taxpayer funds to develop their vaccine, should license their technology to the rest of the world. Vaccination rates are abysmal in low-income countries, with the percentage vaccinated in the low single digits.

I call on President Biden and America to cover the cost of transferring the technical know-how to producers worldwide. And we can pay the companies a per dose price that includes a profit. This could halt the spread of the pandemic and help prevent more dangerous variants like delta and lambda that threaten all of us,

**— Mark Coats**

*Austin*

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/07/29/austin-american-statesman-letters-editor-july-29-2021/5384780001/>

# The Dallas Morning News

## Increase global vaccine access

August 16, 2021

In the U.S., over 50% of vaccine-eligible Americans are fully vaccinated, bringing hope of achieving herd immunity. Approximately 30% of the world population has received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, which appears promising in the fight against COVID-19. However, efforts to provide global vaccine access are lacking. Only 1% of people living in low-income countries have received a single vaccine dose. We are witnessing frightening disparities in vaccine accessibility according to income and region whereby low-income countries specifically on the African continent are far behind global vaccination targets set out by the World Health Organization.

The projections modeled by the United Nations indicate very poor prospects with only 5% vaccination rates in low-income countries by 2022. The U.S. must be at the forefront of global change to end COVID-19. I am urging our Texas members of Congress and President Joe Biden to lead a global effort supporting vaccine equity to end this global pandemic.

— **Amelie Jacobs**

*Far North Dallas*

[https://edition.pagesuite.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=0874234b-6f98-4150-8fc1-faa9526efcaf](https://edition.pagesuite.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=0874234b-6f98-4150-8fc1-faa9526efcaf)

# The Dallas Morning News

## Vaccine leadership matters

September 20, 2021

Re: "20 years later, U.S. leadership matters more than ever — Allies, adversaries around the world are watching us," by Kenneth Hersh, Sept. 12 Opinion.

Hersh is right that U.S. leadership matters. He reminds us that President George W. Bush saved 20 million lives in Africa from HIV/AIDS with his PEPFAR program. "I couldn't stand the idea of innocent people dying while the international community delayed," Bush wrote in his memoir Decision Points.

Hersh asserts that our current vaccine effort around the world has been too timid. Most global health advocates agree. We have made commitments to deliver vaccines to low- and middle-income countries but the numbers and the schedules are inadequate.

The U.S. supported the development of mRNA vaccine technology through public funding. Therefore, we should pressure BioNTech, Pfizer and Moderna to share their know-how and change the course of the pandemic. While more than 50% of the population has been fully vaccinated in many wealthy countries, less than 3% of people in Africa have been fully vaccinated. Let Africa produce their own vaccines.

Email President Joe Biden ([president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)) and tell him the U.S. must lead the global effort to boost the supply of COVID-19 vaccines to end the pandemic.

— **Margaret Smith**

*Dallas/Turtle Creek*

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2021/09/20/letters-to-the-editor-california-sharing-vaccines-chicago-ad-bad-behavior-tennis-photo-homes/>



# Austin American-Statesman

## Senate should support global vaccination effort

October 18, 2021

Re: Oct. 11 article, "COVID-19 cases fall, but virus isn't done."

Norman Baylor is correct in saying, "We're not close to the endgame until the world is close to the endgame."

As long as a large portion of the world's population does not have access to vaccinations, we all are at risk. The longer it takes to provide vaccines widely, the more likely a variant will appear that will not respond to our present vaccines. The House passed a bill out of the Energy and Commerce committee that includes \$2 billion for increasing the global manufacturing capacity. We now need the Senate to meet or increase these resources.

Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, will you lead the Senate in supporting expanded COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing capacity?

— **Eloise Sutherland**

*Austin*

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/10/18/austin-american-statesman-letters-editor-oct-18-2021/8440066002/>

# The Dallas Morning News

## Make vaccines for world

November 28, 2021

Re: "Plan seeks more shots for sharing — Biden initiative aims to raise production for poorer countries," Nov. 18 news story.

This story reports on an initiative under the government's Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority soliciting pharmaceutical companies with proven ability to manufacture the mRNA vaccine to bid for a government investment to scale up their manufacturing, hoping to achieve an additional 1 billion shots per year.

So far, Moderna, which was created with U.S. government investment, and Pfizer, which developed its vaccine independently, have not responded, even though billions of dollars are being offered.

Moderna's lack of response is remarkably brazen having been given such a huge U.S. government investment to produce an effective, safe vaccine. Further, neither of these companies seem willing to consider sharing their manufacturing process with other capable manufacturers, such as those in South Africa or South Korea.

Vaccine inequity is especially prominent in low-income countries. It seems profit motives outweigh the humanitarian crisis the world is confronted with, that is, only 4.7% of people in low-income countries have received a first dose. This pandemic will only come under control when the entire world population has been properly vaccinated.

— **Martin G. White**

*Dallas/Turtle Creek*

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2021/11/28/letters-to-the-editor-law-enforcement-academy-ercot-texas-prisons-vaccines-guns/>

# Austin American-Statesman

## No child should suffer malnutrition if we know how to prevent it

December 3, 2021

Re: Nov. 26 commentary, "Thanksgiving inspires us to end world hunger."

An underlying cause of almost half of all preventable deaths of children under age 5 is malnutrition. Lambers mentioned Plumpy'Nut. This ready-to-use therapeutic food gives children the nutrients to survive.

Can you imagine saving millions of children's lives by implementing coordinated deployment of prenatal nutrient supplements, breastfeeding support, vitamin A supplementation and ready-to-use therapeutic food — four rather simple and affordable practices? The Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act, House Bill 4693, has been introduced in the House by Rep. Michael McCaul. Reps. Joaquin Castro and Ronny Jackson have co-sponsored. A similar bill, Senate Bill 2956, has been introduced in the Senate.

Sens. Cornyn and Cruz, and all our other Texas U.S. representatives should co-sponsor this legislation now. No child should suffer from malnutrition when we know how to prevent it.

— **Eloise Sutherland**

*Austin*

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/12/03/austin-american-statesman-letters-editor-dec-3-2021/8797702002/>

# The Dallas Morning News

## Johnson works for world

December 8, 2021

In recent articles about Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, you report what an extraordinarily effective member of Congress she has been for North Texas. I wholeheartedly agree.

However, you fail to mention that she is also someone who cares deeply about ending global poverty and achieving world peace. For over a decade she held an annual World of Women for World Peace event in Dallas.

I am especially appreciative of her unwavering support of U.S. leadership around the world through the work of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Global Partnership for Education and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and GAVI, the vaccine alliance.

Why not call her D.C. office at 202-225-8885 and let her know how much you appreciate her service? Also please take the opportunity to ask her to co-sponsor The Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act, HR 4693.

— **Margaret Smith**

*Dallas/Turtle Creek*

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2021/12/08/letters-to-the-editor-marvin-e-robinson-bob-dole-us-economy-global-poverty-dear-santa-op-ed/>

# Fort Worth Star-Telegram

## COVID is about national security

December 19, 2021

The coronavirus' omicron variant has emerged. It appears that those who are fully vaccinated and boosted enjoy a measure of protection from severe illness.

However, until we get many more people vaccinated, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and other undeveloped parts of the world, it's quite likely that other variants will emerge. Current vaccines may offer much less protection against one of these future variants.

This is a national security issue. We won't be safe until everyone is safe. If a variant as deadly as delta and as transmissible as omicron emerges, it would severely affect not just public health but also the global economy.

Congress needs to provide significantly more funding for global COVID-19 vaccinations, for everyone's sake. –

— **Craig C. Roshaven**

*Fort Worth*

<https://www.star-telegram.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article256488886.html>



## **Don't let the education crisis make child poverty worse**

June 4, 2021

At one point, almost every child on the planet was out of school and every parent was left to figure out a new daily reality. For many, this marked a transition to online or hybrid learning. But for many other children facing poverty, isolation or pushed to the margins, it has meant no school at all.

The education crisis brought on by COVID-19 threatens the historic progress made by communities globally to get millions more children in school. Urgent action is needed so the COVID-19 education crisis does not become a catastrophe for an entire generation.

As the only international fund of its kind, the Global Partnership for Education, or GPE, marshals global resources for national education plans. Now, GPE and its partners have a five-year plan to support learning for 175 million more children in lower-income countries, helping recovery from the pandemic.

The Biden administration must do its part with a \$1 billion five-year commitment to GPE. At this critical moment in global history, a bold pledge will show that the U.S. is committed to working hand in hand with the global community to ensure every child can achieve their dreams and reach their potential.

An educated world will make it better for everyone.

**— Gregory Hogan**

*Salt Lake City*

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2021/6/4/22463185/letter-dont-let-the-education-crisis-make-child-poverty-worse>



## Vaccine access must be a global priority

November 11, 2021

On Nov. 4, Vermont saw [its all-time high in newly diagnosed Covid cases](#) despite the fact that over 90% of eligible Vermonters have had at least one shot.

Once again, Vermonters wonder and worry: Is it safe to get together for the holidays?

Yet, the situation in many low-income countries is even more fraught. Many of these countries are imposing new lockdowns to stop the third wave of Covid-19 infections because they've been denied access to Covid-19 vaccines. And now they are dealing with the highly infectious Delta variant.

Across the continent of Africa, less than 4 percent of the population has been fully vaccinated. In Vermont, we've had access to the vaccine for more than six months. Everyone deserves the access that we have had, no matter where they live.

President Biden and Congress must lead a global effort to bring together industry, governments and global health institutions to urgently increase the supply and distribution of vaccines. Sens. Leahy and Sanders and Rep. Welch are all in a position to act. Please join me in encouraging them to do so today.

— **Julia Russell**

*Charlotte*

[https://vtdigger.org/letters\\_to\\_editor/vaccine-access-must-be-a-global-priority/](https://vtdigger.org/letters_to_editor/vaccine-access-must-be-a-global-priority/)



## Global hunger

April 8, 2021

Re "[COVID relief bill will make a difference in Virginia](#)" (Other Views, March 20): I personally support many of the measures Rep. Elaine Luria describes in the COVID-19 relief bill. As a resident of the 2nd District, I know many have faced uncertain and often devastating circumstances over this past year. This bill will provide a needed boost to small business owners, public schools, families who faced hunger due to the loss of a job, or worse, a loved one who died from COVID-19.

As a nonprofit professional working to end hunger, I have supported the annual efforts of more than 48,000 volunteers across Virginia packaging 8 million meals for food-insecure children and families. While these meals mainly support the international hunger crisis, these Virginians are passionate about hunger, both domestic and abroad. While we have made a great effort to provide the "much-needed shot in the arm" for the U.S. economy, relief for those facing hunger and poverty on a global scale is also important. The United Nations has estimated that the number of children and families faced with food insecurity in 2020 could have doubled. Our support efforts will help to relieve the trials of those affected by the pandemic in other countries and will increase safety and security here at home.

— **The Rev. Kevin E. Magee**

*Senior manager of Faith and Civic Partnerships, Rise Against Hunger, Virginia Beach*

<https://www.dailypress.com/opinion/letters/vp-ed-lets-0409-20210408-4qb3z36635gbpmhx2eegitrfaq-story.html>





## Global education

April 29, 2021

During the COVID-19 pause, our state's K-12 students were among the 91% of the world's youth who had their education disrupted.

It's been a joy to see the big orange school buses around town again as our young Washingtonians are re-entering classrooms.

But families in other countries are still not able to send their children back to school. The global education gap that in turn stifles economic attainment in low- and middle- income countries has only widened during COVID.

Lack of formal education is a cause of global poverty. Washington state members of Congress can help get all students back into the classroom and give them a better chance of reaching their full potential.

Please join me and other volunteers in asking our lawmakers in D.C. to support foreign assistance for improved access to technology and distance learning, safe school reopening plans, and curriculum and teaching adaptation.

Education is a vital cornerstone in fighting extreme poverty around the world.

— **Beth Prevo**

*Lakewood*

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article251021149.html>



## Support for global education has massive benefits

May 4, 2021

Those of us close to education, either as teachers or parents, have experienced how difficult this past year has been. COVID-19 related school closures disrupted learning for nearly all children, but those in low-income countries have greater barriers to accessing quality education; 463 million children could not access internet-based remote learning after schools closed. Eleven million girls might not return to school due to their disrupted education. An estimated 617 million children in impoverished countries are unable to reach minimum proficiency in reading and math.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is a public-partnership established 20 years ago; focused on achieving inclusive education for all children. By pooling resources, GPE is able to utilize contributions from the 21 GPE partner countries (including the U.S.) and private foundations to fund quality educational plans.

Investing in global education would give countries the boost they need to provide the most vulnerable children a quality education, and help them become thriving, productive citizens.

This July, the governments of the U.K. and Kenya will co-host a replenishment conference to support GPE's \$5 billion strategy for 2021-2025 to ensure quality education for 175 million children in over 90 eligible countries.

A big "Thank You" to Representative Derek Kilmer for taking leadership in the House of Representatives encouraging the administration to support increased funding the GPE. We thank Senators Murray and Cantwell for their ongoing support of education and encourage their support of the GPE.

— **Leslie and Michael Boyer**

*Bremerton*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/05/04/support-global-education-has-massive-benefits/4943522001/>

## TOP SCHOLARS

Help kids reach their potential

May 26, 2021

Congratulations to the top scholars from the Snohomish schools, and to all students who took advantage of a quality education. (advertisement in May 19 *Tribune*).

This educational opportunity is not the norm everywhere. With the pandemic, 1.6 billion of the world's children were out of school, many at risk of never returning. The Global Partnership for Education is marshaling global resources to prevent this. Currently the GPE, supported by partners like America, have plans for 175 million more children from lower -income countries to be in school over the next five years. A bold pledge of at least \$200 million for each of the next five years will show American leadership, inspire other donors, and help millions of children reach their potential. We can help by asking our members of Congress and the President to fulfill this life-changing pledge, making the dream of education possible for millions of children.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>



## **Act globally, protect locally**

May 26, 2021

From access to outreach, Clark County's vaccination efforts are the new norm in most of America. Hopefully everywhere will be as creative as Clark County, especially reaching the underserved and very vulnerable ("[Vaccination effort gets shot in the arm in Clark County](#)," The Columbia, May 23).

The challenges we face are on a different level from most of the world, where there have only been small amounts of vaccine available. Extra doses from the wealthy world would be greatly appreciated by those countries. America, the leader in global health, supporting the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria along with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is now beginning to offer vaccine doses.

In support of efforts to get kids back in school, America also has an opportunity to continue its leadership in support of the Global Partnership for Education, by pledging \$200 million each of the next five years. Educated children end up healthier and more likely to have successful lives.

So take a moment to thank those responsible locally for the latest creative vaccination ideas. Nationally encourage Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler and Sens. Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray to continue America's efforts to act globally, protecting us locally, by leading in these global health efforts.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2021/may/26/letter-act-globally-protect-locally/>



## **GPE program makes a difference abroad**

June 2, 2021

It is inspiring to see stand-out grads in these pandemic times. ("Stand-out grad: Timmons" by Haley Day, May 29, 2021)

America's educational opportunities are not the norm around the world, especially with COVID-19's affect causing more than 1.6 billion students to be out of school. The desire to learn like Timmons exhibits is multiplied when the opportunities are hard to come by. Fortunately, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is teaming with countries to put millions of students back in school. America has been an inspirational leader in this effort by the GPE to empower countries to plan quality education systems, invest in and eventually take over costs.

As the only international fund of its kind, the GPE and its partners have a five-year program to support learning of 175 million more children in lower-income countries. We can help by asking Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, along with Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, to support a pledge of \$200 million a year for each of the next five years. Our calls and letters matter.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Wash.*

[https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-gpe-program-makes-a-difference-abroad/article\\_7a8b4bec-46d0-574f-838f-647035428bf7.html](https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-gpe-program-makes-a-difference-abroad/article_7a8b4bec-46d0-574f-838f-647035428bf7.html)



## Strickland's actions address poverty

June 6, 2021

The other Washington doesn't often get a great rap for changing people's lives, but it's worth taking a second look. Recent changes in the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit passed by Congress are going to cut in half the rate of U.S. child poverty this year.

How did such a monumental success come about? As a 30+-year volunteer lobbyist working for the end of poverty, I've learned that some of the most powerful lobbyists in D.C. are members of Congress themselves.

Washington's 10th District Rep. Marilyn Strickland has taken this practice to heart. She's sensitive to the challenges people experiencing poverty are facing. Our [local RESULTS group](#) has been working with her office to address underlying issues of poverty that continue to rob families and communities of a bright future.

This spring, Rep. Strickland signed onto three lobbying letters ("Dear Colleague" letters) in support of global nutrition, education, and the elimination of tuberculosis. These letters help determine where our foreign aid money goes, and where the U.S. commits funds, other Global North countries typically follow.

These seemingly small actions will have results around the world that we will never see: children and parents receiving food, walking into schools where there are teachers and books, and receiving primary health care such as vaccines.

This year has been devastating for people living in poverty — here and globally. The actions our leaders take have enormous consequences. Thank you, Rep. Strickland, for all the ways you are using your power for good.

— Carolyn Prouty

*Elma*

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article251905073.html>



## Global program pushes to get students back in school

June 9, 2021

To the editor — Reading the graduation story of Lessley Martinez, I am reminded of how wonderful it is to get an education. ("West Valley grad goes from scared to scholarship," by Pat Muir, Yakima Herald-Republic, June 4, 2021.)

America's educational opportunities are far from the norm in our world, even before COVID caused over 1.6 billion students to be out of school. Fortunately, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is working with countries to put millions of students back in school. With America's partnership, this effort by the GPE will empower countries to plan quality education programs that invest in their children.

To begin, recipients pay for part, eventually take over all the costs of their education programs. The only international fund of its kind, the GPE's five-year program will support learning of 175 million more children in lower income countries.

We can help by asking our representatives and senators to support a pledge of \$1 billion over the next five years. Our calls (202-224-3121) and letters to those who represent us can help put millions of kids in school around the world, bringing them and their families new hope, as it did for Ms. Martinez.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-global-program-pushes-to-get-students-back-in-school/article\\_dd24da87-4ea3-505d-a350-92a86831c98c.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-global-program-pushes-to-get-students-back-in-school/article_dd24da87-4ea3-505d-a350-92a86831c98c.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## Reducing poverty should be an American goal

June 10, 2021

It's easy to be cynical about politics in our nation. Yet, despite political division, Congress, came together to implement important interventions that provide a safety net to those who were most impacted and resources for our economy to recover and thrive.

Still, many Americans continue to suffer economic devastation. We need Congress to continue the programs it funded to reduce child and family poverty, specifically the expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, so families can also thrive.

Fortunately our Congressman, Rep. Derek Kilmer, is supporting both those initiatives.

In developing countries, however, the situation is far different. While in the U.S. almost half of the population has received vaccinations that allow us to resume our lives, only about 3% of the population in developing countries have received vaccinations. Their economies are struggling and their children are far from returning to school.

Rep. Kilmer is leading a Congressional effort to make sure that all children, despite the pandemic, have the opportunity to attend school. He knows how important education is to each child and to their families, communities, nations and the entire world. As a volunteer with RESULTS, which advocates for our nation to take needed steps to reduce poverty in the U.S. and around the world, I thank Rep. Kilmer for his leadership to promote education worldwide. I call upon Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell to do the same.

— **Beth Wilson**

*Olalla*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/06/10/reducing-poverty-should-american-goal/7642247002/>



## The value of education

June 13, 2021

Reading the inspirational story of Yalda Shirzai reminds me how critical it is to get an education. ("North Central senior Yalda Shirzai makes once-impossible dreams her reality," June 3)

Shirzai's "thirst to learn" is echoed by students around the world. With COVID causing over 1.6 billion students to be out of school, the chance to go to school has become even more precious. The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is working with countries to turn this around and put millions of students back in school. America's five-year pledge of \$1 billion will help the GPE empower countries to institute quality education programs, investing in their children and eventually no longer needing financial help to do this.

The multi-nationally supported GPE's five-year program will put 175 million more children in lower-income countries into school for the first time. We can help with our calls (202-224-3121) and letters to those who represent us to make this a reality: putting millions of kids in school around the world, bringing them and their families new hope.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/jun/13/value-education/>



## **More support for students needed after pandemic**

June 23, 2021

Thanks for putting the Class of 2021 on The Herald's June 13 front page; they deserve it with the challenges they faced with covid!

Your highlighting of several individuals as positive examples speaks well for the many graduates you listed.

Sadly, far too many of the 1.6 billion students out of school because of the pandemic have not returned, especially in low-income countries. Thankfully, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is working to turn that around. Since 2002, GPE has supported over 160 million more children to be in school receiving a quality education. The GPE's new five year plan will also put 175 million more children in school for the first time.

A bold American pledge of \$1 billion over five years will inspire donors to contribute the other 80 percent of the money needed. If we call our members of Congress (202-224-3121), asking them to support this plan, millions of children will have the opportunity to graduate like our own Snohomish County students, going on to be a healthier, happier, and more productive part of society.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/more-support-for-students-needed-after-pandemic/>



## **Support global education**

June 29, 2021

Sad to read the bipartisan infrastructure deal is now in doubt. ("‘Blindsided’ GOP senators put infrastructure deal in doubt," June 25).

Fortunately bipartisanship is alive and well in other areas, including the bipartisan letter to the president calling for an American pledge of \$1 billion over five years for the Global Partnership for Education. Rep. Derek Kilmer, D-Wash., partnered with Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., to call for this positive investment that assists countries to get every child in school.

Over the next five years the GPE will partner with low-income countries to put 175 million students in school for the first time. Each of us can help by asking Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Battle Ground, to sign this letter. This small investment (far less than 1/1000th of the budget) will result in a more peaceful and hopeful world.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.columbia.com/news/2021/jun/29/letter-106/>

# The Seattle Times

## **Bipartisanship: The fruits of collaboration**

July 2, 2021

Re: "U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer helps restore civility to Congress" [June 30, Opinion]:

Rep. Kilmer also demonstrates bipartisan work in the House beyond the committee. Recently, he and U.S. Rep. Brian Kevin Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., began circulating a bipartisan letter for representatives to sign calling on President Joe Biden to make a \$1 billion pledge (spread over five years) to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

The GPE has successfully partnered with more than 75 low-income countries to focus on providing a quality education for all children. The return for this investment is a more peaceful, healthy world where more children have hope for their futures.

Thanks for highlighting Rep. Kilmer's efforts to make Congress more successful by "improving civility and collaboration." Imagine if this kind of news was highlighted more often, encouraging even more cooperation and civility in all members of Congress.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

[https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/bipartisanship-the-fruits-of-collaboration/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=article\\_ins\\_et\\_1.1](https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/bipartisanship-the-fruits-of-collaboration/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=article_ins_et_1.1)



## **Yes, vote wisely – that's how things get done**

July 16, 2021

To the editor — Thanks for the reminder of why “it’s critical to vote, and vote wisely.” (‘Here’s your chance to help change the world’ in the Yakima Herald, July 11, 2021.)

Voting is our way to ensure America travels the road to equity. Using our voices, we can guide our representatives to work on what matters.

Constituent voices are responsible for the initiative in Congress to increase the Housing Voucher Program so it reaches all who qualify, rather than the current one in four. This change could help stop the increase in homelessness.

A second bipartisan effort calls on the president to pledge \$1 billion over five years to the Global Partnership for Education, which will encourage other donors and result in 175 million children in school for the first time.

So vote wisely and use your voice to encourage Congress to do the work that helps all Americans and makes a difference in our world.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-yes-vote-wisely---thats-how-things-get-done/article\\_84cc228e-1169-5027-a6ac-9ff88f77117a.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-yes-vote-wisely---thats-how-things-get-done/article_84cc228e-1169-5027-a6ac-9ff88f77117a.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## Global pandemic demands a global response

July 21, 2021

The Kitsap Sun article published July 19, "Inside the cutthroat race to secure vaccines," describes developing countries' desperate need for vaccines to save their people, especially now that the Delta variant is spreading so quickly. It says, "...the scale of the inequity, the stockpiling, the lack of a viable plan to solve a global problem has shocked health officials."

We know that the Coronavirus did not originate in the U.S., but so far, our nation has lost more people to Covid-19 than any other. We will continue to experience terrible losses as long as people around the world and in the U.S. are unvaccinated. We share this world and this virus with everyone worldwide.

Only 1% of people in low-income countries are vaccinated and over 6 billion worldwide have yet to receive a single dose, which necessitates a greater commitment from the U.S. to provide vaccines and secure end-to-end delivery at a global scale.

Public opinion polls show that the American people understand both the humanitarian need and the threat that low vaccination coverage in other countries poses to our own safety here at home, and they are ready to take up the mantle of global leadership in this crisis.

I urge President Biden and Congress to add critically important and needed funding for global vaccine production and distribution to the newest pandemic response bill. The U.S. needs to lead the world out of this pandemic.

— **Beth Wilson**

*Olalla*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/07/21/global-pandemic-demands-global-response/8047071002/>

# THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane, Washington Est. May 19, 1883

## We can do this

July 21, 2021

Special thanks to Toni Lodge and the NATIVE Project for taking initiative and setting an example of how to reach communities of color with vaccinations for COVID. ("Answering the 'spiritual call to action': How the NATIVE Project brought vaccines to Spokane's communities of color" by Arielle Dreher, The Spokesman-Review, July 11, 2021)

Like when the four-minute mile was shattered, this shows it can be done. It can be done across our country and our world. Until the virus is stopped everywhere, it is a threat to all, with variants cropping up and mutating until they can beat the vaccines. The race to vaccinate in Spokane, America, and our world is not only necessary, but the right thing to do.

President Biden has started this effort; time to call (202-456-1111) and thank him, encouraging him to do more. We can give him the example of the NATIVE Project as proof everyone can be reached!

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/jul/21/we-can-do-this/>



## **Battle pandemic worldwide**

August 3, 2021

Once again, the virus returns, with a variant more infectious than before, demonstrating the need for battling the pandemic worldwide ("Clark County COVID-19 cases surge by 26.5 percent over last week," The Columbian, July 29). Fortunately, President Joe Biden has already begun to lead this effort, promising 500 million doses of vaccine.

Of course, more work is needed. We can help by getting vaccinated locally and calling the president (202-456-1111) to thank him and ask him to do more. Until the pandemic is dealt with globally we cannot be safe locally from the variants that will continue to rise.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2021/aug/03/letter-battle-pandemic-worldwide/>





## **Virus variants remain a concern**

August 9, 2021

Exciting to see our economy bouncing back and wages rising. ("US hiring surges in July, but the variant is the wild card" by Paul Wiseman in The Daily News on Aug. 6.)

The question of the variant remains. Hope comes if the vaccination increase continues and mask wearing expands where needed. The problem of variants will remain, however, as long as billions of people in our world have no access to vaccinations. President Biden has taken the lead and promised 500 million doses to low- and middle-income countries, but more is needed. Each of us can do our part, thanking the President (202-456-1111) for efforts so far and asking him to lead the way to create enough vaccine doses for all, ultimately winning the battle globally and protecting us locally. Otherwise, the variants will continue to become more numerous and deadly, bringing new outbreaks to our shores, blocking recovery.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Wash.*

[https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-virus-variants-remain-a-concern/article\\_95dbbce0-1cf7-5f8a-81ca-490df3469b13.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-virus-variants-remain-a-concern/article_95dbbce0-1cf7-5f8a-81ca-490df3469b13.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## Encourage vaccinations to get back to normal

August 17, 2021

Thanks for the informative graphs and charts about COVID locally, nationally, and worldwide. ("COVID-19 Hospital Capacity in Kitsap County and Surrounding Area" and "Tracking the coronavirus contagion: Active cases" in the Kitsap Sun, August 15)

It makes it clear that we need to treat this pandemic globally. Our numbers were going down until the Delta variant caused cases to rise once again. Sadly, this is the pattern we can expect to repeat again and again until the vaccine reaches everyone on the planet. Locally, we can do our part by getting vaccinated, as many have already done, and mask up as appropriate.

Our part of battling this pandemic globally is to call on the President (202-456-1111) to lead the effort to bring the vaccine to every country. This will lead to ending the pandemic and its variants that otherwise will continue to haunt us and prevent a return to normal.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/08/17/encourage-vaccinations-get-back-normal/8172107002/>

# THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane, Washington Est. May 19, 1883

## Take action now

August, 28 2021

Thanks for the clear picture of the delta variant's power of transmission, infecting of new groups, and causing record hospitalizations.

Respecting the power of this variant, we can strike back with getting vaccinated, wearing masks, and asking President Biden (202-456-1111) to lead the efforts necessary to end this pandemic with universal vaccine access. This means more than shipping our extra doses, it means sharing the technology and formula to manufacture enough vaccine for the billions who have no access.

Otherwise, save the headline of surging cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, replacing "delta" with the name of the next dangerous variant.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/aug/28/take-action-now/>

WALLA WALLA

# Union-Bulletin

## Global vaccine access would finally end this pandemic

September 26, 2021

Kudos to the U-B's Sheila Hagar for the article, "Walla Walla, Umatilla counties reports strained hospital capacity, more COVID-19 deaths," that gave a clear picture of the local COVID-19 spike: full hospitals, along with more cases and deaths.

This cycle of spikes, caused by variants, is likely to continue as long as there is not universal vaccine access. Global access would protect us locally and finally end this pandemic.

By calling the president — the White House number is 202-456-1111 — and asking for his leadership to make sure this pandemic is battled globally, and encouraging your senators and representatives — the U.S. Capitol switchboard number is 202-224-3121 — to support this life-saving effort, we can help end this nightmare. The alternative is the spiking cycles we are experiencing now.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

[https://www.union-bulletin.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/global-vaccine-access-would-finally-end-this-pandemic/article\\_18c1d838-1b0c-11ec-bacd-cf4a17a6fcd6.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.union-bulletin.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/global-vaccine-access-would-finally-end-this-pandemic/article_18c1d838-1b0c-11ec-bacd-cf4a17a6fcd6.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Assist global fight against COVID**

September 30, 2021

There's been encouraging news recently about additional options to fight COVID in the U.S. An FDA advisory panel recommended approval of booster shots for older and high-risk adults. Pfizer reported encouraging data that their vaccine is safe and effective for children over the age of 5. The new developments in vaccine distribution will hopefully reduce the number of hospitalizations and deaths in our state.

Unfortunately, COVID has been a sad reminder of the disparity between rich and poor countries. As of Sept. 16, about 64 percent of the eligible U.S. population has been fully vaccinated; the number is 60 percent here in Clark County. However, worldwide, only 2 percent of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine.

I urge President Biden, Sens. Murray and Cantwell, and Rep. Herrera Beutler to take all available steps to urgently boost global manufacturing and distribution of vaccines. This includes compelling companies to share U.S. taxpayer-funded vaccine innovation with the world. Until worldwide vaccination rates reach necessary levels, we will continue to scramble to fight new COVID variants. At some point, humankind may very well lose the battle.

**— Tonnie Cummings**

*Vancouver*

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2021/sep/30/letter-assist-global-fight-against-covid/>

# THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane, Washington Est. May 19, 1883

## The power of vaccinations

October 10, 2021

Sad to see the bursting hospitals resulting from COVID-19 and its delta variant. The numbers clearly show the power of the vaccine to cut cases and deaths.

The same is true around the globe, where more than a billion people still have no access to vaccinations. Hence the developing variants, like delta, find their way to our shores. Recently, the Global COVID-19 Summit targeted 70% of the world's population by 2022, with at least 40% having one dose by the end of this year. Reaching these goals will help end the deaths and stop new variants from developing.

Let's call on President Biden (202-456-1111) to make sure this global access becomes a reality by doing whatever it takes to make sure vaccine availability is universal. Otherwise, new variants will continue to threaten us locally.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/oct/10/power-vaccinations/>

## **Global COVID-19 vaccine access**

*Call Biden to improve access*

October 13, 2021

To the Editor:

Sad to see Providence over-capacity due to the delta variant. ("Providence hospital over-capacity due to COVID," Sept. 29 Tribune.)

Good news: with the vaccine mandates, many more folks are getting vaccinated. Yet the variants will continue to plague us until the pandemic is battled globally with these successful vaccines. Good news again: rich countries recently agreed to make sure 70% of everyone in our world is vaccinated. This is where we come in: Call on President Biden (202-456-1111) to make sure this global access becomes a reality by doing whatever it takes to make the vaccine available on a global basis. Otherwise, we will continue to battle the variants locally.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>



## **COVID doesn't end at the U.S. borders**

October 7, 2021

I sent this letter to Sen. Patty Murray and encourage others to do the same. While the country's vaccination rate continues to rise, we must all acknowledge that until the COVID pandemic is ended across the world, none of us is safe from the COVID pandemic. African countries must have full access to the vaccines.

Access to COVID-19 vaccines has allowed many communities to reopen. Meanwhile, many low-income countries are imposing new lockdowns because they lack access to COVID-19 vaccines. In the continent of Africa alone, less than 4 percent of the population has been vaccinated.

Vaccination is our pathway out of this pandemic, but there are not enough vaccines being produced quickly enough so that everyone has access. The unchecked spread of COVID-19 is devastating low-income countries and will generate additional dangerous variants, which is bad for all of us.

The time is now to protect all. Sen. Murray, will you advocate to match the House proposal of \$2 billion (specifically SEC. 31025), if not more, to expand the capacity to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccines?

**— Judy Arbogast**

*Olalla*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/10/07/covid-doesnt-end-u-s-borders/6039594001/>





## **Fight pandemic globally**

October 13, 2021

I appreciate the great news that the vast majority of health care workers in our state are vaccinated ("Survey: 88 percent of Washington health care workers fully vaccinated," Associated Press, Oct. 11) So many negative stories have been circulated, it is great to read this truth. Meanwhile, the sad truth is the low-income countries around the world are still hoping for vaccines. This matters because we will never be free of this pandemic and its variants until it is ended globally. If President Biden hears from us (call 202-456-1111), he is more likely to lead the way out of this dilemma by making vaccination technology accessible to all countries.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.columbia.com/news/2021/oct/13/letter-fight-pandemic-globally/>



## Until COVID is tamed worldwide, we won't be done

November 4, 2021

No, we aren't there yet, until there is vaccine available to everyone on our planet, the variants can keep coming. (In reply to the letter, "Are we there yet?", published Oct. 29)

But each of us can help: by asking the President (202-456-1111) to lead the way out of the global COVID-19 pandemic by sharing technology to create enough vaccines for all will result in hope and health. This is a global pandemic, so we must battle it globally. Otherwise, the variants will keep coming, so keep your mask on, and make the call, together we can end this pandemic!

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/11/04/until-covid-tamed-worldwide-we-wont-done/6289169001/>



## Vaccinations around the world

November 12, 2021

After receiving my booster shot of COVID-19 vaccine, I read the Nov. 2 Associated Press article “COVID-19 Global Death Toll...” It reported that “Africa remains the world’s least vaccinated region with just 5% of the population of 1.3 billion fully vaccinated.” I have read that many of the vaccine products in lower income countries can be less effective — therefore, they need a booster more than I.

Not only is it a humane and moral obligation to get our less privileged citizens of the world fully and effectively vaccinated, it is also for our own good. Many of us have experienced delays from “global supply chain” issues related to the global pandemic. But more importantly, as long as the rest of the world lags behind in vaccine rates, there will be more variants, less economic stability and more deaths from treatable diseases like tuberculosis, due to the health-resource drain of COVID-19.

Let the White House and our Congress know that we need our own drug companies to provide global assistance. Moderna received \$10 billion of our U.S. government dollars to develop and purchase product! The White House has pressured our U.S. companies to donate more global vaccines, but those doses promised may not be delivered until September 2022!

Moderna, and other companies need to ramp up sharing of technology for making effective vaccines. More effort must be made to help countries produce effective vaccines within their own borders so that shots into willing arms can happen sooner, not later, around the world. Helen Henry, Olympia

— **Helen Henry**

*Olympia*

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article255725726.html>



## **Letter: Legislation proves that America cares**

November 20, 2021

Amidst the world pandemic that has exacerbated hunger, disease, and poverty there is hope: a bipartisan bill in Congress to battle global malnutrition. Thanks to Washington Reps. Herrera Beutler, Kilmer,

Strickland, and Schrier for cosponsoring this life-saving bill that will better use monies already allotted to help save lives. Take the time to thank them and ask Senators Murray and Cantwell to cosponsor the partner bill in the Senate. This legislation once again shows America cares.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

[https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-legislation-proves-that-america-cares/article\\_d4941511-f2a2-5c5d-8d61-73ae88398fe3.html](https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-legislation-proves-that-america-cares/article_d4941511-f2a2-5c5d-8d61-73ae88398fe3.html)



## A Holiday Wish for Global Safety from COVID

November 26, 2021

This Thanksgiving our family is especially thankful. Last year we celebrated Thanksgiving alone, taking care of each other by not spreading Covid. Now that we are vaccinated, we feel safe gathering with our children and grandchildren, sisters and brothers and a special nephew and friend and we will eat together, joyfully, until we are stuffed.

What makes me ache is knowing that there are so many people in parts of our world who can't access life-saving vaccines and whose lives continue to be at high risk due to Covid. It is glaringly unfair that some people have access to vaccines and some do not. Our nation's wealth allows us, if we have the political will, to provide vaccines and the technology to produce them to those countries whose people are most in need.

I'm thankful to our Representative Derek Kilmer, for voting for the Build Back Better Act, a tiny fraction of which includes funding for vaccine and vaccine technology sharing with impoverished countries. It's not enough, yet millions of lives could be saved if that same bill passes in the Senate. Let's all urge Senator Patty Murray and Senator Maria Cantwell to also vote for the Build Back Better Act when it comes up for a vote in December.

Only when every family, around the world, is vaccinated and can gather safely for their holidays will we all be safe from this pandemic. That's my wish and prayer this Thanksgiving.

— **Beth Wilson**

*Olalla*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/get-access/?return=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kitsapsun.com%2Fstory%2Fopinion%2Freaders%2F2021%2F11%2F24%2Fholiday-wish-global-safety-covid%2F8753655002%2F>

# Tri-City Herald

## We need to help Afghani children

December 14, 2021

Politics is the art of the possible. Millions of Afghani people, mostly children, are at risk of starvation this winter. This seems to be, politically, entirely possible to prevent; no Americans in their right mind could be for the death of children. Reputable organizations like the World Food Program have the knowledge and connections to reach the most vulnerable in Afghanistan without aid money falling into Taliban hands.

So why are children already dying of malnutrition? I think the answer is lack of political will. Politicians have not heard enough from their constituents on the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Many of the politicians still care deeply, and will push for foreign aid despite the perceived public indifference, but imagine how much more would be possible if we all let our representatives know we care.

It's imperative we call our representatives, Congressman Dan Newhouse, Sen. (Patty) Murray and Sen. (Maria) Cantwell, and let them know that we fully support them doing all that's possible to save the children of Afghanistan.

— **Marjolein Oostrom**

*Richland*

<https://www.tri-cityherald.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article256490626.html>



## Who wins as the COVID fight continues?

December 14, 2021

Thank you for your ongoing COVID-19 coverage.

It's simple. Given the global COVID-19 pandemic — who wins? Do the drug companies continue to win (read: billions more in profits) or the world (read: millions of lives saved, economies and schools opened up, billions of dollars saved)?

The Biden Administration simply needs to make Moderna and Pfizer share the vaccine recipe and production know-how with the world. Use moral authority or the Defense Production Act or whatever. Otherwise COVID-19 continues to mutate, and more people needlessly suffer and die.

Who wins? The profiteers or the people?

— **Rich Renner**

*Port Hadlock*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/12/13/who-wins-covid-fight-continues/6498932001/>

# THE REGISTER~HERALD.

Beckley, West Virginia

## West Virginia voices should confirm support for inclusive education

June 16, 2021

In the "How They Voted" article on June 11, 2021 there was not a lot of voting activity to report so I expect most readers may have skimmed over the resolution passed by the Senate (S. Res 229). This resolution expressed solidarity with the Afghan people by recognizing the devastating attack on a girls school in Kabul, Afghanistan where more than 85 people were killed, mostly students.

Quality education is the right of every child. Evidence shows that access to quality education reduces poverty, improves gender equality, advances economic prosperity, improves peace and security, and strengthens public health. The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is a leading international organization in basic education, with a presence in 76 countries. GPE brings together international donors, the private sector, and community groups to build resilient education systems. I feel most Americans would want a more peaceful and equitable world and with the recent pandemic, to see more robust public health globally.

Our Senators Manchin and Capito and Representatives McKinley, Miller and Mooney should support the bipartisan resolutions (S. Res 240 and H. Res 225) affirming the role of the United States in improving access to quality, inclusive public education and improved learning outcomes for children and adolescents, particularly for girls, in the poorest countries through the Global Partnership for Education. Our leaders should ask President Biden for a pledge of \$1 billion over 5 years for the GPE.

— **Josephine Reece**

*Morgantown (formerly of Mullens)*

[https://www.register-herald.com/opinion/west-virginia-voices-should-confirm-support-for-inclusive-education/article\\_0ca7fbbe-cef8-11eb-8274-3bc43a4f9516.html](https://www.register-herald.com/opinion/west-virginia-voices-should-confirm-support-for-inclusive-education/article_0ca7fbbe-cef8-11eb-8274-3bc43a4f9516.html)





## **RESULTS WV / Seeking an End to Poverty**

September, 16 2021

Just as our diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives focus on creating meaningful change where we work, learn, and provide care, one group at Health Sciences is targeting their effort toward creating that change among communities we serve, as well.

A statewide chapter of the national, nonpartisan grassroots organization, RESULTS WV seeks to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. Volunteer members build the visibility of domestic poverty and global health issues by cultivating relationships with members of Congress and their staff in addition to generating media on those topics.

Because of the work of the RESULTS team at WVU, members of West Virginia's first congressional district stepped up to co-sponsor resolutions in support of the Global Fund before the international replenishment conference in early October 2019.

Catherine Jones, a graduate student in Art Education, came to RESULTS WV as a way to impact endemic poverty, something that she frequently witnesses as a board member of the Clarksburg Mission.

"Justice and compassion are intertwined at the Mission and each resident has a story of how they fell through the cracks of our social safety net," Jones said. "Not every choice was a good one, but being generationally impoverished can certainly lead to poor decisions."

Through her participation with RESULTS, Jones has the opportunity to transform what she sees into action for change: "Instead of feeling angry and powerless, I'm able to engage with elected officials to build awareness and influence decisions that are more compassionate and lead to better outcomes for unhoused, impoverished, and otherwise vulnerable people."

"Many of the health indicators that we see here in West Virginia mirror those of other low-resource regions throughout the world, so our work isn't only about advocating for change here at home, but addressing inequality more broadly," noted RESULTS WV group leader Joanna DiStefano, who is also Program Manager for the HSC Global Engagement Office. "It's undeniable that poverty drives inequality, so our mission is inextricably linked with anti-oppression values. This is what drives our commitment to advocacy."

Dr. Josephine Reece, Associate Professor of General Internal Medicine and Director of Internal Medicine Global Health Track in the School of Medicine, is a founding member of RESULTS WV.

"I'm a member of RESULTS because my patients need a voice not only to address medical concerns but all the determinants of health: poverty, housing, education, nutrition, etc.," Reece said. "This group gives me the opportunity and resources to advocate for patients not only in our West Virginia community but the global community as well."

While under the sponsorship of the Global Engagement Office at Health Sciences, members hail from throughout the state - faculty, staff, and students in higher education alongside community members including teachers, social workers, and others who have experienced poverty.

Members of RESULTS WV meet monthly. When conditions permit, hybrid meetings (in-person with a virtual option) take place at both noon and in the early evening, and members have the option to attend one of the meetings that best suits their schedule.

Outside of regular monthly meetings, members correspond via email, social media, and text to coordinate actions, generate media, and carry out other leadership activities.

Many commit to different leadership roles within the group, including contact leads for Congressional offices and communications and outreach coordinators. Members with limited availability may choose to join the group's action network, which carries out directed communications strategies at key points in the legislative

process. All members are invited to attend an annual international conference in Washington, DC, where they also participate in a lobby day on Capitol Hill.

“We know that the issues our RESULTS chapter has advocated for in recent years — such as poverty, affordable housing, and measures to address infectious diseases globally — have an enormous impact on the health of our community, far greater than those from modern hospitals at the population level,” noted HSC Global Engagement Office Director Dr. Chris Martin.

“Helping the next generation of health leaders both understand and effectively champion these causes is critical to our mission as a land-grant university,” added Martin, who is also a professor at the WVU School of Medicine and School of Public Health.

Those wishing to augment their learning experience may also wish to take part in a national organizing and advocacy fellowship opportunity that RESULTS sponsors for volunteers ages 20-35. This 11-month experience is structured to help participants hone organizing and advocacy skills as part of a cohort of dozens of activists throughout the country.

Yolanda Gordon, Senior Associate for Expansion and Advocacy at RESULTS, views the fellowship as an essential vehicle for transformation: “Advocacy and organizing is the life’s blood of selfless service. It is core to our organization and necessary to end injustices in the world. Everyone can be an advocate and provide their leaders with valuable information to help them make an informed decision. The RESULTS Fellowship is a unique holistic fellowship that provides personal and professional growth.”

“The fellowship is about so much more than simply building civic engagement skills,” said DiStefano. “This is a rare opportunity for young people in our state that emphasizes experience, principles, and action, and we are very eager to welcome more national fellows into RESULTS WV.”

During virtual meetings with members of Congress, the RESULTS global and domestic poverty members have discussed their legislative agenda, including addressing gaps in the social safety net laid bare by the pandemic.

*To learn more about becoming a RESULTS WV member, contact Joanna DiStefano. Anyone interested in applying to the national fellowship is encouraged to review the fellowship overview and application guide. The deadline to submit fellowship applications is Oct. 15.*

<https://health.wvu.edu/news/story?headline=hscommunity-results-wv-seekingend-to-poverty>

# THE CAP TIMES

## Ask Congress to fund global health efforts

March 15, 2021

Dear Editor: Thanks for printing Cynthia Changyit Levin's letter reminding us this pandemic must be treated globally to protect us locally, and how each of us can take action to do just that. ('Wisconsin officials should support funding global health aid' by Cynthia Changyit Levin, The Cap Times, Feb. 28) The U.S. has been a leader in global health, supporting the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and malaria, along with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Both multi-national organizations have been doing a great job helping over 100 countries fight COVID19, but need new funding to continue this global battle that will protect us locally. Calling on our members of Congress is a way Ms. Levin demonstrates for each of us to make aid this effort. Calling on members of Congress to support this global battle — (202) 224-3121 — will encourage them to continue America's leadership in global health. Be sure to thank them for the work done so far, and ask them to commit at least another \$20 billion to make the world safe from this and future pandemics.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

[https://madison.com/ct/opinion/mailbag/willie-dickerson-ask-congress-to-fund-global-health-efforts/article\\_c4e66f97-2653-5b79-a33e-ac3a8bcd8910.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://madison.com/ct/opinion/mailbag/willie-dickerson-ask-congress-to-fund-global-health-efforts/article_c4e66f97-2653-5b79-a33e-ac3a8bcd8910.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# THE CAP TIMES

## Larson on the mark about health care for all

July 29, 2021

Dear Editor: Sen. Chris Larson makes good points on the need for quality health care for all Americans. Even today, the unvaccinated include a large number of those who are uninsured or underinsured, have poor access to vaccines or can't afford to take time off work to get vaccinated. Vaccine may be available but that doesn't mean it is accessible.

We need to take immediate steps to close that gap and long-term steps to make sure every American has quality health care. And remember: This pandemic is not over until the vaccine reaches everyone in our country and our world, or the variants will continue to bring it back to our shores. Ask all your representatives to make sure these steps are taken.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

[https://madison.com/ct/opinion/mailbag/willie-dickerson-larson-on-the-mark-about-health-care-for-all/article\\_ec0ea047-63ff-5bbc-bb0c-37cf73ca6354.html](https://madison.com/ct/opinion/mailbag/willie-dickerson-larson-on-the-mark-about-health-care-for-all/article_ec0ea047-63ff-5bbc-bb0c-37cf73ca6354.html)



## **Ask Congress to pass bills to impact global child malnutrition**

November 20, 2021

While the current political climate is very self-involved, we remain part of the international human race.

There are bipartisan bills pending in both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives that would make a big impact on global child malnutrition. The Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act (S.2956/H.R.4693) provides guidelines and accountability for the U.S. Agency for International Development to help with the food crisis around the world.

According to RESULTS (a worldwide organization dedicated to influencing political decisions that will bring an end to poverty), in 2020, nearly one in three people did not have access to adequate food. Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of malnutrition, which results in their stunting and/or death.

Now is the time to contact our members of Congress (Rep. Cheney, Sen. Barrasso and Sen. Lummis). Ask them to cosponsor these critical pieces of legislation. Remember our international sisters and brothers.

**— Judy Gostas**

*Cheyenne*

[https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/ask-congress-to-pass-bills-to-impact-global-child-malnutrition/article\\_6769bb82-9627-5eb2-a2c7-ad2536895e1f.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/ask-congress-to-pass-bills-to-impact-global-child-malnutrition/article_6769bb82-9627-5eb2-a2c7-ad2536895e1f.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Ann Erdmann: Seeking RESULTS to ending worldwide poverty**

*By Rachel Girt*

*For the Wyoming Tribune Eagle*

December 26, 2021

Ann Erdmann was at a place in her life in 2016 where she wanted to take more action and advocate for issues such as ending poverty.

She recalled being disillusioned with how bitter the 2016 U.S. elections has become, and wanted to become involved with a nonpartisan group that wanted to build relationships, rather than fight and argue.

That's when Erdmann became acquainted with RESULTS, a national grassroots advocacy organization. RESULTS held an educational meeting at Highlight Presbyterian Church in Cheyenne, inviting locals to learn more about their efforts.

"I thought I would work with that," Erdmann said.

RESULTS is a grassroots movement of fully nonpartisan volunteers who care deeply about ending poverty. The volunteers are supported by a staff of researchers, policy analysts, and legislative and media experts. The network of volunteers spans all 50 states and worldwide.

Volunteers receive training, research and support to advocate in a nonpartisan way on policies that impact health, education and economic opportunity, which are keystones of ending poverty, she explained.

Formed after the 2016 meeting, the RESULTS Cheyenne group focuses on addressing issues that impact global and U.S. poverty. The group is changing its



name to RESULTS Wyoming, since its membership and outreach have expanded outside Cheyenne.

Erdmann volunteered to help coordinate the work others were doing, becoming designated as the group leader.

The RESULTS group in Wyoming is relatively small. It is currently four or five members, but Erdmann is not discouraged. She quoted influential cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead, who said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

"The important part of our work is building relationships with our members of Congress and their staff," she said. "Actually, that's kind of the fun part."

RESULTS Wyoming tries to help educate the community and Wyoming's congressional delegation on the issues and let them know there are constituents out here who care about them, Erdmann explained.

For example, the chapter would like Wyoming's delegation to sign on to support the bipartisan Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act. The bill calls for a coordinated strategy for U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) nutrition assistance and sets clear targets for reaching the most impoverished children and families with effective interventions.

Erdmann considers herself to have always been politically minded. She grew up in a political household in Pueblo, Colorado, where she was born. One of her earliest memories is reaching out to shake President Harry S. Truman's hand on his Whistle Stop Tour in downtown Pueblo. She was sitting on her father's shoulders, so she was very close to the president.

Later, she sought out a political science major at the University of Denver. Erdmann lived in the Denver area and Panama before moving to Cheyenne with her husband 47 years ago.

In addition to RESULTS Wyoming, she is a member of the Zonta Club of Cheyenne, which is advancing the status of women worldwide, and United Methodist Women, the largest network of women of faith.

"The three organizations have a symbiotic connection. Actually ending poverty inevitably includes a focus on supporting women," Erdmann explained.

Over the years, especially with RESULTS support and research, Erdmann has become a prolific writer of editorials and letters. "I enjoy writing," she said.

Overall, Erdmann has found her advocacy through RESULTS extremely inspiring work to do. She doesn't become frustrated about repeatedly advocating for the same issues but not getting the votes.

"It's about building relationships, helping them become more informed about the issues and letting them know members of their constituency care about these issues and want to work with them in a positive way," she said.

RESULTS has a formal intake process, which includes training and support for those interested in becoming involved with the organization. Visit <https://results.org/new-volunteers/sign-up/>.

No online link



## **Africa shouldn't be forced to go it alone when it comes to Covid vaccines**

Europe and the US have won the scramble for vaccines – now they must help African nations produce their own

By Paul Farmer, Ishaan Desai and Agnes Binagwaho

July 20, 2021

More than 3bn doses of the Covid-19 vaccine have now been administered worldwide. But as the campaign forges ahead, one continent lags far behind the rest. Africa, home to 17% of the global population, accounts for less than 2% of the shots given to date.

In the scramble for vaccines, wealthy countries have come out on top, shoving Covax – the global procurement mechanism on which most of Africa relies – to the end of the queue. The continent's drive was dealt another blow when India, overwhelmed by a wave of infections, suspended the export of Oxford/AstraZeneca doses manufactured by Covax's largest supplier, the Serum Institute of India. With shipments unlikely to resume until the end of 2021, only seven out of 54 African nations are on track to immunise even 10% of their populations by September.

The G7's pledge to donate 1bn doses over the coming year is a welcome break from the vaccine nationalism that has marred the battle against Covid-19. However, it offers little immediate relief in settings such as Uganda and Zambia, where coronavirus is surging but the resources required to respond – vaccines, oxygen, diagnostics, ICU beds – are not. With the highly transmissible Delta variant detected in 16 countries, the consequences of vaccine scarcity are growing direr by the day.

Hobbled by broken promises and reliant on foreign suppliers, Africa's vaccination drive reflects an acute lack of global solidarity. It should further compel us to reckon with a more chronic disparity: Africa, the continent with the largest burden of infectious diseases, has the scantest capacity to make the tools needed to lessen it.

An exploratory study published in 2017 identified just eight African companies with "existing or potential vaccine manufacturing capacities". Most could perform only downstream steps, such as packaging, labelling and distribution. More than 99% of the vaccines administered on the continent were imported from overseas, leading study authors to warn that such "dependency on suppliers outside Africa is a source of vulnerability" in the face of outbreaks. Current struggles against Covid-19, like previous ones against Ebola and pandemic influenza, have thrown this vulnerability into sharp relief.

They also provide an impetus to redress the balance. The spread of dangerous variants and the potential for waning immunity make clear that a strategy based solely on dose donations won't suffice. Bringing the pandemic to heel ultimately requires a dramatic expansion of the global vaccine supply, which in turn requires an expansion of global manufacturing capacity. And at least some of that capacity should be built in Africa.

Messenger RNA vaccines, such as those made by Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech, are especially attractive candidates for scaling-up. These latest breakthroughs in vaccinology are proving remarkably effective against both symptomatic and asymptomatic infection, with early evidence supporting the likelihood of long-lasting protection. Unlike other inoculations, mRNA vaccines don't rely on cumbersome production processes involving cell culture; their manufacture is thus faster, simpler and less prone to biological variability, and can occur in smaller facilities with lower upfront capital costs.

Although their long-term storage is relatively more demanding – Pfizer/BioNTech vials must be kept frozen at around -70C – cold chain requirements need not preclude their use or production in Africa. Health authorities in Rwanda, which in March became the first African nation to receive Pfizer/BioNTech doses through Covax, acquired five new ultra-cold freezers, along with refrigerated vehicles and specialised coolers, in advance of the shipments. Storage needs are expected to

become less stringent as the thermal stability of mRNA vaccines is better understood and as improvements are made to their formulation. For instance, both the Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines can now be safely stored in a standard refrigerator for up to a month.

What's more, the mRNA platform allows for swift adaptation against emerging variants, and for rapid vaccine development to counter novel pathogens. It also holds promise against more familiar infectious killers, including HIV, influenza, Ebola, Zika, dengue, rabies, malaria and tuberculosis. Prioritising the adoption of this technology can help ensure that Africa doesn't miss out on the "mRNA revolution" now unfolding in medicine.

African leaders took a step toward this goal in April, when a conference hosted by the African Union and Africa Centres for Disease Control spawned an ambitious partnership to accelerate continental vaccine manufacturing. Rwanda, for example, expressed keen interest in serving as a regional production hub for mRNA Covid-19 vaccines. But with mRNA vaccine research, development and manufacturing knowhow concentrated in the United States and Europe, Africa shouldn't be left to go it alone.

Sustained partnerships are required in at least four key areas. First and perhaps most pressing is the need for technology transfer – the sharing of vaccine recipes, industrial processes, technical guidance and related intellectual property – from those currently making coronavirus jabs to those wishing to do so in places like Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa. To facilitate this exchange, the World Health Organization is establishing a tech transfer hub, which will train personnel from developing countries in the manufacture of mRNA vaccines. Moderna, Pfizer and BioNTech should lend their expertise to this effort. Governments, especially those that made massive public expenditures to yield coronavirus vaccines in record time, should also assume a more proactive role in brokering technology transfers with African partners.

Second, local production demands ready access to financing. A number of supporters have recently joined the African Development Bank and other pan-African organizations in pledging resources toward a homegrown vaccine industry. These include the European Union, the Mastercard Foundation, the International

Finance Corporation and several bilateral development-finance institutions. Other governments, donors and investors should follow suit.

Third, investments in manufacturing must be accompanied by a strengthening of regulatory systems. Though almost all African nations have authorities responsible for overseeing the safety, efficacy and quality of medical products, many lack the wherewithal to meet international standards. Nevertheless, Ghana and Tanzania are now certified by the WHO as having “stable, well-functioning and integrated regulatory systems”, and rapid gains toward this benchmark have been recorded in Rwanda, among other countries. The pandemic has also renewed momentum to inaugurate the African Medicines Agency, which will harmonise regulatory activities across the continent and integrate vaccine markets.

Fourth, a vibrant vaccine industry depends heavily on the cultivation of capacity for biomedical research and development. The pace at which Covid-19 vaccines were developed was due in large part to basic scientific research that had been under way long before a novel coronavirus arrived on the scene. Also pivotal was a robust infrastructure for clinical trials. Yet both of these elements are scarce in sub-Saharan Africa: there are only about three masters-level vaccinology training programmes, and a meagre 2% of vaccine clinical trials are conducted in the region. Resource-rich universities and medical research institutions are well positioned to accompany their African counterparts in addressing these gaps.

Vaccine production in Africa isn't without challenges. Chronic underinvestment has entrenched a uniquely complex system of vaccine procurement and financing that may deter the growth of local producers. Approximately 70% of Africa's routine vaccines originate in a single country, India, whose impressive drug-makers can crank out low-cost, high-quality vaccines at massive scale. To emerge in this ecosystem, African manufacturers will require multiyear commitments from funders and partners, a rarity in a field of global health that's fixated more on short-term solutions than on long-term accompaniment.

Moreover, an expanded supply of vaccines, whether homegrown or imported, doesn't invariably guarantee their equitable distribution. That neglected task requires a community-based health system capable of serving those at highest risk of affliction but least likely to receive the interventions known to reduce it. In the US, where coronavirus jabs are abundant, the weakness of said system has led to a

rollout patterned by glaring social inequalities. Although several African health systems have demonstrated superior rollouts – Rwanda began vaccinating a mere 48 hours after receiving its initial Covax doses and administered them all within three weeks – others will require more support if the benefits of local production are to reach those in greatest need.

While such obstacles warrant scrutiny, none are insurmountable. Cynicism about the feasibility of vaccine production in Africa only legitimates inaction. Besides, there is ample cause for optimism. Demand for vaccines in Africa is likely to soar in the coming decades, driven by rapid population growth, development of new vaccines (like those against malaria or Lassa fever) and efforts to broaden access to underutilised ones (like those against rotavirus or human papillomavirus).

A handful of manufacturers have also succeeded in striking agreements to help make Covid-19 vaccines, including the Institut Pasteur de Dakar in Senegal, and Aspen Pharmacare and the BioVac Institute in South Africa. No formal partnerships have yet been announced for African manufacture of an authorised mRNA vaccine, though momentum for it is gathering force.

As we contend with a scandalous divide in access to coronavirus vaccines, we are reminded that while microbes readily cross borders, their remedies (and the cumulative scientific knowledge underlying them) are often blocked at customs. Nowhere has this paradox been more marked than in Africa, where the vaccine apartheid of today is just the latest in an enduring chain of medical injustices to befall the continent. But if pandemics invite “humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew” – to cite the novelist Arundhati Roy – then Covid-19 affords us an opportunity to rethink how and with whom the fruits of modern science are shared. We can start by letting Africa make the vaccines needed to end this pandemic and stave off the next one.

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<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jul/10/africa-covid-vaccines-europe-us>



## Until COVID is tamed worldwide, we won't be done

November 4, 2021

No, we aren't there yet, until there is vaccine available to everyone on our planet, the variants can keep coming. (In reply to the letter, "Are we there yet?", published Oct. 29)

But each of us can help: by asking the President (202-456-1111) to lead the way out of the global COVID-19 pandemic by sharing technology to create enough vaccines for all will result in hope and health. This is a global pandemic, so we must battle it globally. Otherwise, the variants will keep coming, so keep your mask on, and make the call, together we can end this pandemic!

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

*This article originally appeared on Kitsap Sun: Until COVID is tamed worldwide, we won't be done*

[https://news.yahoo.com/until-covid-tamed-worldwide-wont-205247877.html?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLnNvbS8&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAAJqByslssRMC6VizwKGJ-FY\\_MeY49tIpNytMI1ap93BKghDTDFRSf90kparmwwq6JMSiqHjUZMpybiWYVJrHOnMHV5CXLSQcSJH-b3VHY5yb1R8luxGjfmG\\_TjC3l8bxoO-J5LWPCJ57g6Vi-FbbQVcYuEQuD20n1R0Hv09\\_rw9w](https://news.yahoo.com/until-covid-tamed-worldwide-wont-205247877.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLnNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAJqByslssRMC6VizwKGJ-FY_MeY49tIpNytMI1ap93BKghDTDFRSf90kparmwwq6JMSiqHjUZMpybiWYVJrHOnMHV5CXLSQcSJH-b3VHY5yb1R8luxGjfmG_TjC3l8bxoO-J5LWPCJ57g6Vi-FbbQVcYuEQuD20n1R0Hv09_rw9w)