Note on Leave-Behind Materials for Congressional Meetings

All materials for your actions are linked below and can be found in the “Lobbying” section of the RESULTS website.

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Key U.S. Poverty Request

Prioritizing Affordable Housing for Low-Income Renters

The COVID-19 pandemic has made our housing crisis far worse. Even before this economic and public health crisis, millions were struggling to afford housing, especially renters of color. According to Harvard researchers, since 1960 renters’ median earnings have gone up 5 percent while rents are up 61 percent. Economist Mark Zandi estimates renters already owe over $50 billion in back rent and fees, which puts a tremendous burden on tenants and landlords who cannot meet their own financial obligations when no rent is coming in (nearly one-half of whom are individual owners or so-called “mom and pop” landlords).

Congress took an important step by passing a bipartisan package in December 2020 with $25 billion in emergency rental assistance, but more is needed. Congress should work quickly to pass a strong COVID relief bill that includes at least $30 billion in emergency rental assistance targeted at low-income renters most at risk of eviction. In addition, Congress must move bold policies to address our underlying housing crisis by ensuring all eligible low-income renters get federal housing assistance – we will push for this to be a priority in later recovery legislation, along with supporting efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing for low-income renters via the National Housing Trust Fund.

HOUSE and SENATE Requests:

- Will you tell leadership to pass a strong COVID relief package with at least $30 billion in emergency rental assistance?
- Will you support dramatically expanding housing assistance for low-income renters in 2021 to ensure that all eligible low-income renters get federal housing assistance?

Background Documents:

- Congress Must Provide Rental Assistance
Targeted U.S. Poverty Request

Expand Tax Credits for Low-Wage Workers and Families

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projects that the unemployment rate will remain above 9 percent well into 2021, but temporary changes to the federal tax code could provide a much needed boost to workers and families early next year. Congress should expand Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers who do not claim dependents and extend the full Child Tax Credit (CTC) to children in all low-income families, just like middle- and higher-income families currently receive.

Over 5 million low-wage workers who are not raising children at home are taxed into (or deeper into) poverty each year. Expanding EITC could provide a crucial boost to younger workers and others who do not claim dependents. Moreover, one in four children (27 million total) in low-income families do not receive the full Child Tax Credit. Increasing the CTC and expanding it so all low-income families receive the full credit – on a monthly basis – could reduce child poverty by 40 percent.

Congress can act swiftly to make these important policy changes for 2021 in a strong COVID relief package, and then make those changes permanent in later recover legislation

HOUSE and SENATE Requests

- Will you tell congressional leaders to prioritize low-income people by expanding the EITC and CTC for low-income workers and families?

Background documents

- Prioritize Tax Credits for Low-Wage Workers and Families
Key Global Poverty Requests

Fully Fund the Global Fund’s COVID Response and Fight Malnutrition

For over a year, the coronavirus has threatened near universal disruption around the world. But it is the communities facing poverty, already pushed to the margins, which face the greatest risks. As a leader in global health and development, the United States must urgently respond to contain and mitigate the impact COVID-19 and protect hard-fought gains in global health in low-income countries.

The $4 billion Congress appropriated for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in the December relief bill is crucially important, but just one part of the comprehensive response needed. COVID-19 vaccines are an important part of the solution, but they will not be available in most lower-income countries for many months and possibly not widely available for years, and the extreme economic crises caused by this pandemic is not slowing down. A new World Bank estimate suggests that COVID-19 will drive over 150 million people into extreme poverty by 2021. Providing resources to programs that successfully impact poverty and have demonstrable track-records for improving health outcomes will be critical in the fight against COVID-19 and its effect on those most at-risk.

As Congress considers COVID relief funding, we urge support for the priorities below as part of an next package of at least $20 billion to stop coronavirus and mitigate the secondary impacts and economic shocks that deepen poverty.

HOUSE and SENATE Requests:

- As you reach out to leadership, will you support at least $20 billion in foreign aid in any next COVID-19 relief legislation, including at least:
  - $4 billion for the Global Fund
  - $2 billion to address hunger/ famine-relief, with at least $500 million to address the crisis of malnutrition and wasting.

Background Documents:

- Global Response Vital to Fight Pandemic