(Caption Test)

This is a test.

Results.org-National Webinar

Live captioning by Ai-Media

KEN PATTERSON:
You are all set.

JOANNE CARTER:
Great. Welcome, everyone. I am so grateful to be with you today. I am Joanne Carter, Executive Director of RESULTS. As I said, I want to welcome you to this may National Webinar.

Particularly, to take a moment upfront to celebrate the amazing and really important work you all have been doing. Today actually marks the end of our Set the Agenda Campaign, the formal end of that. I want to both celebrate the intention that you put into this campaign and the actions you have been taking.

In January, we set ahead to shape the critical work ahead with Congress by meeting with their members and staff and getting in their early to powerfully put forward our priorities. And again, it is worth the reminder, maybe some of you saw this in your meetings.

For some of these issues, especially in many cases, global ones. You were possibly the first and sometimes the only person to bring these issues that affect hundreds of millions of lives and are about tackling structural inequity in health and education to these offices. You know, even for the more front burner issues, like the Child Tax Credit, or affordable housing in the US, you were and often are one of the only constituents to bring these issues and specific solutions about how we use the tax code.

You know, that along with your knowledge and your lived experience to these offices. And too often, we see. Right? Folks are not necessarily talking to some Republican offices on these issues at all. And I have just been really inspired to watch as you carried out these plans with conviction and with power.

It really hope you have seen the lobby meeting trapping that's backtracking that on our Set the Agenda campaign page because it went from coast-to-coast represents over 200 congressional meetings and you know, behind the countless hours of strategy building and network building. Some of these were brand-new relationships with Congress, right? Getting a number different doors with numbers of Congress not long after they walk through those doors themselves. With others, definitely building on long-standing relationships. But, moving them into new action.

This really is the kind of deep advocacy that brings lasting allies and is needed for lasting change in our system for those experiencing poverty and its consequences. And I also want to really celebrate that we are already senior impact! You know, during the push around the appropriations process to shape the annual funding for our global health and education priorities, even with a short timeline, you secure to bracketed numbers of congressional signers.

For letters demanding full funding for ensuring that kids can go to school and learn. For ending tuberculosis. For tackling and ending the worst forms of malnutrition. For preventing maternal child deathsâ€¦ Will sometimes kind of 48 and (indiscernible), but translate into real life saved. We are seeing more lawmakers showing up for support on the Child Tax Credit.

For an expansion within this year. You know, the American families act, which calls for extended Child Tax Credit for all family, regardless of income. Is now up to, what I have is 107 cosponsors, it might be beyond that, even. You have been having really important conversations with public offices on the CTC.

To give them really key information to dispel some misinformation. And really, to work to find common ground and helped expand the Child Tax Credit for millions, millions more families. You know, this momentum is building because you have shared your lived experience. And your knowledge of the kind of solutions that are needed.

And also, your personal motivation for taking action. You know, you sure that with lawmakers, both virtually and in person. You have also shared through the media and over 140 pieces, including 22 (indiscernible) and 150 letters to the editor. Again, that has been counted since yesterday, I am sure there is more.

I also want to note that last month's national webinar led by her Experts on Poverty was particularly powerful and important. If you were not able to watch that, please do. If you are not on the webinar and did not get a chance to watch it, please do. I also want to give a shout out to this week's past Fellowship summit in DC where many of our amazing, young leaders, in the 2023 scholarship co-hardware and -- on Capitol Hillâ€¦

Sharing their perspective. And their experiences. Building relationships with congressional offices. They have some 36 meetings and I would also say, maybe someone can even put this in the chapter posted otherwise, if you have not seen the fantastic live debrief video by Jean Philippe Charles, the colleague from the Senate building in real time, you have to watch that, it was really, really wonderful.

The formal Set the Agenda Campaign is over. We should celebrate what we have done, what we have already put in motion. But, even more, we should celebrate to push -- that you are consuming to push into the advocacy work day and day out. Because this work for a more equitable policy, for more equitable global health education, will only happen through our sustained advocacy and remaining laser focus on policies that help dismantle the systemic inequities that lead to poverty.

So, if you have not gotten meetings, if you have tried, you have not gotten some of those meetings, keep at it. Across the board, we need to continue to make these issues real and a priority. With meetings, with ongoing engagement with the offices and relationships we have built, with media, with building our networks.

And let our lawmakers know that we are there to help them take action that matters. And also, to hold onto these priorities. It is truly about your intention, the intention you bring. And your persistence.

So later today, we will hear from grassroots advocates and staff about how we will continue to strengthen our message and our network. To follow through on this agenda. But, for now, I will stop and have the pleasure of hitting the microphone over to her U.S. Poverty Policy colleague, David Plasterer.

Who will talk a bit more about our progress on economic justice through the tax code. And introduce today's guests. So, thanks, everyone. David, over to you.

DAVID PLASTERER:
Great, think you so much, Joanne. Good afternoon, everyone. Thanks so much for joining us today and thank you for your advocacy during the campaign. -- Are Set the Agenda Campaign. As Joanne highlighted, you made amazing contributions for our efforts in poverty and even though the Set the Agenda Campaign is over, there are many important ways we can move the deal towards economic justice in this Congress.

Before we get into what those ways are, I want to give a brief update on what is going on in Congress right now. The focus on the Hill is, on the debt ceiling debate. To give a brief overview. The debt ceiling is the amount of money that the US government can borrow to ensure we are paying our bills on time.

These are bills that Congress has already agreed to pay through the budget process, including snap, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans health, health grant, section 8 housing, the wit program," -- host of other important anti-poverty programs. House Republicans passed a bill that would increase the debt limit for a year but also requires devastating cuts to all of these programs.

Leaving millions in need without critical supportive services. And now, Treasury Secretary Janet Guillen says we could hit the debt ceiling as early as June 1. For the US to default on instead would be catastrophic. Leading to a deep recession or worse. And millions of people out of work.

President Biden has called on House and Senate leaders to the White House on Tuesday, May 9. To discuss this looming crisis. President Biden has repeatedly said that he will not negotiate over the debt ceiling.

Allowing budget negotiations to happen over the debt ceiling would essentially allow congressional leaders to use the full faith and credit of the United States as a bargaining chip. While the president and Senate Democrats have rejected the cuts, the house has -- that the house is demanding, he welcomes a debate over future spending over the normal budget process.

We are hopeful that a resolution to this crisis will be reached at both raise the debt ceiling in time and protects important anti-poverty programs, for which we all care deeply.

You know, it is frustrating that we are seeing this conversation even really happening because instead of talking about cuts, Congress really should be talking about expanding important programs. That help low and middle income families like the Child Tax Credit. That is why you all have been talking about this CTC with your Members of Congress and the media.

And we must continue to do so. We will highlight how, in the Grassroots section, later on. I also wanted to highlight additional action for those of you with Democratic House members.

I recently wrote this blog that someone, that I will put in the chat. About the American Families Act, or the AFA. The AFA was essentially reinstate the CTC that helps so many children and families get out of poverty.

Representatives (Unknown Name) and Richie Torres are seeking original, cosponsors before the bill is officially introduced.

While we know the specific bill will not be passed in the current Congress, having a strong showing of original cosponsors will send a strong message that expanding the CTC must be a priority. So, if you or your group covers a Democratic number of the house, please reach out to the tax aide in your lawmakers office to urge them to be an original cosponsor of the AFA.

And you can see the blog post for resources to help you do just that. Now, I am excited to introduce you to today's gas. Alex Coccia. Alex Coccia isâ€¦ Where he advances policy work on family and community. Economic security.

He makes connections between policy development, research, and community organizing. To focus on making public systems robust, equitable, and accessible to people and communities have long been excluded from them.

He has professional and academic expertise in anti-poverty and family economic security policy. Including PhD research on work requirements, why they do not work, and how we can get rid of them. Which I know is an important topic for many of us here on the call today.

Alex, think you so much for being here today. And I understand you have something you would like to share with us about your work as the SSP. And I would like to go ahead and turn it over to you now, Alex.

ALEX COCCIA:
Great, think you so much, David. Thank you for having me at the RESULTS team. It is wonderful being with all of you. David and I are talking very regularly about what it means to keep the CTC friends of mine for policymakers and in all of those conversations.

He is very much bragging about the RESULTS network of advocates and volunteers. So, it is just wonderful to actually meet with you all, although virtually. I work at the center of social policy, we are a national nonprofit policy organization focus very much on connecting community action.

Public system reform and policy change. With the goal of creating a fair and just society in which all children and families can thrive. As part of our work, we partner with the children's Defense fund to co-chair the automatic benefit for children coalition. Or ABC coalition.

In results is on the steering committee of this coalition. The ABC coalition is dedicated to the creation of a permanent child allowance, or guaranteed income for children. That provides families with regular, meaningful assistance. While promoting racial, gender, and economic justice. You will hear some similarities in that vision with the CTC that we saw temporarily expanded in 2021.

What is great about the ABC coalition is that it hosts this really ride range of groups. From national, state, grassroots providersâ€¦ They recognize the importance of physical policy, the guaranteed income from children can do to advance equity.

So, over the past two years, we have been working part with partners like you to push for the permanent expansion of the enhanced CTC. Along with other improvements that would help with its implementation. We know that implementation is absolutely critical to actually making sure that people have access to the credit even when it is passed through legislation.
So, we work a lot with the IRS and the treasury to make sure the tax system is something that can effectively administer this credit to families.

David mentioned the American family act, the AFA, and why it is important to show strong support. What the AFA did, or whether the AFA does, is it builds on lessons from the 2021 CTC to ensure that any sort of future expansion reaches as many people as possible.

Especially families with low income, immigrant families who may have been previously excluded, and families of color who could benefit from support the most. One of the reasons we want there to be strong support is that, even if this legislation does not pass, at the end of the day, when it comes to some of the more technical aspects and the literal legislative language.

Technical aspects of who it -- who is eligible, how to protect people from setting money back to the IRS that they have gotten back from advanced credits. Adulation that has been interest that might introduce is what has been copy and pasted into new legislation. We want this version to be the most robust and inclusive possible.

I also just want to highlight, you know, why continued, persistent elevation of a policy issue like the impact of a fully refundable CTC, why that is so important. You know, RESULTS volunteers and other advocates have been working for a very long time on the ensuring that families have cash support that they need.

With no strings attached. Since the 1990s, we have seen a huge shift among the Democratic caucus away from it requirements with -- like market labor or work requirements and income requirements in order to receive benefits. If it certainly wasn't so in the 1990s, like we saw with temporary assistance for needy families.

But for today, for something like the Child Tax Credit, there is nearly unanimous support of the Democratic caucus for a fully refundable credit. That gets cash to fan -- families to children without a requirement to have income through the labor market.

And that freezing is intentional because we also know that people are working very, very hard to support their families. It might just not result in income from the market. So, whether it is a work requirement in a program like SNAP, or whether it is an income requirement for the CTC, these types of policy decisions are designed around a set of assumptions that keep people from getting the support they need.

I know in the past, you have maybe discussed some of the racist assumptions behind work requirements. And my colleague who was at the center, she published a fantastic piece called The Racist Roots of Work Requirements. Which of you have not read, I would highly recommend it. My own research on work requirements looked at how they have often been used to destroy safety net programs.

By making the goal to - just about getting people off of programs. Regardless of whether they are actual life circumstances improves, financial circumstances improves.

Part of why sharing stories from the expanded CDC is so important, is that there was no income requirement for parents. So what operated on a completely different assumption that we need to really desperately include in our policy and strengthening our policy today. And that is the assumption that no one deserves to be poor, and we have to invest in people and the places they go home.

Research on the impact of the CTC is clear. Study after study confirms the expanded CTC dramatically reduced food insufficiency and insecurity, promoted economic security and well-being, for individuals and for communities, where the advance payments were spent.

It helped families pay rent, it helped people afford to take part in different joyful and important elemental activities, like joining rec leaks and traveling to see family.

And CSSP, our work on the CDC and the child allowance is grounded in deep historical research that looks at how policies and decisions have built over time, and influence the decisions that impact families today.

And all of our research centers, the expenses and needs of families, especially black, Latinx, the families of color. Both because we need to understand how policies have impacted them so a future (Indiscernible) allowance can meet their needs and advanced racial justice, and because we believe developing meaningful solutions can only be achieved if policy work is driven by what families determine they need and the ways they determine they need.

We have a report coming out next week which I will be sure to center David to send to everybody, that is asking about 50 different families of color how they would design a child allowance. It really highlights the stories of families.

And this type of grounded research I think is what can really be compelling to policymakers, because at the end of the day at the heart of every sort of qualitative interview, every survey response, it's a story. It's a story about someone working hard to support the family, piecing together different parts of our safety net, as an accessible as they might be, and making decisions to ensure their children thrive. It's all about the stories.

So we know the challenges have not gone away, obviously the enhanced CDC has not been expanded. And when the monthly CDC payment stopped, 3.7 million children were pushed into poverty. And food insufficiently increased by 25%.

We still have a long way to go. We need to continue to push for Congress to expand the CDC, and make the case the CDC should be available to all families with children, regardless of immigration status and regardless of employment or income status of their parents or guardians.

Please keep fighting the good fight to keep the CDC front of mind for media and for policymakers. We know that the expanded CDC work, and expanding it permanently is cortical to providing guaranteed income for children in the US.

I just want to thank you all for having me so briefly, and thank you for all you do to fight for an end to poverty in the US. I know we have some time for certain questions so I'm excited to get to those.

DAVID PLASTERER:
That was fantastic Alex, thank you so much for sharing about your work and the work of CSSP. Telling a little bit about the ABC Coalition.

I put in the chat, folks if you have questions, please put them into the chat. I have one or two questions for you though to sort of get us kicked off here Alex.

So, a lot of RESULTS volunteers have conservative lawmakers who represent rural areas. Could you share a bit about what kind of affect the CPC has in rural areas?

ALEX COCCIA:
Absolutely.

The fully refundable CTC, expanded fully refundable CTC where you don't have to have any sort of income requirement, is absolutely critical to reaching families who live in rural communities. In the current version of the CTC where there is an income requirement keeps an estimated one third of children who are living in rural communities, about 3 million kids, keeps them from receiving credit despite the fact that they needed.

So because pay is generally going to be lower for families in rural areas compared to metro areas, it's a little counterintuitive. The family in the metro area is making $400,000, could receive the full amount, but a family in a rural area who is making sort of a minimal amount of income isn't going to be able to get that. So that's a huge issue.

So expanding it fully is set to provide millions of dollars to rural communities. A lot of research has shown it's not only about getting money to kids, but it is about the fact that dollars that get to kids, and get two families enrolled -- and rural communities, whether big or multiplied affect enroll areas than they would in metro areas. So the amount that is spent goes a lot further in the communities in which church and in rural areas typically live.

So it is absolutely crucial. A lot of policymakers might not know that this is a particular dynamic, that you have families who have a certain amount of income that are kept off of the CTC, especially in rural areas. Supporting that out I think is really helpful.

I note, I think David can be a good handout of what the earning requirements looks like, and how to make sure that families, it was that sort of excludes from resume credit right now. And that is just the type of thing some policy makers don't think about.

They assume that if you are working in low income, then you're going to get it. When in fact that's just not the case right now. So wasn't credible important for rural communities.

DAVID PLASTERER:
That's fantastic. And what a great argument to use with conservative lawmakers. I hadn't heard that, the BC shared about how â€“ because rural areas have more sort of local economies, then when the CTC dollars go to families, they have that bigger sort of return on investment within the local economy. I think that's a really great argument for conservative lawmakers that are very often sometimes very focused on economics.

One more quick question for you, then we will get to some of these questions in the chat.

You've advocated on the CTC for a long time now, like many of us results advocates have. -- RESULTS advocates have.

What we feel like we talk about the CTC a lot, what are you hearing from numbers of Congress? Are they tired of hearing about the CTC yet?

ALEX COCCIA:
(Laughs) no, it is sort of the opposite. Unfortunately lawmakers are caring enough about the CTC. It's understand will, I mean we have a lot -- we have a lot going on with the Debt Ceiling fight, and seems like one fire after another. There's not an immediate piece of legislation that's on the floor being heard and debated. We know we want the AFA to be introduced, but there's nothing on the floor right now for folks to call about. But that doesn't stop the other lobbyist from getting the word in.

I think at the end of last year, the Democratic Congress tied answer of passage of corporate tax deduct to a positive and excited tax credit, and it ultimately meant neither past.

I'm hearing in terms of my conversations with people on the hill, the corporate lobbyists, they are calling in. They are making a lot of noise, and they are hearing a lot about the CTC now. That is why it is crucial to just keep meeting with local officials, keep writing letters to the editor. Those are the kind of things. Letters to the editor especially are the kind of things they pay attention to.

If you ask them a question saying, "We'll have you heard anything about the CDC?" And they can't any sort of phone calls they proceed. Can't list any local papers they have read, then they're just going to say no. Soberly getting the message out there is super important trainer. And that's just the rubber forgetting setting in the future, making clear this is a continued issue.

And again it's sort of frustrating. Is one of these policy cases where we just know it works. It works so well and we want to make sure it continues in the future. It seems like it should be too obvious of a thing to continue to point out and make the case when something works that well, but unfortunately that's the world we are in. We just have to keep pushing on it.

DAVID PLASTERER:
Thanks for that Alex, that's a great answer. I couldn't agree with you more.

We have a few minutes left here, we can answer some questions from the chart.

Here's a question from Roger Hudson of Alaska. Evidently, I'm curious about your response to this, something I've heard of.

He wants to know if there is any plan to address TNF or use TNF resources to expand the CC -- to expand the CTC?

ALEX COCCIA:
Thanks Robert. I don't think so. I know generally there's not been a case put forward amongst some of the Democratic caucus of using (Indiscernible) resources to expand the CTC.

I think Mitt Romney's plan might have had a version of that a few years ago, or a year ago. Where some of the funds for TANF would have been used to expand CTC.

I think were a number of groups and the coalition would fall is to say these are investment we've made before. We know we can make them again, have the CTC or expanded CDC supplant any programs like TANF, as much as it overtime has really been limited in terms of its reach. For people and a lot of states it is still kind of a benefit. Support of last resort.

I think amongst a group of the coalition, they would say we should just focus on making investments without cutting other programs to do it.

DAVID PLASTERER:
I would agree with that. If we want to talk about finding resources, I think something that is a little more popular among Republicans and Democrats sort of changing the upper income threshold where families making up to $400,000 can get full access to the credit, that there is someone to be found in decreasing that down to say 300 or 200,000.

Another question from Luisa (Name), what an expanded CDC really provide a guaranteed income for children? What does that mean?

ALEX COCCIA:
It would provide a foundation for a guaranteed income for children. In my mind, the guaranteed income is really the outcome that we want. We want all families with children to have the resources they need to make sure their kids can thrive.

The expanded CTC was an article in terms of how impactful it was in a short period of time, and how quickly the IRS got out some of the advanced payments, because they ultimately paid it monthly for six months out of the year. But realistically, the only did automatic payments to say, I think it was maybe about 86% of families.

That's great, that's fantastic. We want to build on that. But realistically, getting it automatically to people, or at least in a very easily assessable way to people who aren't going to necessarily need to file taxes because they don't have a tax filing application, or because people have moved address, or there is some sort of issue in terms of getting into folks automatically.

There need to be other major changes in how the IRS administers funds that would make it sort of that guaranteed income, and that's the outcome that we want where people are getting these guaranteed funds.

So it wouldn't provide it, it would provide a foundation for it. And I think that is crucial, because the administrative piece is often overlooked, and really at the end of the day, the whole ballgame in terms of whether we are going to get people to resources that they need.

DAVID PLASTERER:
Thanks Alex. We have two minutes left so I'm going to try to sneak in one more question.

Also I want to say to (Name), I will get you some information on that. On your question about how much families will receive the DC product, that research is out there and I will make sure I get that to you.

To close us out, real briefly on what have you found to be the most impelling -- billing messages for folks who insist on requirements or income requirements for child tax credit?

ALEX COCCIA:
I think it depends on your audience. I think there is one argument which can be compelling, which is, you know, raising children his work and should be respected as work, regardless of whether someone has an income.

In the labor market. I think really focusing on the child raising aspect of it is important. But at the same time, we also want investments in childcare that are not true just cash benefits. You know, as well. Because that will not solve the childcare crisis in the country.

So, that is one of them. I think another one is, I think with income requirements and work requirements, sometimes these become just buzz phrases. So, just spelling out what it means for someone -- to have to meet this sort of threshold are somewhat arbitrary requirement to get some resources that they will need anyway to care for their kids.

Actually spelling it out. When it comes to work requirements, for example, again, my colleague Alisa Coley -- published a piece on, I think it is called What Work Requirements Actually Take. It looks at this is the amount of time spent to have to go from home to a particular office.

To prove you areâ€¦ Going back and getting that signed off. Actually, just showing logistically what that takes. People are going to be against that. They do not want to be wasting time doing that. You know, I think if you are talking to any sort of lawmaker who is thinking about efficiency and thinking about, you know, making sure that people are working hard.

You do not want people spending their time doing that. So, showing what these work requirements and income requirements actually mean, I think, is another big tax. It is a good question. It is one that we are always sort of trying to think about because the interchanges depending on who you're talking to. -- The answer changes.

Some people value work for different reasons. So, getting us the heart of why they value work can help with formulating the argument as to why work requirements and income requirements are not necessary for a program.

DAVID PLASTERER:
Great, they do so much, Alex. I really appreciate you coming and talking with us today. I appreciate your leadership with the BBC coalition. -- Thank you so much. You have been great over the last year. We appreciate all you do.

ALEX COCCIA:
Thank you so much for having me!

DAVID PLASTERER:
I will go ahead and turn it over to Ken, who I think has a pole for us.

KEN PATTERSON:
Thanks, David and Alex. That was fantastic! I want to launch a quick pollâ€¦ Including you, how many people have gathered here today for today's webinar? If you can fill that out for us. We have 141 lines connected. We know there is more than one in the room, in some places. It will give us a sense of who is all here today with us. So, if you could go ahead and fill that out, that would be great.

Keep on going, folks. Again, really fantastic discussion there David and Alex. Again, so important for us to continue working on the CTC. These kind of -- we took a policy that work and allow it to be evaporated and not continue. It was like, "what is wrong with us? We need to fix that."

Your members with Congress and everything, absolutely critical to what we are doing here. Go ahead, let's finish up on the poll here folks.

Let's see what we got, keep on going. A couple more. It should show up on your screen there, if you did not look at it. You do not see the poll, I'm not sure why it would not have showed up on your screen, sorry about that. You can put something in the chat. If you do not see it on the screen, give us something in the chat.

â€¦

KARYNE BURY:
Helloâ€¦ I think I have one of the best roles on today's webinar. Which is to congratulate you all on the amazing work you have done on the Set the Agenda Campaign.

So, take a look at this map. At the Set the Agenda Campaign, we set a goal to meet with 100% of the congressional offices that we cover. During the first and foremost of the year. And it is amazing that we are seeing these meetings happen from coast-to-coast.

Next slide. In total, you have reported a total of nearly 200 lobby meetings. And it is possible that there have been more meetings, but you're still kind of going through your lobby meeting report form. If you have not done so, we will drop that link into the chat and be sure to report those meetings so we can count them towards our Set the Agenda temples -- Tools. Of those 191 reported lobby meetings. 37 were face-to-face meetings. You met with 28 members of the house and nine senators.

Not only did you meet as a group, but you also connected with your community, inviting new volunteers, or individuals who advocate internetwork as part of our organizational partnerships with the national Peace Corps Association as well as the together women's rights advocacy chapter. So, this amplified our message, as well as our impact with Members of Congress.

Together, we make bold as son appropriations for global education, nutrition, the Global fund to fight AIDS in -- and malaria as well as bilateral funding for tuberculosis, which comes at a more critical time than ever.

You also met with members to discuss meeting our tax code more equitable. Considering a Renter Tax Credit as well as expansions to the Child Tax Credit. You have gained so much momentum in these last four months!

So, I encourage you all to continue meeting with your Members of Congress throughout the year. Please remember to follow up with them, continue to be offices that you have not met with yet, because every action you take matters. Next slide.

To share firsthand her experience during Set the Agenda, I would like to welcome results North Florida Advocate, Natalia Loeb. To share her experience in meeting with her representative, Chemic. Natalia, are you there?

NATALIA LOEB:
I am here, yes.

KARYNE BURY:
Wonderful.

NATALIA LOEB:
Hi everyone, my name is Natalia Loeb. I am a volunteer with RESULTS. And I am the first -- the first task that I participated in was, setting up a meeting with Senator and Congresswoman Kat Cammack.

It wasn't really that difficult to get a meeting with her. We emailed her staffer, Alex (Unknown Name). And he just gave us a few available spots.

And after a few emails back and forth, we had set up some time with them. We - when we met at the office, a representative Pat (Unknown Name) from together women rights was there. She came into the meeting with us.

We started the meeting off with her Chief of Staff. I am aware that she was not in the room because we were told that she may not be able to attend. So, we started with -- to meeting with her Chief of Staff, Jessica North Lee. And all of a sudden, she walks into the room and we started discussing the issues, the agenda we have. He had an agenda to discuss the global read act.

The NTB now. The expanded CTC. And the Renter Tax Credit. After discussing everything, she was incredibly open to listening to what we had to say.

She wasn't too receptive to the Read Act because she was much more concerned with the American literacy. Her comment was that she would first back anything education wise in the US before she get back anything globally.

But, she was open to TB. We were engaged in conversation there. And where she connected the most was with the CTC and the RTC.

The Child Tax Credit and the Renter Tax Credit because she wants to be a champion for poverty. And she can relate to that because of her background with, you know, getting her rent taken from her father.

Back in the day. I do not a member when it was, but it was at some point. So, she was away from her home there. So, she does connect with that a lot.

Advice for whoever wants to set up meetings with the representatives - we copied her Chief of Staff, we copied a few other people. It was pretty easy. Meeting with them was pretty easy. At least for me, I do not know if everyone has that same experience.

It was a little, - it was a little nerve-racking for myself. Because I was not used to meeting with such powerful people. So, I kind of blacked out a little bit during the meeting just be nervous.

But, no. That is all I have. Karyne, Yolanda, Gordon is going to discuss something else. So, over to Yolanda and Gordon.

KARYNE BURY:
Thank you, Yolanda, over to you.

YOLANDA GORDON:
Sorry, there was an error. Thank you, Karyne. Good afternoon. My name is Yolanda Gordon and I am the manager of expansion and advocacy here at RESULTS.

As a staff member responsible for RESULTS battleship, I understand the importance of coming together to build community. COVID disrupted our ability to meet face-to-face.

April 30 was the first day of the fellows policy Summit. The -- the 2023 class and alumni, some alumni from the 22 -- 2022 class for the first fellows to meet face-to-face for our Summit since February 2020.

It started with nervous chatter and fellows going over there talking points in preparation for their meetings. As I ate breakfast, they provided each other with encouragement. And their excitement was comparable. Each fellow had a fellow experience. Robert Crow of Tennessee started his day with breakfast with Senators Blackburn and (Unknown Name), it was successful because Senator Blackburn is in spur dish rack interested in cosponsoring a bill on the Child Tax Credit. This meeting with Representative Burchett's office yielded an opportunity for him to reconnect because they want to learn more about the Renter Tax Credit.

Alia con med was represented (Unknown Name)'s office and he was our cosponsor of the anti-TB now act. The officers were resected and interested in what our fellows had to say. And our fellows were confident in their execution.

As they moved from building to building. None of this work is possible without the dedication of the fellows. Their groups and our amazing staff. Fellows walked away with empowerment and confidence in this work.

Thank you to all who made this assignment possible and to our staff who joined us to share the wisdom.

Now, I will pass on to my colleague, Jos Linn.

JOS LINN:
Thanks, Yolanda. Congratulations on the summit. I want to echo Karyne thoughts about your excellent work on the Set the Agenda Campaign. Congratulations! What amazing work. Now, it is time to build on that. Our allies know there is no better grassroot networks than grassroot volunteers.

When they need more people to do meetings, they call us. And when they need powerful, relentless media on poverty issues, they call us!

And that is what they need -- what we need right now. Take a look at, this is just a sample of the newspapers that you all got and published in 2023. There is many more out there.

And you all get hundreds of pieces published every single year. But, we do not break on your success simply because of the numbers that you generate. We break because the numbers mean change. -- brag.

Constituents pay attention to media. There are countless people out there that first learned that the Child Tax Credit cut child tax poverty in half because they got him letter from the editor publish. Someone learns that the TB is the deadliest, infectious disease after COVID-19 from RESULTS volunteer. So, when you get something published, your dropping a puddle in the water and who knows how far that ripple will go?

Do not just believe me. I will have you hear from one of our volunteers, Sarah Miller. On how she is focusing on media and her advocacy work. Sarah, go ahead.

SARAH MILLER:
Thanks, Jos. Can you hear me okay?

JOS LINN:
Yes.

SARAH MILLER:
My main focus is on media because I see how much struggle there is and I cannot sit back and not do anything about it. For me, my passion comes out through writing and it is something I can do anytime, and anywhere.

I realized last year that it felt terrific when I got more than one letter in the editor published. I was getting my voice out there and advocating for something I deeply care about.

I set a really big goal of getting a 10 published. Life happened, so I did not get as many pended as I wanted, but that is okay. I still set a new record with 27 published. To celebrate my effort, I also have a running tally for each time I submit a letter. This year, I began a fund project called 50 states bingo. Where I set out to get published in as many states as possible.

Here is, like, my little map of - the dots are where I tried to get published in a color in the states where I have. There is my mapâ€¦ Placing a dot on those that I am interested in. So far this year, I have been published 19 times in 14 states with over 100 submitted.

Some days, I have more inspiration than others, but I do feel like it has gotten easier overall with more practice and keeping up with writing on a frequent basis. Writing is a therapeutic outlet for me, especially when I am frustrated with this world and I want to contribute to the cause of making change.

I become discouraged when there is a time when I do not get published. Sometimes I get frustrated because tracking letters can take up so much time. Ultimately, I decided I must budget my time searching because that can become a full-time task. If I am not too careful. So, I try to spend more time writing than searching.

Despite all that I still do it because it feels good to have your hard work pay off, and you get to see your name in a paper big or small.

I teach social studies, and one of my main messages to my students is how people in history had to work hard to make change.

I tell my students that sometimes change comes slowly, but so many people in history never gave up hope that they would see a brighter future one day.

When I think of those people, I know I am a role model for my students, because I also hope to make a difference to my advocacy work.

I know I can do my part and collectively -- and collectively we can push members of Congress to help those in poverty, and it starts with raising our voices through media.

JOS LINN:
Thank you so much Sarah, congratulations. I can't wait to celebrate you with all 50 states.

We want to continue that movement from Set The Agenda, and we have created the MediaOne 50 campaign, 250 media pieces between April 1 and June 30. 50 pieces per month. We've gotten off to a great start, you've already gotten 52 pieces published in the hopper. I'm confident we will not only reach that goal, but we will smash it.

And we have lots of topics we can focus on, as we've gone over the eighth section, we'll talk about the global section.

We have letters urging Congress to expand child tax credit, we have letters telling carvers to pass that End TB Now Act, as David also mentioned we have letters urging President Biden and leaders of Congress to reject using the â€“ holding the economy hostage to enact deep budget cuts to poverty organizations.

Make it a personal goal, not just to do one, but do one, two, three, or all of the issues.

On this next slide we have lots of resources available, including sample letter links on our action center for each of those letters you can use. Use those to get started, but remember the first line is up to you for sure what the issue matter to you. That is what editors want to see.

You can find all the resources you need to make this campaign successful here in this life. As always with SUDS staff here to help if you have questions. -- RESULTS staff.

Member 150 media pieces by end of June, we have 52 so far. Make yours the next one.

Now I will turn it over to my colleague Joanna DiStefano will talk about another way we can keep the Set The Agenda Campaign going.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Thanks Joss, hello everyone. My name is Joanna DiStefano, I'm Senior Associate for Grassroots results back.

Is a great time to (Indiscernible) when you're in automatic, I'm hoping will be take stock and Erik spiritus to Set The Agenda, we also find renewal in connection with each other. As well as shared values that bring us all to advocacy.

Over the coming weeks and must, we have a great opportunity to decide how we might like to reconnect and recharge together in person. This could be either locally or as a state or region. To build community, learn new advocacy, organizing skills, eight new members of our communities, and take action together.

With that in mind I'm pleased to share we have developed a resource guide for in-person events. This guy can help you get organized, generate some ideas for activities, and think through logistics.

I share the link to the document here in the slides, and it has also been placed in the chat. Next slide please.

You can also find the guy on the RESULTS webpage via the volunteers hub where the red circle is. Just go to working with your group, where you see the red arrow. Next slide.

Under make your group plans tab, where the red circle is, you'll see the link to the 2023 research guide on planning in-person events indicated by the red arrow.

The resource guide contains several sections, everything from forming a planning team, to mapping out activities, to debriefing and evaluation. There's even a condensed and easy to use one page event planning checklist with links to lots of supplemental planning tools like templates for your event budget and email invitation (?) the next -- slide.

For mini-grants for in-person events, but he will need to make an application that includes an estimated budget at a proposed outreach workplan. So please do touch base with me if you are thinking you would like to apply for funding support, or if you have any other questions about planning and in person events. Next slide.

Now quite happily, I will note advocates and Washington State kicked off the first in-person event of the year for the Pacific Northwest regional conference earlier in April with over 50 people attending.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, this has been an annual in-person event since 1998. But for the past three years, it's been held as a Virtual Gathering.

I want to give a shout out to event organizers John Hornby, Andy Clarke, Karen Leader-Scott, Anita Mark, Carolyn Prouty, Lauren Schnell, (Name), Amber Walker, and Beth Wilson who all did a wonderful job bringing this event into being.

They shared a group photo from the conference year, and you can see more photos via the shared link.

For now I want to take a moment to check in with advocates in Texas, were planning a regional gathering in August. Austin Global group leader Eloise Sutherland is joining us today to share about the planning process that is underway, what they are looking to a compass, and what they are looking forward to.

Eloise, over to you.

ELOISE SUTHERLAND:
Thanks Joanna, hi everyone.

Several months ago when the idea of regional conference for Texas and Oklahoma came up on a leaders call, I volunteered for Austin to host it.

The first step was to find a venue we could use all day on a Saturday. One of our members was able to reserve space for us to meet and to have breakout sessions in a local church. And we were able to set our date.

Since then, a committee that began with two volunteers has been meeting every couple of weeks. We've thrown around ideas for what our goals would be. Once we had an idea our goals, we work on what our agenda might look like. Then it was time to, with who we would like to be the preventers. -- Presenters.

As the idea of the conference happening became more real for everyone, more people joined the planning process. The goals we set our building relationships between and among RESULTS volunteers in Texas and Oklahoma. I'm about to sneeze, excuse me.

Anyway, input from several people has made this one our top priority, building relationships among the RESULTS volunteers in Texas and Oklahoma. We also want to be building the skills, confidence and knowledge required for volunteers to write more and better letters to the editor.

We want all those attending to write a letter to the editor during the conference. We want to learn new information, the very newest information that's available about tuberculosis.

We also want to learn and be well informed about our writers tax credit. And we all will leave the conference inspired about the work we do.

So our efforts at recruiting presenters is happening now. When I was taking of who we might ask to speak to us about TB, I remember an editorial board meeting from a few years ago. A physician from the UT medical school had accompanied us to talk about AIDS.

Since he specializes in infectious diseases, I decided he would be a good person to talk to Wes about tuberculosis.

Well it turns out he would have liked it too, but the date of the conference is not going to work for him. So he suggested another faculty member at the medical school who could possibly be our speaker.

As you heard from Joanna, our wonderful RESULTS staff created this manual to help us plan events like this. And also, you heard from Joanna, that there are forms we can fill out to apply for funds to help pay for any expenses around holding an event. And if that form is getting our attention real soon.

I am so excited that 30 or 40 people will be coming to Austin to meet other RESULTS advocates, and build skills and knowledge that will make us more effective attending property. -- At ending poverty. Encourage you to begin planning a regional conference. Thanks.

JOANNA DISTEFANO:
Thank you so much Eloise, that's shaking up to be a really great event, we are looking forward to hearing more from you all.

So in the meantime, there are great resources lined up to help everyone get started first and foremost.

Take a look at your regional coordinator to talk about some of your ideas. I will also be hosting some office hours every Friday at noon this month, so you can drop in to catch the event.

You can also register to attend a special in-person events planning webinar with RESULTS staff on Wednesday, June 7 at 8 PM.

This wraps up our share for in-person events, so let's pass this over to Grassroots Board Member, Lynne Patalano.

LYNNE PATALANO:
Thanks Joanna!

Hello advocates, I'm Lynne Patalano. One of your Grassroots Representative Smith on the RESULTS Board of Directors.

Unlike other organizations you may know, RESULTS has always had at the very center of our work, the Volunteer Advocate like you who focus on creating breakthroughs between people and elected officials who represent us in Congress.

The RESULTS Board of Directors reflects that concern for volunteers. Our Board of Directors includes four members who were elected by volunteers throughout our network. These grassroots board members on the Board of Directors, like myself, participate in board meetings and decisions so that we can stand for the perspectives of everyday people who volunteered to be advocates.

We represent those of you who advocate in local communities to impact Congress.

To keep that perspective fresh on the Board of Directors, Grassroots members are elected to three-year terms. This year, there are two openings for new Grassroots Board Members, and we need you in this process now.

Three wonderful candidates have been nominated and vetted, and we need you to me to them, and to thoughtfully select two of them to stand for your ideas and perspectives.

Please take this seriously. The board oversees and guides our organization to be true to our mission to generate the political will to end hunger and poverty.

Our organization is facing really exciting new opportunities and new challenges to fulfill our mission. We need great board members. We need your informed votes.

We have three great candidates, you may know them. Aaron Carrillo, Allison Gallagher, and Randy Russell. They are standing as candidates this year.

This Thursday on May 11 5:30 PM my time, Pacific time. 8:30 PM-9:30 PM Eastern standard Time. The Grassroots Board committee is hosting our orderly town hall as they meet the candidate event, so you can meet all three candidates.

We want you to know them. They will tell about themselves and their experiences, they will answer some questions.

Please encourage all of your RESULTS partners to register and attend this Thursday's town hall. Please be sure that you and your fellow advocates vote.

So now entry RESULTS epic form, here is my call to action for each one of you. You can answer in your own head, or in your room where you are right now.

Will you please register and attend the Thursday, May 11 meet the candidate event at 530 Eastern time. Will you please vote thoughtfully for new Grassroots Board Members over this next month.

I hope you will step up to that call to action, â€“ I am actually going to hand this off now to Melissa Strobel to talk to us a little about fundraising. Thanks Melissa.

MELISSA STROBEL:
Thank you Lynne. Hi folks, I Melissa Strobel, and Director of development at results, this is one of my helpers. You might see another one hop on screen.

I work with our volunteers and friends to make donations that are meaningful to them, make our work possible. I want to thank each of you, each of the donors on our call today for the support, and all the wonderful volunteers doing critical work to fulfill our mission.

Today I want to share one of the tools we have available for network to support RESULTS for top this online fundraising page was updated last fall, and was available anytime on the website at (link).

I want to make sure you all are aware of the site so you have an interest in doing a friends and family fundraiser any point this year. I am always happy to help you navigate the site, set up a page, and answer any questions you may have.

Some of you have uses paid already to set up birthdays, commemorate milestones or accomplishments in your life, or to honor loved ones. At fundraising page is quite simple to set up. We have language you can use or you can add your own words about what RESULTS means to you and why you choose to result -- support this work.

Here is an example of what your page could look like. This is our site our coastal Connecticut group, with Nancy gardeners help. Created through their giving Tuesday fundraiser last fall. You can see down there, on the bottom right, there is a tracker to show progress towards our goal that you can set. You decide how much money would like to raise.

And he will get notifications when someone makes a gift to your page, the amount of the gift. So, you can be sure to thank your friends for their support of your work with RESULTS. We will also send donors an official acknowledgment of their gift for tax purposes. We are so grateful to all of you and all of our partners for supporting our work with our own donations and through these fundraisers. Thank you very much!

I will keep an eye on the chat after I get fruit snacks. For any questions, I am always available to talk more with any of you. Thank you so much! Turning it over to Joanne.

JOANNE CARTER:
Thanks so much, everyone. And thanks Melissa. And thanks to everyone who also has and continues to use your own resources and fundraiser for RESULTS.

So, this next global section we will be talking about tuberculosis. And the fact that this year, can be, but it is not guaranteed to be, but can be. If we all come together, a transfer relational year for tuberculosis. TB is again the world's biggest infectious killer. And this is the outrage because it is not that we do not know what to do, but because the vast majority of the people who get sick and die of TB are in low and middle income countries.

Because everywhere, TB mostly kills people who are impoverished. This year is really a chance to reverse the course. New breakthroughs in science, bold new plans from country leaders. Legislation here in the US that you all are key in advancing and a record group of bipartisan supporters in Congress. That you mobilize for increased funding.

Later this year, world leaders are gathering together at a UN high level meeting to make new commitments. You know, as I speak, there is a group of TB survivors and leaders and advocates from all around the world gathered in New York City. Briefing new ambitions and that includes our guest speaker. So, that is really my honor to introduce our guest speaker, Carol Lena (Unknown Name).

And Carol is, she is joining us from New York, but is based in Zambia. She is a dear friend. A renownedâ€¦ An executiveâ€¦ HIV, AIDS, and malaria.

In Zambia. So, she started as a patient led advocacy organization and has grown to also support service and care delivery. Carol is an extraordinary advocate to is mobilizing directly affected communities to advocate for policy change, regionally and globally.

I have seen her. She regularly speaks to and appears publicly in pan -- panels with world leaders. She served on the boards of the stop TB partnership, the global fund, and lots more. And always representing affected communities and advocating to put Human Rights, gender, and community leadership at the center of health responses. So, Carol, welcome back. On our webinar. It is great to have you!

SPEAKER:
Thank you. And thank you everyone for having me.

JOANNE CARTER:
Carol, we will do this is a bit of a chat. I will start with a couple of questions. First, maybe you're in New York City does begin along with some other action partners and many other global colleagues. For hearings before the UN. Could you tell us the role that civil society, especially directed -- directly affected communities are playing this week in an upcoming meeting and the broader fight against TB?

SPEAKER:
So, what I have been doing this week, is really, I think first and foremost, is to bring our voices of affected communities to the hearing.

So, the main, like the last three days, have been going to admission Congress. For example, I had to organize to meet our group. To the UN. From Zambia. And then we went toâ€¦ And other colleagues.

The reason for going to meet the missions is for them to support us so that our asks, because he came up with asks as a civil society. I am not sure how many people have heard of the civil society and community accountability report. It is a divide that has come up.

â€¦ Come up with six acts. We are sort of selling the six acts to our ambassadors. -- Six asks.

The other reason is, also, because this is kind of a high-level meeting in September, we want the admissions to help us to ensure that our heads of state that can come to the high-level meetings. For exampleâ€¦ My head of state - he is the ambassador from the UN. It makes it much easier. So, doing that.

Also, the fact that as we go to the missions to support each otherâ€¦ Fritz have become I went to the Zambia mission. Today I went to them allowing mission, I went to the Zimbabwe mission. You walk into a mission and your civil society and affected communities for maybe 10 different countries. So you know, you find most of the ambassadors reallyâ€¦

Because they will say, "we do not know what to put in our right up, but this has really helped us." So, that is one of the things we are doing. Some of her colleagues will alsoâ€¦ As well.

JOANNE CARTER:
That is great, Carolyn. I think that backstabbing. A lot of what I have seen you do, not only advocacy in your own country, but also training other advocates and being a model for other folks stepping up, especially folks that are directly affected. So, really exciting. It may be a different question, little bit about grassroots work.

You know, you know the US grassroots network and you can see in the chat how much they know and admire you. You have also built at a community network in Zambia. Could use a little bit, like, what you see as the power of grassroots advocacy on TV, but on global health more broadly. You know, what role does grassroots organization play? -- Organizing.

SPEAKER:
Before I say anything else, the power of Grassroots is to save the lives of people like me. Before I go down to thatâ€¦

Something I am very proud of. I'm going to be a grandmother for September. As for me, I say I am going to be a grandmother because of the work that people like you do. When I was diagnosed having TB and HIV, my daughter, the one who is going to have the baby, baby girl, was nine years old.

Because of the work you do, the fact that you go and speak to Senators and parliament, I can show her that fighting a mechanism like the global fund. Get treatment. Fully funded. The work you do.

In the community. For us to now receive that kind of treatment. I am really excitedâ€¦ I did not think. My husband died in 2001. And today, I am going to be a grandmother. And it is because of the work that you people do. It is not just me.

There are so many of us out there. Very fortunate to have Grassroots like yourself taking time out of your busy schedule. You do not even get paid. You take time to save the lives of many, many people. We give chance to our children and their parents. My husband died, but my children, my two children, had the chance to live their life with their mother.

As now, I get to see my grandchild. So, that is the work that you do. I am very excited. For September to come. For me, what I also do is, when I found out that I had TB, I wentâ€¦ It was difficult to get my diagnosis. I made sure that other people did not have to go through what I went through. I signed up for the small group, a support group.

And then I changed into admission and regional level. So, I train advocates. For example at the moment, we have more than 500 Grassroots, sorry not Grassroots, but committee based advocates who go into the committee and do work. At Grassroots, we haveâ€¦

But then we also have grassroot advocates here in Zambia. These are the people bring their own voices. As parliamentarians. Actually, some speak English, but they are able to speak to the members of Parliament using (unknown term). They help them write letters.

Or whatever it is. Sometimes we take them to parliament. Armor there was one time we went to parliament and they saidâ€¦ Thank you for coming. On TB.

You talk about the global fund, you also speak to the grassroots leaders. To the ministers of health. To ensure that Zambiaâ€¦ Even at this level, but then that is really work to support you, people in the US. For you to support, to ensure that US being the main funder. But, if US does not fund, then you know, no one else is really going to follow up on the cause. So, yes.

JOANNE CARTER:
First of all, Carol, again, congratulations on becoming a grandmother! Not to push it too far, but I really mean this. You have been the mother and the mother for so many asked the best! -- Mother and grandmother.

The training work you have done. The amazing relationship you have with parliamentarians in Zambia. Also, the work you have done in your own embassies to impact the donor markets! So, it is an amazing part of that partnership. Particularly, the leadership that you and your team and colleagues have led.

I want to sort of go to a bigger question, you know, you have been a champion throughout your career. For the leadership of people directly affected by TB and by HIV. You know, including a key role on the governing boards of virtually all the global institutions focused on TB.

You know, last month, our webinar, in the US was focused on advocacy and leadership with people with lived expertise and experience. As you are getting ready, closer to retirement,

â€¦ What are some of your reflections on that work and what you look to for future leadership and advocacy and the work being led from a place of good expertise. Like, your reflections on that would be really powerful for us right now.

SPEAKER:
I wanted to say, I am not really retiring. I am sort of changing the role from being active to mentoring. Mentoring a lot of people so that they can do the active work. If I dropped completely, there will be that gap. I will reduce the active role but I am taking up a different role.

And I am able to do that. So, the people at the lived experience, I think it is really important because weâ€¦ I gave an example of one-time when I went into a meeting, I hadâ€¦ I sat in a room.

Someone asked, "what is she doing here? She does not have a medical background." I told him, "you make the medicine, you make the science, but you do not have the experience that I have." Because I swallow that medication, I am a teacher now.

I am the one who is taking the side effectsâ€¦ That is a lived experience that we bring. There is the lived experience of actually being the recipient of care, receiving the drugs. It also, living in the community where -- but also. Where disease is. So, bringing back to, you know, the members of Parliament.

Because we are also the secretary of the parliament for the focus on TB. We see the gap between the Grassroots, people who have affected themselves, as the powers at play. And then sitting on this global health initiatives again, sometimes they do not know what will happen on the ground. So, there has to be a link. Becauseâ€¦

Sometimes, it is also translating the numbersâ€¦ To now being district bringing a face to it. I remember being in a meeting all whereâ€¦ They wanted to reduce money. You know, from this budget and that budget.

It was time to check. So, I took the glass and you know, I told everyoneâ€¦ Everyone kept quiet. I took the glass of water, and I swallowed it. And I said, "the reason why we are all here is because of people like me." For us to sit here and argue, but as we are talking, hundreds, if not millions, right now, because we are arguing at this point.

I rememberâ€¦ It was easy to move forward. So, we bring the lived experience. Because sometimes, we do not get that feeling of why we are doing this work. But, when you see the (indiscernible) itself of the work of people that you do, it helps. That is the lived experience that we bring.

So, you are also champions at different levels. We have high-level champions. Like members of Parliament, or celebrities. We also have the affected communities. So, we have champions at different levels. Sometimes, we also find champions with lived experience.

Like in Zambia, we have (indiscernible) with HIVâ€¦ Someone living with the disease. But, the importance is really bringing the lived experience to the numbers that we talk about and giving a face to the numbers.

JOANNE CARTER:
Those of you who know Carol know this, those of you who don't, why she's an incredible powerful advocate, but also the degree to which behind the scenes you've made policies better and smarter because of that lived experience as well. It just feels really critical.

Carol, we're in this year, and is probably time for one or two questions perhaps, at least folks if there's something you can posted in the chat.

For this year that could be transformational for TB, and Carol I would love to hear, I don't know, what is your dream? What do you see? It won't all be done this year, but this year really could be in some ways a pivot moment for TB. Where it really shifts, building freshly a lot of the work of affecting communities, but also other advocates.

What is your dream for TB in this year going forward? What do you see?

CAROL KACHENGA:
For me, I think first the question is â€“ what worries me is COVID, how COVID set us back so many years. So now that things are changing, things are moving forward, I'm happy and glad there is that momentum now coming up, (Indiscernible) after COVID I think for us is a good thing.

What I would like to see in my lifetime, I would like to be jobless, there's no more TV so I out of a job. No more TV in my lifetime, -- TBN my lifetime, and making sure we work together. With the affected communities, trying to end TV. If we can learn from the lessons of COVID.... Most of the countries affected by TV are poor countries, producing there is (Indiscernible) available. And there's also a lot of that, the COVID vaccine can be made available very quickly.

Another thing I would like to see in my lifetime is to have an effective vaccine by 2055. --2025 if we can get the COVID vaccine as quickly as we did, I'm sure we can get a TB vaccine. Something to help us and TB. I'm hoping and praying by 2030, most of the TV--TB advocates will be jobless.

JOANNE CARTER:
Totally with you, I will work on that agenda. -- Work on that agenda together.

Carolyn Ellis think that's a kind of crazy, confusing debate to me that is been happening is â€“ as if we have diseases now we have pandemic repair this and response as a separate thing.

Could you just say a word about it. People are going to talk to Congress were policymakers about tuberculosis, why the fight against TB is not just about saving all these lives now and creating health equity, but why it is also about preparing us for future epidemics?

Anything you could say about that?

CAROL KACHENGA:
Actually, most of the missions that we went to, most of the ambassadors were saying, "why do we have the separate meetings? Why do we have the TB meeting, the (Indiscernible) preparedness and mix it together?"

Because at the end of the day when you look at the time when we had COVID. Most of the (Indiscernible) used for COVID were TB resources. For TB we have the knowledge, we have everything to help prepare us for the future pandemic. Once we hear there is going to be a future pandemic and it is going to be airborne. So again, it is really TV that is at the forefront again to help.

I think really using the extensive help with TB to prepare, and also folks have a we noticed the disparities in the time when COVID came in. When the vaccine was ready, some countries, each country for itself, each president will take care of their own country. And somehow the African countries suffered. Now there is this push to have manufacturing houses and never goes well.

I think preparing is one, and not having the salad kind of (Indiscernible) will stop I don't see where -- where we are talking just about prepared is, TB has been right there, it's here! Where we preparing for something that hasn't even happened? Why don't we fight to end TB that is there now, then we can learn from that to help with other pandemics if they come.

JOANNE CARTER:
Absolutely Carol. We don't have a lot of time to discuss it today for top a lot of the work you've been doing about building regional capacity in Africa for vaccine manufacturing and other areas. Including work we have all done with (Indiscernible), the vaccine alliance, among others. Looking at WasteWater to build up their capacity as part of their future work in global future work. So I think really critical and exciting as well to actually have multiple ways we can ensure the equity on these issues.

Carol any final words from you? Does the very last question may be.

You want to share maybe any of the asks, or top priority asks your group is taking to be -- taking to the UN high-level meeting?--

CAROL KACHENGA:
There is one on political will, another one on new tools research. There are six of the market share.

JOANNE CARTER:
And funding right?

CAROL KACHENGA:
Yes, and the funding gas. -- Yes the funding. I don't have the document only, I can share it in the chat while we are still talking.

JOANNE CARTER:
Carol, just to say, thank you for your amazing leadership. I love imagining you at all those mission meetings, and we will be thinking of you at the hearing to the next couple of days. Just a normal gratitude for your leadership in the network you have built out. In the partnership that we have.

Thank you for everything you've done.

CAROL KACHENGA:
Thank you, and thank you everyone for having me. Like I said, thank you. I really a lot. (Indiscernible), I mean look at all you, here you are, sitting and talking about the vaccine miles and miles away full stop thank you. Bless all of you and thank you all. Joanna Carol, when you have that grandchild pitcher, you're going to send it. Make sure to send it to everyone here.

CAROL KACHENGA:
I will!

(Laughter)

I'm so excited.

JOANNE CARTER:
Thank you Carol, best of luck these next days in New York, we will be with you in heart and spirit. I will now turn us over to Ken, thank you Carol.

CAROL KACHENGA:
They could join everyone else.

KEN PATTERSON:
Thank you Joe and Carol, Carol so much -- so nice to see you, congrats on the grandchild. Thanks for your powerful advocacy.

On Ken Patterson, director of grassroots impact results. I want to thank you all for being here and for your great advocacy. As Joanne said, this could be a transitional year on TV.

We have a full year of activity for you, so I want to highlight some of the things we want to continue working on because we have Artie started working on some of the things.

One is to increase TB funding, we will continue to work on that. You will use the funding well to Excelerator TB progress, that will be through the legislation we will work on, and start working on already. We also want to ensure US leadership shows up on the world stage at the human High Level meetings in sub number four top -- in September.

You done amazing fantastic work on gathering and support in Congress to increase funding for TB and the operations process. Many of you use the appropriation cheats these powerful policy staff created develop the appropriate forms for House and Senate offices, or you submitted a request directly to those offices so their bosses could include them in the request to the state for an operation subcommittee, or S files as many of you heard about through that process.

You also gather a huge number of signers on the dear colleague letters. For many of these letters, you blew it out of the water. You hit all-time highs, including the tuberculosis letter in the house. We got 129 representatives to sign onto those letters, all of them were bipartisan as well.

What that letter requested $1 billion for bilateral or country to country funding for TB. Some are credible work, a huge number, and a huge number of signers on that really important request.
On the next flight we will look at that Senate members. You can see you did a great job. You got higher numbers on the dear colleague letter's or preparations in the Senate then all of the letters we did recall last year. Higher this year than all the letters last year. You got 1/3 of the Senate to sign onto TB, the dear colleague letter, that request for additional funding.

These letters and requests and a strong message to the appropriators there is bipartisan support to increase funding for TB programs. So awesome work.

Number two, our game plan is to ensure in US dollars that are appropriated are also used well, and we want to do that by making sure USAID, our development agency has good guidance from Congress in the form of our legislation, the End TB Now Act. Send it 288, HR 1776.

I'm not going to read through all of the details of what the bill does, we have a great fact sheet on that. That you can access, as well as a laser talk. All of these you can find in the action center and also the Set The Agenda part of our website.

So let's make request of our senators and representatives to cosponsor the End TB Now Act this week, and then follow that up in the following weeks. We want to get as much progress as we can toward passing this bill before the UN high-level meetings in September, so that we show up on the global stage and a really powerful position to show the US is in a leadership role on tuberculosis.

The third request will be to ensure again, that the US shows up well in September at the UN High Level meetings on to be. We are looking to identify bipartisan leadership on both House and Senate dear colleague letter studio ministry should.

The letter is going to call in the administration to show up boldly at the high end, I Level meetings in September, and what we have these letters we will ask you to gather signers of the House and Senate. We are hoping to have these letters ready by the end of September.

Our work on tuberculosis is essential, and you've heard this earlier. It is essential to making progress on this leading, killer disease. Why is that?

Because without us in most cases, your members of Congress would never hear about this neglected disease devastating low and middle income countries.

URS! You are the educators, your Xyan Spyros, the speaking -- I really want to thank you for being there. Let's work hard on that.

To end today's webinar want to thank you all for making good news.

Recently I have asked a lot of hours â€“ a number of our advocates I've had meetings with to share the best news they've heard recently. That was actually met by a lot of silence as people searched their memories for good news.

So as we leave the webinar today, I want to challenge you to seek out actively good news sources in the world, because there is a lot of good news out there going on that we don't hear about from a popular sources of news. They tell us all the bad stuff. There's a lot of good news happening out there, find some good news sources.

Secondly, I want to thank all of you for making good news. Members of Congress working together across party lines is good news. Increasing funding support for programs addressing poverty is good news. Editor is publishing your media on programs that will address poverty is good news. New people taking advocacy and taking action on poverty because you supported them is good news.

So I want to thank you for generating good news, and I want to allow you all to unmute your lines and thank each other for all the great news that you are generating in the world.

Have a great weekend.

JOANNE CARTER:
Thanks everyone.

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