Live captioning provided by AI-Media

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Hello everyone I am Crickett Nicovich, director of RESULTS and coming from Washington DC. This is been months upon months of will they or one day. As representatives has finally passed the $70 billion tax bill which included 35 billion of the expansion of the child tax act.

First, I want to congratulate you all --

KEN PATTERSON:
Cricket, I'm going to ask you to meet yourself, my apologies.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
And now I will unmute and start again.

First of all, I want to congratulate all of y'all for (indiscernible). Many of you watches very closely and we have a steep spin obsessed out there. This first deal past the house last night at 357 to 70 boat, an overwhelming majority of both parties, bipartisan, that many said was not possible.

Italy acted, this would lift have kids out of poverty, and increase the credit from 16 million families with low incomes and it will really matter for them, and a time when child poverty really matters, this victory matters.

In the past we have talked about a purchase -- bipartisan child tax credit would be a dream.â€¦ But, you were undaunted. Speaking out and you shared your stories and your values with your lawmakers and you got your letters in local papers around the county calling for an expansion of the child tax credit.

It came together as an incredible community advocates,â€¦ And expanded the CTC for low income families as much as possible.

We know there are still too many who are left out of the fold of the child tax act, because they do not earn high enough income. This is not acceptable. Passing this deal is not where we stopped. It is a step forward and it is a new baseline for us, it is a better position for that big tax bill that will, in 2025.

We will keep advocating for extending the full credit to all children whose families face poverty.

We now celebrate this critical win and capture that energy that we had going into the House and keep going. It is time to head to the Senate. We will draw on that same strength that we got with the CDC to get started to move past the House and now we will urge the Senate to pass this legislation swiftly and decisively.

Now is the time to be bold in your advocacy. We will stop until every child in this country is safe from hunger and poverty. Our work is cut out for us this year. We know that hunger and malnutrition are some of the most difficult that children face,â€¦

For children, they interfere with learning and can even stunt redevelopment. Malnutrition is one of the underlying causes of death of nearly half of the kids in the world.

Yet, hunger and malnutrition are political choices. They are evident in inequitable and oppressive systems. These mean there are choices that can be fixed.

I'm excited that we are in Congress heading to remake this problem of hunger and malnutrition. He has spent his lifeâ€¦ Congressman Jim McGovern of Massachusetts. Hi Congressman. (Laughs)

REP McGOVERN:
Hi, good to see you.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
I will introduce you. As I said at the top of the call, you are one of our key champions. Congress given -- Congressman McGovern isâ€¦ He fights on hunger here in the US and globally. He has been a repeated champion on the (unknown term) and global nutrition.

You can know him from his many many floor speeches on hunger and to educate his colleagues on what is facing low income families. On the floor when you can always pick up out of the crowd with his message printed loud and clear on his face Mack, "and hunger now".â€¦

Recently, he drove the efforts to end the second White House (indiscernible) on hunger, in which the staff were greatly engaged. This Congress named hunger and malnutrition in the national spotlightâ€¦ Congressman, I am so thrilled to have you on our webinar.

I want the opportunity to thank you and your staff, going back over a decade at this point (Laughs), but our folks in Massachusetts are particularly grateful for your dedication on these issues. Thank you for joining us.

REP McGOVERN:
Thank you, Cricket, for your wonderful buildup. I don't know what to say after all his complements! Thank you to all of you and the activists on the call.

It is tough to have good things happen in Washington. And, when they do happen, it is because of people like you, good people, who demand to make calls and insist that we move in a positive direction.

You mentioned the tax bill. There are good things in it that we should be proud of. We hope this event doesn't screw it up â€” this is always a possibility â€” but I am sure that you all will not let this happen.

Let me begin by saying, look, I have been involved in the issue of hunger/food security for a long, long time. We live in the richest country in the history of the world, and there are still many of us going hungry.

It is a national scandal. It is obscene. Numbers, globally, are through the roof. Now, what is happening in Gaza, the numbers are growing and growing and growing and it really is an unacceptable situation. Because, at the end of the day, hundred -- hunger is a political condition. We have the resources, we know what to do, we have the programs. We have the organizations who we help alleviate end and get the funding.

We have everything, but the political will. It should be a no-brainer. Congresspeople and immigrants to come together and say "hunger is unacceptable", be super-bipartisan and sing Kumbaya, but that is not how it is working.

These programs have become politicized, both domestically and internationally, and we have to fight. Not only do we have to fight for (indiscernible), but we have to ensure that this year we do not see cuts.

I am talking about two things and we will open it up to questions. What is the Farmville and the second is appropriations request.

Now, the Farm Billâ€¦ It was extended because Congress could not get his self together. We can continue to hear from the Republican chairman that he wants to market a bill and bring it to the floor. Nothing has been scheduled and there are areas of great disagreement.

It may be that the best we can do at the end of the year is another extension. That, to me, would be better than a bill that gets domestic and international anti-hunger programs.

I am not saying we are there yet, but we may have to pivot there. Through the peace program, through humanitarian aid in the peace movement, (indiscernible) that addresses reducing long-term hunger, they are under attack by members of Congress, commodity groups, and (unknown term) interests that seem to reverse 20 million -- 20 years of reforms.

â€¦ Addressing many forms of food aid. Instead, they want to return it to be a largely export vehicle for US commodities. US commodities are already used extensively in our antihunger movements, but we want to make sure we have the flexibility to do what is best. To have the flexibility to provide relief to as many people as possible.

The Food for Peace utilizes over half of its funds to purchase US commodities. Most of the programs'costs are used for shipment, transportation, warehousing -- out food aid.

We can restrict this program, in a way, that means fewer people will get food.

There is the McGovern Bill for international food and nutrition, which I authored long ago, and this is the only global Child nutrition program under the (indiscernible). It is basically feeling kids in school settings, where they get nutritious food and an education.

Many programs have morphed into incredible things beyond that. It is just an incredible program. And, you know, we are hoping that it will remain unchanged in the Form Bill, but we have to be vigilant.

And then there is snap, the supplemental nutritional assistance program, it is under fire because they want to cut it by $20 million. Let me just say one more thing: before the pandemic, the average SNAP (indiscernible) was a dollar 40. And then it went from $1.40 to $2.40 after the pandemic.

It is now been reduced to about $2.08 per person, per meal. So, they want to cut that. They want to bring it back to where it was! Well, people on SNAP now have difficulty making ends meet and it doesn't last the whole month. So, the notion that, during these challenging times, we are going to make it more difficult for families, it is just ridiculous.

One final thing. I hear people who criticize SNAP all the time," people just need to go to work"well, here is the newsflash. The majority of the people work, so working families, people working are still eligible for this program because they cannot make ends meet.

We cannot allow this to be touched. So, we don't know what the Farm Bills fate is going to be, we have to wait and see.

Appropriations is all messed up you know. We have to be vigilant because things happen quickly. Global food aid and health programs are funded by agriculture and by state-funded bills. The McGovern bill (indiscernible) faced the threat of extinction in the original bill. And (unknown term) went down to defeat.

In the state (indiscernible), we findâ€¦ Under the global nutrition program, each of these find (indiscernible) which is unlikely to happen during the current cut to foreign aid programs. But we have to make sure they do not get totally eviscerated.

The national securities act is in limbo over bordered (indiscernible) security, with funding dragging on for months (?). So, some of these things can't get done over the next week, a littleâ€¦ (indiscernible) includes $9.15 billion for international humanitarian for Gaza, the Ukraine, and other places.

And, finally the women's (indiscernible) and children's program is under the threat of attack.â€¦ To not fully fund the program. We are trying to press for full funding, which will help ensure that all the states can (indiscernible) for eligible participants, not kicking people out of the system.â€¦ Expires on March 1.

March 1, we are either going to find it for the rest of the year or kick the can down the road again. We have to advocate for full funding of WICâ€¦

The final thing I want to say is this is who we are as people and this is about our values. It is really frustrating that we are not living up to our values, even when we complain, we have victories. But we do have to deal with what we have to deal with. And we do the best we can.

With your advocacy, your support, I believe we will get through this difficult time and hopefully better days are coming. With that, I will go back and openness to questions/comments or advice (Laughs).

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
I am sure we have all of the above for you. (Laughs). Thank you Congressman McGovern. I think you talking about how it's a political position at the top of your remarks is really true. Having results grassroots everywhere trying to push policymakers, we hope making that political decision easier for members to step up.

Let's go to some of our Massachusetts advocates that are calling in. We have a couple of folx that are fellows with our RESULTS advocacy fellowship. Let's start with Theresa Alexander. Can you all highlight Therese?

SPEAKER:
Thank you so much, my name is (unknown name). I am a 2023 RESULTS fellow. I am doing a fellowship at the CDC studying influenza. It focuses on improving equity and nutrition programs. Girls that are disproportionately affected, too often they eat the least and at last. I know you briefly mentioned WICK but how can the programs reaches the girls in middle and (?) countries and how can we reach more vulnerable populations?

REP JIM McGOVERN:
One of the programs I mentioned was the McGovern (indiscernible) food for education programs. One of the great things about this program is again it feeds kids in school settings. In a lot of countries, girls education has been not a priority. But families are sending girls to school because of the food but they are (Laughs) Learning, you know, incredible lessons and becoming literate and hopefully, they will become the leaders of the -- countries. We are hoping to support child healthcare programs as well which should include nutrition.

Just mentioned the White House conference that we did a year and half ago. One of them was last week, HHS conference on food as medicine or food itself. Bottom line is nutrition is everything. If people do not have access to nutrition, mothers do not have healthy pregnancies, babies sometimes don't survive birth or they are born with all kinds of challenges. I mean, we can get this right.

I tell people all the time about domestic and international nutrition and antihunger programs. Even if you are not moved by the moral obligation that we should do this, you know, I personally believe that food is a fundamental human right. Even if you don't believe that know you care is about dollars and cents, this is a smart investment. Right? It saves a whole bunch of money. Healthy children grow up to be healthy adults. Whether it is in the United States or halfway around the world.

So, we have to make sure that the programs that exist in this appropriation cycle do not get caught. That is the beginning. And then, once we get out of this crazy, political nightmare that we are in right now, we have to start having a real debate about, you know, what are our true sources of national strength? And what really does enhance our national security? I would argue it is the programs that you were talking about, more so than investing in more bombs and weapons and, you knowâ€¦ Anyway. Thank you for working with RESULTS.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Thank you so much, you mentioned the HHS conference. We did get reports back from one of our colleagues Yolanda who was there. As part of the experts on poverty that RESULTS has and with her work with other coalitions where people with lived experiences are getting it to the forefront of the conversation but she sent some really fun pictures of you trying to make a kale salad with kids. (Laughs) That was funny.

REP JIM McGOVERN:
I did and the salad was actually very, very good, soâ€¦

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
That's good. I know Sherman is another one of our fellows. We would love to elevate him.

SPEAKER:
Hi, I was also a 2023 fellow. I currently liveâ€¦ Before anything, want to thank you for taking a stand on permanency (indiscernible) ended in alleging the man-made (indiscernible) from the genocide in Gaza.

I live in Boston but spending a lot of time working in your district. I work at the (indiscernible) airlines for foster care youth. A lot of your programs positively affect my kids.

So, for my questionâ€¦ As you know, RESULTS advocates across the US work to build bipartisan support on both global and domestic issues. This week was an incredible win on the CDC expansion, but those ones are few and far between.

I read an article last week and mother Jones about the farm bill fight, they coined it the "political doom loop." We are seeing. It leads to more polarization and more dysfunction. How can Congress exit this doom loop and how can RESULTS advocate and help?

REP JIM McGOVERN:
Sherman, thank you. That is a good question as well.

Look, I mean, I have been trying to figure out how we kind of change the political discussion in this country for a long time. And how we actually get people facts and truth. You know, I mentioned before that often times people criticize me on advocating for more generous SNAP benefit, they don't even with the benefit is. They think everybody is sitting at home and watching TV with the realities the majority of people are working.

There is disinformation out there and as a result of the district information, and I am sad to say this that in many circles, including in the United States and House of Representatives right now, it has been unfashionable to worry about the poor. They believe that they too deserve an opportunity to succeed. It has become unfashionable to be compassionate, so we see a lot of (unknown term) and finger-pointing and a lot of polarization, but not a lot of people talk about solutions.

One thing we are concerned about in the appropriations bill, the Senate, they're talking about provisions on work restrictions for people on SNAP. They can argue it is only a pilot but it is basically the camel's nose under the tent to try to move in a direction where we can micromanage what people want SNAP can buy, you know, what kind of jobsâ€¦ You know, it wouldn't make people's lives who are already complicated not more complicated. It is so disrespectful. So dishonest and so awful, and yet, we have to fight these things becauseâ€¦ And we have to explain them to people, so that they understand. You know?

We are so used to talking in 10 second soundbites and try to get an applause line and trying to get under somebody's skin and get you angry, when we spent so much time telling people what we are against but we don't spend enough time telling people what we are for and we don't spend enough time correcting the record.

At the end of the day, elections matter. I mean, we're going to have to see what happens in the next election. But right now on this conversation, we are in the here and now and we have some really important challenges coming up in weeks and in months. So, we have to do the best we can in this political climate and then, work to change the political realities in the next climate.

Again, what I like about RESULTS is that, I mean, you talk to people, right? I mean, advocacy is more than a scorecard, is about convincing people. It is about advocated. It is about educating people. I will close with this. This may come as a shock to people on the call but intelligence is not a prerequisite to serving in Congress. People don't know everything, myself included.

Consider yourself teachers. We don't all have the same lived experience you do and we don't all work with the same people with the lived experience that you do. Please, please, view yourself as teachers, as well as advocates. And I think, you know, that can help a lot.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Thank you so much Congressman McGovern. We see several questions in the chats. I'm trying to see if we have time for one more.

I know Randy had a couple and one of the things that we have been focusing on, you know, is around (indiscernible) requirements and making sure those are not expanded and both for anything for SNAP on... And of course on the work that we have been doing on this CTC.

What are some of your best arguments? If we're going in and speaking to Republican offices on how we can stop (Laughs) The expansion of work requirements and why that is so important.

REP JIM McGOVERN:
Well I think, what I try to tell people is thatâ€¦ I mean, work requirements in and of itself do not help the situation. You know? The vast majority of people who are taking advantage of these programs are working. They are working. I mean, the bigger question should be, "if you're working, why aren't you earning enough to be able to feed your family? To be able to make ends meet."

It said the question is now focused on those were not working. The population of people who are not working, I mean, let me tell you about SNAP, it is complicated. I represent a district that is urban, suburban and rural. Some of these rural areas come I can barely get to. The idea that peopleâ€¦ Where there is no public transportation, where people can't get to and from places.

There are people with undiagnosed you know, health issues that they are trying to deal with. You know? There is age discrimination, I meanâ€¦ Being poor in this country is hard work! Right? It is expensive, you know? And so, the idea that you're going to make somebody's life who is already like really complicated and really difficult, even more difficult. Really, that's what you came to Congress to do? I mean, and by the way, the other thing I hear from some of my Republican colleagues is when people get on SNAP, they are there forever. That is not true. We have the statistics and the facts to show that people are only for a short period of time to stop that is why I encourage people who have been on SNAP on one pointer lifetime who are no longer on the SNAP to come up and remind the members of Congress and Senate, "look, I am like a success story here. This is what you say you want."

But it'sâ€¦ Again, we haveâ€¦ And this is where people like me have kind of failed over the years in not adequately responding to some of the disparaging comments that have been made. In part because we've all kind of felt, "we are not going to dignify someone with a response. And what I'm at a point in my life where we have to dignify anything with a response will stop if someone says something that is blatantly untrue and we let it go by, there might be people around you will think that, "that is a fact because you didn't challenge them." I will challenge everything in the garbage that we here in the committee on SNAP and the garbage we're hearing from someone of the people who are trying to add more work requirements to the Child Tax Creditâ€¦

I will tell you something if they start loading the child tax credit with more restrictions, it ain't going to happen. We are not going to do that, right? I mean, the people, the Republicans have a lot of good stuff with their friends that are well often well-connected. You know? We are asking for something for people are struggling with this country. If you're going to take away, then you are on your own, we are not going to support a tax bill that screws poor people in the country. It's that simple.

Hi, again, you all know the argument for stopping of all been making them and that's one of the reasons why we were able to claim (indiscernible) house victory. But we just have to beâ€¦ We have to be, you know, persistent.

As a final thing I'm going to say is we are going to fight like no other time in our time. The misinformation envy, you know, rhetoric really go after people who are vulnerable. I just never seen it like this, ever, ever. It is like a street fight. You know what?

And everybody here is nice and I appreciate that, but as you know and what I like about you is that I think you believe it is nice to be nice, but not too nice sometimes, right? Sometimes, you know, would we got to push back in a meaningful way and I think that is the point we are at. We are willing to compromise, given we know the political realities that we are not willing to be a cheap date when it comes some of this stuff and soâ€¦ Anyway, I appreciate all of you and I thank God you are there. And you are making a difference. So, don't ever think you are not. In which that a lot of work to do.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Thank you, (Laughs), Congress begin -- Congressman McGovern I think you gave us our marching orders!â€¦ We give our (unknown term) a word out, persistence pays off. You are definitely persistent, for keeping the drumbeat going. Your staff,â€¦ I just want to say thank you again for joining us and keeping up! We appreciate it.

REP McGOVERN:
We love you all back. My office done in the (unknown term) building, were used to have my office with my dear friend, he always called us troublemakers. You are making good trouble.

I believe that at the end of the day goodness will prevail, but it is just going to take a lot of work! In any event, all the best and thank you.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Thank you, thank you!

Now, I think we are heading over to our domestic poverty update. TaShon will be joining us and, again, thanks so much for the congressman and his staff.

TASHON THOMAS:
Alright! Good morning to all of those of you on the West Coast and good afternoon to those of you on the West Coast. In the directory of US policy and results. Just to provide you with a few of our updates on US policy campaign this year.

Of course, nothing has happened this week or this month, so we just all go home and have a restful weekend. (Joke/joking) But no, let's really celebrate the moment that we are in now!

We were able to get a truly bipartisan tax packets across the finish line in the House, which is remarkable. We needed a two thirds majority which means we needed at least 288 members of the United States House of Representatives to vote for this.

We had 357. That, in itself, showcases all of the hard work that you all as our advocates have done to ensure that this was a truly bipartisan package. Is it perfect? Absolutely not! But, the fact that the CDC was included on a package that was, at first, only for businesses, showcases how hard you have all shown that the CDT and their children matter.

Now, we need to live our 19 million children out of poverty. You all have done that. But we still need to do work. The fact that this is not refundable thing, like, we wanted it to be refundable and we wanted to make sure that anyone, regardless of (unknown term) can still get the tax credit.

Currently, the current tax package that we have will expire in 2025 and go back down to Max, $1000. This will be extraordinarily detrimental to every child who has been living in poverty and has been lifted out of poverty.

We have a lot of work to do to ensure we are successful in making our conversations before.

But let's stop now and take some time to celebrate the swing with each other. When we do that â€“ next slide â€“ we still have one more hurdle. We still have one more girl to overcome and that is called the United States Senate.

I am pretty sure that you all have seen the news now where some members of the Republican Senate have mentioned that they have some qualms about the bill. So, we want to showcase the same support and advocacy work that we did in the House, to our fellows colleagues in the Senate.

Now is the time to take action. Now is the time to call your senators for the office of any senators you may be connected to to support this Bill.

You have seen an action alert go out last week and you will see will go out this week. Because now is a critical time. What we are up against in the sentence it's really there recent timeline (?).

This is the last time they will be in their chambers for two weeks time and then they come back at the end of the month, once again. But, we want to make sure they take action before they go on recess, because we know that people have already started to file their taxes. We need to ensure, that as people are filing their taxes they can apply for this benefit as soon as possible.

Our goal is simple: this week and of the coming weeks we make sure the Senate has this package.

Once again, is it perfect? Absolutely not, but it is a start for the conversation to move forward. Next slide.

So, what is next for us? Many of you have the question, "once the CTC passes will only focus on?" Next slide

Today, I am proud to introduce you all to our 2024 policy priorities and how we will arrange our upcoming 2024 policy campaigns.

First of all, I want you to realize that we will now have three new policy buttons that we will fulfill on. These policy buttons will allow us to fulfill and expand our policy work this year and (indiscernible).

Our first is to focus on the child tax credit to bill for 2025. The next is housing injustice, which will ensure more affordable housing and protections for (unknown term) and those with low incomes.

And last is the healthy Start, which represented it McGovern has showcased, we will focus on SNAPâ€¦ We will focus on this on the coming months and we will focus our education around these items in the coming months.

So, what is the grassroots timeline look for you all? We know that with adding on some policy areas, it may seem a little bit cumbersome for everyone to handle, so we wanted to ensure that the timeline fits within, not only what is occurring within Congress, but also where we know our grassroots wants to work on.

We heard from you all and this timeline should be sufficient for that. So, we're still focusing right now in terms of action around the child tax credit. When we start seeing more educational items, at the end of this month, with regards to SNAP and WIC, and why it is important to focus on those programs.

In the springtime we will have more with regards to that but also (indiscernible) on the child tax credit.

We have separated it so that you have a moment of action and a moment of education. That moment of action is, once again, call your member of Congress, call those people into meetings, tell your story. Then the moment of -- education is to build on your action. (?)

Then, we will focus on the WIC which may change based on the (unknown term) of the time. Right now it might just be a quick reauthorization for the next year, and not many expansions. We want to make sure that we are educating candidates based off of that.

It could be beware we are talking about SNAP and (indiscernible). Last but not least, our winter timeline we want to focus on any actions and then start the education process in the first 120 days of 2025.

And, of course, there is more to come as we continue to work on our grassroots program and our policy areas. One of the things we have also heard is that you all want to be more vocal in your local state. We are exploring with those opportunities look like for us in the coming years.

What we have settled on and are looking into is starting a partly -- pilot program in five states to really work on advocacy issues. Those states have not been selected, we will, however, look like what that is for us based on our staff capacity as well as funding for those specific campaigns. We will provide more information. All this year, and if you have questions please do not hesitate to reach out to anyone of us.

You for your time. I will pass it on to our next presenter -- Crickett.

CRICKETT NICOVICH:
Thanks so much TaShon. Now, for our quick global update. Typically you get more policy information in the policy formsâ€¦ So be on the lookout for that. First, our topline goal is Congress demanding equity in the fight against global poverty.

We want to make sure that both across our appropriations work and their authorization work that we continue to focus on equity and impact. Next slide.

Where we are: FY 24 appropriations. Since we last saw each other, we kicked the can again. March 1-March 8 are the two separate bills and this latter affect that is, out of Congress. These two, shorter, minibuses if you will, set of groups of bills, we expect March 8 to be the S Ops (?) right now our final bill, we have all committee members that are in the paper.

Finally, the topline funding numbers which have not been revealed to public, we know theseâ€¦ In writing to those actual bills. If your member of Congress is on the side of foreign operations, now it is timely to follow up on all of those (unknown term) and remind them that it is important that we fully fund at the highest levels we can cross those accounts, whether it is global fund, tuberculosis, Maternal and Child Health, child nutrition, particularly important as we move into the letter MCH space, and then lastly our working education.

One of the things we may try to get the READ Act for the (unknown term) internet minibus. We are having this conversation with the committee. If that happens, we definitely want to make sure that you all are engaged. Just be on the lookout and keep asking for sponsors for the bills as they move -- as the minibuses move forward and we want to prioritize.

Last, you know a perspiration season is upon us for FY 25 already. We are going to be putting on our materials the beginning of the third week of February, so you can go ahead and start scheduling your meetings and get talking about appropriations for next year. Because funding the fight is ever important. Next slide.

Going to go back to World Bank advocacy. If you remember back in July 2023, go back to that webinar, the global policy forum for 2023 July. We talked about the World Bank and how they had huge amounts of resources and can be redirected to really support our co-issues around hunger and building human capital.

We are finally getting our global advocacy letter moving this month. We have Senator Booker who has agreed to start the letter. We are working with him on Republican lead. If you think your Republican senator could be a lead on World Bank advocacy, reach out to me.

Across the board, we are trying to get a Republican, we want this to be bipartisan. But you can see that the key access on the screen is that the World Bank is low prioritizing, (indiscernible), and is having the biggest impact on poverty that we are increasing investments on human capital, health, nutrition, and other social goods. That they are more transparent and accountable, and they are focused on that will effect countries coming out of COVID are out of debt.

We are ensuring that this will happen. If you have folks, especially Republicans, that you think will help on a World Bank advocacy letter, reach out to me. We hope to get this going this week.

I think I will pass it over to our grassroots policy folks. I think that's everything.

KEN PATTERSON:
I want to watch a quick call poll to see who is in the room. We will do a little bit of attendance pull. You should something on your screen that says "including you, how many people are with you for today's webinar?" So, please let us know who is with you today. We've got good attendance, hundred and 67 lines on today. We definitely know their folx together in person as well. It boosts our overall attendance, we want to get a handle on that. Thanks for doing that. 75% of people have responded. Go ahead and take a second let us know who is in the room with you today. We appreciate that.

Congressman McGovern was excellent. He really did give us our marching orders. Great. Great. OK, go ahead and finish up if you would. Anybody else see something on the screen, go ahead and fill that in. All right...

There were groups I had two more people in the room which is fantastic. OK. Let's talk about how we are going to get some of this done.

I don't know if I introduce myself, am Ken Patterson I am the director for grassroots impact RESULTS. Hearing from staff in the webinar and Congressman McGovern, once again, your advocacy has really made a difference. You know? Sometimes you hear from advocates and is really hard to believe that what we're doing is we're doing it with our groups or individuals, free agents or experts on poverty and fellows, we really do make a difference. We regularly come back to this webinar of news and how you are protected and advanced programs make a difference on poverty. And that is the main reason personally that I have been involved with RESULTS for so long.

I know that when we advocate on something collectively, we really do make a difference. It doesn't always happen right away but the pressure for change builds with our advocacy until it pushes things forward. I just really hope that what you've heard today, though you will really get that and understand that what you do really does matter.

And just, also just to look at, what is at the core of our influence? What is relationships. As relationships with each other for sure because it is hard to do this alone. That is why we do it in groups. But also the relationships with our representatives, senators, the aides in their offices to handle the key issues we're working on, their schedules and the staff in the local offices. When we reach out to them, meet with them, regularly communicate with them and build rapport with them, we become trusted voices and sources of information. And that is how we ultimately influence them.

So, again, looking at the â€“ in 2024, here I am going to pull up something on my screen as well. If I can find great. Let me share this. But I am going to go here. There we go.

I want to show you where you can find a calendar for some of our US poverty. If you go to our website and go under "issues" you can see here is our actions timeline for the year. Hopefully, I can get this thing to show up here. There it goes!

So, encourage you to take a look at this. You can see that we've got a lot of things that we want to do, including their recruitment and gathering in person. If you go on here, I will tell you exactly what these things are about to stop we talked about appropriations, the World Bank, securing funding for vaccines, there is pledging moments coming up. We had to work on WIC and SNAP and the tax credit and other sort of equitable opportunities for ourselves. So, again, there is a lot for us to do.

And... You know, the only way that we are going to get these things done is really to go deep on building rapport and relationships with the congressional offices and bringing more people to advocate with us as we work on these things.

I will stop sharing screen so we can come back here but... I just want to let you know about two moments that we are organizing for us to create relationships and to communicate some of our request to our of Congress members offices. This year.

The first moment is spring, February through April. This spring, we want to support all of you to meet with your members of Congress and their staff during this window. This moment is particularly important because we haveâ€¦ It is an election year and this window is likely the best opportunity we are going to have to get the attention of your members of Congress before the election madness takes over for the year.

This window is also the biggest opportunity that we have to influence Congress while there is still productive in 2024 because as the elections get closer, they are going to get less done. So, our goal for the February through April congressional meeting push is to meet with hundred percent of all of the offices that we cover, based on your group Roadmaps. Ideally, we want as many of those meetings as possible to be in person, with our representatives and senators. Staff meetings are good too, but we really want to push for in person meetings with our members of Congress. If we do that, that would be a combined 345 House and Senate offices.

I might ask yourself, "can we do this? Can we meet with all of the office that we cover by April?" If you want to have a conversation with your group, this is also a great time to invite new advocates and leads to join you. And there is also, you know, there's really nothing more inspiring than to meeting with those offices. For new people to meet with the offices.

The second moment is going to be during the months of August through October, that is where we going to start with the August recess. Again, that will be more focused on election advocacy. And so, our tactics will be a little bit different, but you will hear more about that as the year goes on.

So, in organizing these two windows, we are not saying, "don't meet with members of Congress other times" by all means, do, but these are strategic moments for us.

There is already a sample meeting request letter on the website under the "volunteer" hub, Working with Congress. There is a sample meeting request letter that you can use.

I also want to say that you know, you don't need to know exactly what are asks are, to request a meeting. You basically just need to let folx know what you want to talk about and then, you are asks will happened during the meeting. You've done exactly we are asks are right now, don't let that stop you from requesting a meeting.

The policy team is working on the leadtimes that will articulate our request for global US priorities. In some of these, we're going to ship between February and April. So, you want to make sure you're checking with your regional coordinator and RESULTS staff.

Once you have your meeting set up or request outcome and ideally get those out this month, you can schedule a time for your state or group to meet with the policy and grassroots team to help you prepare for those meetings. You can do this by contacting Katie Fleischer, on staff to Courtney the meetings with your state in group, and the staff. And the advantage of meeting by (indiscernible) as you get to coordinate with your senators.

So, we talked about doing a couple of things today. Setting up meetings, requesting meetings, and then, preparing for meetings. I have one personâ€¦ One person who wants to share with us, Beth Wilson is going to talk about what they do to share, to prepare for meetings. So, Beth, can you tell us a little bit about how you go about preparing this to make sure your meetings are effective?

BETH WILSON:
Thank you, Ken.

I learned that my church recently had to do a self-description for people who have limited vision. So, I'm going to tell you that I'm an old lady with white hair and big brown glasses, and I have might read RESULTS T-shirt on. My best practices I have for planning and meeting with our first and most important, include your new volunteers, potential volunteers, RESULTS advocacy fellows and any organizational partners you might have in your area. And then, as many of year's group members as possible.

Be sure to schedule the Zoom planning meeting so all those folx can attend. Once you start the meeting, make sure that everyone is introduced â€“ as there might be people there who you have never met.

My next one is before you get into the details of planning, this is really important, discuss the strategic goal you all share for your meeting with your member of Congress. Keep that goal in front and center as you do the planning, all parts of the meeting should be aimed at that goal.

Third, lead with a smile, but share the glory. Try to engage everyone at the planning. Encourage everyone to own the planning process.

Fourth is as many people have speaking roles in the member of Congress meeting as possible. Ask your speakers what they need to be well prepared for their topic.

Fifth as if someone has a personal story they want to share about the issue is make sure and make time for that story.

Sixth is say a lot of thank you's. To both the planning meeting and meeting with a member of Congress or aids.

I always believe in a clear agenda for the meeting that everyone understands and sent out to all the participants who will be at the meeting before the meeting. Everyone is on the same page together.

Make sure you assign tasks and everyone understands their task and you might follow-up to make sure they are going to remember to do it. Speakers, timekeepers, notetakers, the leave behind person who's putting it all together, the thank you note bringer and leaver.

Number eight is be sure to meet a few minutes before your meeting with your member of Congress will stop somewhere within walking distance like a coffee shop or library, something. To make sure no one is lost. Everybody is together to review the agenda. To answer questions people might have to assemble the lead behind (indiscernible) because people might bring in different parts. To get the spinach out of your teeth, to cheer each other on, and so you can all arrive at the meeting location together.

And finally, after your meeting, debrief right away. Just go straight to a debrief somewhere nearby. And think about, what did you learn about the member of Congress and their staff? Both on the issues or personal information. It is really important to capture that information right away before it leaves, my leaky brain anyway. Identify what went well. What you would do differently next time. What follow-up is needed and who will do it. And finally, who will report the meeting to RESULTS.

Thanks, Ken.

KEN PATTERSON:
Beth, that is great stuff. I really appreciate your tips.

Let's really make this spring a powerful moment to meeting with offices. I will pass this over to my colleague Sarah Leone, she will give other resources and know-how congressional relationship building. Sarah, will handed over to you.

SARAH LEONE:
Awesome! Thank you so much, can and thank you Beth for the amazing best practices. It's always really nice to hear directly from our grassroots for what worked best for them and their advocacy journey. Today we'll talk about helpful resources for preparing with lumpy meetings and value of motivational interviewing is well with your journey.

Next slide, please.

What helpful resources are available to you? Hopefully come at one point in the past and if not, the future, you will use the RESULTS website. You go to the RESULTS website and go to the Volunteer Hub and click on "Working with Congress. And what you will find all sort of helpful resources and prompt, such as "I want to request a lobby meeting, prep for a lobby meeting, record a lobby meeting." Those are all helpful fobs and I believe we will go through more of the Volunteer Hub as it goes on.
Lastly, don't forget that your group leaders RCs are helpful resources additionally.

I wanted to highlight two important webinars that are coming up in the month of February. We have a webinar called 'Being a Congressional Point Person' that is run by the fabulous Ken Patterson who we all know and love and secondly, we have a webinar called 'Researching Your Member(s) of Congress'.

For those have been with results for a while, you know that the fantastic Allison (unknown name) has run this training before it is worth all the 90 minutes of it. The link to register in the PowerPoint slide which you will get at the end of this webinar we can go to the next slide.

You already heard from Beth Wilson about preparing for lobby, what are some additional things you need to do to get prepared? Invite all new people, like Beth said. You go a step further than that. In 2023, we start contacting giving list out two groups and each state with people who joined RESULTS within the last three years. They never went through and got connected with the group or if they did, they left. Invite those individuals. You may never know when they might want to jump back in the full. Don't re-create the wheel, something is worked in the past for your lobby prep meeting, do it again.

Another thing that is helpful is to try to budget your meetings together. Getting your meeting request out this month for March meetings is a good approach.

Another thing that is really important is to research or member of Congress and the office staff. Before we have done research on the issue itself and are MOCs. It is going to be really important -- it is going to provide us with what we need during the meeting.

Some of the things they can start doing is start to find out when and where your number of Congress voted, otherwise we can take action and align it with our priorities. But a spotlight on the actions and when you are in the meeting say thank you.

Lastly, group leaders, do not forget to encourage your group members to check in with the new advocates before the meeting. Just because, we want to make sure they feel prepared. Especially during live and preplanning they want to be heard and don't forget to ask them about their opinion. They may feel shy and that they don't have an opinion to offer, but sometimes we just need to listen to that response from them. They have ideas and it is a matter of making them feel comfortable enough to say it out loud in a group or one-on-one with the mentor.

We are transitioning to Motivational Interviewing because I see it as a valuable resource. It is a long-term skill set and it takes time in the beginning to get it. MI is essentially the goals have an effective dialogueâ€¦ Rules into action as well as having a value-based conversation with their staff and within your interpersonal relationships.

The training can help you transcend the adversarial mindset and uses these techniques to make the case for changing. We can go on to the next slide.

How can Motivational Interviewing help you in your advocacy journey? When we work with a member of Congress is who is new or actively opposes our ideasâ€¦ And it still confronts the rational ideas underlying action. While we may not agree with those folks across the table, this is not an as versus them endeavor it is a partnership.

We do not have to sacrifice our values or hide who we are in order to have an impact. This values-based discussion is the center of Motivational Interviewing.

It is important to this thing -- make distinct thatâ€¦ Biases with people who do not agree with this. And vice versa. We can listen with compassion and overwhelming space for people who are challenging (indiscernible) and oppressive behavior, including our own.

Respond with authenticity, drawing them into conversation about (indiscernible) and sharingâ€¦ We can go to the next slide.

How many of you have heard from -- of Motivational Interviewing before? Feel free to put your hand up or put it in the chat, or post a response. OK some have attended the training and I can see that you have heard of it. Awesome.

We do not have enough time for us to go through a full MI 101 revealed, but I did want to review the OARS technique. We have a very simple and easy to remember acronym to help anchor as in the MI approach when it comes to congressional meetings.

This is just one of six techniques that Motivational Interviewing encompasses and extends or the OARS technique: stands for (and, affirmations, reflections and summaries.

With open questions: you can save one of the most effective ways that we can afford rental housing? Simple, right? It opens the conversation for discussion.

With Affirmations, we want to highlight their strengths, positive efforts, articulating their valiant intentions. This way you canâ€¦ Requesting money for funding. We appreciate it. This is what will help us reach the goal of (unknown term). To the point.

So then reflections, reflecting back with the assent you and get an understanding: "you believe everyone deserves affordable housing and you are afraid of what it costs." So we are acknowledging their concerns.

Lastly, in summary. This is to summarize, review what has been said, capture where we're going and why. An example of this: to summarize, I understand the representative is open to discussions result -- regarding issues of the child tax credit.â€¦

How many of you have ever used Motivational Interviewing when speaking with a congressional office? Or you have attempted it with someone? Alright, I am seeing some hands.

It is difficult to use it! You really have to step outside your comfort zone, but it is worth it and you do feel your communication skill set is growing and improving.

Where can you access MI resources? You can begin by going to the RESULTS website at the following link below and our chat monitors can drop the MI page in the chat. We are in the process of making these resources even more accessible. Next week, you will be able to access these in two places: on the website, if you go to the volunteers have andâ€¦ "I want to prepare for lobby meeting".

The second place is on the volunteers have, go to training resources and it should be at the top. Go through the website next week and will provide more information as we go on.

I believe that my last point that I have are just keep your eyes open for more information upcoming on an Live webinars in March and June.

We also have a special announcement for the fall 2024, so keep your eyes open with Motivational Interviewing.

With that, thanks so much for listening. I will pass it over to Alicia Stromberg.

ALICIA STROMBERG:
Appreciate that. Hello, everyone, it is really great to be here today. For those who do not know me my name is Alicia Stromberg and I am one of the associates on the expansion team. I have the pleasure of helping all people from all over the country get involved in our advocacy campaigns.

Last month you heard me talk about our community and change campaign. I shared that one of our big goals is to share the community of individuals and organizations who are in support of our RESULTS ins.

We also want toâ€¦ To enter 2025 with our full force, biggest impact possible with our legislative lobbying campaigns.

It is really great to hear the enthusiasm for this average campaign, I am so excited that we get to work on this together this year! I am hopping on to share an update about the campaign and to share some strategies that we are working on to build these networks.

This year, our overarching strategies to create more ways to engage with their organization at varying levels of commitment to grow our base of supporters around the country. We want to open up more channels into RESULTS that follow along the letter of engagement to becoming a volunteer with our organization.

We will do base building activities like our solidarity action, we are going to meet more folks in person and we will invite people to attend our lobby meetings. I'm in that from everyone on the call today: one is to bring new folks to our members of Congress and join in the demonstration.

We will continue to make connections with people in person, originally engaged in RESULTS and continue with that (unknown term) strategy you are familiar with.

We want to build our community with people who are passionate about these issues and see change.

One of our new tools this year to build a network of supporters both online and in our communities is the solidarity action. I am excited to share that are Global Solidarity Action is now live on this website. I invite you all to check it out.

We will drop a link to both the global and local solidarity actions on chat and you can find them on the community landing page, if you want to find that to share with someone.

As a reminder, solidarity action is going to demonstrate their (indiscernible) in a few minutes and by adding their testimonial to these issues. This is an outreach that we can use with in person conversations we have with people in the community.

If you find out that somebody is interested in RESULTS issues, invite them to take the action. This is a great entry point into the organization and will get those folks into the pipeline of communication and engagement and will will start to build a relationship with them.

We will also share this widely online. We know there are lots of people online who are scared about these issues and searching for ways to make a difference so we want to get this action in front of them and start getting in the communities. We will promote this through our regular recruitment channels as well as pay Google advertisements and paid social media advertisements.

We really want to see how these efforts bring new people into our community. We will keep you posted!

We just heard from Ken and Sarah about our upcoming lobbying plan. We will use the solidarity action to support our lobby meetings.â€¦ I will share the information from your state and you can use that in your lobby meetings to say, Victor Hugo CAPA! We have a community of supporters who have taken time to say they care about this issue. We want to see their namesâ€¦ As we organize our community in this way." What

What I invite you to do today is to share the solidarity action on your social media page and ask your network to support and sign our lobby meetings. You can personalize it as much or as little as you want, I have a post. You can also copy and paste it into a PowerPoint slide if want to do this after the session.

Help us get this out like -- out into the online world. I know that a few of you share last week -- last month in January, and we did get a few new signers after that. It really does make a difference and it is an exciting way for your community to support you in your lobby meetings.

So, thank you all for your hard work and guard bring more supporters for these campaigns and to grow armament to be even more helpful this year. I am available anytime you need if you have questions about this stuff more you want to strategize your group's goals, I am happy to attend group meeting. We can talk about this.

Just know that I'm here to support you. With that, I am passing things over to my colleagues Jos Linn who was your announcements.

JOS LINN:
I was not muted, sorry. Thanks, Alicia, exciting stuff. Greetings, friends, my name is Jos Linn's and I am the social director of (unknown term) and I am in Kansas City Missouri. Go Chiefs!

As weâ€¦ I want to take a step back and celebrate some of the amazing advocacy successes that you accomplish in 2023. And what a great year it was! First of all, look at these lobby meeting totals. You had 376 total monthly meetings last year including face-to-face. And we didn't actually have a conference last year which is usually where we get our loving meetings.

You met with 74 different Senate offices including 12 face-to-face meetings with them and 261 house meetings, including 71 face-to-face meetings with representatives. Excellent work.â€¦ Making you truly a nationwide network.

Finally, you expanded into 15 different has district this year, putting the total that we are currently covering at 346. Fabulous work everyone!
In 2023, you have 599 pieces published for broadcast. You see those 327 media pieces on Child Tax Credit? That is a big reason while we are so close to getting a CTC expansion this year. When you talk about these issues in the media, people pay attention. We have a lot of pieces about housing, tuberculosis and global education. You were published in 45 different states and 75% of results groups got at least one piece published. Fantastic!

Now, staying on media, I also want to give you a final summary of our build the buy in the campaign. As you remember, the end of last year, we had a goal of getting 250 media pieces between September and end of December with at least one piece in each state and when peace and results group. How did you do? Again, you did beautifully!

So, first, you exceeded our total goal. With 257 media pieces. Fantastic, again. Since most of those pieces again focus on the Child Tax Credit, you can again try a direct line from your media to the proposed CTC expansion. And while we didn't get published in all 50 states, you came awful close with 44.

And also, 52/80 results group were published just last fall. We know that even more review submitted pieces that just didn't get published. So, congratulations to you all. Thank you for a great 2023 for lobbying and working the media and let's aim for even greater heights in 2024.

All right. So, speaking of which, how can you exceed those accomplishments from last year and make a bigger impact on poverty this year? By planning ahead. So, thank you to other results group and volunteers who met in January to work on your 2024 group Roadmaps. These maps are a great way to start the year and they are â€“ there an opportunity to celebrate your recent successes, outline the goals to accomplish and figure out how you will get there. Each year, the mobs are the foundation for a success. They help you become effective advocates, strengthen your groups, become powerful voices in the community and inspire yourself and go into action.

We use your maps all year long! We use them to update our congressional coverage, create support structures to help you achieve your goals. Use them to target the legislative advocacy and to inspire us by example. In other words, please do your Roadmaps.

We know that not every group completed their roadmap in January. That is OK, but the sooner you can get them done, the better. So, if you haven't had meant to plan yet, please, schedule a meeting now. By 2024, February 15. To ensure the staff have access to the links and can see what you have done. Update your Group Roster as well. We want to know who is in your group, what role do they have in your group and the contact information for everybody.

So, you should findâ€¦ You should already have a link to your 2024 roadmap, and if you don't, get in touch with me, I can help you. Remember, you can find the group planning guides and other group planning resources on arc working with your group page under "make your group plans." If you have any questions or can't make the to February 15 deadline, just reach out to RESULTS staff and we can work with you. It's no problem.

So, thank you all. So, now, I'm going to scroll through some announcements here. I will not say all of these things verbally. You can see all the information on the slides here. And, you know, we have a myriad of training support and partnership calls this month. I will not go through each one but do check them out. There is likely there is training for you.

If I'm going through fast through the slides and I know that I am, I made another special slide for you, so that you can see where to find today's slides. Go to our volunteers hubs, Training Resources, and it will come up on the national webinars page. You can see the slides there.

You can also find all of the events and more that we have listed on the slides on the events calendar.

Finally, let me remind you of next month's national webinar. At 1 PM on March 8, we learn more about the pathway to learn about gender equity and global health. Through policy and critical interventions through (indiscernible) and nutrition services. It will include a panel of speakers dedicated to global gender equity followed by a take action component, leading up to International Womenâ€™s Day on March 8. So, we look forward to talking to you all again next month.

So, thank you all for joining. And remember again, please, call your senators and email them about passing the Child Tax Credit bill.

Finally, to close. Today is both National Carrot Cake Day and National Golden Retriever Day.

Ken, if you will open up all the lines, we can wish each other in a day full of dogs and dessert! Thanks, folx.

KEN PATTERSON:
The line is open if you want to say anything.

(Multiple speakers)

SPEAKER:
Dogs and desserts! A good one.

(Multiple speakers)

SPEAKER:
Hi, Lynne.

(Multiple speakers)

SPEAKER:
It was really great. Good call, everyone.

SPEAKER:
Go Chiefs!

SARAH LEONE:
Thanks again, Beth. We appreciate you speaking.

SPEAKER:
Thanks, Beth. Thank you, Crickett.

(Multiple speakers)

SPEAKER:
Bye bye.

(End of Webinar)

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