Live Captioning by Ai-Media   
  
JOANNE CARTER: welcome everyone and thank you for joining us today.   
  
I'm Joanne Carter am the executive director of results, it's exciting to come together today.   
  
Today, we are starting the summer action campaign to look at the number of voices calling on Congress to take action on antipoverty. Starting this month, all across the country, were going to be building a collected impact by collecting-- like-minded people... For action committee. This is an opportunity for folx to come together in person, to demand action on US hunger and global child health to urge lawmakers to expand and protect lifesaving and life-changing programs that we know work to reduce poverty and inequity.   
  
It's also a chance for new advocates to bring their unique experiences and perspectives that members of Congress need to hear. This outreach is so crucial because actually, the strength of our community is going to determine our ability to drive both progress on every one of our issues. You know, including those issues in the election season this fall. And this really challenging time, we also need the industry! Increased strength of the movement to protect what we've made already and not to lose ground.   
  
As were going to discuss and if you missed them again Congress to - (indiscernible) rather than worsening with racism and oppression.   
  
When I talk about driving bold action, action on global vaccines is a critical and urgent opportunity this month. Thanks to all of you, the Navy who been hard at work advocating with your members of Congress and generating media, and supporting of God The Vaccine Alliance.   
  
As you know, we've heard since   
  
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If the US steps up and makes an early bull to pledge to Gavi work going forward, we can help set the tone for the rest of the world. The official launch of the coffee replenishment is a leader this June hosted by the government of France.   
  
I will be there but I will be especially honored to represent you all because the truth is that what matters most is not that everyone's gathered for an event with President (Name) on that day. What matters is the work you've been doing the work you're going to do with Congress over the next three weeks, to move the US government was an early bold pledge. So, thank you.   
  
On a related note, our RESULTS community could not do this essential work without our financial supporters. I do want to take a moment to make sure that everybody knows about an amazing opportunity that we have right now. We have sent a big fundraising goal for our spring fundraiser and were seeking to raise $350,000 to support our work, to address the needs and equity of 350 million undernourished children in the US and globally.   
  
That goal is a stretch for us but incredibly generous donors and volunteers and Allie Newberg are making it easier. Their matching all donations 3 to 1 to help us reach that goal. Thanks to everyone who made a donation and asked friends and family come I promise it will lead to real impact and tangible (indiscernible).   
  
Right now, as for advocating to support and protect the supplemental nutrition assistance program, or SNAP and because everyone has the right to meet their basic needs and adequate nutrition is among the most fundamental needs, intermittently linked with health issues and of course, brain development and growth in children. Along with the Child Tax Credit, SNAP was one of the programs the US government scaled up during COVID.   
  
And it was no coincidence that we saw the lowest rates in the US history of childhood poverty and food insecurity in the midst of a pandemic. Those among us with live experience of poverty have told us what these data points have forms, SNAP works. SNAP works especially when there's equitable access to these benefits and access that doesn't shift or disappear with age or interaction with the criminal justice system or loss of employment.   
  
Efforts to include people from the SNAP spring from recess and (indiscernible) ideology. I know those who attended the webinar last year, as we work to expand policies, expanding SNAP is at the top of the priority list.   
  
As we continue to face economic conditions, inflation prohibitive housing cost, we need to double down on our investments on nutrition. This is why I'm so pleased to welcome our special guest speaker today, Salaam Bhatti, the SNAP director for the food, action and research Center for frac.   
  
I'm pleased to have you here, Salaam and to have this over to my colleague TaShon Thomas.   
  
TASHON THOMAS:   
As Joanne mentioned, this is going to be a great representation in regards to stop because we have a great presenter today and the form of Salaam Bhatti who is the SNAP director at frac which is the Food Research and Action Center.   
  
And he has over 11 years of work, in terms of social justice reforms, but prior to frac, he was the public benefits attorney and deputy director of the Virginia poverty Law Center where he specialized in public benefits law and also directed the development of SNAP eligibility calculator to make it more accessible for households with low income in Virginia. He has plethora of knowledge on the subject of snap.   
  
I will hand it over to Salaam to do his presentation before we go to Q&A.   
  
SALAAM BHATTI:   
thank you so much for the invitation for coming out on Saturday to hear about SNAP at the farm bill coming up. In case I randomly start bursting out into laughter, my five-year-old is here and he just discovered boy bands. So, he's been singing Backstreet Boys, 'show me the meaning of being lonely' on repeat. Maybe you can have a little levity today as well.   
  
I will go ahead and share my screen. We will begin soon.   
  
Here we go! Today, I'm presenting about the farm bill. When I was a state advocate, I remember attending a lot of these national presentations and hearing all of these terms of art and not really knowing what that meant.   
  
So, that was the question I was always asking when I was in the audience, "What do you mean? What do you mean by these words?" I will try to break down a lot of these topics today because you're in their fields, you're not hearing the jargon that is being used but you might have been hearing it come up into play because of the farm bill is up in Congress.   
  
Let's break it down and explain what these terms mean. Of course, often times, a lot of these presentations are text heavy, it's Saturday, let's use it memes, visuals, and graphics to share what I mean.   
  
So, all too often, it seems like this is us. Joanne was talking at the beginning that we try with in poverty and all of a sudden looks like the whole world is on fire. Were going to try to get a better lay of the land with a breakdown. The farm bill is something that is heard every five years. It is a queen cranial bill (unknown term) we don't use the word often enough, but it means every five year and that's with the farm bill is, it is heard every five year. It should have been heard last year but things to do list, it has not. We are in the mix of it right now.   
  
In case you were unaware, most of the budge within the farm bill is for the SNAP program. There is also provisions for other types of climate programs, but 80% of the budget is devoted to the SNAP program.   
  
So, may be view heard the term thrifty food plan leading up to today, maybe you've seen some rhetoric on social media or articles. Maybe you've read some (unknown term) and don't understand what that is. Let me help her get it done. This is very important because there's a lot of new congressional members and a lot of a new congressional staff who've never done a farm bill before. It is important that we are able to understand with the thrifty food plan is and be able to explain it to them in very simple terms, so they know what they're working with. Let's go ahead and go into it.   
  
I said the words "Thrifty food plan" That is jargon. The thrifty food plan was created in 1975 and is the cheapest of four United States Department of Agriculture or USDA plans, which represent the weekly cost of buying food to maintain a healthy diet. It is the bare minimum that it takes to have a nutritious diet. This plan determines the maximum benefit amount that a household will receive with the SNAP benefits.   
  
In case you ever wonder, why is this household getting $253? It is because the formula is the thrifty food plan which helps determine what the SNAP benefit amount is.   
  
What else is the formula composed of? The formula is based on current dietary guidelines, current food consumption data â€“ like what are people buying entity current cost of food and beverage items. The bi-partisan 2018 Farm Bill was monumental! It directed the USDA to update the thrifty food plan. The resulting update that was rolled out in 2021 was the first in the plans nearly 50 years where the snap benefit amount actually increased. Up until then, the SNAP benefits amount never increased to account for these things within the formula.   
  
As a result, the benefit increased average to about a dollar 19 to a dollar a dollar 40 per person per day. Nothing tooâ€¦ It's not getting us to a really good amount but it was a really great step in the right direction.   
  
You're probably wondering why Taylor Swift's boyfriend is mad, I don't know, I don't watch hockey (Joke/joking) but I can tell you that the previous updates to thrifty food plan that house, agriculture chairman GT Thompson mentions in his offense and his remarks that the previous thrifty food plan updates were all cost neutral. So, for us to have a thrifty food plan update that is not cost neutral, it is destroying president and we know how much Congress loves precedent.   
  
The times that Thompson is talking about are from 1983, 1999, and 2006. What he doesn't mention is that these plans were for referencing the 1962 economy meal plan. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that the food landscape, whether it's nutrition guidance or what's available, or even with the cost of food and beverage are, has a night and day difference compared from yesterday to today.   
  
But also, it's very important to have a formula that's going to take into account tomorrow's landscape. That is what the 2018 thrifty food plan update does. Prior to the evaluation, the thrifty food plan was based on unrealistic assumptions. For example, it assumed that the families would consume 20 pounds of orange juice and 5 pounds of oranges every week. That's a lot of oranges (Laughs). This was because this again is plan, it is based on something low-cost and high nutritional value and it was flooding the market with oranges.   
  
Thankfully, we haven't seen any research that scurvy is coming back to necessitate this amount of vitamin C since the 60s. To be more specific, the 1760s. All of that to say that it is elliptical to expect this update or any future update to be cost neutral. The thrifty food plan updates should be cost ritual two.   
  
One of the things that house chairman Thompson and others who support its proposal will say is that SNAP benefits are increased every year. We don't need any other types of increase. The increase that he's talking about is the cola increase that we see every October. That's the cost of living adjustment. The cost of living adjustment increases only exist to counter inflammation. It doesn't address the market price is changing and market races are changing because of inflation, prices, COLA do not respond to changes in nutrition science and the new nutrition thence food and beverages that are unavailable on the market that can help individuals get to a balanced diet.   
  
COLA updates do not equal the market price changes.   
They are trying to give them the least amount possible instead of the adequate benefits.   
  
It is important to remember the thrifty Food plan is the cheapest for the government and the lowest of the four plans. This is to get to the minimal level of a nutritious diet. Trying to cut the cheapest plan and the most rigourous nation in the world is really sad.   
  
The thrifty Food plan reevaluation in 2018 also realized that a lot has changed in the last 40 years, and a lot more is going to change in the next 40 years. Looking back in the last four years women's participation in the labour force increased. This is relevant because, the thrifty Food planâ€¦   
  
Everybody needs a double income. It is also important because a lot of us just do not have the time to spend 14 to 16 hours a week cooking from scratch. You should be taking into account there is a lot more options today. There is also recognition of (indiscernible). Until 2021 when the thrifty Food plan update was rolled out, the thrifty Food plan never took any of these things into account. It shortchanged SNAP participants for 50 years and prevented the participants from leveraging the full benefits of SNAP which we now improve health outcomes.   
  
Despite having so much changed, Chairman Thompson is beating the drum about trying to maintain cost neutrality.   
  
Thanks Justin Bieber.   
  
What is cost neutral? Let's break it down.   
  
Let's say you change a light bulb in your house to an energy-saving bald. And that bulb costs even extra five dollars as to the sender light bulb. But over the course of the light time of fact life bulb you will save in energy costs. That is cost neutral. If you save more than five dollars, that is economically beneficial.   
  
We know that increased SNAP benefits lead to reduce healthcare spending. That is cost savings.   
  
Increased SNAP benefits lead to better educational outcomes. You will get better jobs, better paying jobs. You will pay more taxes as a result and have less reliance on public benefits, government assistance later on in life. That is economically beneficial.   
  
The United States is not a business. We are here to serve each other. The nation should be serving its people and we should be invested in economically beneficial things.   
  
Anytime you see something that says, "this packages cost neutral and that is the way it should be" throw it out. We do not need cost neutrality in the space.   
  
Chairman Thompson claiming this hypothetical hysteria that we as advocates write up in arms about this no more than six dollars. What he is missing with his math is the impact that putting any dollar from SNAP has on tens thousands of Americans who are trying to take care of their families and go to college to have better futures or are just going through a rough patch.   
  
If you see something that says "cost neutral plan" realize it is the same thing as SNAP benefit losing value. Preventing the USDA from updating the thrifty Food plan in the future is projected to be a $30 billion cut over the next 10 years.   
  
Chairman Thompson is intending to use this cut to pay for subsidies towards farmers. While chair Thompson is upset the thrifty Food plan update was not cost neutral, nobody should be surprised that investing in people costs money. And to cut their programs will cost lives.   
  
It also bears mentioning that the thrifty Food plan is not just connected to the SNAP program. According to the Center on budget, this cut will also have ramifications on Puerto Rico's block grant. Similar to SNAP but not as great. It is a block grant so they only get a set amount of money every year for their version of SNAP. Which is known as NAP.   
  
It will block their grant by $700 million. It will cut the summer EBT program by $500 million.   
  
The ripple effect is huge if this proposal goes through and becomes a law.   
  
A cost neutral plan has always been a cut to SNAP.   
  
The annual inflation adjustments before the 2021 thrifty Food plan were never enough and it led to the erosion of SNAP's purchasing power. Benefits were not enough to put a healthy, realistic die on the table. If scientific evidence shows that a healthy diet costs more, beyond simple CO LE adjustments the SNAP should adjust as well.   
  
Whenever you see cost neutral, look closer.   
  
The science shows that increased SNAP benefits lead to decreased emergency room visits and decreases Medicaid costs. This has been shown through two different studies that occurred after the recession and when snap benefits were increased after that time. And during the recent pandemic we saw a decrease in emergency room visits. A decrease in Medicaid spending.   
  
The inverse is true as well that if we cut SNAP benefits we will see increased visits to the emergency room's and will increase medical debt, Medicaid costs.   
  
If this is a cost neutral plan, it is not on a broader scale at all.   
  
Why shouldn't I update SNAP benefits?   
  
Here is another reason why we need to update the benefit amounts regularly. A significant thing that the thrifty Food plan updated, was look at the purchasing patterns of what households with low incomes are purchasing.   
  
Previously, it was only looking at 130% of the poverty limit and blow. But with the update it broadened that reach to 300% of the federal poverty level. That is not a lot, about $93,000 for a family of four which in today's economy is still almost paycheck to paycheck.   
  
It was a significant step in the right direction because if we want households with really low incomes, to have a true supplement to buy nutritious foods but the formula is only looking at what other households and really low income households are buying then it becomes a downward spiral because you are comparing people against each other rather than allowing them to have a hand up.   
  
That is because households with real incomes are typically in areas that have food access issues. They may live very far from the closest place that has fresh produce and meats. They may have limited transportation options and can't get to where they need to go to get the better foods. They may be priced out of the options when they are trying to make their six dollar per person per day work.   
  
They are trying to save $30 billion over 10 years. At the same time, tax breaks are always on the table and we are sending billions in foreign aid every other month.   
  
SNAP participants are left in the dust.   
  
If our personal budget is in crisis, you do not cut groceries at the first level. You have to make sure you are cutting the frivolous things like avocado toast, fighter jets, lattes. Then we can look at the grocery budget.   
  
Let's get rid of the frivolous things before we actually look at 40 million Americans who need the supplement to get through the month and put food on the table.   
  
We have been waiting for the farm bill to pass since last year, but let's not get excited if the house passes the Farm Bill proposal we have right now if it has a cost neutral safety plan.   
  
The mantra we have is no bill is better than a bad bill and we want to Farmville, not a harm bill. And has always been bipartisan but everyone is talking about how this latest form will is incredibly partisan because so much is at steak.   
  
Snap benefits will continue. We do not need the Farmville to be renewed immediately because the SNAP bill will continue to be funded.   
  
This is really the conversation that is happening, we reject all SNAP cuts. People who support German Thompson's proposal are saying, it is not a cut at all. But if you do not reflect the prices of food it is a cut. There is an annual adjustment with C OLA. But see OLA does not take market values into account.   
  
That is a summary of what is going on in the thrifty Food plan space.   
  
Let's talk about the proposals that are currently on the table.   
  
(Music plays)   
  
Senator (Name) has her proposal not fully fleshed out. We should see the full text any day now. Chairman Thompson who is that agriculture committee, he released his Farm Bill tax. We can see what the good things are in both proposals.   
  
Both have something known as E SAP, the shortened application for our elder Americans. What this does is simplifies the application and increases the recertification to the maximum 36 months. You will not have to do interviews as frequently as other people.   
  
It will codify that and make it available for all states,   
  
It also increases GUSNIP a dollar for dollar match for farm markets. It alsoâ€¦ Half of the states have modified or repealed it in some way, shape or form. But this Farm bill seeks to repeal it entirely for all the states so the fact that these three things are in both proposals is great. There is bipartisan (indiscernible) for everyone.   
  
If you are unfamiliar with the drug event, if you have the drug felony on your record and after you have served your sentence on page your fines you are still banned from life from receiving SNAP benefits. It is only for those with the drug felony on the record.   
  
It is a life sentence essentially. A double punishment.   
  
What chairwoman (Name) suggests isâ€¦ It also improves EPT. We do not know the fully fleshed out details of how Senator (Name) speaks to really protect EBT we know there is a few measures out in other types of build to protect the cards. But we do know there is something really dangerous at this moment that is happening. SNAP participants are seeing their benefits skimmed or stolen. It has been a terrible problem for at least a year.   
  
People are installing skimming devices on card readers. Because it is a magnetic stripe, when you swipe your card, the skimming device captures your card number and when you enter your four digit paid for your snap card, it captures the pin as well. Within hours, your entire SNAP benefit balance is depleted.   
  
When you log into your SNAP portal, let's say you live in Texas, you can see that somebody took it. There is clear theft happening and this is going to help resolve that. One of the bills that we are supporting is the bill to move from the magnetic stripes to chip cards which is now the industry standard. That will essentially solve for the skimming problem. There is a massive conversation happening across the country to get the ball moving on this. All of the private vendors are involved in this conversation to figure out the new standards that need to be made, so that the transition can happen from magnetic stripes to EBT cards. Hopefully, within a year, we should have that, we should see going live.   
  
We also see that Puerto Rico is mapped to snap transition is within (Name)'s proposal, it is a 10 year transition which would be great because they would provide Puerto Rico more money for nutritional assistance.   
  
We saw that both proposals had the hot meals studies. We are in favor of a bill which says that SNAP participants can finally purchase the hot food from grocery stores like rotisserie chicken because right now, they can't. It is something cheaper and it can save hours of cooking. You can use it for hours per day (?), from enjoying the hot meal to enjoy sandwiches the next day. It has a great lifespan, that rotisserie chicken.   
  
Both proposals seem to do, we want to study. You want to study to see what it looks like. They have been enough studies done, whenever a disaster hits an area and a federal disaster is declared, something called disaster SNAP is rolled out and that helps people. Hot meals aren't (?) able to be purchased with your D SNAP benefits (?). The studies are there and the pilots have been done, within Chairman Thompson's proposal with the return of food boxes, your might remember the food boxes where presidents trump proposals customer. Stop trying to make food boxes happen, so going to happen.   
  
The competing proposal, we don't consider anything within Senator (Name)'s proposal to be ugly, with Chairman Thompson, we consider a few things that are terrible which is when is the privatization of SNAP and ministration. Across the country except for six states, their timeless issues of processing the SNAP explications. People are waiting months to get their SNAP benefits approved which is hearing was going on with the application.   
  
What we are things that Chairman Thompson believes with the solution to this is to privatize SNAP administration to bring in contractors and vendors to help with this. We seen other states across other states to privatize their public assistance administration - what we know is we need to better find the merit-based employees who do the complicated work of screening people with a complex formula that Congress has made. If anything, if you want to make things go quicker, remove all of those complications and you won't need to have these issues. He also of course wants to cut thrifty and that comes full circle to what we were talking about.   
  
There constitute thrifty are powerful Hawaii and Alaska. I learned that a loaf of bread cost $13 in Hawaii. For the CPI, the consumer price index, he wants that connected to the urban CPI adjustment for the 48 states. It doesn't make any sense because that rate, those rates do not equal each other. That would be really bad for Hawaii and Alaska.   
  
Do I feel lucky? I don't. Also, your from the wrong movie, you're from 'dirty Harry' and not the 'good bad and the ugly.' The big thing we have to do is take action and we have only the next couple of months, really the first â€“ the next few weeks are really impactful.   
  
We have a letter going out, we are asking organizations to sign onto the letter. I think RESULTS has already signed onto it but if you're part of other organization within your state, please share this letter with your organization to sign on. To urge Congress that any farm bill that passes must be protecting and strengthening SNAP. We will oppose any farm bill that proposes cuts to SNAP including restricting the Thrifty food plan benefit food adjustments. I'll paste the link in the comments that you have that as well.   
  
We need to avoid bipartisanship over a cost neutral thrifty free plan. While they maintain we have to maintain this because it's the goal and its precedents, we know better now. We should do better..   
  
It moderately increases from (indiscernible) dollars and $0.20 --6.20 per person per day. (Name) has released a solid firm bill but it doesn't mean we can disengage and expect bipartisan to happen. We need to remind that we must specifically protect thrifty and SNAP. That in a nutshell is what we are involved in right now. What is at stake and we are hopeful that you can all help participate and and having a bipartisan farm bill.   
  
TASHON THOMAS:   
Thank you so much, Salaam for that engaging and informative presentation. I know several of our advocates have asked more â€“ more in-depth information on SNAP and I believe you presented everything we needed to discuss.   
  
With that, we won't have time for questions but we will put the letter from frac in the follow-up information as well, results has signed on but if there are any other organizations that you are all involved in, please be sure to share it. I believe we are trying to seek about 100 or so organizations onto the letter.   
  
SALAAM BHATTI:   
A thousand.   
  
TASHON THOMAS:   
A thousand? Okay. A thousand organization for that letter to showcase that this is a national issue for all of us. Once again, thank you so much, Salaam, and we will look forward to having the continued support from you all but also from us as well.   
  
SALAAM BHATTI:   
Thanks for the invite.   
  
TASHON THOMAS:   
Absolutely!   
  
Next up, very quickly some U.S. Poverty Campaigns Update â€“ the Child Tax Credit, we are still awaiting the Senate Leadership to put legislation on the floor. From the bill that passed the house in January now. It's been months, so we are still waiting for that. As time is ticking onto getting towards the (indiscernible), it's looking less and less likely but very still a glimmer of hope. Just like with Pandora's box, there was of the last bit of, the last one that went out was (indiscernible). Maybe that's what we have to rely on right now.   
  
For housing, we expect to hear within the next couple of weeks on the Grants Pass case â€“ which as a reminder, that is the case in which it will allow for local cities and counties to basically criminalize homelessness as they see fit. So, we are trying to see where that decision lies and then, we will have more information on that as well.   
  
Next slide.   
  
There is one great announcement that weâ€¦ And of course, as Salaam mentioned, please, continue to take action on SNAP and if the farm bill, also, our members, tell them to protect SNAP from the reckless cuts and policies in the farm bill as they are continuing their conversations and discussions. Once again, as Salaam mentioned, no farm bill is better than a harm bill.   
  
So, our announcement. As some of you may have heard, we want toâ€¦ First off, thank ELPs and advocates who have been helping us over the last couple of decades. It's one of those long-term things - the Bush administration tried to get this done and was stopped from doing it. This is been decades in the making.   
  
The IRS has finally announced that you can file your taxes online through a Direct File system, directly through the IRS. For free. Direct File is something that everyone has been asking for for years because you should not just have to pay a firm and amount, and the enormous amount of money just to pay your taxes. We now have the ability through the IRS.   
  
Let's put the caveat on this that this is only for your federal taxes, not your state taxes. The IRS has also asked for states to be in the Direct File system as well, if they have an income tax in their state. If you live in a state like Texas, you cannot do it through the IRS and not to the states but if you live in California, you may be able to have the ability to file â€“ a Direct File directly through the IRS to go towards both the state and the federal. So, as the states are working out those systems, we are going to keep you all updated on which states actually signed on in which states need a push to sign on but this is a great win for us all and once again, we really want to change the EOP's that participated in the design of how it will look and feel. So, when you go on next year and fill out your taxes, you can know that our EOP's took a huge part in the design process of it. So, thank you all to that.   
  
Now, I will turn it over to my counterpart:, for global updates.   
  
COLIN SMITH:   
Thanks, TaShon will stop hi, everybody.   
  
I'm suddenly feeling very underwhelmed by my very own slide deck (Joke/joking) so apologies in advance go after Salaam, no fair.   
  
We often hear about really grim statistics in the world and for good reason, given the many challenges that exist but I want to start with a different one today. There is a new math out from UNICEF that some of you have seen that vaccines have saved six lives a minute, every minute, for the last 50 years. And we've been on this call now for 43 minutes, and for 50 years before that and so, I want you to think about that number, as we talk about the work on Gavi. Joanne open that up for the opportunity in front of us because as inspiring and powerful as that statistic is, we know it can be even higher because millions of kids are still missing out on access to these vaccines.   
  
Gavi, the vaccine alliance was founded to do exactly that.   
  
Next slide.   
  
He heard from JoAnn the start that Gavi has supported the lowest income countries and committees to access vaccines for over a billion children. And right now, Gavi is gearing up for its next phase and they are coming to governments like the US to help fund that strategy. In the US is a long time Gavi supporter, thanks to the work of a lot of you, in a bipartisan way, steadily increasing funding over the last two decades and now, we want the US to boost funding for Gavi again with a bold new four-year funding pledge.   
  
Go to the next slide. That work to get a new pledge is now underwear. This spring, so many of you Doug getting the US government process of appropriations and you've got 138 members of the house from both parties on the record calling for almost a 20% increase to Gavi's annual funding. A full third of the Senate also calling for strong support for Gavi.   
  
I want to thank you not as it relates just to GAVI.   
  
These funding letters that you got members of Congress, are flying around Capitol Hill on a range of issues. Not just the ones we work on.   
  
I saw a spreadsheet listing out two dozen of them on different global health and development issues. On the spreadsheet I saw the list of number of sign-ups. Some of the letters had 10, 15. Most had 40, 50, 60 members of Congress signed on.   
  
Then I got to the letter on child health and GAVI. 138 members.   
  
Tuberculosis, 131.   
  
Global (indiscernible) hundred and 61.   
  
The difference between 50 and 60 and the numbers twice as big is all of you. This is to remind you, this ask for a big funding boost for GAVI is an uphill push. The partisan on Capitol Hill is incredibly hard but it is not possible.   
  
Joanne referenced that at the end of this year GAVI wanted all of its donor governments to make new funding pledges at the end of a month-long funding campaign. We are asking that the US does not wait for the end of the year.   
  
This big campaign kicks off on June 20. We think with the right push we can get the White House to show up on June 20 with a pledge. They need to know that Congress has them backed.   
  
We are asking Congress to: have a House resolution coming out as Monday or Tuesday next week. We will let you know as soon as it does.   
We want as many members of Congress as we can find on.   
  
Whoever your member of Congress as you can ask them to cosponsor. Remind them this is a bipartisan issue.   
  
On the Senate resolution they are going to be adding cosponsors to buy two. One Democrat with one Republican.   
  
If you ask your Senator to sign on and they say yes your next question is, "who from the other party can get to join you on this resolution?"   
  
The third, if your member of Congress is such a champion on GAVI, we want to ask them to reach out to the White House directly. We want the President to show up with a bold pledge in Paris.   
  
We have a draft template letter that your member of Congress can use. And if they agree to send a message like this and they want something more personal, we can help them as well.   
  
I will hand things over to my colleague to talk about the power of coming together in our communities. Joanne talked about this a bit at the start as well.   
  
We just heard the opportunities on SNAP. When we think about what is needed on vaccines, I want to emphasize the work on Capitol Hill is not separate from the organizing work you will hear about from Alicia and just a moment.   
  
Think about how the organizing and outreach we are getting ready to do can help support these asks on GAVI.   
  
You might be getting a group of folks in your area together to write about vaccines. After that, think about if you're congressional point person in your group reached out to a staffer on Capitol Hill before that outreach meeting. Let them know we are writing to your boss and if they could sign on advance it could be a thank you letter.   
  
Maybe your group covers two members of Congress and both of your senators comes from a different party. You could write these letters to both of them. Include copies of the letters for each member of Congress saying you want them to work together on this. They can be getting hand written letters from the constituents to both offices.   
  
On the third point, if your member of Congress has already been a champion for GAVI. You can say you would love for them to reach out to the White House but you would also love them to tell the White House that they should do this because their constituents care about this. You can send the letters from all of us in the envelope with your own note to the White House.   
  
These events that Alicia will talk about our building our community and power for the long haul. As you get ready to do that I want you to think about the ways in which we are not choosing between the deep advocacy work we do right now, this week, this month with Congress and building our presence in the community for the long haul. They can do them together and put that power to work right now in our deep advocacy.   
  
Over to Alicia.   
  
ALICIA STROMBERG:   
It is great to be here with everyone.   
  
I am a manager on the expansion team working to recruit and engage advocates in our movement.   
  
I will talk today about our plans for connection and community engagement the summer.   
  
Thank you Colin for highlighting how important it is to bring our communities together right now. To call for US leadership on GAVI and global vaccines.   
  
Thank you as well for the critical updates on SNAP.   
  
There cannot be a more timely opportunity.   
  
Our main goal this month is to strengthen our community of advocates and build political well around issues of poverty. We are asking people to come together in person, for powerful community action meetings and calling your members of Congress to support solutions to poverty.   
  
You can see a picture of the postcards you received, to use during the summer of community action.   
  
When you bring people together and guide folks through writing to their member of Congress about SNAP, GAVI or both.   
  
We have an action sheet that accompanies and has props and instructions.   
  
These action sheets will support you to guide folks to do this action.   
You can have them printed off and have them on hand during your meeting so people can reference them.   
  
After your community action, collect the postcards and deliver them in person to your member of Congress during your lobby meetings and use that to bolster your advocacy.   
  
If you do not have plans to come together this summer, do not worry. We want everyone to be empowered with these postcards so you can use them when you have the next opportunity. Hang onto them and next time you are with some folks and want them to take action you will have the one hand. They are evergreen, and can be used at any time.   
  
I had this opportunity this month to connect with a lot of you. I have heard a lot of exciting ideas.   
  
I would love to hear more right now.   
  
I invite everyone to use the chat and share   
what community action are you doing this month   
or what plans do you have this summer?   
  
I think it would be really inspiring to see what we are collectively doing to raise up issues of poverty in our community.   
  
While you put your plans in the chat, I want to uplift some of the fun actions we already know are happening and hopefully they will inspire you as you think about what this could look like for your group.   
  
- New Hampshire is hosting an ice cream social. We will invite people from her online networks and community partners to eat ice cream and take RESULTS action with us.   
- Beth Wilson is hosting a summer birthday barbecue in Washington. Her friends and family will also be able to take action around the end of poverty.   
- Folks in Colorado are hosting a potluck. They will be supporting folks to take this action.   
- Nevada is hosting a friends and family lunch that will have games for kids and families can take the postcard action together.   
  
These plans are so simple and sound really fun.   
  
If you have not made your plans yet, it is not too late. Bringing people together does not have to be complicated. We can bring these postcards to places where you might already be showing up in your community.   
  
Think about   
- farmers markets or presenting after a church service   
- Juneteenth Festival   
- anywhere else that you are bringing people together: birthday parties are summer picnics   
- you might be inspired by one of these fabulous ideas and the check   
- postcard actions like grad parties   
- farmer market   
- local food banks   
  
I love these ideas. Keep sharing them in the chat and inspiring each other into action.   
  
We need to shift the focus to inviting people, getting the word out in traffic turn out.   
  
If you recall, we have heard from 800 people this year who want to learn more about volunteering and taking action with RESULTS.   
  
Folks are excited to hear from others who are taking the same actions they want to do. People are motivated by others to take actions or on their values.   
  
We have the list ready for you with everyone's contact information, organized by state. We will share these with your RC's who will share the list with you and you can invite these folks into action.   
  
Think about inviting your action network. Any community partners you want to work with, friends, family and anyone else you have engaged with.   
  
We have a ton of resources to help you do this and get the word out.   
- Action sheet, make sure you have it on hand   
- invite toolkit with templates for emails, text messages, phone call scripts   
- we are finding phone calls are the best way to get in touch with new people   
- flyer template that you can customize and share on social media or share with others in your community   
- social media. Digital organizing is a really powerful way we can show up and demonstrate we are in action. Do not hesitate to promote your action on social media.   
- Take a lot of photos when you are together and post them on social media   
- tag results when you do this   
- we will share these on our stories and uplift them as much as we can   
  
If you want extra support you can join us next week for group coaching and planning sessions. We have four sessions happening next week that you can join with fellow expansion staff, advocates and make this happen.   
  
I will link the RSVP into the slides and we will share that at 2.   
  
Thank you so much for your partnership and I'm excited to see what we will get to in this summer.   
  
Reach out to me at any time.   
  
I will pass things over to my colleague Lisa, who will celebrate our campaign this year.   
  
LISA MARCHAL:   
Happy June. I am the senior manager of grassroots impact with RESULTS.   
  
It is my pleasure to celebrate all that you have accomplished during the spring lobby push campaign here at the first part of the year. We endeavoured not only to grow our grassroots network but to blanket Congress with meetings.   
  
The intent was to meet with all members of Congress that we covered which led us to a goal of 350 meetings. That was hugely ambitious. We did not quite reach that goal, that you are absolutely remarkable.   
  
This is a map of where you blanketed the country with meetings. As of this week, you have reported hundred and 92 meetings across the 143 Senate 40 states. This breaks down to 94 Senate houses. Absolutely incredible work and we know there is more to come.   
  
April and May were a particular flurry of activity.   
  
Let's start with the speaker to our featuring Doctor (Name) pediatrician.   
  
We were thrilled to have Doctor Teo as our national webinar speaker in May speaking to us from Austin Texas. As part of the two or Doctor Teo was also featured at the Gulf South regional conference. The region organized a fantastic conference focused on learning from Doctor Theo, building skills getting inspired and connecting with each other.   
You can consider creating your local events as we continue through the summer of convening events. Our colleague Joanna stands by to help support the creation of any in-person event and you can contact her at the email address in the chat.   
  
Doctor Theo finished her time with this by speaking at the Fellowship Leadership Conference in DC. This gathering brought together many of the current class of results fellows and even a few alums. They had a special experience. If you're not familiar with it, the fellowship is a unique opportunity for emerging leaders in our network to learn about efficacy and community organizing skills in a really powerful cohort.   
  
Coming to Washington, DC two lobby is a highlight of their year together and the entire advocate network is reinvigorated by the passion and skills of our fellows as they hold meetings in the heart of the nation's capital. We were thrilled to have fellows from all over the country coming together from this event. Your support in this preparation and as they flew to DC and represented you on the hill.   
  
Kristin Klade is going to share her experience.   
  
Kristin, are you there? Feel free to unmute, Kristin.   
  
KRISTIN KLADE:   
Hello. Can you hear me?   
  
LISA MARCHAL:   
We can   
  
KRISTIN KLADE:   
Be part of the RESULTS fellowship on Capitol Hill was an incredible experience will stop it was a little surreal. I've been to DC a couple times before but never to Capitol Hill. It was a mythical thing for me before this experience. I feel like RESULTS made this accessible for me. Without the encouragement from Yolanda and the other RESULTS advocates, I couldn't have imagined myself meeting with my representatives in that capacity and being confident enough to ask for funding and discuss such important and complex issues like SNAP and PV funding, vaccine distribution or the Child Tax Credit.   
  
As a mother of two myself and someone who really believes in civic engagement, I feel like the knowledge and experience I gained was so valuable. And I feel empowered to continue to do this work and encourage others to do so in my community. A major take away had was realizing how easy it was to schedule these meetings and see how receptive they were. The conversations I had to bring in the information I had to offer. With that, want to thank RESULTS for sponsoring the trip and let you know all know how excited I am to continue this work. Thank you.   
  
LISA MARCHAL:   
Thank you for sharing your story! Fabulous!   
  
Now, this brings us to your advocacy work this spring. Let me tell you, you all are power houses. Remember, you have reported 192 congressional meetings just the spring. And that's just what you've reported. We know that more reports are coming in. Don't forget to submit your lobby report forms. And we have over 1/2 a year left or just at 1/2 a year to build on that success.   
  
So, thank you so much, Kristin, for sharing with us. Thank you to everyone for this support, for the tenacity, for the persistence and passion. Thank you for the successful spring. Remember, the push for 350 meetings this spring may be completed by our advocates see and organizing work is far from over. Keep meeting from with members from Congress, take advantage of the support available for your summer convenience, let's gather together and get our communities and Congress on the record for the end of poverty.   
  
Speaking for grassroots power, I'd like to turn over to Lynn Pat Alano who serves as one of the four grassroots members on the results educational fund board and will be introducing you to our candidates for the upcoming and currently open grassroots board member seat and the requisite election that's happening. So, Lynn, tell us all about it.   
  
LYNNE PATALANO:   
Hi, everyone. Thanks. Good to see you on a Saturday.   
  
Hopefully, we'll get to see each other and waving near the end. I'm here right now to talk about the grassroots director committee, the grassroots members of the RESULTS Board of Directors. Just like a lot of organizations, RESULTS has a Board of Directors to oversee and to provide continuity and sometimes guidance and inspiration. But also, to make sure of the long-term sustainability of this organization that we all love.   
  
And unlike like a lot of organizations you might know about, RESULTS has taken our mission to really help citizens break through that barrier with our elected officials by always including a focus on the grassroots volunteers. So, we have in RESULTS four members of our board of directors are always volunteers. Elected by you the volunteers across the volunteer network, so we can represent your ideas and we can bring the perspective of volunteers to all of the Board of Directors meetings - to keep our organization thriving.   
  
This year, there are two wonderful candidates for one open spot on our Board of Directors. And we are going to ask you when we finish here in a minute, to vote. We need a robust and enthusiastic participation from across the volunteer network - to choose the candidate that you would most like to represent your ideas on the Board of Directors and also, someone that would be taking your point of view to the board and keeping you informed of decisions and issues that the board is considering.   
  
So, I'd like to introduce, we have two candidates and their each going to give a little statement about themselves and their candidacy on the board. The first person that we would like to hear from his Elizabeth Brown.   
  
Please unmute and tell us about your work for results, and why you decided to be candidate for the Board of Directors this year.   
  
ELIZABETH BROWN:   
Hello, everyone. I am Elizabeth Brown and I'm one of your candidates for the grassroots board. I live in North Carolina and the co-lead for the RESULTS North Carolina group. I'm also a fellow this year. I have volunteered for results for almost 2 years now, although it feels like it's been much longer. I'm not sure how I retain so much information, but I have...   
I found RESULTS after my mom's passing and immediately knew and felt that my calling was to work in advocacy. I wanted to find a organization that prioritizes for everyday people like myself that people with lived experience of poverty and social injustice. After my experience has come I've been able to see the long and short-term effects that living in poverty can have on the mental, physical, and spiritual well-being of children and adults.   
  
During my time with results, one thing has been abundantly clear to me that is that is a huge disconnect and understanding towards people who live or have lived in poverty from our Congress members. I believe that this lack of knowledge causes a lack of empathy towards these populations and the true way to defeat poverty is through education. Educating our Congress members by giving a real life example and stories that highlight what it is truly like to live in poverty. What it feels like to go into the store and be embarrassed and feel ashamed to swipe your SNAP card, and also not having access to nutritious foods from our past by a ABC store tobacco store on every corner.   
  
Things like what the look back cause would be used for in households and how much support is needed. I'm running for the open grassroots board member position because I want to add to the RESULTS anti-oppression values and continue to support and inspire other advocates to lead, to use their stories and voices to bring effective change to our members of Congress and Archimedes. RESULTS taught me that we are all unique and I saw on numerous occasions how each of our perspectives can in courage Congress members to change their views on a policy completely.   
  
When elected to the grass root board, I promise to uphold our anti-oppression values and work together to ensure that every voice and stories heard because this is how we will change the world.   
  
Thank you all for listening to me and taking the time on this beautiful Saturday to get to know me a little bit and I hope to work with you in the future and hopefully, represent you on the board. Either way, (unknown term) is amazing and you guys are going to learn about her next.   
  
LYNNE PATALANO:   
Thanks so much, Elizabeth. That was awesome. It is going to be a really hard decision for a view volunteers out there, we have two absolutely wonderful candidates and and as Elizabeth just said, the other candidate for the grassroots board position is (Name). Unfortunately, (Name) is not in a place where she had stable internet today, so were going to show now a video of (Name)'s statement about her intentions as a candidate for the Board of Directors.   
  
(Video Plays)   
  
LYNNE PATALANO:   
Ken, we need sound.   
  
KEN PATTERSON:   
Alright. Let me see if I can fix that. One second.   
  
KEN PATTERSON:   
You have it on fullscreen?   
  
LYNNE PATALANO:   
We don't see your screen right now.   
  
KEN PATTERSON:   
Are you seeing her?   
  
LYNNE PATALANO:   
No but we did hear the snippet.   
  
KEN PATTERSON:   
Okay. Let me see if I can put this together here.   
  
(Video Plays)   
  
KASAPO CHIBWE:   
I would like to share a little bit about why would like to become a board member. I joined RESULTS as a (indiscernible) and I saw an opportunity to help understand how advocacy works. I had just taken on a (indiscernible) to the US government and global health. I stayed on after the fellowship and continued as a volunteer because I learned so much and enjoyed working with the group, in Virginia and RESULTS staff. I hope to share my perspective, which has been shared by (indiscernible) as an adult and growing up in (indiscernible).   
  
(Indiscernible) poverty and would like to be part of a group of people continue to take this work forward. Not only globally but domestically as well because as much as the US is a developed country and (indiscernible) the rest of the world, it encounters similar problems. It has people (indiscernible) poverty and we need to continue to shine the light on domestic issues on the fight for global need. My goal has a board member would be to continue and offering a different perspective as needed, thank you for your support.   
  
LYNNE PATALANO:   
The link has been dropped to vote. You can also find these links on the website.   
  
It is very important that we get a robust participation from all the volunteers.   
  
This will be a hard choice. Speak with those who were not on the webinar today. We want widespread support for these candidates. As a new person joins the Board of Directors, they know you have their back. Our voices as volunteers will remain the center of what we do in RESULTS,   
  
JOS LINN:   
Congratulations elizabeth and (Name),   
  
I am the associate director of grassroots impact and RESULTS.   
  
I will close out our call by doing a pull.   
  
Find out who is in the room today.   
  
There will be a poll launched in a couple of seconds. Please let us know how many people are in the room so we can get an accurate account of how many folks are joining us today from around the country. They will take about 30 seconds to fill that out and then go on to our announcements.   
  
75% participation so far. Let's keep going.   
  
We will give it 10 more seconds.   
  
I will do a few announcements now to close out our call.   
  
- As Joanne mentioned earlier in the calm RESULTS is working to raise $350,000 to amplify our work on the children worldwide who face undernutrition. We are so grateful for long time volunteers Alan of helping us triple the funds raised. Your donations will be tripled until we reach our goal. Now would be a good time to do a friends and family fundraiser. The gift is tax deductible.   
- Remember our mantra that poverty cannot and as long as oppression exists. To continue our work to create an inclusive culture we offer grassroots anti-oppression training throughout the year. In June we have two important ones coming up.   
- First next Friday, June 7 at noon Eastern time, please joined dismantling biases on poverty and (indiscernible). Experts on poverty will facilitate the discussions on biases around those who live in poverty. You will learn about lived experience and the knowledge and tools provided in this session will help you build transformational relationships and create inclusive, welcoming environments in your groups with trauma informed advocacy mind. This will be a 90 minute workshop. There should be a link to the registration for that.   
- On Monday, June 17 at 8 PM Eastern we invite you to join us for a workshop facilitated by the DCPeace. It will focus on restorative justice and global conflict. Restorative justice is a philosophy and set of practices that engage the community in building relationships and repairing harm through inclusive dialogue and deep understanding and sure power. This session will be held as a space to openly share how global conflict is impacting you and how you show up as an advocate. This is not going to be in exchange for political or religious ideology. It will be a safe space for expression and how war in other areas of the world are affecting us prospectively.   
This will be a two hour webinar.   
The link to the registration will be in the chat.   
For both of these webinars, space is limited.   
They will not be recorded.   
  
- Are you curious about learning new ways to enhance your advocacy skills? Do you feel there are too many barriers in place to stop you from havingâ€¦ Ha motivate change. Techniques can help you provide some insight on how to be engaging, collaborative and provocative.   
No prior knowledge to participate   
June 12 at 8 PM ET.   
We will be having a more extended MI training coming up later on in the fall   
  
Throughout the rest of the slides here you can see all the support calls, training calls, office hours we are making available to you. You are welcome to join any of these that will be helpful to you. Please reach out to the grassroots team if you have any questions.   
  
The RESULTS office will be closed on June 19.   
  
You can find all of these slides on our website on national webinars. Salaams presentation will not be on the website. If you want to hear his presentation again listen to the recording.   
  
Check out our events calendar for all events coming up.   
  
Reminder of our July webinar on Saturday, July 13 at 1 PM. That is a week later than normal.   
  
We are hosting a webinar on advocacy during election season. From August through October we want to talk to as many candidates as possible to get them on the record to address poverty. We will build on our June in-person meetings by engaging in advocacy campaign and (indiscernible)   
  
Talking to candidates this election season will help us set up for success in the new Congress next year.   
  
Please join us on July 13.   
  
In conclusion I will ask Ken to open the lines here. Today June 1 is national say something nice day. It is also national dare day. I dare you to say something nice to five people you meet. You can start right now.   
  
You all look great.   
  
(Multiple speakers)   
  
(End of Webinar)   
  
Live Captioning by Ai-Media

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