



DFW Advocacy Chapter with RESULTS

Sept. Webinar: On the Frontline of COVID Advocacy

Sept. 16, 2020



Goals for Today






- Share your actions and successes and check in on our support structure
- Prepare to take action to leverage national media on need for COVID-19 response
- Support you to continue getting published



Zoom Instructions



- We want to hear from you, but please stay muted unless speaking. To unmute, click the microphone  icon, dial *6 on the phone, or raise your hand  so we can unmute you.
- Also share comments and/or questions using the “Chat”  icon



Welcome New Advocates



- Partnership between DFW and RESULTS
- Welcome those who are new to the chapter
- No advocacy experience required, but it does require us venturing **outside our comfort zones**—that's what it takes to make a difference.

Let's do this together!



What are We Trying to Do as Advocates?



We work in a non-partisan way to influence our decision makers in Congress, guiding them toward solutions that will positively impact the lives of women, girls, and children living in poverty.



What are We Trying to Do as Advocates?



Assess where our members of Congress are on the Champion Scale, then move them up



- 4 Champion
- 3 Leader
- 2 Advocate
- 1 Supporter
- 0 Uninformed or Neutral
- 1 Opponent



2020 Campaigns



Improve maternal health and child survival:

1. Ensure the US is funding maternal & child health, child vaccinations, and child nutrition at robust levels for FY21 (In progress—unclear what will happen)
2. Ensure the US pledges to fund Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance's 5-year work plan (Complete—successful!!)
3. **COVID-19 RESPONSE: ADDED & in progress**
4. Ensure that US and world leaders make serious commitments to end child malnutrition (pushed to 2021)



Let's Hear from You



- What actions have you taken?
- What has it been like for you?
- What does it feel like to take action through advocacy?



How Are We Doing?



- State introductions
- Follow up calls and emails
- Questionnaire to find best times to meet



Normal Spending or “Appropriations” Process

- Feb: President’s Budget: Around \$4 trillion these days
- Congress: Budget resolution defines spending caps
- Appropriations committee & subcommittees carve up budget into 13 spending bills
- House & Senate agree on bills, send to President to sign before October 1 (start of new fiscal year)

Ref.: <https://results.org/resources/government-funding-cheat-sheet/>



Where Are Things Now?



- No agreement on COVID-19 emergency response supplemental bill (on top of regular appropriations)
- Government still needs to be funded for fiscal year (FY) 2021 by October 1



Possible Outcomes



- Congress passes “continuing resolution” to fund at least part of FY21
- No supplemental is passed until after the elections
- Problem Solvers Caucus in the House encourages bipartisan solution before elections



Why is DFW working on Covid?

The word "results" in white, lowercase letters, inside a red speech bubble shape.

- Around 435 million women and girls will be living on less than \$1.90 a day by 2021, including 47 million pushed into poverty as a result of COVID-19, according to the new U.N. findings...Unless Congress acts, progress could be set back 10-20 years on AIDS, TB, malaria, vaccinations, maternal and child deaths, etc.
- “The evidence we have here of multiple inequalities is critical to drive swift, restorative policy action that puts women at the heart of pandemic recovery,” said UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka in a media statement.

--Article: Pandemic is widening poverty gap between women and men, new UN findings show, 9/2/20



Why is DFW working on Covid?

results

- NY Times Article, 9/11/20: *"The Other Way Covid Will Kill: Hunger.* Worldwide, the population facing life-threatening levels of food insecurity is expected to double, to more than a quarter of a billion people."
- "We hear our children screaming in hunger, but there is nothing that we can do," said Ms. Bibi, speaking in Pashto by telephone from a hospital in the capital city of Kabul, where her 6-year-old daughter was being treated for severe malnutrition. "That is not just our situation, but the reality for most of the families where we live."



Why is DFW working on Covid?

results

- “Worldwide, the number of children younger than 5 caught in a state of so-called wasting — their weight so far below normal that they face an elevated risk of death, along with long-term health and developmental problems — is likely to grow by nearly seven million this year, or 14 percent, according to a recent paper published in The Lancet, a medical journal.”
- “The largest numbers of vulnerable communities are concentrated in South Asia and Africa, especially in countries that are already confronting trouble, from military conflict and extreme poverty to climate-related afflictions like drought, flooding and soil erosion.”



Why is DFW working on Covid?

results

- “Lockdowns imposed to halt the pandemic will this year deprive 250 million children in poor countries of scheduled supplements of Vitamin A, elevating the threat of premature death, according to UNICEF. The supplements strengthen the immune system, limiting vulnerability to diseases that opportunistically exploit malnutrition.”



Why is DFW working on Covid?

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The children's hospital in Kabul. Worldwide, the number of children younger than 5 caught in a state of so-called wasting is expected to grow by nearly seven million this year, or 14 percent. Jim Huylebroek for The New York Times



Why is DFW working on Covid?

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“In only half a year, the coronavirus pandemic has wiped out decades of global development in everything from health to the economy. Progress has not only stopped, but has regressed in areas like getting people out of poverty and improving conditions for women and children around the world, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation finds in its 2020 Goalkeepers report published Monday...’In other words, we’ve been set back about 25 years in about 25 weeks,’ the report says. ‘What the world does in the next months matters a great deal.’

--Politico: 25 years wiped out in 25 weeks: Pandemic sets the world back decades. 9/14/20



Why is DFW working on Covid?

A red speech bubble containing the word "results" in white, lowercase, sans-serif font.

“Global action to stop the pandemic would prevent illness and deaths caused by Covid-19, but there's more at stake: The crisis sets back strides made in global poverty, HIV transmission, malnutrition, gender equality, education and many more areas. Even if the world manages to get the coronavirus under control soon, it could take years to claw back lost progress...’We’re at the real cusp moment at how you can tackle this and how long-term the effects are,’ Mark Suzman, the CEO of the Gates Foundation, told POLITICO.”

--Politico: 25 years wiped out in 25 weeks: Pandemic sets the world back decades. 9/14/20



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“These newly impoverished people are likely to be more women who work mostly in informal jobs in low- and middle-income countries. And the coronavirus's bad news for women doesn't stop there.

“Indirectly, COVID will cause more women than men to suffer and die, in large part because the pandemic has disrupted health care before, during, and immediately after childbirth,” the report says. Newborns are at risk too, as more infants are likely to die when health systems falter — as is happening now around the world.”

--Politico: 25 years wiped out in 25 weeks: Pandemic sets the world back decades. 9/14/20



What are We Advocating For?



- To convince House and Senate leaders that a global pandemic requires a significant global response in a supplemental COVID spending bill. RESULTS is asking:
 - At least \$20 billion for development assistance overall
 - \$4 billion over 2 years for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and malaria
 - \$4 billion Gavi, the Vaccines Alliance
 - \$2 billion for hunger/famine relief with \$500 million to address child nutrition and wasting



Taking Action



Tomorrow, you will receive a sample message from me that you can send to your Rep. and Senators. It will include links to 2 media compilations of hundreds of pieces of media DFW & RESULTS have generated on our global and US requests for the Covid supplemental bill. Please send it to all of your congressional offices via email, their websites, social media



Taking Action: Message



Elections are coming up and many Americans and people living in low-income nations are suffering direct and indirect effects of COVID. Americans will go to the polls frustrated and disappointed that Congress can't even come together around a global pandemic emergency. Where is the leadership? Where is the action?

In the media compilations below you'll find people from around the national, and our state, calling on the you for leadership and action on rental assistance, food, and global health assistance for suffering people.

- Media on US poverty and COVID (201 pieces of media from 35 states)
- Media on global poverty and COVID (124 pieces of media from 29 states)

Will you please think creatively about what you can do to break the impasse? Whatever you traditionally do with your party and in your chamber is working. Can you do something different to pressure leadership to come together to help people in these desperate times?



Finding Staff Info. on Congress



- RESULTS website
- “Current Volunteers”
- Legislator Look Up, enter address
- “Staff” tab has name of Legislative Director



Staff Email Addresses



Senate Staff Email addresses:

- `Firstname_lastname@SenatorLastName.senate.gov`
- Example: `John_Henry@Burr.senate.gov`

House Staff Email Addresses:

- `Firstname.lastname@mail.house.gov`
- Example: `Jennifer.Henry@mail.house.gov`



Taking Action

- Continue generating media—it matters

Cornyn, Senate should pass a relief package

Re: Aug. 16 article, "Americans waiting on help, but Congress is in recess."

I am appalled that the Senate recessed for three weeks without passing emergency legislation to address the pandemic and economic crisis. Sen. John Cornyn shows he is a leader by standing behind Sen. Mitch McConnell on TV. How about he and his colleagues take action to deal with the emergency America faces?

Sen. Cornyn and the Senate need to go back to work and pass a COVID-19 package that provides \$100 billion emergency rental assistance to avert the catastrophe of 20 million Americans evicted. What about the more than 25 million workers who got their last \$600 supplement with their unemployment check at the end of July? And, according to experts, they need to provide \$20 billion to keep the wheels from falling off international humanitarian health work.

This is a real crisis for real Americans. We need real leaders who will take real action right now.

Mark Coats, Austin

Cornyn: I'll keep fighting for more pandemic relief

Re: Aug. 18 letter to the editor, "Cornyn, Senate should pass a relief package."

In his Aug. 18 letter, a writer expressed his desire for Congress to do more to help Texans suffering from the economic consequences of the pandemic. We've passed five coronavirus relief packages so far, and I share his frustration that we're stalled on a sixth.

To date, Congress has passed trillions of dollars in coronavirus relief, including \$312 billion in public health funding and \$28 billion for COVID-19 testing. We've sent recovery checks of up to \$1,200 per individual, boosted unemployment benefits with an additional \$600 per week, and appropriated more than \$25 billion to help Americans suffering from food insecurity.

Still, we need to do more for Texans who are out of a job through no fault of their own. I support an extension of enhanced federal unemployment benefits, another round of recovery checks, and more funding for schools and child-care. I'll keep fighting to deliver that for Texans.

**John Cornyn,
U.S. Senator, Austin**

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Influence of Letters to the Editor



Q & A





Important Dates



- October 21 at 8:30 pm ET. DFW Advocacy Chapter with RESULTS
- DFW Virtual Chapter Meetings. Find more info. here: <https://diningforwomen.org/virtual-meetings/>