

The RESULTS logo consists of the word "results" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, colored in a dark blue. It is contained within a white speech bubble shape with rounded corners and a small tail pointing towards the bottom-left.

RESULTS Print Media: Global Poverty

January 1 – December 31, 2023

Date	State	Article	Outlet	Media Type	Topic
<u>Go to Arizona media</u>					
1/9/23	AZ	Making a difference working together!	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor	Global TB
9/22/23	AZ	Millions missing out on education	Lake Havasu News-Herald	Letter to the editor	Global education
<u>Go to California media</u>					
3/19/23	CA	Back efforts to fight food insecurity	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Global child health/nutrition
3/19/23	CA	Back efforts to fight food insecurity	Mercury News	Letter to the editor	Global child health/nutrition
6/27/23	CA	DeSaulnier must sign on to bill targeting TB	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Global TB
6/27/23	CA	DeSaulnier must sign on to bill targeting TB	Mercury News	Letter to the editor	Global TB
6/28/23	CA	Let's redouble efforts against TB	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Global TB
6/28/23	CA	Let's redouble efforts against TB	Mercury News	Letter to the editor	Global TB
7/5/23	CA	Support bill to boost fight against TB	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Global TB
7/5/23	CA	Support bill to boost fight against TB	Mercury News	Letter to the editor	Global TB
9/20/23	CA	Encourage Congress to lead on TB fight	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Global TB

9/20/23	CA	Encourage Congress to lead on TB fight	Mercury News	Letter to the editor	Global TB
11/10/23	CA	Renew READ Act to boost education	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Global TB
11/10/23	CA	Renew READ Act to boost education	Mercury News	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/8/23	CA	Bill promises to 'lift all boats' with education	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Global education
12/8/23	CA	Bill promises to 'lift all boats' with education	Mercury News	Letter to the editor	Global education

Go to Connecticut media

3/16/23	CT	A chance to eradicate the world's largest killer	Greenwich Time	Op-ed	Global TB
3/16/23	CT	A chance to eradicate the world's largest killer	Stamford Advocate	Op-ed	Global TB
3/16/23	CT	A chance to eradicate the world's largest killer	The Hour	Op-ed	Global TB
3/16/23	CT	A chance to eradicate the world's largest killer	The Register Citizen	Op-ed	Global TB
3/16/23	CT	A chance to eradicate the world's largest killer	New Haven Register	Op-ed	Global TB
3/16/23	CT	A chance to eradicate the world's largest killer	Connecticut Post	Op-ed	Global TB
3/16/23	CT	A chance to eradicate the world's largest killer	News Times	Op-ed	Global TB
3/16/23	CT	A chance to eradicate the world's largest killer	The Trumbull Times	Op-ed	Global TB
3/16/23	CT	A chance to eradicate the world's largest killer	The Middletown Press	Op-ed	Global TB

3/16/23	CT	A chance to eradicate the world's largest killer	CT Insider	Op-ed	Global TB
6/16/23	CT	Don't let guard down in battle vs. tuberculosis	Hartford Courant	Letter to the editor	Global TB
6/16/23	CT	Don't let guard down in battle vs. tuberculosis	Hartford Courant	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/11/23	CT	Urgent call to fund End TB Now Act	The Trumbull Times	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/11/23	CT	Urgent call to fund End TB Now Act	The Middletown Press	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/11/23	CT	Urgent call to fund End TB Now Act	Stamford Advocate	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/11/23	CT	Urgent call to fund End TB Now Act	Greenwich Time	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/11/23	CT	Urgent call to fund End TB Now Act	The Hour	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/11/23	CT	Urgent call to fund End TB Now Act	The Register Citizen	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/11/23	CT	Urgent call to fund End TB Now Act	New Haven Register	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/11/23	CT	Urgent call to fund End TB Now Act	Connecticut Post	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/11/23	CT	Urgent call to fund End TB Now Act	News Times	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/11/23	CT	Urgent call to fund End TB Now Act	CT Insider	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/19/23	CT	The imminent catastrophe of TB	Stamford Advocate	Letter to the editor	Global TB

12/19/23	CT	The imminent catastrophe of TB	The Trumbull Times	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/19/23	CT	The imminent catastrophe of TB	The Middletown Press	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/19/23	CT	The imminent catastrophe of TB	Greenwich Time	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/19/23	CT	The imminent catastrophe of TB	The Hour	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/19/23	CT	The imminent catastrophe of TB	The Register Citizen	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/19/23	CT	The imminent catastrophe of TB	New Haven Register	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/19/23	CT	The imminent catastrophe of TB	Connecticut Post	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/19/23	CT	The imminent catastrophe of TB	News Times	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/19/23	CT	The imminent catastrophe of TB	CT Insider	Letter to the editor	Global TB

[Go to Florida media](#)

6/4/23	FL	Stop this disease	Tampa Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Global TB
7/12/23	FL	Fighting disease	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor	Global TB
7/14/23	FL	Bring it forward	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor	Global TB

[Go to Illinois media](#)

9/20/23	IL	Global education crisis is a problem America can help fix	Chicago Sun-Times	Letter to the editor	Global education
<u>Go to Indiana media</u>					
2/8/23	IN	Parts of budget bill worthy of GOP nod	Northwest Indiana Times	Letter to the editor	Global TB
4/16/23	IN	Global Alliance for Vaccination needed	Northwest Indiana Times	Letter to the editor	Global Fund, GAVI
6/11/23	IN	End threat from tuberculosis	The Herald-Times	Letter to the editor	Global TB
10/4/23	IN	Supporting the READ Act shows we value education	Indianapolis Star	Letter to the editor	Global education
<u>Go to Massachusetts media</u>					
7/23/23	MA	US must back global literacy	The Republican	Letter to the editor	Global education
7/25/23	MA	US must continue to support global education	The Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor	Global education
9/24/23	MA	US must lead on global ed	The Republican	Letter to the editor	Global education
<u>Go to Minnesota media</u>					
12/29/23	MN	Federal READ Act: A call to Minnesota reps	Star-Tribune	Letter to the editor	Global education
<u>Go to Missouri media</u>					
1/12/23	MO	New members of Congress should support global health	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor	Global TB, global health

1/14/23	MO	Powerful Missouri lawmakers need input from voters	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Global TB, tax policy, housing
1/24/23	MO	Congress must support emergency AIDS relief	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor	PEPFAR
1/30/23	MO	Life-Saving AIDS Relief	Webster-Kirkwood Times	Letter to the editor	PEPFAR
2/2/23	MO	US foreign aid helps all humanity, including Americans	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Global health
3/21/23	MO	Restore focus and resources to global tuberculosis fight	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Global TB
3/29/23	MO	Keep the momentum going to fight HIV/AIDS	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor	PEPFAR
5/12/23	MO	Don't cut anti-poverty programs	Phelps County Focus	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling; SNAP, Medicaid, U.S. and global budget cuts
5/16/23	MO	Support legislation to improve global health	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor	Global TB, PEPFAR
6/6/23	MO	AIDS is still a global scourge that requires U.S. assistance	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	PEPFAR
6/21/23	MO	Global issue needs attention—and action	St. Louis Jewish Light	Letter to the editor	PEPFAR
7/5/23	MO	Bipartisan push is underway to finally end global tuberculosis	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Global TB
7/17/23	MO	Congress has an opportunity to finally eradicate tuberculosis	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Global TB
7/19/23	MO	Congress can make a difference in war against tuberculosis	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor	Global TB
10/17/23	MO	Missouri's congressional delegation should support measure to end TB	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor	Global TB

10/18/23	MO	Tuberculosis is still a threat. This legislation addresses it.	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Global TB
10/19/23	MO	Support reauthorization of the READ Act	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor	Global education
10/27/23	MO	Sophomore Influences Policy on Global Issues	The Messenger	News article	Global TB, global education
10/28/23	MO	US Rep. Ann Wagner should embrace bipartisanship, not swear it off	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Global TB, global education
12/12/23	MO	Reauthorizing the READ Act will foster education globally	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Global education

[Go to Nebraska media](#)

2/26/23	NE	H.R. 1776	Omaha World-Herald	Letter to the editor	Global TB
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[Go to Nevada media](#)

2/26/23	NV	Help Africa fight tuberculosis	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/21/23	NV	TB scare must be taken seriously	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Global TB

[Go to New Mexico media](#)

6/23/23	NM	We need to continue progress on TB	Albuquerque Journal	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/6/23	NM	Power of reading	Santa Fe New Mexican	Letter to the editor	Global education

[Go to New York media](#)

10/21/23	NY	Asks Rep. Stefanik to support Child Tax Credit	The Post Star	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, global TB, global education
12/24/23	NY	Unfinished business	NY Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit, global TB, global education

[Go to North Carolina media](#)

3/5/23	NC	US must prioritize health and education programs in budget	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor	Global Fund, TB, global nutrition, global education, global maternal/child health
6/11/23	NC	Budd, Tillis should support the End Tuberculosis Now Act	Mooresville Tribune	Letter to the editor	Global TB

[Go to North Dakota media](#)

7/5/23	ND	Congress must pass End TB No Act	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor	Global TB
11/4/23	ND	Congress should pass the READ Act Reauthorization	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor	Global education

[Go to Ohio media](#)

5/15/23	OH	Tuberculosis is a continuing killer that can be stopped	Cleveland Plain Dealer	Letter to the editor	Global TB
9/27/23	OH	End Tuberculosis Now Act seeks to amplify important fight against this deadly disease	Cleveland Plain Dealer	Letter to the editor	Global TB
10/21/23	OH	Don't let our guard down in the fight against TB	Elyria Chronicle Telegram	Letter to the editor	Global TB
12/5/23	OH	Congress should reauthorize funding for AIDS relief	Elyria Chronicle Telegram	Letter to the editor	PEPFAR

[Go to Oregon media](#)

9/28/23	OR	Senators should reauthorize READ Act	Rogue Valley Times	Letter to the editor	Global education
10/7/23	OR	The READ Act is up for reauthorization	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor	Global education
10/7/23	OR	The READ Act is up for reauthorization	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor	Global education
11/16/23	OR	Renew the Child Tax Credit	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor	Global education, Child Tax Credit
12/21/23	OR	Thanks for Giving Us an Opinion Forum	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor	Global tuberculosis, Child Tax Credit,

Go to Pennsylvania media

10/23/23	PA	Noble future	Philadelphia Inquirer	Letter to the editor	Global education
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Go to Tennessee media

5/21/22	TN	COVID emergency over; now lets fight to eradicate TB	Oak Ridger	Letter to the editor	Global TB
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Go to Texas media

1/7/23	TX	Resume fight against TB	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor	Global TB
3/12/23	TX	Women can't wait 300 years	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor	Global education
3/24/23	TX	TB is not a relic; why stopping it should be a priority	Austin American-Statesman	Op-ed	Global TB
6/11/23	TX	Why debt limit agreement spending caps will punish those who live in the margins	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, Global TB

6/18/23	TX	Please support this bill	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor	Global vaccines
7/6/23	TX	Support End TB Now Act	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor	Global TB
8/3/23	TX	Support lifesaving program	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor	PEPFAR
8/3/23	TX	Congress, it's time to act	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor	PEPFAR
8/27/23	TX	Literacy is a global issue	San Antonio Express-News	Letter to the editor	Global education
8/27/23	TX	US can step up to meet global targets to defeat tuberculosis	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor	Global TB
9/10/23	TX	New bill would help marginalized children access a quality education	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor	Global education
9/17/23	TX	Ask Texas lawmakers to support READ Act Reauthorization bills	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor	Global education
9/25/23	TX	Making a commitment	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor	SDGs
10/7/23	TX	Time for tuberculosis vaccines	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor	Global TB
11/11/23	TX	How to thank Rep. Granger	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor	Global education
11/16/23	TX	TB should not be this kind of problem	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor	Global TB
11/18/23	TX	2 Rep. Kay Granger	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor	Global development
12/1/23	TX	We've come so far	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor	PEPFAR

12/20/23	TX	Reauthorize READ Act	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor	Global education
<u>Go to Utah media</u>					
5/9/23	UT	Debt ceiling: Utah lawmakers weren't hired to play chicken with our economy or use extortion	Salt Lake Tribune	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling; U.S. and global budget cuts
6/24/23	UT	We can't halt funding for AIDS relief	Deseret News	Letter to the editor	PEPFAR
11/14/23	UT	Want to change the world? This man has a formula	Deseret News	Op-ed	Global maternal and child health, advocacy
<u>Go to Washington media</u>					
2/19/23	WA	We can save lives by making TB a priority	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Global TB
3/15/23	WA	Speaking Up	University of Washington Magazine	Letter to the editor	Education
3/18/23	WA	Tuberculosis Vaccine News	The News Tribune	Letter to the editor	Global TB
3/28/23	WA	U.S. can be a leader in eradicating TB	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Global TB
4/30/23	WA	Global nutrition remain a priority	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Global child nutrition
5/27/23	WA	Tuberculosis Requires Bold Action	The News Tribune	Letter to the editor	Global TB
6/3/23	WA	No title	The News-Tribune	Letter to the editor	Global TB
6/16/23	WA	Thanks Rep. Newhouse	Tri-City Herald	Letter to the editor	Global child nutrition, Global

					education, Child Tax Credit
6/21/23	WA	We can fight tuberculosis with the Stop TB Now Act	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor	Global TB
7/2/23	WA	Stop TB Now Act: Ask your political leaders to help fight TB	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor	Global TB
9/20/23	WA	Global Education	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor	Global education
9/23/23	WA	Support global education	The Columbian	Letter to the editor	Global education
9/25/23	WA	Tell Congress to protect our vulnerable children	Yakima Herald-Republic	Letter to the editor	Global education
9/30/23	WA	Provide support for education	The Columbian	Letter to the editor	Global education
11/17/23	WA	Rep. Derek Kilmer: Thank you	The Seattle Times	Letter to the editor	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, Malaria, global TB, global education, Child Tax Credit
11/29/23	WA	Inspiration and Hope	University of Washington Magazine	Letter to the editor	Global Fund to Fight AIDS/TB/Malaria, PEPFAR, global tuberculosis
11/30/23	WA	Honor Carter's legacy of caring for people in need	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Global education, global TB, Child Tax Credit
12/14/23	WA	Thanks to Rep. Kilmer for standing up on behalf of kids	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, global tuberculosis, global education
12/20/23	WA	No title	Cascadia Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, global tuberculosis, global education
12/27/23	WA	TB needs more effort in Congress to end threat	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor	Global TB

[Go to West Virginia media](#)

9/27/23	WV	Children need Congress to pass the READ Reauthorization Act	Times West Virginian	Letter to the editor	Global education
<u>Go to Wisconsin media</u>					
7/23/23	WI	Work together and put an end to tuberculosis	Wisconsin State Journal	Letter to the editor	Global TB
<u>Go to Wyoming media</u>					
5/18/23	WY	Please urge Congress to pass the End TB Now Act this year	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Letter to the editor	Global TB
6/22/23	WY	Cutting PEPFAR program would be a deliberate choice to kill people	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Letter to the editor	PEPFAR
9/27/23	WY	A small financial gift now could end tuberculosis for good worldwide	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Letter to the editor	Global TB
10/28/23	WY	Wyoming delegation, please help get READ Act for basic education reauthorized	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Letter to the editor	Global education
<u>Go to National media</u>					
5/27/23	US	Tuberculosis Requires Bold Action	Yahoo News	Letter to the editor	Global TB

Arizona media



Making a difference working together!

January 9, 2023

Re: the Dec. 10 article "Jim Kolbe represented the best in all of us, and he'll be missed."

Dear Editor,

Thanks to David Fitzsimmons for his heartfelt memories of Congressman Jim Kolbe. As a volunteer with RESULTS (results.org), we worked with Rep. Kolbe to introduce and cosponsor bipartisan legislation to further America's compassionate work on global health. I am sure he would be working today to pass the End TB Now Act (S.3386/H.R.8654), directing the U.S. Agency for International Development to set bold targets to reach and treat the most vulnerable populations for all forms of tuberculosis: global action for local protection. Congressman Jim Kolbe definitely "represented the best in all of us." We can be grateful for the work he did and the example he set, and be inspired to participate in our democracy to make a difference in our country and the world.

- Willie Dickerson, Northwest side

https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-making-a-difference-working-together/article_b5897db8-902e-11ed-acd2-c70e4496ec6e.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Millions missing out on education

September 22, 2023

As we settle our children into school this year, alarming global education data has emerged. Despite the world's commitment to providing quality education to all children by 2030, UNESCO reports that a staggering 250 million school-age children are still out of school, a rise of 6 million in 2021. Shockingly, this means that one in six children worldwide is missing out on education! To meet our 2030 goals, we must enroll a child in school every two seconds from now until then.

However, there is hope on the horizon. The READ Act Reauthorization of 2023 aims to tackle this crisis head-on. By enhancing U.S. leadership in global education, the READ Act ensures that every vulnerable child has equal access to a quality education. With a proven track record of building strong partnerships and yielding positive results, the READ Act has the power to put the world back on track with education, especially for girls and young people in conflict-affected nations. It is crucial that our senators and representatives cosponsor the READ Act (H.R. 681, S.41) and champion its passage through Congress by the end of September. We cannot afford to wait when it comes to education.

- Unknown

https://www.havasunews.com/opinion/letter-millions-missing-out-on-education/article_06cbad1e-58ce-11ee-b5d4-9b1beaacde2.html

California media

EAST BAY TIMES

Back efforts to fight food insecurity

March 19, 2023

Growing up I never faced food insecurity. I did not realize how prevalent it is until I started volunteering at a food pantry. As a volunteer, I was shocked to see how many people relied on the pantry. I remember one mother tearing up as she mentioned this was one of the few options, she had to feed herself and her children. Her emotions show how deleterious food insecurity is. In fact, per the United Nations in 2020, a decades-long decline in food insecurity was interrupted and an increase was seen due to the pandemic.

This increase is a call to urge Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla to sign Sens. Susan Collins and Jeanne Shaheen's letter, Support Robust Funding for Global Maternal and Child Health, including Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and Nutrition in Global Health. Now is the time to reverse the global impacts of the pandemic and fight food insecurity.

- Amanpreet Kler, Union City

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2023/03/17/letters-1199/>

Reprinted in:

The Mercury News

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/03/17/letters-1199/>

EAST BAY TIMES

DeSaulnier must sign on to bill targeting TB

June 27, 2023

We really appreciate our Congressman, Mark DeSaulnier. He must be one of the busiest and most dedicated of all our representatives, often hosting one or two town halls a week here in Contra Costa County.

He is very approachable to requests from us as constituents, especially when it comes to helping people in need.

Personally, I am interested in global poverty issues as well as local ones, and, he has, in the past, supported both domestic and global poverty issues when they come up in Congress.

That is why I am wondering if there is a reason why he has not signed onto the End TB Now Act, H.R.1776, which was introduced in the current Congress last March, even though some of us here who are very interested in this issue have personally gone to his office with the request that he do so.

- Tari Nicholson, Martinez

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2023/06/26/letters-1318/>

Reprinted in:

The Mercury News

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/06/26/letters-1318/>

EAST BAY TIMES

Let's redouble efforts against TB

June 28, 2023

As the COVID-19 pandemic wanes, tuberculosis, COVID's older and quieter sibling, either has or is about to regain the title of the world's most deadly infectious disease. Until COVID came along in 2020, global deaths from TB were steadily dropping. Once TB resources were diverted to combat COVID, however, the toll from TB increased to 1.6 million dead in 2021. That's a heavy price for millions of orphans to pay for adults' and their governments' inability to effectively fight two simultaneous pandemics.

The End Tuberculosis Now Act (H.R. 1776) calls for the United States to better reach those most affected by TB and to work better with entities such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to ensure taxpayer dollars are effectively spent with accountability. Thanks to Rep. Eric Swalwell who has already co-sponsored the act. I hope Reps. Mark DeSaulnier and Mike Thompson do the same.

- Jim Driggers, Concord

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2023/06/27/letters-1320/>

Reprinted in:

The Mercury News

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/06/27/letters-1320/>

EAST BAY TIMES

Support bill to boost fight against TB

July 5, 2023

Before COVID, TB was the biggest infectious killer, and it will be again because the COVID fighting infrastructure drew from existing TB fighting resources.

I'd like to join recent letter writers in their requests to their members of Congress to support expanded funding to control tuberculosis. My congresswoman is Barbara Lee, and I thank her for her past championship of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and other programs to stop TB. Please support HR 1776.

- Sue Oehser, Oakland

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2023/07/04/letters-1327/>

Reprinted in:

The Mercury News

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/07/04/letters-1327/>

EAST BAY TIMES

Encourage Congress to lead on TB fight

September 20, 2023

On Sept. 22, the United Nations will hold a high-level meeting in New York City about ending the world's greatest killer in history, tuberculosis.

We were making great progress in ending TB until COVID hit, causing the diversion of resources away from TB. The U.N. meeting is a chance to get back on track to end TB once and for all. The United States can show strong leadership by passing the End TB Now Act, H.R. 1776, which is now ready for a vote in both the House and the Senate.

Thanks to Reps. Zoe Lofgren, Ro Khanna and Eric Swalwell for co-sponsoring the bill. We can help by asking Reps. Anna Eshoo and Kevin Mullin also to co-sponsor the End TB Now Act.

- John Tupper, San Jose

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2023/09/19/letters-1417/>

Reprinted in:

The Mercury News

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/09/19/letters-1417/>

EAST BAY TIMES

Renew READ Act to boost education

November 10, 2023

UNESCO reports that 250 million children had no access to school last year. The World Bank says that each year of school adds a 9% increase in hourly earnings, driving long-term economic growth, stronger institutions and more-stable societies. We need more of that everywhere.

We need to prod Congress to pass the READ Act Reauthorization of 2023, which seeks to address this education crisis. The READ Act boosts U.S. leadership on global education to ensure all children have access to quality education. The READ Act builds strong partnerships and delivers results. The READ Act will empower the world to ensure access to education, particularly for girls and young people in conflict-ridden nations.

- John Tupper, San Jose

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2023/11/09/letters-1482/>

Reprinted in:

The Mercury News

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/11/09/letters-1482/>

EAST BAY TIMES

Bill promises to 'lift all boats' with education

December 7, 2023

Re: "Renew READ Act to boost education" (Page A6, Dec. 10).

John Tupper's letter about the reauthorization of the READ Act points out how its passage by Congress would help some of the world's 250 million children currently living in poverty receive an education.

The saying that a "rising tide lifts all ships" is an example of what happens when as adults they can earn more, are less likely to be exploited, and can make their own decisions that will give them the freedom to live a much more satisfying life.

This is how we begin to create a safer and more productive world for all of us.

The Senate has already passed this bill. Please contact your congressional representative to urge passage in the House.

- Bill Nicholson, Martinez

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2023/12/06/letters-1519/>

Reprinted in:

The Mercury News

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/12/06/letters-1519/>

Connecticut media



A chance to eradicate the world's largest killer

By Sandra Eagle

March 16, 2023

Why aren't American children vaccinated against tuberculosis — the largest infectious killer?

One out of three people globally carry the bacterium that can activate any time our immune systems become compromised, as in COVID, diabetes, obesity, and other diseases. The CDC estimates there are 13 million of us in the United States living with dormant TB. More than 10.6 million people became sick with TB in 2021, and 1.6 million people died of it, and another 4 million are going untreated or undertreated.

It's for the same reason that up until 2014, the only diagnostic test we had for it, required individuals living in extreme poverty to find their way to travel to a distant clinic, give a sputum sample and be sent home to return in six weeks for the results. Obviously so many more people, including through the villages traveled through, were infected in those six weeks, and often the person was not able to return for treatment.

It's for the same reason that treatment, including for my brother here in Connecticut, who got sick with MDRTB, involved 18-24 months of intensely debilitating meds that often left one with neurological damage (including deafness), at tremendous economic loss to the countries where it is epidemic, and a cost of \$250,000-\$1 million dollars to treat in the United States.

Why aren't Americans vaccinated against TB? Because the current vaccine was made in 1921, and has variable effectiveness, would interfere with the TB skin testing we do on children and is contraindicated for those with auto-immune suppression.

We in the United States have been playing Russian Roulette with TB for years. We have our experience of COVID-19 to know that our economy would be devastated and our health care system would collapse, should an epidemic of TB spike here.

There are seven factors converging that make now an inflection point for eradicating the scourge of TB by 2030, as is the UN sustainable goal.

1. That the entire world is now awake to the devastation of a pandemic, and a TB pandemic is one we can avoid by taking the right steps.
2. UN attention is on TB. The first high-level UN meeting on TB took place in 2018, made great commitments only to have those commitments drafted into fighting COVID-19 once the pandemic hit. The second UN high level meeting will be this September to get back on track with those commitments.
3. New leadership. Countries are stepping up, with leaders such as Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, who is hosting the G-20 with TB as its centerpiece.
4. Bold plans. USAID goals to diagnose, treat, and cure 90 percent of TB patients
5. New Legislation. The End TB Now Act holds USAID accountable for effective treatment of TB.
6. Better Treatment. The only new medications for TB in 50 years were developed in 2014, reducing the 2½ years Rx of MDRTB to nine months, and by today to six months. Likewise the first new diagnostic device was developed: the Gene-Xpert Device can diagnosis and treat within the same visit. And it can diagnose not only TB, but also COVID, Ebola, and other diseases categorized as bio-terrorism diseases for their ability to devastate, and HIV. Research and innovation is funded through our USAID bilateral TB account.

To get these innovations rolled out to the villages and countries that need them require funding that comes from The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria, and TB.

7. New research. There is a new vaccine in the pipeline, one that would be effective even after being exposed to an infected person. One that could be given to American children if we so chose. There is also being able to self-diagnose with a swab at home, as we have for COVID, being innovated.

This is the inflection point, our opportunity to eradicate TB, the world's largest infectious killer, larger than the COVID-19 pandemic, simultaneously creating a

stronger global health system, and a platform for pandemic preparedness. And all that is missing to make it happen is political commitments and funding.

Please contact your representative, Jim Himes, Rosa DeLauro, John Larson, Joe Courtney, Jahana Hayes, and our senators, Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal, in Connecticut, or your member of Congress from your state, asking them to:

1. Co-sponsor The End TB Now Act.
2. Submit personal appropriations request supporting \$1 billion for bilateral TB, and \$2 billion (already pledged by President Joe Biden at the last pledging conference) for the Global Fund?
3. Advocate for U.S. leadership at the UN high level meeting on TB this September?

Stamford resident Sandra Eagle is a psychotherapist and leadership consultant, practicing in Greenwich. She is a member of Coastal Connecticut chapter of RESULTS, (<http://www.results.org>).

<https://www.greenwichtime.com/opinion/article/opinion-a-chance-to-eradicate-the-world-s-17842784.php>

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<https://www.stamfordadvocate.com/opinion/article/opinion-a-chance-to-eradicate-the-world-s-17842784.php>

THE HOUR

<https://www.thehour.com/opinion/article/opinion-a-chance-to-eradicate-the-world-s-17842784.php>

THE REGISTER CITIZEN

<https://www.registercitizen.com/opinion/article/opinion-a-chance-to-eradicate-the-world-s-17842784.php>

NEW HAVEN REGISTER

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newstimes

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TheMiddletownPress

<https://www.middletownpress.com/opinion/article/opinion-a-chance-to-eradicate-the-world-s-17842784.php>

CT INSIDER

<https://www.ctinsider.com/opinion/article/opinion-a-chance-to-eradicate-the-world-s-17842784.php>

TheTrumbullTimes

<https://www.trumbulltimes.com/opinion/article/opinion-a-chance-to-eradicate-the-world-s-17842784.php>

Hartford Courant

Don't let guard down in battle vs. tuberculosis

June 16, 2023

Recently the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ended, marking the “end” of the pandemic. Life has essentially returned to pre-COVID times as if the pandemic never existed. Many continue to forget the leading infectious killer before the pandemic, tuberculosis.

With resources diverted to COVID, TB infections and deaths are on the rise after a decade of decline. The World Health Organization reported that TB mortality increased to up to 1.6 million deaths last year. Additionally, over 10.5 million people fell ill in 2021.

The vast majority of cases are curable, but in resource-poor areas treatment often comes too late. The Stop TB Partnership estimates that delaying or failing to implement goals to fight TB will mean 43 million TB infections and up to 6.6 million deaths by 2030. This will cost communities and families their loved ones, and upwards of \$1 trillion in economic loss by 2030.

With that said, we saw through COVID how infectious diseases can quickly become a global issue, not just one belonging to lower-income countries. The CDC reported that there was a 5 percent increase in TB cases in the U.S in 2022. A majority of cases were younger children meaning new infections, not reactivation.

I urge Representatives Himes, DeLauro, Hayes, Larson and Courtney to sign onto a bipartisan House letter asking the Biden Administration to show necessary leadership at this fall's United Nations High Level Meeting on TB and encourage their colleagues to do the same.

- Ajshe Zulfi, Trumbull

<https://www.courant.com/2023/06/16/readers-speak-details-about-crashes-could-save-lives/>

The Trumbull Times

Urgent call to fund End TB Now Act

December 11, 2023

To the editor,

I write to express my deep concern about the recent article highlighting winter challenges posed by flu, COVID-19, and RSV. While these issues demand attention, the persistent threat of tuberculosis (TB) cannot be overlooked. The article rightly emphasizes the strain on health care systems and the need for comprehensive approaches to combat respiratory illnesses. I urge legislators, including Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, to prioritize funding for the End TB Now Act (S. 288). TB, though less publicized than COVID-19, remains a severe global health concern causing significant morbidity and mortality.

The End TB Now Act is a crucial step toward eradicating this disease by supporting research, prevention, and treatment efforts. Allocating resources to this act enhances TB surveillance, improves diagnostics, and ensures access to effective treatments. Investing in the End TB Now Act aligns with the broader goal of strengthening healthcare infrastructure to respond to respiratory threats, including influenza, COVID-19, and RSV.

Tuberculosis, an insidious and often overlooked health crisis, disproportionately affects vulnerable populations worldwide. Supporting the End TB Now Act can make a lasting impact on community health and contribute to global TB elimination efforts.

I urge our senators to prioritize funding for the End TB Now Act, demonstrating a commitment to safeguarding our communities' health. A comprehensive approach to public health necessitates addressing all facets of respiratory illnesses, and supporting the End TB Now Act is a crucial step in that direction.

Molly Paguaga of Trumbull is a volunteer with RESULTS, a movement of everyday people using their voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty.

<https://www.trumbulltimes.com/opinion/article/letter-urgent-call-to-fund-end-tb-now-act-18546688.php>

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**stamford
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<https://www.stamfordadvocate.com/opinion/article/letter-urgent-call-to-fund-end-tb-now-act-18546688.php>

**greenwich
time**

<https://www.greenwichtime.com/opinion/article/letter-urgent-call-to-fund-end-tb-now-act-18546688.php>

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CT INSIDER

<https://www.ctinsider.com/opinion/article/letter-urgent-call-to-fund-end-tb-now-act-18546688.php>



The imminent catastrophe of TB

December 19, 2023

The United States is not prepared to handle an epidemic of tuberculosis, the largest infectious killer, nor are we taking steps to avoid a TB epidemic from spiking here. One out of three people globally, and 13 million Americans are estimated to carry the bacterium that can activate any time our immune systems become compromised, as in COVID, diabetes, obesity, and other diseases, epidemic in the United States. In 2022, 8,300 Americans became sick with TB, a 5 percent increase from 2021. The percentage increase was greater in Connecticut, a 24 percent yearly increase in 2022 of the number of TB cases. Globally, 1.6 million people died of TB in 2021, with more than 10 million people being sick with it.

We already experienced the devastating effects of the epidemic of COVID in the United States, and the impossibility of keeping it from our shores. Tuberculosis spreads just as easily, with a single case of multi-drug resistant TB in the United States historically costing \$250,000 to \$1,000,000 for a treatment that until very recently took 2 years and more than 3,500 pills, often resulting in neurological damage and deafness!

We aren't vaccinating our children or ourselves against tuberculosis, because the only vaccine was made in 1921, and has variable effectiveness. We've tolerated antiquated medicines because of our denial of the imminent danger.

The denial has only begun to turn in the last decade, with the first new medicines, and new, effective diagnostic equipment being innovated for the first time in 50 years, in 2014. The first UN high level meeting being called in 2018, and the second, just this past fall. Funds to role out the new medicines and diagnostic equipment are needed. The new diagnostic equipment has the capacity to diagnose an entire range of the respiratory infections that can devastate populations and economies.

The “End TB Now Act” is a piece of legislation that galvanizes an effort to eradicate TB, and it needs the support of all our representatives and both our senators, and yet, only U.S. Rep. Jim Himes has signed on. Please reach out to Representatives Rosa DeLauro, John Larson, Joe Courtney, and Johanna Hayes, as well as to Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, to sign on and promote.

Pay attention, our well-being as a country, and your family’s lives, depend on it!

*Stamford resident **Sandra Eagle** is a volunteer with Results.org.*

<https://www.stamfordadvocate.com/opinion/article/letter-the-imminent-catastrophe-of-tb-18562965.php>

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CT INSIDER

<https://www.ctinsider.com/opinion/article/letter-the-imminent-catastrophe-of-tb-18562965.php>

Florida media

Tampa Bay Times

Stop this disease

The End Tuberculosis Now Act

June 4, 2023

Tuberculosis (TB), often considered a disease of the past, kills more people yearly than any other infectious disease. According to the May 9 Miami Herald article, TB cases rose 5% last year, more among young kids. TB rebounded in 2022, including a “26% increase in diagnoses in children 4 or younger.” It globally disproportionately affects impoverished communities. The World Health Organization reports that 1.6 million died of TB in 2021. Over the last few years, TB resources, equipment and expertise were drafted into the front lines of COVID-19 at the expense of the already underfunded TB response.

The End Tuberculosis Now Act (HR 1776/ S 288) would help us get back on track by ensuring current TB resources go to the right places. This accountability bill, with bipartisan support, ensures that our tax dollars are effectively used to establish bold goals to reach vulnerable populations and detect, cure and prevent all forms of TB. Thanks to Florida Republican Rep. María Elvira Salazar for her leadership on this bill, and co-sponsorship from Democratic Reps. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick and Lois Frankel. Let’s urge all of our Florida representatives in Congress to co-sponsor the End TB Now Act and pass it into law this year.

- Karyne Bury, Hollywood

<https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2023/06/04/inconvenient-truths-is-letter-month-letters/>

Miami Herald

Fighting Disease

July 12, 2023

The recent cases of malaria in Florida, described in the July 8 story “Florida is under malaria alert, and there are now more cases of the mosquito illness,” remind us that the world is changing. As temperatures increase, diseases transmitted by mosquitoes are moving north.

Fortunately, Congress has supported the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to treat these diseases. Congress is going after the No. 1 infectious killer in the world: tuberculosis. With a proposed increase in our budget to battle TB, the End TB Now Act will focus our efforts.

A recent congressional letter to the Biden administration called for bold action at the upcoming United Nations special meeting on TB. America can take great steps to battle this disease.

Tuberculosis kills 1.6 million people a year, infects more than 10 million, and yet is treatable, curable, and preventable.

This disease is devastating countries experiencing poverty, yet cases still occur in our country and can be spread easily unless treated.

We can help by asking those who represent us to support these initiatives that will save millions of lives around the world and protect us at home.

- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, WA

No online link

Miami Herald

Bring It Forward

July 14, 2023

I was pleased to see the July 12 letter “Fighting disease” regarding tuberculosis (TB) and the need to make Congress aware of the importance of signing the End Tuberculosis Now Act.

In the past few years, COVID-19 has sent TB to the back of the line, yet it remains a deadly killer, not only in our country but all over the world. Now, malaria-carrying mosquitos are taking over the headlines, further pushing TB to the background.

We must keep TB in the forefront if there is any hope of eradicating it. As in Aesop’s fable of the tortoise and the hare, perseverance can win this race if we just keep our eyes on the finish line.

- Laurie Suarez, Miami

No online link

**Illinois
media**

CHICAGO SUN★TIMES

Global education crisis is a problem America can help fix

New data from UNESCO shows that 250 million school-age children are not in school. But there is hope in legislation now pending in Congress.

September 20, 2023

The world has set global goals to ensure all children get a quality education by 2030. But new data from UNESCO says that 250 million school-age children are not in school. That's 6 million more since 2021.

The world has set global goals to ensure all children get a quality education by 2030. But new data from UNESCO says that 250 million school-age children are not in school. That's 6 million more since 2021.[stock.adobe.com](https://www.adobe.com/stock)

Just as we are getting children settled into school for the year, startling new information on global education has come out.

The world has set global goals to ensure all children get a quality education by 2030. But new data from UNESCO says that 250 million school-age children are not in school — 6 million more since 2021. That's one in six of the world's children. And for the world to achieve the 2030 goals, we must enroll one child in school every two seconds between now and 2030.

But there is hope. The bipartisan Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development (READ) Act Reauthorization of 2023 seeks to address this crisis in part. The READ Act boosts U.S. leadership on global education to ensure all vulnerable children have access to quality education. The READ Act is a proven policy that builds strong partnerships and delivers results. It will empower the world to get back on track with education, particularly for girls and young people in conflict-ridden nations.

Our senators and representatives should cosponsor the READ Act (H.R. 681, S.41) and push to move the bill through Congress by the end of September. We can't wait on education.

- Meredith West, East Ukrainian Village

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2023/9/20/23880500/global-education-unesco-children-no-cash-bail-joe-biden-donald-trump-age-letters>

Indiana media



Parts of budget bill worthy of GOP nod

January 8, 2023

I have to call out The Times for its cartoon depicting Republicans who voted for the Federal budget bill as Democrats (Jan. 1). Some items in the budget bill are worthy of Republican support, including an increase in funding for defense/security.

Other provisions, such as more support for global health programs, have long enjoyed bipartisan support given the need to fight global threats — military and otherwise — before they reach our borders. More spending for bilateral tuberculosis programs is especially important, given the recent rise in TB cases around the world and the failure to pass legislation on TB that was supported by both Sens. Braun and Young. There are legitimate roles for the Federal Government for our protection and international affairs. Not all Republicans may agree, but the budget bill does include needed items to carry out these roles.

- Oscar Lanzi, Chicago

https://www.nwitimes.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-parts-of-budget-bill-worthy-of-gop-nod/article_3fea8b81-fbb8-5ef3-80c7-65fa542314ea.html

Global Alliance for Vaccination needed

April 16, 2023

Regarding Steve Pociask's op-ed ("Use all tools to endure COVID", April 2, 2023): In addition to the tools outlined in the article, we as a nation should also take the proactive steps needed to contain infectious disease threats before they arrive, as often they do, from overseas.

To this end Congress and the administration should work together for full, robust funding of the Global Fund, an international partnership formed to fight AIDS, TB and malaria but also has devoted resources to COVID-19 and building public health infrastructures more broadly in the developing world.

In addition, the Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunization promotes internationally one of the very defenses mentioned by Mr. Pociask, immunization/vaccines. We may not always see the benefits when we are healthy, yet over the long haul it is necessary.

Our leaders must see beyond the shows and headlines to the groundwork to secure our health and freedoms.

- Oscar Lanzi, Chicago

https://nwitimes.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-global-alliance-for-vaccination-needed/article_f69654c9-d6e5-537c-b96c-c337b9732276.html

The Herald-Times

End threat from tuberculosis

June 11, 2023

People think of tuberculosis as a thing of the past, but it's just behind COVID in how many people it kills each year. TB deaths had been falling for years, but the pandemic diverted resources from TB programs, and deaths have risen again — to 1.6 million in 2021, with an additional 9 million sickened and often unable to support their families.

Our Hoosier senator, Todd Young, has co-introduced a bill to make sure our global TB programs reach the most vulnerable populations to diagnose, treat, and prevent TB and that Congress is informed of progress. Indiana Sen. Mike Braun has co-sponsored the bill, the End TB Now Act (S. 288/HR1776).

It's time for our Indiana House members to co-sponsor and push this bill across the finish line. TB is an ancient disease. It spreads through the air. TB anywhere threatens all of us. It is time to end this threat once and for all.

– **Stephen Arnold, Bloomington**

<https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/06/08/letters-climate-change-seventh-street-education-budget-responsible-gop/70282016007/>



Supporting the READ Act shows we value education

October 4, 2023

Education — what we value in education, how to deliver education and what's at stake in education — are all dominating the headlines here in Central Indiana. What's hidden, however, is what's at stake globally due to education imbalances, imbalances which threaten to hinder everyone's ability to thrive.

The statistics are startling. COVID-19 related school closures interrupted learning for nearly 1.5 billion school-aged children. At all education levels, the most marginalized people, especially women and those experiencing poverty, face the greatest barriers to accessing quality education.

But the reauthorization of the life-changing READ Act can offer supportive access to quality education around the world. Literacy and numeracy support, monitoring and evaluation of educational outcomes is all in the legislation.

We need Hoosier senators and representatives to champion passage of this critical reauthorization. In Indiana, we value education. This is a chance to live up to that value.

- Lisa Marchal, Indianapolis

<https://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/2023/10/04/mike-braun-plan-lacks-details-kosa-act-endangered-online-bullying-readers-views/71040492007/>

Massachusetts media

The Republican.

US must back global literacy

July 23, 2023

In a few short weeks, folks will begin back-to-school preparations. We are fortunate to live in a place where quality education is available to all. But for many around the world, that is not the case.

In low- and middle-income countries, up to 70% of 10-year-olds are unable to read a simple text. The longer vulnerable children are out of school, the less likely they are to return.

The World Bank estimates that this generation of students will lose \$17 trillion in lifetime earnings.

But we have the resources to change this. The READ Act Reauthorization (H.R. 681/S. 41) ensures that the U.S. government updates their strategy to improve foundational literacy and numeracy in education. It also requires rigorous monitoring and evaluation efforts plus a yearly report to Congress and the public.

Education is the key to reducing global poverty and to attaining gender equality. The READ Act Reauthorization will help get us there.

I thank Sen. Edward Markey for their sponsorship of this act and ask that Sen. Elizabeth Warren and U.S. Rep. Richard Neal join him in doing this. This act is due to expire in September and we cannot afford to move backwards on education.

- Dr. Leslye Heilig, Great Barrington

Dr. Leslye Heilig is group co-leader of the Together Women Rise Advocacy Chapter with RESULTS.

No online link

The Berkshire Eagle

US must continue to support global education

July 25, 2023

To the editor: In a few short weeks, folks will begin back-to-school preparations.

We are fortunate to live in a place where quality education is publicly funded and available to all. But for many around the world, that is not the case. Right now, Congress has the opportunity to see that quality education is supported in 50 other countries through the READ Act Reauthorization Act of 2023 (H.R.681/S.41). READ stands for Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act.

Per Congress.gov: "This bill reauthorizes a law that requires the implementation of a strategy to promote quality basic education in partner countries by (1) expanding access to basic education for all children, particularly marginalized children and vulnerable groups; and (2) improving the quality of basic education and learning outcomes." Today, this means ensuring the U.S. government updates its strategy to improve foundational literacy and numeracy in basic education and requires rigorous monitoring and evaluation efforts. This is not a funding bill; rather it lays out how USAID will implement and monitor those funds already allocated to basic education.

In low- and middle-income countries, up to 70 percent of 10-year-olds are unable to read a simple text — the definition of learning poverty. The longer vulnerable children are out of school, the less likely they are to return. For girls in particular, we are already witnessing large increases in child marriages and early pregnancies since the COVID pandemic. The World Bank estimates that this generation of students will lose \$17 trillion in lifetime earnings due to this profound learning poverty.

We can change this. Quality education is the key to reducing global poverty and to attaining gender equality. The READ Act Reauthorization will move us forward. However, this act is due to expire in September, and we cannot afford to move backward. Therefore, time is of the essence. In the last Congress, this bill passed the House on a bipartisan basis, but the clock ran out in the Senate. Thus, we have had to begin anew, and the clock is ticking toward expiration if we do not take action now.

I wish to thank Sen. Edward Markey and Rep. Jim McGovern for their sponsorship of this act and ask that Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Richard Neal join them. I know that the entire Massachusetts delegation supports global education, but they must act now.

- Dr. Leslye Heilig, Great Barrington

The writer is co-leader of the RESULTS.org Massachusetts group and its Together Women Rise Advocacy Chapter.

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-us-must-continue-to-support-global-education/article_8a7b0bb8-272e-11ee-9171-0ba765f82ca8.html

The Republican.

US must lead on global ed

September 24, 2023

Just as we get children settled into school, new information on challenges in global education has come out.

The world has set goals to ensure all children get a quality education by 2030. Data from UNESCO says 250 million school-age children are not in school. That is six million more than in 2021, or one in six of the world's children. For the world to achieve the 2030 goals, we must enroll one child in school every two seconds between now and 2030.

The READ Act Reauthorization of 2023 seeks to address this crisis. The legislation boosts U.S. leadership on global education to ensure all vulnerable children have access to quality education. The act is a proven policy that builds partnerships and brings results, including for girls and young people in conflict-ridden nations.

Ask your lawmakers to push the bill through Congress this month. We can't wait on education.

- Susan Foley, Westfield

<https://www.masslive.com/opinion/2023/09/springfield-renters-deserve-say-on-housing-problems-letters-to-the-republican.html>

Minnesota media

StarTribune

Federal READ Act: A call to Minnesota reps

December 29, 2023

Minnesota kids are likely enjoying their winter breaks (albeit with no snow), but many kids around the world won't have a school to return to this year. Crises in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Yemen and now Gaza make going to school near impossible for many. And the longer kids are out of school the less likely they are to return. The World Bank estimates this generation of students will lose \$17 trillion in lifetime earnings.

The bipartisan READ Act (H.R. 681) compels our international aid arm to develop an integrated strategy that addresses key barriers to school attendance, retention and quality learning, with special attention to girls, kids with disabilities, and kids affected by conflict, famine and other emergencies, all while improving program transparency and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars make the most impact. The bill has already passed the Senate but currently has no Minnesota cosponsors in the House. Who will be the first?

- Katy Czaia, St. Louis Park

<https://www.startribune.com/readers-write-downtown-mideast-sherco-shutdown-aid-for-education/600331349/>

Missouri media



New members of Congress should support global health

January 12, 2023

I wish to congratulate U.S. Rep. Eric Burlison, R-Missouri, and U.S. Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Missouri, as they formally take their new positions in Washington D.C. (Globe, Jan. 6).

Like many state officials who move to the federal level, they will need help from constituents to become familiar with many life-or-death global issues they may never have considered before.

Two of those issues are the tuberculosis pandemic and immunizations against childhood diseases such as measles. The world lost headway with vaccines and TB control when COVID-19 caused disruption in health resources around the world.

Now, TB cases and deaths from the disease are rising, and 1.6 million people worldwide died of TB in 2021. Approximately 25 million children (about the population of Texas) missed routine immunizations in 2021, per WHO and UNICEF.

Catching up is going to take an enormous effort.

I urge our new members of Congress and those previously in office, such as U.S. Josh Hawley, R-Missouri, to meet with constituents and act decisively to support global health in 2023.

Lives literally depend on it.

- Cynthia Levin, Town And Country

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-new-members-of-congress-should-support-global-health/article_b39b5b9c-91c9-11ed-a6a5-fff0477c9277.html

Powerful Missouri lawmakers need input from voters

January 14, 2023

Regarding “Missouri’s Jason Smith wins three-way contest for powerful House Ways and Means chairmanship” (Jan. 10): No Missouri representative has chaired this important congressional committee since 1859. For the first time in over 160 years, Missouri residents have a unique privilege. It’s up to Missourians to set the agenda on Capitol Hill by raising our voices and contacting our elected officials.

We need to remind newly influential lawmakers like Smith and newly elected Missourians like Sen. Eric Schmitt exactly whom they work for. It only takes a couple minutes to call or email a congressional office to share your opinion on issues. I think we must make it clear to Congress that ending poverty here and everywhere should be at the top of their to-do list. That means seriously addressing the affordable housing crisis and reimagining tax policy for economic justice. That means investing in programs to end diseases like tuberculosis that are a global cause and consequence of poverty. Let’s seize the moment and advocate.

- Yara Changyit-Levin, Town and Country

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-powerful-missouri-lawmakers-need-input-from-voters/article_4ed1bd0a-1be5-5f70-a058-db202ea89de8.html



Congress must support emergency AIDS relief

January 24, 2023

I agree with the letter by Cynthia Levin (Globe, Jan. 12) that “New members of Congress should support global health.”

One such program deserving of bipartisan support from Missouri’s congressional delegation is the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Since its creation 20 years ago this January by President George W. Bush, PEPFAR has provided \$100 billion for the prevention and treatment of global HIV/AIDS. In its 20 years, it had saved 25 million lives, prevented millions of HIV infections and helped control this disease in more than 50 countries.

Congress will be appropriating funding for PEPFAR this year. U.S. Sens. Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt and Missouri’s representatives should continue support for this lifesaving program.

- Greg Campbell, Crève Cœur

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-congress-must-support-emergency-aids-relief/article_d7525ae8-95a4-11ed-8675-9788ad9ddd31.html



Life-Saving AIDS Relief

January 30, 2023

In this time of political rancor, this month marks the 20th anniversary of an event warranting bipartisan celebration.

In his 2003 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush announced the creation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. In the ensuing 20 years, PEPFAR has provided \$100 billion for the prevention and treatment of global HIV/AIDS. It has saved 25 million lives, prevented millions of HIV infections, and helped control this disease in more than 50 countries.

Congress will be appropriating funding for PEPFAR this year. Senators Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt and Missouri's Representatives should continue support for this life-saving program.

- Greg Campbell, Creve Coeur

https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/life-saving-aids-relief/article_91619c02-9d87-11ed-a38c-9f3dd4b3b680.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

US foreign aid helps all humanity, including Americans

February 2, 2023

I believe the letter “Fund Social Security, not foreign aid and local pork” (Jan. 21) skipped over some important facts. In 2022, 21% of the federal budget paid for Social Security while less than 1% went to poverty-focused foreign aid. This small amount has an outsized positive impact on all of humanity, including Americans.

Within that portion is money to fight global infectious diseases like measles and others. They even stop spread to places like Ohio, which is currently experiencing a measles outbreak. Also, health systems we helped build for polio in Nigeria prevented ebola from spreading worldwide.

Missouri Sens. Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt would be wise follow the legacy of former Sen. Roy Blunt by supporting global health initiatives. Supporter Rep. Ann Wagner should educate her new Missouri colleagues, Reps. Mark Alford and Eric Burlison, on the benefits of foreign aid and the prevention of deadly diseases.

- Summer Levin, Town and Country

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-us-foreign-aid-helps-all-humanity-including-americans/article_39617c8b-5d85-5ba8-8c10-7654d771f41f.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Restore focus and resources to global tuberculosis fight

March 21, 2023

Rep. Ann Wagner, R-Town and Country, has helped draw attention to a deadly pandemic on the rise. Not the coronavirus but tuberculosis. This other airborne disease was the pandemic we were fighting long before the coronavirus made news. It kills more people each year around the world than HIV and malaria combined and has alternated with the coronavirus as the leading infectious disease killer over the past three years. The pandemic diverted global resources meant to fight tuberculosis. As a result, tuberculosis cases and deaths increased, with 11 million sickened and 1.6 million killed worldwide in 2021.

Wagner recently coauthored a bipartisan letter with Rep. Ami Bera, D-California, to the House Appropriations Committee recommending \$1 billion for U.S. bilateral tuberculosis funding in the fiscal 2024 spending bill to properly identify, treat and prevent all forms of tuberculosis and develop more effective tools to fight it.

Rep. Cori Bush, D-St. Louis, also signed onto this letter. I hope other Missouri colleagues follow their example.

- Cynthia Changyit Levin, Town and Country

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letters-to-the-editor-about-that-upcoming-fox-drag-show-tootsie/article_54a90b4a-9693-5fac-9a3a-640129f52c06.html

Keep the momentum going to fight HIV/AIDS

March 29, 2023

In the article “Don Waterman: No more right-left histrionics. Let’s meet in the middle” (Missourian, March 27), Waterman compared himself to former Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt because of his ability to find the middle ground.

An issue Blunt consistently worked with both Republicans and Democrats on was global HIV/AIDS through support of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Twenty years ago, President Bush and a bipartisan group of lawmakers created PEPFAR to help fight HIV/AIDS in Africa. It has since helped save 25 million lives.

Missouri’s contribution to PEPFAR has helped save nearly 400,000 (396,339) lives since 2003, has helped ensure 52,845 babies were born HIV-free and currently provides antiretroviral treatment to 343,723 people.

As President Biden noted in his State of the Union, PEPFAR has been a shining example of the power of bipartisan leadership.

Yet far too many people still die of this preventable, treatable disease. Today, 38.4 million people live with HIV. That’s more than six times the population of Missouri.

Sens. Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt can keep the momentum going by re-authorizing PEPFAR in 2023 so it can continue its transformative work.

Cynthia Changyit Levin lives St. Louis and is author of “From Changing Diapers to Changing the World: Why Moms Make Great Advocates and How to Get Started.”

https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/letter-to-the-editor-keep-the-momentum-going-to-fight-hiv-aids/article_790e5342-cda8-11ed-b511-8f1ef9defe2e.html



Don't cut anti-poverty programs

May 12, 2023

Thank you for your coverage of the debt ceiling debate in "No progress on debt ceiling as deadline approaches," printed May 9. Most Americans don't realize the devastating affects those cuts could have on everyday folks.

As a condition for allowing the U.S. to pay its bills, the proposed plan from House of Representatives slashes dozens of services including SNAP nutrition benefits, Medicaid, housing assistance, preschool and childcare, and core global poverty programs. These cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs.

As a mother teaching budgeting and responsibility to my teens, I am beyond frustrated that House leadership is irresponsibly threatening our economy to extract budget cuts that target people experiencing poverty.

It's dangerous for House leaders to suggest that the U.S. will not honor its debts. It is cruel for them to do it for a flawed plan that would hurt Americans living in poverty. I strongly urge President Biden, Senator Hawley, and Senator Schmitt to reject the House cuts to anti-poverty programs and pass a clean debt ceiling immediately.

- Cynthia Levin, Town and Country

https://www.phelpscountyfocus.com/opinion/article_9188de02-f0cf-11ed-801a-8fd8473ff427.html



Support legislation to improve global health

May 16, 2023

It's great news that underinsured women in Joplin will be able to access critical health care that might save lives (Globe, May 11).

When people don't have resources for health care, their work, their education and their very lives are at risk. Community groups and governments must step in with care whether those in need live in Missouri or across the globe.

Congress has two pieces of legislation that can bolster our ability to promote global health programs for people in poverty. First, the End TB Now Act would improve the capacity of countries with high burdens of tuberculosis to prevent and control the spread of TB, which is once again becoming the world's leading infectious disease as COVID-19 subsides. Second, Senate Resolution 139 acknowledges the critical role of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in supporting prevention, treatment and care programs in over 50 low-income countries.

I ask U.S. Sens. Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt to co-sponsor both the End TB Now Act (S. 288) and the resolution recognizing the PEPFAR's critical work (S. Res. 139), so that we may continue our American tradition of leadership and compassion.

- Cynthia Changyit Levin, St. Louis

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-support-legislation-to-improve-global-health/article_61091954-f318-11ed-9f7e-db275d6d453d.html

AIDS is still a global scourge that requires U.S. assistance

June 6, 2023

Regarding Tony Messenger's column "The American middle still exists in politics. We just saw it in St. Louis." (June 5): He notes that when both political parties work together, progress is possible on both the national and local levels, as evidenced by the agreement on the federal debt ceiling and the replacement of St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner.

Such bipartisanship can also achieve success in global relations. 20 years ago, President George W. Bush, in the face of the worldwide AIDS pandemic, created the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). With support from both sides of the aisle, the program has saved more than 25 million lives around the world and has resulted in 5.5 million babies being born HIV-free.

In spite of PEPFAR's success, there is still more work to be done. AIDS remains a crisis, taking more than 600,000 lives a year globally. This year, Congress will reauthorize PEPFAR. Hopefully the bipartisanship noted by Messenger will prevail, and both parties will once again come together to fully fund the life-saving work of this program.

- Greg Campbell, Creve Coeur

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letters-to-the-editor-demanding-solutions-for-st-louis-chaos/article_12cd060e-04c2-11ee-92fa-b77a2385fbdd.html

STL JEWISH LIGHT

Global issue needs attention – and action

June 16, 2023

In her June 7 d'var Torah “We can surely do it: Working to create a world of compassion, justice and peace,” Rabbi Andrea Goldstein addresses the despair many of us feel when the world’s problems feel too daunting to even start fighting. I used to feel this way about global issues like HIV/AIDS. In the early 2000s, it was a horror I heard about in news about Africa, devastating families and even economies. It seemed too big and far away for one person to tackle. But then I discovered thousands of Americans could add voices together to demand that our nation’s leaders do something about it.

The persistence of everyday citizens reaching out in non-partisan ways led to President George W. Bush creating the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). It has been a driving force in fighting HIV/AIDS. Since its creation 20 years ago, PEPFAR has helped save 25 million lives and played a critical role supporting prevention, treatment, and care programs in over 50 low-income countries.

I ask readers to join me in asking our U.S. members of Congress — Sen. Josh Hawley, Sen. Eric Schmitt, Rep. Cori Bush, and Rep. Ann Wagner — to co-sign the upcoming reauthorization of the PEPFAR program. Together, we can end AIDS in our lifetime.

– Cynthia Changyit Levin, Town and Country

<https://stljewishlight.org/opinion/letters-to-editor/letters-to-the-editor-22/>

Bipartisan push is underway to finally end global tuberculosis

July 5, 2023

Nothing makes me feel like a patriotic citizen in July more than helping my members of Congress make the world a better place. That's what's happening as St. Louis volunteers and Missouri Rep. Ann Wagner work together to ask for President Joe Biden's leadership in fighting global tuberculosis.

TB kills more people each year than any other infectious disease behind COVID-19. It devastates people in low- and middle-income countries even though we know how to prevent, treat and cure it. But we also have a unique opportunity to turn the tide. In September, the United Nations will hold a high-level meeting on TB in New York. This is the chance for the U.S. to show dedicated leadership in the fight against this deadly disease.

Wagner signed a bipartisan letter asking the Biden administration to prioritize TB at the meeting and announce bold new commitments to end this disease once and for all. I urge Missouri reps. Cori Bush and Blaine Luetkemeyer to sign on as well so we can use our diplomatic efforts to bring new players to the table and encourage other partner countries to bring their own ambitious plans to fight TB.

- Cynthia Changyit Levin, Town and Country

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-bipartisan-push-is-underway-to-finally-end-global-tuberculosis/article_984a37b0-1b75-11ee-b705-bf66f8c0d410.html

Congress has an opportunity to finally eradicate tuberculosis

July 17, 2023

Regarding the letter to the editor "Bipartisan push is underway to finally end global tuberculosis" (July 5): Eradicating diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) needs funds, dedicated leadership and massive political support.

Although the U.S. has one of the lowest prevalence of TB, the incidence of TB increased slightly in the last two years. In 2021, TB incidence rebounded to 2.4 cases per 100,000 and increased even more to 2.5 in 2022 according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. People experiencing homelessness or living in correctional or long-term care facilities are at higher risk of contracting the disease.

Globally the progress made on TB reversed during the COVID-19 pandemic, because of the strain on the health care system and the diversion of resources to combat the pandemic.

Thanks to Missouri Rep. Ann Wagner for her leadership in acknowledging the need and for supporting the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria in the past. Her continued support is crucial to eradicate this deadly disease.

The "End TB Now Act" has the potential to start reversing an alarming backslide in the fight against tuberculosis that began during the COVID-19 pandemic. I urge our representatives Wagner and Cori Bush to co-sponsor the "End TB now Act" in the House, and Missouri sens. Eric Schmitt and Josh Hawley to co-sponsor the bill in the Senate.

- Raj Jaladi, Creve Coeur

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-congress-has-an-opportunity-to-finally-eradicate-tuberculosis/article_73d6b3d4-24cd-11ee-b25d-2bc40ad5abc8.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Congress can make a difference in war against tuberculosis

July 19, 2023

I thank U.S. Rep. Ann Wagner, R-Mo., for signing a bipartisan letter asking the Biden administration for bold leadership at this fall's United Nations High Level Meeting on tuberculosis.

Ending a disease is a monumental and a bold task and requires monumental and bold actions from our Congress and our president.

While incredible strides were being made in the fight against TB, when COVID-19 arrived TB resources around the world were diverted toward fighting the new pandemic. This devastated the TB response, and the rates of TB sickness and number of TB deaths globally are on the rise.

But Congress can make a difference. The bipartisan, bicameral End Tuberculosis Now Act (H.R.1776/S. 288) would not only get us back on track and help save lives but also provide the frontline support needed to address future pandemics.

- Raj Jaladi, Creve Coeur

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-congress-can-make-a-difference-in-war-against-tuberculosis/article_a441554a-225e-11ee-82d5-bf8215ac582c.html

Missouri's congressional delegation should support measure to end TB

October 17, 2023

It is exciting to know that COVID-19 has begun its descent (“Say goodbye to the COVID-19 vaccination card. The CDC has stopped printing them,” published online Oct. 4).

However, there’s one disease that has been hidden in COVID-19’s shadow. Pricks in your arm or four tubes of your blood — this is pretty much a hallmark of every time I have started a new job or volunteering work at a clinic for a tuberculosis test.

The reason behind the TB test never occurred to me, but the statistics demonstrate why. Tuberculosis was the most infectious disease in the world before the COVID-19 pandemic took over. As a respiratory infection, TB resources were shifted to Covid and have since gradually been depleted.

The “End TB Now Act” (HR 1776, S288) helps treat the most vulnerable populations affected by this deadly disease.

I urge Sens. (Josh) Hawley and (Eric) Schmitt, and Rep. Corey Bush to co-sponsor the “End TB Now Act.”

Chetana Ganga, of St. Louis, is an undergraduate student and a member of RESULTS, an advocacy group and the Global Poverty Policy Pod at Saint Louis University.

https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/missouris-congressional-delegation-should-support-measure-to-end-tb/article_b5705406-6cff-11ee-b650-3f7ae5c30faa.html

Tuberculosis is still a threat. This legislation addresses it.

October 18, 2023

COVID-19 is the most current infection to be spread throughout the world, however, another disease has infected people long before COVID-19 and still today.

Tuberculosis caused 1.6 million deaths in 2021 and infected 8.9 million others. By 2030, 43 million people are estimated to become ill, 6.6 million of those dying from the disease, according to the Stop TB Partnership.

Fortunately, many tuberculosis cases are curable. The END TB Now Act addresses ways to use existing funding to strengthen a global tuberculosis response. To help in the fight against tuberculosis, please reach out to your member of Congress to advocate for the End TB Now Act.

- Joseph Mrazek, St. Louis

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-tuberculosis-is-still-a-threat-this-legislation-addresses-it/article_80b2958a-6c82-11ee-b3c6-ff44fdfee1b6.html



Support reauthorization of the READ Act

October 19, 2023

I support better social-emotional learning for kids (“Missouri education board set to discuss social-emotional learning standards,” Globe, Oct. 16) and our federal government does too.

USAID programs seek to include social-emotional skills along with literacy and numeracy programs for children in low-income countries.

The world has set global goals to ensure all children receive basic education by 2030. The U.S. is part of an international effort to improve quality of learning and improve access to education too.

Currently, UNESCO says that 250 million school-age children aren’t in school. The READ Act Reauthorization of 2023 (H.R. 681, S.41) seeks to address this crisis in part by reinstating a successful program that expired in September. The READ Act is a proven policy that builds strong partnerships and delivers results. It will empower the world to get back on track with education, particularly for girls and young people in conflict zones.

U.S. Rep. Ann Wagner cosponsored the original READ Act in 2017 and should support its reauthorization. U.S. Rep Eric Burlison and U.S. Sens. Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt should support it immediately as well.

- Cynthia Changyit Levin, St. Louis

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-support-reauthorization-of-the-read-act/article_3e6e8de6-6db3-11ee-825f-e77759afff6b.html

Sophomore Influences Policy on Global Issues

By Eli Ferguson, Features Editor

October 27, 2023

Adithya Chengalvala, sophomore, is looking for results. Specifically he would like to see the end of global poverty.

To reach these goals, Chengalvala joined the international RESULTS group that teaches volunteers how to influence policy by contacting legislators about topics concerning poverty.

“We focus our efforts to improve global standards and domestic standards within the United States, whether it’s education, health, etc.” Chengalvala said.

Right now, members of the group are working on gaining co-signers in Congress for the End TB Now Act for global tuberculosis support and the READ Act Reauthorization Act for global education.

Volunteers of all ages can join either as regularly active members of a state or local group or just part of the action network for those who have limited time to dedicate.

As a regularly active member, Chengalvala, attended his first Zoom lobby meeting in September with an aide from Missouri Senator Eric Schmitt’s St. Louis office to talk about tuberculosis and improving education across the globe.

“It’s kind of hard because they’re very busy people. Even getting a meeting and giving them an opportunity to co-sponsor bills that we want to push, it’s a big thing,” Chengalvala said.

Chengalvala joined Results after hearing about it from a family friend who participates. His mother encouraged him to join after that.

“I saw their goals and standards, and it resonated with me. I’ve always had a zeal to help people, education-wise,” Chengalvala said.

Chengalvala joined the St. Louis Global Issues group of about 10 members in May of 2023, and met Cynthia Changyit Levin, the group co-leader.

For 15 years, Levin has worked as a volunteer for advocacy groups focused on poverty, global health and gun violence.

"It's quite a significant achievement to step out of one's comfort zone and speak to a congressional office," Levin said. "Most American adults will never step up to have that experience, so I'm thrilled that Adithya is starting so early."

Within the group, they also hold letter writing events where new and returning members write to local representatives advocating for legislation.

"There is so much in the news that is discouraging, but when someone joins our group, it's a reminder that people really do want to be involved in making our country better," Levin said.

Levin said volunteers can use the power of advocacy to create impacts like helping raise money for families and children in poverty around the world.

Katherine Bauman, social studies teacher, emphasizes the importance of students getting involved with the government.

"You can volunteer in political campaigns, canvassing and phone calls," Bauman said. "You can write letters to your local legislators about issues, there's all kinds of ways, but, of course, the most important way is to vote."

Bauman said there are organizations in and out of school that get students involved with local and international issues. Some examples include Model United Nations and Civitas, a local political organization that is working with another organization, Immigrant Outreach, to help immigrants adapt to St. Louis.

"I think it's excellent," Bauman said about Chengalvala's involvement in RESULTS. "I think that's going to give them a very realistic picture of how the government influences their lives and that they can influence the government."

<https://marquettemessenger.com/features/2023/10/27/sophomore-influences-policy-on-global-issues/>

US Rep. Ann Wagner should embrace bipartisanship, not swear it off

October 28, 2023 0

The recent editorial “Biden defends democracy while House Republicans have a political food fight” (Oct. 22) called out Rep. Ann Wagner for stating she would not work with Democrats to elect a speaker of the House. Her official statement said, “Too much is at stake to hand control of the House over to radical liberal Democrats, which is why we must elect a conservative as the next Speaker.”

I’m disappointed by her words because I’ve been proud of her past work with Democrats to support robust funding for global health programs fighting tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. I would argue that too much is at stake in the world to not pass important legislation like the End TB Now Act (H.R. 1776, S. 288) and the READ Act Reauthorization Act (H.R. 681, S. 41). Both bills would improve accountability and transparency to ensure our tax dollars are used wisely and lives of the most vulnerable people are being helped.

Congresswoman Wagner and her colleagues need to remember how to work together, so we can get back to the work of government.

– Cynthia Levin, Town And Country

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-us-rep-ann-wagner-should-embrace-bipartisanship-not-swear-it-off/article_7bfb4e60-738a-11ee-9499-d3d3240f40eb.html

Reauthorizing the READ Act will foster education globally

December 12, 2023

I was glad to read the letter to the editor regarding the HIV/AIDS program President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which expired earlier this year. ("Reauthorize urgent federal program in fight against AIDS," Dec. 1). I'm even more excited to hear from Missouri Rep. Ann Wagner's office that she is supportive and wishes to reauthorize.

That's consistent with her track record for supporting key global poverty programs, like the READ Act for global education. I would like to remind Rep. Wagner and her Missouri colleagues, Reps. Cori Bush and Blaine Luetkemeyer, that the READ Act also expired in 2023.

A strong basic education is the basis of stability for children living in poverty, particularly for girls and young people in conflict zones. The READ Act Reauthorization Act (S. 41, H.R. 681) is a proven policy that builds strong partnerships and delivers education results around the world. It unanimously passed the Senate in November. House leaders should follow their lead and pass the bill as soon as possible.

- Summer Levin, Town and Country

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-reauthorizing-the-read-act-will-foster-education-globally/article_acdd6f5e-9842-11ee-9295-ef0dc1114372.html

Nebraska media

Omaha World-Herald

H.R. 1776

December 31, 2023

When Omaha had a tuberculosis outbreak in November, our health leaders swiftly responded to protect the public. Tuberculosis (TB) is never far away. It infects a jaw-dropping quarter of the world's population, and the pandemic wiped away years of progress in global eradication efforts. Now it's time for our elected leaders, Sens. Deb Fischer and Pete Ricketts and Reps. Don Bacon and Mike Flood, to respond as well.

The bipartisan End TB Now Act (H.R. 1776/ S. 288) would save lives and get the global fight against TB back on track. According to the World Health Organization, last year there were 1.3 million children worldwide who became sick with TB, and we know that diseases don't need passports to travel. With this bill we can work together to fight TB around the world, and thereby help prevent it from getting around town — a win for everyone.

- Andrea Riley, Lincoln

https://omaha.com/opinion/letters/the-public-pulse-wishing-for-term-limits-end-tb-now-summer-ebt/article_0a772eca-9e9c-11ee-9674-cb1435ac22c8.html

Nevada media

Help Africa fight tuberculosis

February 26, 2023

First lady Jill Biden's trip to Africa is right to highlight the need to empower women, the skyrocketing youth population and the ongoing issue of food insecurity.

My own trip to Zambia 10 years ago helped me understand how much America's help matters and was appreciated by everyone I met.

America's programs to battle HIV-AIDS gave people hope for the first time since the epidemic began. With the pandemic shifting resources to fight COVID-19, tuberculosis has increased for the first time in a decade. Fortunately, the End Tuberculosis Now Act is moving forward in Congress. We can help by asking our members of Congress to support quick action to battle this global infectious killer.

- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/feb/26/help-africa-fight-tuberculosis/>

TB scare must be taken seriously

December 21, 2023

Nevada is not alone in having a tuberculosis scare this year (“Potential tuberculosis exposures identified at 18 schools in Las Vegas area,” Dec. 15).

Washington, Nebraska, California and New York are other states with outbreaks or scares. We’ll surely see more unless the world takes action to curb TB. It has been on the rise globally since we had to turn resources toward fighting COVID-19. In 2021, 1.6 million people died from TB.

Congress needs to pass the End TB Now Act as soon as possible. This bill would require the U.S. to prioritize TB resources to areas around the world most affected by the disease and set up processes and measures to track success. The longer we wait, the more people will die.

COVID-19 showed us that no country is immune from the spread of disease. But it also showed us that when we work together, we can save lives.

- Cynthia Changyit Levin, St. Louis

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/dec/21/tb-scare-must-be-taken-seriously/>

New Mexico media



We need to continue progress on TB

June 23, 2023

ALBERT, an elephant living in our Albuquerque zoo, has an early, asymptomatic case of tuberculosis. If left undiscovered and untreated, it could easily spread to other elephants, primates and people. With good care, he should beat the disease in 12 to 16 months.

Millions of people around the world would like to have the same chance.

For years TB was largely forgotten, ignored by medical researchers and major drug companies. The result was that TB remains a huge threat for people living in low- and middle-income countries, once again claiming more lives than any other communicable disease now that COVID-19 is less prevalent. Happily the world is coming together to focus more attention on new ways to diagnose and treat this ancient, aggressive killer. ...

Elephants never forget, they say, but people often do. Let's be more like the elephants and keep our focus on ending TB.

- Roxanne Allen, Albuquerque

https://www.abqjournal.com/opinion/talk-of-the-town/article_facac518-1070-11ee-8aac-6f12eeb538d4.html

Power of reading

December 6, 2023

How can one change the world for the better? I see a way. As a person who has spent 34 years in the classroom, I can attest firsthand in the power of a child's ability to read. With the multitude of crises happening in the world, one could believe literacy can be put on the back burner. I firmly disagree. Many children around the world are yet unable to read simple text. I say "yet" because there is hope!

This hope is in the form of the READ Reauthorization Act of 2023 (HR 681/S 41). It would reauthorize the original 2017 READ Act for an additional five years to ensure equal access to literacy education for children throughout the world. I urge our members of Congress to support this bill. If passed, it can improve not only individual children's lives; it indeed has the potential to change the world for the better.

- Darla Swanson, Santa Fe

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/plaza-lights-bring-magic-of-the-season/article_e95adf58-93a0-11ee-b4f0-2be3c032a1a1.html

New York media



Asks Rep. Stefanik to support Child Tax Credit

October 21, 2023

Editor:

Republicans should not be so distracted by finding a majority leader in the House that they forget that their job is to support legislation and tax policy that benefits all Americans. I love knowing my tax dollars support programs that are accountable not only on domestic issues such as Child Tax Credit, but also in global health and education issues such as the End TB Now Act and The Read Authorization Act.

Here is a little info on the CTC: "Some 91 percent of families with low incomes (less than \$35,000) are using their monthly Child Tax Credit payments for the most basic household expenses — food, clothing, shelter, and utilities — or education. Families are making these investments nationwide: in every state and the District of Columbia, large majorities of low-income families are making such use of the credit, according to our new analysis of Census Bureau data covering the first three months of payments."

Child poverty was cut in half when the CTC was expanded during COVID. After Covid, the expansion was cut. Child poverty doubled again. So we know the program is needed and it works.

Dear Congresswoman Stefanik, Please support expanded funding for CTC and support the READ Act and End TB Now.

- Susan Oehser, Bakers Mills

<https://poststar.com/sports/#tracking-source=main-nav>

DAILY NEWS

Unfinished business

December 24, 2023

Congress went home without doing the work of protecting world democracy with Ukrainian aid or solving the nation's immigration crisis ("Congress leaves Ukraine hanging," editorial, Dec. 22). Sadly, there is more: Millions of America's children are hungry and homeless without the expanded Child Tax Credit being renewed. Evictions and homelessness are at record levels without a renter tax credit. Tuberculosis, the world's deadliest disease, needs the End TB Now Act to help control it. The world's children need the READ Act renewed to help them have an opportunity for education. So call your representatives, 202-224-3121, in the House and Senate and ask them to get back to the work of creating a better world by passing these initiatives of hope.

- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.

<https://www.nydailynews.com/2023/12/24/readers-sound-off-on-building-inspections-oprah-etymology-and-poverty-funding/>

North Carolina media

Citizen Times

US must prioritize health and education programs in budget

March 5, 2023

The United States will spend close to \$900 billion on defense in FY24. As Congress begins to shape the FY24 budget they need to consider continuing our smart investments in global health and development. The United States must prioritize maternal and child health and nutrition, basic education and global tuberculosis programs. Each of these areas drive and exacerbate poverty, and by extension instability around the world.

Soon the State Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee will be considering spending levels for FY 24. Urge our members of Congress to support full funding requests for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, bilateral tuberculosis, global nutrition, global maternal and child health, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, global basic education, and the Global Partnership for Education. Full funding for these requests total just over \$5 billion, for which hundreds of millions of people's lives will be positively affected, as well as the prestige and standing of the U.S. raised on the world stage. It also extends U.S. influence in countries where China is working to gain political influence and control. Small investment with big bang for the buck.

- Howard Berkowitz, Candler

https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=1586fdae8_134aac5

Mooreville Tribune

Budd, Tillis should support the End Tuberculosis Now Act

June 11, 2023

If humans could eradicate COVID, would we? While quick judgment jumps to an obvious moral answer, reality begs to differ. Prior to COVID, tuberculosis (TB) was the leading infectious disease killer.

TB was discovered in 1882; it's curable, and yet it's still around.

Infectious diseases are deadly. While invisible to the eye to see unless their destruction manifests as symptoms, it's easy to ignore if it's not killing people living near you. The world watched as the U.S. created effective treatment and at-home testing relatively overnight to fight COVID.

Yet the world ignores TB and the fact we are one mutation away from catastrophe. The longer TB goes undiagnosed and untreated, the higher the risk for all of us. Because of political inaction, we have not eradicated TB everywhere, and drug resistant TB now poses challenges.

Pathogens know no borders. The public health response to COVID originated from TB work, highlighting how investing in multi-pathogenic solutions prepares for the inevitable next disease. Senator Tillis and Senator Budd should co-sponsor the End Tuberculosis Now Act to save lives, prevent illness, and boost the global health infrastructure needed to address future pandemics. Inaction is still action and if nothing changes, nothing changes.

- Emily Bird, Mooreville

https://moorevilletribune.com/budd-tillis-should-support-the-end-tuberculosis-now-act/article_4136e4b8-8491-5106-9289-9438ae4557aa.html

North Dakota media



Congress must pass End TB Now Act

According to North Dakota Health and Human Services, in 2022 we had 11 reported cases of tuberculosis.

July 5, 2023

We often think of TB as a disease of the past, and one that occurs in other places, not here in our state. But according to North Dakota Health and Human Services, in 2022 we had 11 reported cases of tuberculosis. Globally, TB still kills more people each year than any other infectious disease behind COVID-19, disproportionately affecting impoverished and marginalized communities. It stubbornly remains a major global health threat and a key driver of poverty.

Because of diverted resources during COVID-19, global TB deaths have risen alarmingly – even though this disease is preventable and treatable. In fact, TB infections and deaths are on the rise again after a decade of decline. By nearly every measure, the TB pandemic is getting worse. More people are getting sick, fewer people are getting treated, and more people are dying. We are way off the global TB targets set in 2018 at the United Nations General Assembly.

We must do better, particularly in the run-up to the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis slated for September. The Stop TB Partnership, a United Nations hosted organization founded in 2001, estimates that delaying or failing to implement the UN End TB Strategy goals will mean 43 million people developing TB, leading to 6.6 million deaths by 2030. One way we can make a difference is strong co-sponsorship of the End Tuberculosis Now Act. This bicameral, bipartisan legislation directs the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to set bold targets to reach and treat the most vulnerable populations for all forms of TB. The bill also addresses the impact COVID19 has had on global TB control efforts and would catalyze support for research and development of new tools to prevent, diagnose, treat, and control TB, including drug-resistant strains.

Direct action we can take to loosen TB's grip on the world is to write to our members of Congress, Senators Kevin Cramer and John Hoeven, and Congressman Kelly Armstrong to support the End TB Now Act. Millions of lives depend on it, some of whom, if they survive, could conceivably someday become our neighbors here in North Dakota.

- **Kathleen Ness, Grand Forks**

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-congress-must-pass-end-tb-now-act>



Congress should pass the READ Act Reauthorization

The READ Act Reauthorization ensures that the U.S. government updates their strategy to improve foundational literacy and numeracy in basic education.

November 4, 2023

To the editor,

It is now time for reauthorization of the READ Act by Congress. An effort to ensure equal access to education throughout the world, the original READ act was passed in 2017, and, paired with commitment from donors, has achieved incredible results. No increase in funding is requested. Reauthorization will just guarantee an additional five years of support to continue current U.S. efforts throughout the world to abolish school fees, build infrastructure, and train teachers.

Tragically, the COVID-19 pandemic reversed progress. School closures have disrupted the education of more than 616 million students, and crises in Ukraine and elsewhere have only increased those education gaps, with girls, low-income children, and children with disabilities facing the greatest barriers to education.

In low- and middle-income countries, up to 79% of 10-year-olds are unable to read a simple text. The longer vulnerable children are out of school, the less likely they are to return, with the World Bank estimating this generation of students will lose \$17 trillion in lifetime earnings. Around 200 million youth aged 12 to 17 are currently out of secondary school, and 80% of children in low-income countries lack preschool.

The READ Act Reauthorization ensures that the U.S. government updates their strategy to improve foundational literacy and numeracy in basic education. It also requires rigorous monitoring and evaluation efforts and a yearly report to Congress and the public. The legislation calls for:

Developing a comprehensive integrated U.S. strategy that improves educational opportunities and addresses key barriers to children's school attendance, especially for girls;

- Ensuring educational services for children affected by conflict and other emergencies;
- Coordinating U.S. government efforts to manage resources well;
- Working with countries to strengthen systems for building long-term sustainability;
- Engaging with key partners including other donors, civil society and multilateral initiatives, including the Global Partnership for Education, so U.S. contributions achieve a greater overall impact;
- Requiring specific indicators and objectives with which to measure progress; and
- Improving the transparency and accountability of programs.

The READ Act deserves continued strong bipartisan support. I urge Senators John Hoeven, Kevin Cramer, and Rep. Kelly Armstrong, to vote for reauthorization this year.

- Kathleen Ness, Grand Forks

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-congress-should-pass-the-read-act-reauthorization>

**Ohio
media**

THE PLAIN DEALER



Tuberculosis is a continuing killer that can be stopped

May. 15, 2023

We just saw the end of one public emergency -- COVID-19. But another emergency continues. Tuberculosis (TB) is often thought of as a disease of the past, but it is a leading infectious disease killer. In 2021, 1.6 million people worldwide died of TB.

TB disproportionately affects marginalized and impoverished communities, yet the already underfunded TB response suffered when anti-TB resources, equipment, and expertise were drafted into the front lines of the COVID pandemic.

The End Tuberculosis Now Act (H.R.1776/ S. 288) would help us get back on track by making sure current TB resources go to the right places. It requires the United States to establish bold goals for reaching the most vulnerable populations to detect, cure, and prevent all forms of TB. It also requires officials to track outcomes and report back to Congress on their findings.

Importantly, this act would ensure that our tax dollars are spent wisely. We can truly make TB a disease of the past. I urge our members of Congress -- Sens. Sherrod Brown and J.D. Vance, and Reps. Max Miller, Dave Joyce, Shontel Brown, and Emilia Sykes -- to co-sponsor the End TB Now Act and pass it into law this year.

- Liz Clerkin, Oberlin

<https://www.cleveland.com/letters/2023/05/tuberculosis-is-a-continuing-killer-that-can-be-stopped.html>

THE PLAIN DEALER



End Tuberculosis Now Act seeks to amplify important fight against this deadly disease

September 27, 2023

About 1.6 million people died of tuberculosis in 2021. Hundreds of thousands were children. I saw the devastating effects of this respiratory disease firsthand when I lived in Uganda with the Peace Corps: families are torn apart by the disease.

Yes, it mostly affects people in developing countries. But Americans are not immune. Across the United States, there were around 8,300 reported TB cases in 2022. Our progress on combating TB took a hit with the pandemic, and we need to get back on track.

The End Tuberculosis Now Act is proposed bipartisan legislation that aims to do this and save many lives -- not by requesting funds but by setting bold targets to reach and treat the most vulnerable populations for TB. Through this, we can show the world that the United States can be a global leader in fighting this horrible disease.

I am grateful that Sen. Sherrod Brown has worked tirelessly to keep the fight against TB a U.S. foreign policy priority. I humbly request that he, along with Sen. J.D. Vance and Rep. Dave Joyce, co-sponsor the Senate and House versions of this bill and work with leaders to pass it as soon as possible.

- Keith Task, Southington

<https://www.cleveland.com/letters/2023/09/end-tuberculosis-now-act-seeks-to-amplify-important-fight-against-this-deadly-disease.html>

Don't let our guard down in the fight against TB

October 21, 2023

I was encouraged to read that there were fewer than 10 cases of tuberculosis in Lorain County last year, as detailed in an article headlined “Public Health to take over TB program.” Despite that good news, I urge the county commissioners and Lorain County Public Health to remain vigilant against TB. It is still the deadliest infectious disease in the world, killing 1.6 million people in 2021 and making millions more sick. As long as TB is uncontrolled anywhere in the world, we are all at risk – we learned this lesson with COVID.

Thanks to decades of investment, 2022 was the most successful year ever in the fight against TB world-wide. At the recent United Nations General Assembly, we learned that a new vaccine is on the horizon and countries made bold commitments to reach 45 million people with testing and treatment by 2027. The US Agency for International Development negotiated a price reduction that provides an additional 750,000 people access to a TB preventive treatment.

It is time to build on these successes and finally end tuberculosis. The bipartisan End TB Now Act (S.288, H.R.1776) calls for the US Agency for International Development to build on its impressive record of investment in accountable, affordable, and results-based programs.

Our members of Congress can show us they are capable of meaningful action. I urge them to get these bills passed this year.

- Allison Gallaher, Grafton

No online link

Congress should reauthorize funding for AIDS relief

December 5, 2023

Despite the deep partisan divides in Congress, we've seen that lawmakers can work together when there's general agreement about a crisis. Case in point, on Friday, a large majority of the House from both sides of the aisle saw past party loyalty and voted to expel then U.S. Rep. George Santos, R-N.Y. Imagine if this were just the first of many breakthroughs where lawmakers prioritize progress and action above bickering and obstruction?

One of the most successful bipartisan achievements of the past two decades has been the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). 25 million mothers, fathers, and children are alive today because of the access to testing and antiretroviral drugs that PEPFAR provides, and 5.5 million babies have been born HIV-free. Every 5 years, PEPFAR requires renewal, and through 10 Congresses and 4 administrations, the American commitment to AIDS relief has remained strong. But current legislators have yet to act on the latest renewal. Is Congress too busy with partisan in-fighting to handle this detail?

HIV continues to claim far too many lives, infecting someone new every 30 seconds last year. We can end HIV/AIDS as a public health threat but only if we recommit to programs and policies that work. AIDS is still a crisis that demands action from our elected representatives. I urge the Ohio delegation to lead the way on getting PEPFAR reauthorized.

- Allison Gallaher, Grafton

No online link

Oregon media



Senators should reauthorize READ Act

September 28, 2023

I woke up on a chilly January morning. It was my 11th birthday, and I was buzzing with excitement. I jumped out of bed and shimmied on my school uniform. Leaping down the stairs I greeted my mom in the kitchen holding a wrapped present.

I ripped the wrapping paper off to find that it was the novel I had waited a year to come out, "The House of Hades" by Rick Riordan. I was devastated by the cliffhanger of the previous book and was ecstatic to find out what happens next. My reading skills opened me to so many worlds filled with adventure, intrigue and wonder.

However, my experience was unique. According to the world bank, 70% of children in low- and middle-income countries are experiencing learning poverty partly due to the pandemic. Learning poverty means that by the age of 10 students can't read and comprehend a simple sentence. I was lucky to be born in a wealthy country where by the age of 8 I was devouring books. This is a privilege all children should have access to, not just the joy of reading but the power that education gives any person to improve their life.

The READ Act is up for reauthorization in the Senate. This bill specifically targets giving money to USAID to reach vulnerable populations and requires them to have robust monitoring systems to improve quality of reading and education programs. Senators Merkley and Wyden should vote yes to reauthorizing the READ Act.

- Savannah Sanford, Corvallis

https://www.rv-times.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor-ashland-climate-students-reauthorize-read-act/article_b0b924cc-5974-11ee-a000-3f47a50b0965.html



The READ Act is up for reauthorization

October 7, 2023

I woke up on a chilly January morning. It was my 11th birthday; I was buzzing with excitement.

I jumped out of bed and shimmied into my school uniform. Leaping downstairs, I greeted my mom in the kitchen; she was holding a present. I ripped off the wrapping paper to find it was the novel I'd been waiting for a year to come out: "The House of Hades" by Rick Riordan.

I'd been devastated by the cliffhanger of the previous book, and was ecstatic to find out what happened next. My reading skills opened to me so many worlds filled with adventure, intrigue and wonder.

However, my experience wasn't necessarily typical. According to the World Bank, 70% of children in low- and middle-income countries are experiencing learning poverty, partly due to the pandemic. Learning poverty means that by age 10, students can't read and comprehend a simple sentence.

I was lucky to be born in a wealthy country where by the age of 8, I was devouring books. This is a privilege all children should have — not just the joy of reading, but the power that education gives any person to improve their life.

The READ Act is up for reauthorization in the Senate. This bill specifically targets giving money to the U.S. Agency for International Development to reach vulnerable populations, and requires them to have robust monitoring systems to improve quality of reading and education programs. Sens. Merkley and Wyden should vote "yes" on reauthorizing the READ Act.

– Savannah Sanford, Corvallis

https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-the-read-act-is-up-for-reauthorization/article_d083b8dc-155d-5a4a-b6e9-ecced74612a2.html

Reprinted in:



https://democratherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-the-read-act-is-up-for-reauthorization/article_0ad0e634-5bff-11ee-8b4b-4b3bc2108808.html



Renew the Child Tax Credit

November 16, 2023

Victoria Koch ("Hope in a World of Despair," Eugene Weekly, Nov. 2) is right that each of us can make a difference. Her examples show us the way. Even a smile makes a difference. Sometimes taking a breath, smiling and savoring the moment is all it takes to reset our attitude. Then taking action to make a difference.

Call your members of Congress (202-224-3121) and thank them for their hard work. Ask them to work for ceasefires in conflicts in the world, to renew the READ Act to help educate children in the world and to end poverty in the world's wealthiest country, starting by renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty nearly in half. It only takes a few minutes to make a call, take an action, and be a part of the solution to the despair.

- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2023/11/16/hippies-pickleball-and-international-politics/>



Thanks for Giving Us an Opinion Forum

December 21, 2023

As the year comes to a close, I want to thank Eugene Weekly for the incredible opinion forum they provide for our letters. Current opinions include the conflict in Gaza, the mayoral campaign, health care, the need for the astrology column.

Many of us learn from the points of view of others, on national issues like renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit, local issues like elections, global issues like the End TB Now Act and conflicts like Gaza. And this is just one aspect of a very informative and entertaining local paper. Let's continue to share our ideas and speak up in response to others, this supports the paper and our democracy!

- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2023/12/21/ew-readers-weigh-in-on-the-oregon-initiative-process-the-ems-and-more-in-letters/>

Pennsylvania media

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Nobel future

October 23, 2023

How thrilling to read about the latest Nobel Prize winners, women educated in faraway places whose spectacular discoveries help the whole planet. How much global talent languishes when girls (and boys) aren't in school? Where is the next Katalin Karikó? New data from UNESCO reports 250 million school-age children aren't in school — that's one-sixth of the world's children. There is hope: The 2023 READ Act Reauthorization Act addresses this crisis by boosting global education, to ensure all children can access quality instruction. The READ Act will empower the world to get back on track with education, particularly for girls in conflict-ridden nations. I commend my U.S. representative, Dwight Evans, cosponsor of the READ Act. While the House dithers, this bill sits. We can't wait — our next Nobel winner needs to get to school.

- **Betsy Teutsch, Philadelphia, bpteutsch@comcast.net**

<https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-october-23-2023-20231023.html?query=read%20reauthorization>

Tennessee media

OAKRIDGER

COVID emergency over; now lets fight to eradicate TB

May 21, 2023

To the Editor:

The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration has expired. While we all should stay vigilant, it is great to see that New York Times Latest COVID Maps report the global average daily deaths are down to 269. That holds, it's less than 100,000 deaths globally annually!

For another global pandemic, tuberculosis, the latest numbers are from 2021, when 1.6 million people lost their lives to this preventable and curable disease. That's 4,848 daily on average. With 25% of the world infected and well over 10 million people falling ill to TB every year, one would expect intense efforts to fight the disease.

However, TB disproportionately affects marginalized and impoverished communities and over the last few years, TB resources, equipment, and expertise were drafted into the frontlines of the COVID pandemic, at the expense of the already under-funded TB response.

The End Tuberculosis Now Act (H.R.1776/S.288) would help us get back on track by making sure current TB resources go to the right places. It requires the U.S. to establish bold goals for reaching the most vulnerable populations to detect, cure, and prevent even multi-drug resistant forms of TB. It also requires officials to track outcomes and report back to Congress on their findings. We all want our tax dollars spent effectively.

TB truly can be a disease of the past. Let's urge our members of Congress to co-sponsor the End TB Now Act and pass it into law this year.

- Anne Child, Oak Ridge

<https://www.oakridger.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/05/21/letter-covid-emergency-over-now-lets-fight-to-eradicate-tb/70231625007/>

Texas media

The Dallas Morning News

Resume fight against TB

January 7, 2023

Re: "Go all in to stop TB," by Margaret Smith, Dec. 31 Letters.

The recent spread of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in the U.S. reminds us that millions around the world still suffer from history's most infectious respiratory disease: tuberculosis.

Over the previous decade, the world had made progress in reducing global TB cases. However, the COVID-19 pandemic diverted resources from the fight against TB and, as a result, tuberculosis cases and deaths are again on the rise. A World Health Organization report shows that worldwide, 1.6 million people died of TB in 2021.

The End TB Now Act would help us get back on track. It requires the U.S. to target existing TB resources to those countries and populations that need it most. This legislation would foster more public-private partnerships in the fight against TB and would increase accountability for these efforts.

Congress came close to passing this bipartisan legislation but did not make it happen in 2022. I urge Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz as well as our new and returning Dallas-area representatives to make the passage of the End TB Now Act a top priority in 2023. Lives depend on it.

- Kyle Talkington, Dallas/Turtle Creek

https://reader.dallasnews.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=11b51ccd-c931-4e82-a976-a4275a33096c

The Dallas Morning News

Women can't wait 300 years

March 12, 2023

Re: "Women are losing gains, session told," Tuesday news story.

It was shocking to read that it will take 300 years to achieve gender equity on the current track. As we celebrated International Women's Day last week, this is an outrage!

Around 2.4 billion women of working age are not afforded equal economic opportunity and 178 countries maintain legal barriers that prevent their full economic participation, according to a World Bank report last year.

Education of girls must be a priority. Quite frequently this paper reports on yet another country denying or harassing girls that attempt to go to school. Better educated women tend to be more informed about nutrition and health care, have fewer children, marry at a later age, and their children are usually healthier.

In 2017 the U.S. passed The READ Act but it must be reauthorized. The READ Act addresses barriers to children's school attendance, retention and completion, especially for girls. The READ Act Reauthorization ensures that the U.S. government updates its strategy to improve basic education. It requires rigorous monitoring and reporting.

Please ask your member of Congress to co-sponsor this important legislation (HR 681/S 41). We must not wait 300 years for gender equity!

- Margaret Smith, Dallas/Turtle Creek

https://reader.dallasnews.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=6b136133-e733-400e-adcc-f1e75d854420

TB is not a relic; why stopping it should be a priority

By Mark Coats

March 24, 2023

Texans should note World TB Day, March 24, because Texas ranks #2 among U.S. states with the most tuberculosis, seeing cases rise 13.5 percent in 2021. Like Covid, this airborne disease is easily transmitted when infected individuals cough, sneeze or even talk.

Although developing countries have the highest TB rates, no nation is safe from the disease. Essentially, TB anywhere is TB everywhere. And it's both a cause and consequence of poverty.

TB killed 1.6 million people worldwide in 2021. Only Covid threatens TB's title of #1 infectious killer. The disease killed more than 1 billion people between 1800 and 2000.

One in four people worldwide harbor the TB bacteria. I am one of them but my TB was detected and successfully treated when I was still in high school. When ignored, TB waits for a person's immune system to weaken, then can strike with deadly consequences. People who are immune-compromised are more susceptible to TB, such as those with HIV and women of reproductive age.

Many believe TB is a disease of the past, but that is not the case. TB continues to be a public health concern due to a lack of resources. While TB is treatable and preventable, progress against TB has been slow and fragile. And that was before Covid. When Covid arrived, TB health workers, labs and resources were quickly redirected to fight Covid. Unsurprisingly, TB took advantage and infected more people. In many countries with high rates of TB, a year of Covid erased twelve years of TB progress.

This daunting public health challenge is an opportunity to invest in health systems that can fight TB and other diseases. Stronger health systems will also prepare for future pandemics by enabling quicker identification and containment of outbreaks, such as Ebola.

Members of Congress should make global TB appropriations and passage of the End TB Now Act a top priority this year, the authors write. (AP Photo/Gemunu Amarasinghe, File)

Stopping TB should be a centerpiece of U.S. global health leadership and pandemic response. Civil society and allies in Congress are calling for \$1 billion for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to restore critical TB services lost during the pandemic, prevent a dangerous reversal of progress, and strengthen TB programs for the future.

With an annual \$1 billion TB budget, USAID could increase support for TB prevention, invest in TB research and development, and expand access to treatment for all forms of TB, including Multidrug-Resistant TB. This relatively modest level of annual investment could have a transformative impact on the TB battle globally, while creating health systems that will help contain the next coronavirus.

Legislation is being considered to make this happen; the End TB Now Act. This bipartisan bill requires the U.S. to target existing TB resources to countries and populations who need it most, foster more public-private partnerships in the TB fight, and increase accountability for our efforts. Our members of Congress should make robust global TB appropriations and the passage of the End TB Now Act a top priority this year.

We call on Senator Cruz and Senator Cornyn to co-sponsor the End TB Now Act. We call on the Congress to appropriate \$1 billion for bilateral TB control for fiscal year 2024.

This vigorous support for the international TB fight is not only the right thing to do, but also the smart thing to do. Investments now are a bargain compared to the personal and societal cost of unchecked TB.

Coats is an Austin volunteer with RESULTS, which empowers citizens to educate the public and decision makers about policies to reduce poverty and end hunger. Claudia Morgan and Eloise Sutherland, also RESULTS volunteers, contributed to this article.

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/columns/your-voice/2023/03/24/opinion-tb-is-not-a-relic-why-stopping-it-should-be-a-priority/70032736007/>

Austin American-Statesman

Why debt limit agreement spending caps will punish those who live in the margins

June 11, 2023

The debt limit agreement should not punish those on the margins.

Progress has been slow in the fight against tuberculosis. The global TB death rate was down to 1.4 million annually, then COVID-19 interrupted that progress. TB rates are increasing. 1.6 million people died of TB in 2021. Texas had 1,097 people diagnosed with TB in 2022. That is almost a 10 percent increase over 2021. Even though TB is treatable and curable, in 2022 fifty of those diagnosed with TB in Texas died.

We need bold funding for combating tuberculosis. With significant additional funding, TB programs can bring tuberculosis under control and can be a big part of the world being prepared for the next infectious disease pandemic. This is one example of why the spending caps in the debt limit bill will be a death sentence for millions, millions that the Bible describes as "the least of these".

- Eloise Sutherland, Austin

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/06/10/austin-american-statesman-letters-to-the-editor-june-11-2023/70288532007/>

The Dallas Morning News

Please support this bill

June 18, 2023

Re: "Research takes shot at painless vaccines — UTD project could deliver meds through air instead of needles," June 8 news story.

As someone deeply concerned with the health and well-being of children, I was heartened to read this story. It is wonderful to see how science and innovation continue to improve the experience for both children and adults when it comes to protecting ourselves from dangerous diseases.

However, it is important to remember that not all children around the world are lucky enough to have access to vaccines. That's why the Reach Every Mother and Child Act legislation that has been introduced in the Senate is so important. Senate Bill 1547 aims to improve access to health care, including vaccines, for women and children in the world's most vulnerable communities.

I urge Sen. John Cornyn, who co-sponsored this crucial bill in 2019, to once again support it, and to bring Sen. Ted Cruz along. The passage of this bill could make a world of difference in the fight to protect children from preventable diseases.

Let's work together to make sure that vaccines are available to everyone in need so that no child suffers needlessly.

- Bukekile Dube, McKinney

https://reader.dallasnews.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=f6947623-548a-4fd3-a0e7-4ff8229903f3

The Dallas Morning News

Support End TB Now Act

July 6, 2023

Re: "South Texan comes down with malaria — Last locally acquired case occurred in 1994, state health agency says," June 27 Metro & Business story.

I was deeply concerned to read about the recent case of locally acquired malaria in Texas. This serves as a reminder of the diseases of poverty that continue to afflict communities around the world, including malaria, tuberculosis, HIV and others.

These diseases disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and ill health. It is crucial that we address these diseases and provide access to effective treatments and prevention methods.

One solution that holds great promise is the End TB Now Act. This legislation aims to increase funding for research, prevention and treatment of tuberculosis, which affects millions of people worldwide.

Contact your elected officials and voice your support for this crucial legislation. Together, we can make a difference in the fight against the diseases of poverty and ensure a healthier future for all.

- Bukekile Dube, McKinney

https://reader.dallasnews.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=97fb24dd-07e4-4211-9dce-346d2f07961c

The Dallas Morning News

Support lifesaving program

August 3, 2023

Re: "Lifesaving HIV program caught in partisan divide — Effort's future unclear amid claims it supports abortion," Monday news story.

As a concerned resident, I was deeply troubled to read this story. The divisive nature of politics is endangering a crucial program, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which has been instrumental in combating HIV/AIDS and saving countless lives worldwide.

As a Zimbabwean American, I know firsthand how PEPFAR has played a significant role in expanding access to antiretroviral treatment, preventing new HIV infections and supporting affected communities. I have several family members who are alive today because of PEPFAR. However, its continued funding is now at risk due to partisan disagreements, putting their lives also at risk.

It is because of this that I urge everyone to take immediate action by contacting their elected officials and demanding their support for the continued funding of PEPFAR in Congress. We must remind our representatives of the lifesaving impact this program has made and the urgent need to maintain its progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Together, we can bridge the partisan divide and ensure the well-being of millions of individuals affected by this devastating disease. PEPFAR's impact cannot be overstated!

- Bukekile Dube, McKinney

https://reader.dallasnews.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=efd936af-4a09-4264-8571-d0a368de41de

The Dallas Morning News

Congress, it's time to act

August 3, 2023

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief saves millions of lives in the fight against HIV and AIDS worldwide. It's disheartening to see this program's funding at risk due to bipartisan disagreements. Countless people desperately depend on it for lifesaving care. Providing such critical support should never become a matter of political divide.

Let's come together and prioritize what truly matters: saving lives. Join me in taking action. I urge you to contact your representative to let them know that we support the reauthorization of PEPFAR. Lives matter the most!

Congress, it's time to act now. Reauthorize PEPFAR!

- Siddarth Vyas, Dallas

https://reader.dallasnews.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=efd936af-4a09-4264-8571-d0a368de41de

Literacy a global issue

August 27, 2023

Re: "Area STAAR scores are a mixed bag," Front Page, Aug. 17:

STAAR scores for reading did not improve, but this is not necessarily a reflection on education quality. The STAAR is notoriously terrible. But literacy is a core issue, here at home and around the world.

According to the World Bank, 70% of 10-year-olds are unable to read a simple text in low- and middle-income countries.

We need to take bold action. The READ Act Reauthorization Act requires the U.S. to update our strategy to improve foundational and literacy around the world.

I thank Texas Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz for voting for the READ Act when it was first passed in 2018 and urge them to co-sponsor the READ Act Reauthorization Act, renewing it for another five years. I also call on U.S. Rep. Greg Casar to take a stand for global literacy by co-sponsoring the same act in the House, HR 1776.

- Isabelle Kidon

<https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/letters-editor/article/literacy-maui-san-antonio-major-city-18324292.php>

Austin American-Statesman

US can step up to meet global target to defeat tuberculosis

August 27, 2023

Tuberculosis has found its way on TikTok and yet it remains absent in Congress. Author John Green and his followers harnessed the power of social media advocacy to push Johnson & Johnson to supply its patented TB drug to low-income countries with the Stop TB Partnership.

1.6 million people died of Tuberculosis in 2023, alone. With resources with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and how a drug that is accessible to million in low- and middle-income countries, it is beyond time that the United States contribute our piece to meet the United Nation's global tuberculosis targets set in 2018.

I call on Congressman Lloyd Doggett and Senators Ted Cruz and John Cornyn to co-sponsor the End TB Now Act of 2023 (H. 1776, S.288) and prove our leadership in ending tuberculosis once and for all.

- Peter Kim, Austin

No online link

Austin American-Statesman

New bill would help marginalized children access a quality education

September 10, 2023

Re: Sept. 3 article, "LASA ranks among best high schools in nation".

The parents of LASA students must be happy LASA ranks 4th Texas. They are fortunate to live where quality education is publicly funded and available. Many around the world are less fortunate, especially as COVID-19 related school closures and disruptions interrupted learning for over a billion school-aged children. The longer vulnerable children are out of school, the less likely they are to return. With girls falling behind we've seen increases in child marriages and early pregnancies. A new bill gives Congress the opportunity to ensure the most marginalized children, especially girls and those with disabilities, can access a quality education. The bill calls on the U.S. to update its education strategy, includes robust monitoring, and requires our assistance to focus on reaching vulnerable populations. I urge Congressman Michael McCaul to support the READ Reauthorization Act of 2023(H.R.681). Senators Cruz & Cornyn should co-sponsor the companion Senate legislation, S.41.

- Mark Coats, Austin

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/09/10/austin-american-statesman-letters-to-the-editor-sept-10-2023/70760549007/>

Austin American-Statesman

Ask Texas lawmakers to support READ Act Reauthorization bills

September 17, 2023

I was delighted to see the letter about the READ Act Reauthorization (H.R. 681, S.41) Children learning to read and do basic numeracy leads to the growth of the economy in their communities and countries. I like that this bill calls for the U.S. to work with countries to strengthen their educational systems, accomplishing long-term sustainability. Another great thing is that it requires improvement to transparency and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars have the most impact for children worldwide.

I urge Senators Cornyn and Cruz to co-sponsor S. 41 and to urge leadership to make sure it passes. Thank you to Representative Doggett for co-sponsoring H.R. 681. Representatives Carter, Casar, and Roy should do the same. Representative McCaul can move it out of the State and Foreign Affairs committee. Will you contact them to say you want this important legislation passed?

- Eloise Sutherland, Austin

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/09/16/austin-american-statesman-letters-to-the-editor-sept-17-2023/70822484007/>

The Dallas Morning News

Making a commitment

September 25, 2023

The recent summit of world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly has highlighted the pressing need for action in addressing the lack of progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Leaders have recognized that these vital goals are under threat and have expressed concern about the slow or backward progress.

I encourage readers to contact their representatives and urge them to support the U.S. in assuming a leadership role in order to ensure the success of these goals. This can be achieved by committing to the eradication of poverty, the protection of the planet and the promotion of peace and prosperity for all by 2030.

- Bukekile Dube, McKinney

https://reader.dallasnews.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=886de7b7-4ed3-477a-8a91-9c7123311e3f

The Dallas Morning News

Time for tuberculosis vaccines

October 7, 2023

I was thrilled to read the story on the remarkable achievement of two scientists winning the Nobel Prize in medicine for their groundbreaking work on mRNA vaccines against COVID-19. However, it is crucial to recognize that while COVID-19 vaccines have been a game-changer, the development of new vaccines for other infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis, has stagnated.

As highlighted in the recent United Nations High-Level Meeting, the next five years are crucial for combating tuberculosis, with targets including the licensing of at least one new TB vaccine. I urge readers to reach out to their representatives in Congress and Texas Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, urging them to support and pass the End Tuberculosis Now Act (H.R. 1776/S. 288). Together, we can prioritize the development of new TB vaccines and tackle this global health crisis with the same vigor and determination we witnessed in the fight against COVID-19.

- Bukekile Dube, McKinney

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2023/10/07/letters-to-the-editor-school-vouchers-national-service-immigrants-rangers-chiefs/>

The Dallas Morning News

How to thank Rep. Granger

November 11, 2023

Re: "Replacing Granger Won't Be Easy," Nov. 3 Editorials.

Thank you, Kay Granger! It was early in my volunteer work with the anti-poverty lobby RESULTS when she gave me hope. I attended a presentation she gave at TCU titled "Healthy Mothers, Healthy Societies." I wanted her support on a resolution on global nutrition.

My husband and I arrived early so when she entered the auditorium, we were the only ones there. She walked toward us, and I immediately launched into my pitch and had the legislation in my hand. She grabbed it and started to read as I spoke. She handed it to her aide and said, "I want to be on this." She became a co-sponsor and restored my faith in how our democracy should work.

Kay Granger was chair of the House Appropriations Committee and has championed American leadership of not only the military but of our civilian and development tools around the world. She was very instrumental in supporting women and girls.

In honor of Kay, I would ask you to contact your U.S. representatives and request their support for the READ Act Reauthorization (H.R. 681).

- Margaret Smith, Dallas/Turtle Creek

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2023/11/11/letters-to-the-editor-snap-hamas-strs-granger-veterans-day/>

The Dallas Morning News

TB should not be this kind of problem

November 16, 2023

Re: "Hundreds of children possibly exposed to TB," Sunday news digest.

When are we going to take the action needed to make sure children are not exposed to tuberculosis? TB is preventable, treatable and curable. Yet, it competes with COVID-19 for being the leading infectious disease killer. About 1.3 million people worldwide died of TB in 2022.

The End Tuberculosis Now Act (HR 1776) is sitting in Congress. It directs the U.S. Agency for International Development to set bold goals for reaching the most vulnerable populations to detect, cure and prevent all forms of TB. It calls for strengthening U.S. coordination with global organizations to implement a comprehensive TB response.

Reps. Mike Johnson and Hakeem Jeffries and Sens. Chuck Shumer and Mitch McConnell must use their leadership roles to pass this legislation. Until TB is controlled around the world, we will continue to have outbreaks here in the U.S. that put our children at risk.

Will our Texas senators and representatives make sure this legislation is passed this year? Tell them you want them to pass it.

- Eloise Sutherland, Austin

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2023/11/16/letters-to-the-editor-electric-vehicles-supreme-court-end-tb-now-act-peace/>

The Dallas Morning News

2 Rep. Kay Granger

November 18, 2023

Re: "Granger says she won't seek reelection — Chairwoman of powerful Appropriations Committee to retire after 14 terms," Nov. 2 news story.

I am writing to express my deep admiration for U.S. Rep. Kay Granger's exceptional leadership as a representative for her constituents. She has been an outstanding voice for the people of our great state of Texas, and I stand among the many Texans who respect and appreciate her dedication to serving our community.

As this story highlighted, Granger's belief in a strong national defense, coupled with her pragmatic approach to issues, is commendable. What the article didn't mention is her support for U.S. global aid programs aimed at global development demonstrates her understanding of the importance of balancing both military prowess and soft diplomacy in today's interconnected world.

Let's follow Granger's example by showing the world that we, as Texans and Americans, are committed to following her lead.

- Bukekile Dube, McKinney

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2023/11/18/letters-to-the-editor-three-cheers-for-the-texas-bar-foundation-kay-granger-blessings/>

The Dallas Morning News

We've come so far

December 1, 2023

Every Dec. 1, as the world commemorates World AIDS Day, people around the globe unite to support people living with HIV and to remember those who have passed from AIDS-related illnesses. The world has come a long way since World AIDS Day was founded in 1988.

The U.S. should be very proud of PEPFAR. Through the generosity of the American people, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is the largest commitment by any nation to address a single disease and has been enacted through strong bipartisan support across 10 U.S. Congresses and four presidential administrations.

Since its creation 20 years ago, PEPFAR has saved 25 million lives and has enabled 5.5 million babies to be born HIV-free. Although PEPFAR's funding goes beyond addressing only HIV, its five-year strategy aims to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic by 2030.

PEPFAR shines as a beacon of what can be accomplished when many doubt the power we have to do good in the world. Congress must continue this success and reauthorize PEPFAR without delay. I encourage our senators and North Texas representatives to act promptly on this critical matter.

- Kyle Talkington, Dallas/Turtle Creek

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2023/12/01/letters-to-the-editor-juvenile-dentention-center-aids-day-the-carters-creationism/>

The Dallas Morning News

Reauthorize READ act

December 20, 2023

Re: “Young Texans to get learning tools — Legislature ensures path to high-quality instructional materials,” by Stephanie McCloud, Dec. 12 Opinion.

Kudos to the Texas Legislature for supporting high-quality public education in our state. While celebrating the improvement in performance the new tools provide our students, let us also remember the tragedy of tens of millions of children around the world who have no schools.

According to a new UNESCO report, 250 million children were out of school in 2022, 6 million more than the previous year. Access to quality basic education is a human right, essential to ending global poverty.

Congress in 2017 passed the READ Act, boosting global U.S. leadership in providing vulnerable children in low-income countries access to quality education.

The READ Act Reauthorization Act of 2023 (H.R. 681, S.41) will continue this leadership for another five years. The Senate has passed this bill; the House of Representatives must do so as well.

The READ Act has made a difference in the lives of millions of children; its reauthorization will allow that difference to continue.

The children are waiting for an education. We mustn't fail them. Contact your representatives and tell them to pass reauthorization.

- Claudia Morgan, Austin

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2023/12/20/letters-to-the-editor-confederate-memorial-soc-football-impeachment-read-act/>

Utah media

The Salt Lake Tribune

Debt ceiling: Utah lawmakers weren't hired to play chicken with our economy or use extortion

May 9, 2023

Utah's four congressmen (Blake Moore, Chris Stewart, John Curtis and Burgess Owens) all voted recently to play chicken with our economy. Instead of being responsible adults and taking responsibility for actually paying the interest on the debts that congress has already committed to, they are threatening to default on America's obligations unless they petulantly get their way. They are trying to force the president to agree to severe federal spending cuts.

The 22% cuts in spending would hurt Americans, decrease veterans' benefits, curtail pandemic response funds, roll back student debt relief, add stringent new requirements for Medicaid and food benefits, hurt preschool and childcare, gut lifesaving global health programs, and even derail efforts to limit tax fraud.

Our congressmen apparently view indebtedness as evil, somehow morally wrong. Yet incurring debt is about freedom. A loan frees you to buy your home, a car, an education, or invest in a business in exchange for accepting the adult obligation to pay it back with interest. Without loans only the richest, with grocery bags of cash, could ever be able to purchase or invest in assets.

We hired our congressmen to invest our tax money wisely to improve our society. We did not hire them for their adolescent bravado to play chicken with our domestic and international economy, nor to use extortion rather than negotiation. The residents of Utah need our congressmen to be adults and act responsibly.

- William Cosgrove, Cottonwood Heights

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2023/05/09/letter-debt-ceiling-utah-lawmakers/>



We can't halt funding for AIDS relief

PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, has saved over 25 million lives. We can't pull the plug on this program

June 24, 2023

I sometimes succumb to thinking that our federal government is a distant monolith that cannot or will not respond to my concerns. I stand corrected.

I volunteer with some citizen advocacy organizations (RESULTS, USGLC, ONE Campaign), and recently went to Washington, D.C., to meet with Utah's two senators and four congressmen and their staffs to urge them to reauthorize and continue to fund PEPFAR (the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief). Since its inception in 2003 by President George W. Bush, this program has saved 25 million lives from HIV/AIDS. Currently, PEPFAR provides daily life support for 20 million persons (including 5 million children) in 50 of the world's poorest countries.

With the recent debt ceiling negotiation, the funding for U.S. international health aid is at risk. I urged our representatives to view any decision to cut back the PEPFAR funding with all the dire seriousness of a decision to withdraw life support. Stopping that daily antiviral pill is "pulling the plug" on someone's life.

Our representatives and their staffs clearly understand the seriousness and the need to continue to support the PEPFAR program. Sen. Mitt Romney cosigned a letter with 19 other senators urging the State Department to reauthorize PEPFAR. I would like to take credit for Romney's decision, but I know that it was my voice added to a chorus of other concerned citizens' voices that both informed and supported his decision. Thank you, sir.

Our country's democratic process is often frustrating, but it feels good to know that my opinion is heard and can make a difference. Try it. Call your congressman.

- William Cosgrove, Cottonwood Heights

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2023/6/24/23769868/pepfar-aids-relief-funding>

Want to change the world? This man has a formula

A lot of people think signing a petition or donating money to a worthy cause will make a difference. This formula, and the results it already has prompted, demonstrates a more effective way.

By Jay Evensen

November 14, 2023

Sam Daley-Harris was playing the timpani in his high school orchestra in 1964 when he first came face-to-face with questions that would guide his life.

A flute player told him one of his fraternity brothers, a close friend, had been killed in a tractor-trailer accident. "I was 17," he told me. "Mortality was an irrelevant concept."

But suddenly he was faced with heavy questions that would follow him for years. Why am I here? What am I here to do? What's my purpose?

These came up again four years later when Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated.

Daley-Harris tells this story — his origin story — whenever he explains how he got started in what he calls "transformational advocacy."

Daley-Harris found his purpose. He founded a nonprofit called Results. It's an organization that has lived up to its name. Results has played a key part in what may be one of the century's least-told success stories — the drop in preventable child deaths worldwide from 40,000 per day in the early 1980s to 13,800 per day in 2021.

As he describes it in the latest edition of his book, "Reclaiming our Democracy," this success translates to almost 10 million people per year who are alive today, when they otherwise would have succumbed to malnutrition or preventable diseases.

I have to pause here and disclose that Results gave me an award in 2011 for reporting about issues related to global poverty and hunger. But it's the remarkable record of success on this and other issues (Results first introduced me to Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus and his poverty fighting microcredit program), not an award, that have led me to write about the organization for more than a decade.

Daley-Harris' book, which is scheduled for release in January, lays out step-by-step instructions for how to become an effective transformational advocate, not just a member of a large nonprofit that circulates petitions and raises money. The latter rarely accomplishes anything.

More than that, however, it is a guide to help organizations become successful.

Almost everyone shies away from advocacy as a way to make a difference in the world, he said.

"Why? Because most of us see advocacy as too hard or too frustrating, too complicated, or too partisan, too dirty or too time-consuming, too ineffective or too costly," he writes in the book, asking, "But what if that's all wrong?"

Daley-Harris has had success because he learned how to get attention in Washington, where good ideas alone are not enough. He learned how to teach people to access editorial boards and others to whom politicians pay attention, and to leverage the pressure-points in the halls of power. He trains volunteers in how to become spokespersons for their cause, how to write letters to the editor and op-eds, how to contact members of Congress and how to react to rejection with a courtesy and politeness that builds relationships.

Volunteers are taught to say, "I know you don't support this bill. What would it take to change your mind?"

More than a how-to for advocacy, he believes it is a primer for citizenship. He is less worried about a broken federal government than about what he calls "a broken citizenry."

"A lot of things worry me," he told me. "One is that Americans think they can't make a difference. 'I voted. I'm done, right? Between elections there's nothing for me to do.'"

Reclaiming democracy is about reclaiming citizenship. Find an issue about which you feel passionate, identify a real solution and work effectively to make a difference.

And along the way, perhaps the nation can get past its perpetual political nastiness and onto the road toward collective solutions.

“Hopefully, the book will not only get lots of new people into the game, but get lots of nonprofits upping their game,” he said.

Despite feeling that nudge to ask himself those life-altering questions in the '60s, it wasn't until 1978, after starting to get serious about world hunger, that high school music teacher Daley-Harris began speaking to classrooms about advocacy. He estimates he spoke to more than 7,000 students that school year. Each time, he would ask which of the kids could name their congressional representative.

Only about 200 knew the answer. It was a dismal realization, but also a source of motivation that has grown only stronger in the years since.

Recently, a student at Rutgers asked Daley-Harris what he thinks is the most important issue for the future.

“For me, the most important issue is for people to see that they make a difference, and have vehicles to do that in,” he told the student. “Not, ‘you can make a difference, good luck!’”

If he can match motivated citizens with successful organizations, like his own, he believes his ideas can outlive him.

The book makes a strong case for the kind of advocacy that could help good ideas rise on their merits, rather than sinking in a political morass. Certainly, Daley-Harris has the kind of track record that gives his ideas credibility.

Washington media



We can save lives by making TB a priority

February 19, 2023

The recent spread of RSV in the U.S. is a reminder that millions around the world still suffer from history's most infectious respiratory disease – tuberculosis. Despite progress in reducing global TB cases over the last decade, COVID 19 diverted resources to fight TB. As a result, TB cases and deaths are on the rise. A WHO report shows that 1.6 million people worldwide died of TB in 2021.

The End TB Now Act would help us get back on track. It requires the U.S. to target existing TB resources to those countries and populations who need it most. It would foster more public-private partnerships in the TB fight and increase accountability for our efforts.

Congress had the opportunity to easily pass this bipartisan legislation but did not make the time to get it done in 2022. That cannot happen again.

I urge our members of Congress to make passing the End TB Now Act a top priority this year. Lives literally depend on it.

- Rochelle Karlsen, Port Orchard

https://kitsapsun-wa-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=079ac1831_134aa6f



Speaking up

March 2023

How wonderful to read about “combining voices to make a difference (“Higher Ed Can Be a Powerful Force for Good,” Winter 2022). Grassroots activism makes a difference, as my 30 years as a volunteer with RESULTS (results.org) has shown me. I am proud of the UW’s part in creating a better world and encourage all to speak up to support higher education on the state, national, and global levels. Education leads to better health, more opportunity, and a brighter future for all. Together, we can use our voices to ensure everyone has this opportunity. Education equals hope and helps bring about solutions to the critical challenges we face today.

- Willie Dickerson, '73, '94, Snohomish

https://issuu.com/uwalumni/docs/uw_magazine_march_2023

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Tuberculosis Vaccine News

March 18, 2023

Debbie Cockrell's March 7 story in The News Tribune on a tuberculosis vaccine being developed, now in Phase 2 clinical testing, is great news. TB is the biggest infectious killer in our world. At my annual physical, my doctor told me that he is more concerned about TB than COVID. Funding to fight TB was depleted while fighting the COVID pandemic, putting children around the world at risk.

Tuberculosis is very easily transmitted, even just by talking. Our U.S. Senators, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, along with U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer, have voted to support funding for TB programs. Please let them know to continue funding the disease as a priority. We can tell what our members of Congress' values are by the way they vote.

- Andy Clarke, Gig Harbor

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article273283940.html>



U.S. can be a leader in eradicating TB

March 28, 2023

Each year, we recognize World TB Day on March 24. This annual event commemorates the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of the bacillus that causes tuberculosis (TB). Many believe TB is a disease of the past, but that is not the case. Although TB is an ancient disease, it continues to cause significant illness and deaths throughout the world. In fact, TB kills more people globally than HIV and Malaria combined and has now surpassed COVID-19 as the leading infectious disease killer. Recent years have seen the first increase of TB sickness and deaths in decades, with almost 11 million sickened and 1.6 million killed.

TB mortality is disproportionately concentrated in the youngest of children, with 80% of child TB deaths occurring in those younger than 5 years. In an official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics (PREP) a 2019 article reported that 96% of the deaths in children occur in those not receiving treatment. In fact, the mortality rate for children receiving appropriate therapy is less than 1%. Dr. Atul Gawande is the Senior Leader for Global Health within USAID -- the lead government agency in the battle against TB. He stated there is critical pending legislation with the "End TB Now" Act, which holds USAID and the U.S. government accountable for turning the situation around.

We urge Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray to support this life saving bill.

- Mike and Leslie Boyer, Bremerton

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/03/28/u-s-can-be-a-leader-in-eradicating-tb/70057352007/>

Kitsap Sun

Global nutrition should remain a priority

April 30, 2023

First, the bad news. UNICEF reports that worldwide over 5 million children die from preventable causes before their fifth birthday. That one every 4.4 seconds! 2.3 million of those children are newborns. Almost 50% of those children died due to malnutrition.

Now, the good news. These deaths are all preventable. Just providing children and their pregnant and lactating mothers with adequate nutrition would save almost half those lost lives. For the cost of what Americans spend on Halloween, the nutritional needs of children and their pregnant and lactating mothers worldwide could be met. Wow!

Congress has been asked to provide \$300 million to fund global nutrition. I applaud Senator Maria Cantwell's support by signing onto a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee in support of that goal. Representative Derek Kilmer also supports that funding request. And our own Senator Patty Murray, Chair of the Senate appropriations Committee, is in a powerful position to ensure those fund to save children's lives are appropriated.

Please reach out to these elected officials to let them know that saving children's lives by providing adequate nutrition, vaccines, and healthcare are of the highest priority. You can do that by calling the Congressional Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

- Beth Wilson, Olalla

No online link

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Tuberculosis Requires Bold Action

May 27, 2023

News about an ongoing, untreated tuberculosis (TB) case is rare and alarming in Washington state, where the disease is largely controlled. It reminds all of us to consider the greater global health situation regarding this deadly illness. In 2021, over 10.5 million people were sickened from TB and 1.6 million people died from it. The WHO estimates around 4 million people remain undiagnosed and untreated. The COVID-19 pandemic damaged our already underfunded TB response in low- and middle-income countries, reversing years of progress. TB is once again becoming the biggest infectious disease killer in the world. Congress has the power to help get us back on track with the End TB Now Act. It requires bold goals for reaching vulnerable populations to detect, cure, and prevent all forms of TB.

– **Cynthia Changyit Levin, St. Louis, Mo**

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article275843751.html>

Reprinted in:

yahoo!news

<https://news.yahoo.com/stop-trashing-republicans-ron-desantis-120000759.html?guccounter=1>

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

No title

June 3, 2023

The recent letter titled "Tuberculosis requires bold action" (TNT, May 28) raised excellent points about the fight against TB. TB is a completely treatable disease, both here in Washington state and around the world. Please consider contacting our local representatives, Rep Derek Kilmer and Rep. Marilyn Strickland, about supporting the End TB Now Act, which will provide resources for identifying, treating and hopefully eliminating tuberculosis.

- Jennie Vano, Fircrest

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article276063216.html>

Tri-City Herald

Thanks, Rep. Newhouse

June 16, 2021

Thanks to Rep. Dan Newhouse for his vote for the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. It allowed the US to pay its bills, increase the debt ceiling, and cap federal spending. He knows, as a businessman and Representative, the importance of the bill. Rep. Newhouse has also voted for the Global Malnutrition Prevention & Treatment Act and READ Act-which funds early childhood learning.

Now I ask for his support for the American Family Act to restore the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to 2021 levels. This would be good fiscal responsibility and provide care for the most vulnerable.

After Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act in 2021, data from the Census Bureau and the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that investing a modest amount in children and families made a huge difference. Food insecurity and other material hardship dropped. Not only could parents pay their bills but most importantly children ate healthier.

The expanded CTC ended in 2021. The CTC was created by and has been expanded multiple times with bipartisan support. I ask Rep. Newhouse to be a policymaker who can make that happen again.

- Barbara Puigh, Richland

No online link



We can fight tuberculosis with the Stop TB Now Act

June 21, 2023

The Journal of the American Medical Association recently posted an article online about the 20-year history of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). It is a story of a devastating disease and what can be done to meet that challenge.

There is a popular phrase in public health circles that people are living with AIDS and dying of tuberculosis, or TB. Much of the health infrastructure for dealing with TB in low-income countries was repurposed for the covid-19 pandemic. As covid-19 mortality rates are declining, TB is re-emerging as the most common cause of death from infectious disease worldwide.

It doesn't have to be that way.

I sincerely hope that more legislators will follow the example of my representative, Rep. Suzan DelBene, to pass HR 1776, the Stop TB Now Act.

- Mary Minor, Snohomish

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/we-can-fight-tuberculosis-with-the-stop-tb-now-act/>



Stop TB Now Act: Ask your political leaders to help fight TB

July 2, 2023

Mary Minor's letter makes it clear that tuberculosis, once again the world's top infectious killer, can be stopped ("We can fight tuberculosis with the Stop TB Now Act," The Herald, June 21).

Why is a treatable, preventable and curable disease this kind of threat? While it is a disease plaguing the world's struggling countries, all countries are at risk due to TB's airborne transmission and its drug-resistant forms. TB is on the rise globally and in our state, according to the Washington State Department of Health.

We can help turn this around by asking Congress to pass the Stop TB Now Act and sign a bipartisan letter to the president, calling on the administration to demonstrate bold action at the upcoming United Nations High Level Meeting on TB.

It is time to get this infectious killer under control, and these actions are a critical step to finally be able to prevent, treat and cure this deadly disease.

- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/stop-tb-now-act-ask-your-political-leaders-to-help-fight-tb/>

Tribune

Global Education

Re-upping READ Act in budget talks preserves schools

September 20, 2023

To the Editor:

As students go back to school, we can be grateful we live in a country that makes public education available and free. Around the world, a billion children are not as fortunate, especially after the disruptions of COVID, causing schools to close. Girls have particularly fallen behind along with an increase in child marriages and early pregnancies. Fortunately, the READ Reauthorization Act (House: HR 681, Senate S 41) would address this by having USAID (our development agency) update its education strategy to focus on ensuring marginalized students, especially girls and those with disabilities, receive a quality education. While including robust monitoring, the bill asks for no new money. Congress is busy working to agree on a budget, but needs to pass this bill by the end of the month as well, to renew America's strategy to help the world's vulnerable children. Won't you take a minute to ask your representative and senators (phone 202-224-3121) to make sure it passes in time?

- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish

https://reader.dallasnews.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=886de7b7-4ed3-477a-8a91-9c7123311e3f

The Columbian

Support global education

September 23, 2023

Just as we are getting children settled into school for the year, startling new information on global education has come out. The world has set global goals to ensure all children get a quality education by 2030. But new data from UNESCO says that 250 million school-age children are not in school — 6 million more in 2021. That's 1 in 6 of the world's children.

But there is hope if we act. The READ Act Reauthorization of 2023 seeks to address this crisis in part. The READ Act boosts U.S. leadership on global education to ensure all vulnerable children have access to quality education. The READ Act is a proven policy that builds strong partnerships and delivers results. It will empower the world to get back on track with education, particularly for girls and young people in conflict-ridden nations

Our senators and representatives should cosponsor the READ Act (H.R. 681, S.41) and push to move the bill through Congress by the end of September. We can't wait on education.

- Carolyn Riddle, Vancouver

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2023/sep/23/letter-support-global-education/>

YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

Tell Congress to protect our vulnerable children

September 25, 2023

As a retired educator, I enjoyed reading about the first day of school in Yakima. ("First day of school in Yakima School District starts on board a familiar yellow bus," by Santiago Ochoa, Yakima Herald-Republic.)

A pleasant surprise was Superintendent Trevor Greene riding the bus to be hands-on with the kids fresh to this first day of school. A billion children around the world are not as fortunate, with many schools closed or disrupted because of COVID.

Girls were hit the hardest, with an increase in child marriages and early pregnancies.

Thoughtfully, the READ Reauthorization Act currently in Congress (House: HR 681, Senate S 41) would address this crisis, having USAID (our development agency) clarify its education strategies to focus on insuring marginalized students, especially girls and those with disabilities, receive a quality education.

This bipartisan bill ensures efficiency and evaluation of programs while asking for no new money. Congress, busy working to agree on a budget, needs to pass this bill by the end of the month as well, renewing America's effort to help the world's vulnerable children.

It only takes a minute to ask your representative and senators (202-224-3121) to make sure it passes.

- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish

https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-tell-congress-to-protect-our-vulnerable-children/article_94123cae-59c0-11ee-98f4-57f45e125258.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

The Columbian

Provide support for education

September 30, 2023

Carolyn Riddle is right in her recent letter (“Support global education,” Our Readers’ Views, Sept. 23). She urgently draws attention to the value-packed reauthorization of the READ Act.

I know that my education enriches not only my life, but also contributes to the way I participate in the community, state, country where I live. The COVID pandemic cut into educational systems globally, and restoration is essential. The U.S. government has long been a leader in global education, and the READ Act increased the effectiveness and impact of this work. Reauthorizing for another five years will help maintain a well-resourced global education strategy and ensure we effectively contribute to quality education around the world.

Readers can contact Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez and Sens. Marie Cantwell and Patty Murray to ask for their endorsement of the READ act today. They need to hear your voices.

- Nancy Curtiss, Olympia

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2023/sep/30/letter-provide-support-for-education/>

The Seattle Times

Rep. Derek Kilmer: Thank you

November 17, 2023

Re: "I won't run again for Congress, but I remain hopeful that we can make things better" [Nov. 9, Opinion]:

I was sorry to read of U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer's retirement, since hopeful, bipartisan, hard workers like him are exactly the kind of people we want to represent us.

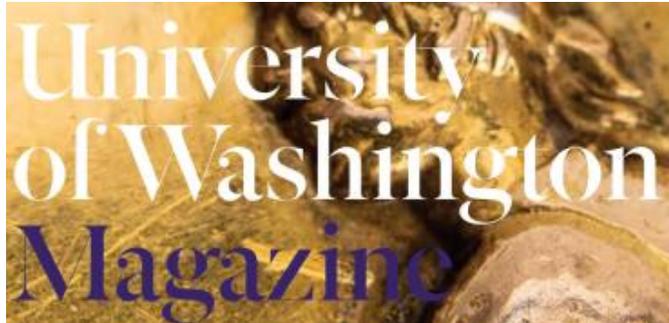
Speaking with Rep. Kilmer over the years in Washington, D.C., and locally, it is easy to see why he will be missed. He is a good listener. And he is a champion for global health, protecting us locally; global education that results in hope for children around the world; and ladders out of poverty in our country. The list goes on.

His bipartisan work once resulted in getting the entire Washington delegation, of both parties, to sign a letter to the president calling for bold support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, resulting in just that. He still has a year remaining to continue his good work, including renewing the READ Act to keep education improving around the globe; passing the End TB Now Act to battle a leading infectious killer in our world; and renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit to once again cut child poverty in half.

So take a minute to thank him and encourage him to continue his hard work on what matters.

- **Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/rep-derek-kilmer-thank-you/?utm_source=RSS&utm_medium=Referral&utm_campaign=RSS_all



Inspiration and Hope

November 29, 20

Congratulations to public health visionary George Counts, '65 ("A Passion for Public Health," Fall 2023). A pillar in the battle against HIV/AIDS, he deserves the gratitude of millions. Thanks to his work, along with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, millions can now live ordinary lives. I saw this change during my time in Zambia, with hope and gratitude for these programs that transformed the country from a place of death by deadly diseases to one where everyone has a future. Of course, more work is still to be done, especially with tuberculosis, on the rise for the first time in decades because of the resources shifted to battle the COVID pandemic. But with the inspiration of George Counts and the global health initiatives America supports, there is hope.

- Willie Dickerson, '73, '94, Snohomish

https://issuu.com/uwalumni/docs/uwm_winter_2023

Kitsap Sun

Honor Carter's legacy of caring for people in need

November 30, 2023

Watching former first lady Rosalyn Carter's memorial service I am reminded of the impact and importance of truly caring. Mrs. Carter left a legacy that included giving voice to, and supporting people who needed help; including people serving as caregivers, people with mental health issues, and people who lacked housing. She recognized that so many need help, and she was instrumental in establishing programs that provided that help. (Rosalyn Carter Institute For Caregivers, passage of Mental Health Systems Act, Habitat For Humanity)

Currently, Congress has at least three opportunities to continue to provide help to people in need.

One: passing the End TB Now Act (HR1776 -already unanimously passed in the Foreign Relations Committee) to fight a disease that needlessly killed 1.3 million people last year.

Two: Passing the READ ACT Reauthorization Act of 2023 (HR 681, S41)- making certain that the US government renews and updates our efforts to ensure equal access to quality education for children throughout the world.

Three: revisiting and revising the CTC (Child Tax Credit) that reduced child poverty by 46%- making sure that the lowest income families are not left out.

All of these issues deserve bipartisan support, and would confirm our continuing commitment to helping people in need, as so beautifully demonstrated by Rosalyn Carter.

- Leslie Boyer, Bremerton

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/11/30/honor-carters-legacy-of-caring-for-people-in-need/71755246007/>

Kitsap Sun

Thanks to Rep. Kilmer for standing up on behalf of kids

December 14, 2023

Many people don't care who represents them in Congress. But to me it matters a lot. For 11 years Rep. Derek Kilmer has represented the residents of Kitsap County and beyond. Next year will be his last year representing us, as he's announced that he is term limiting himself. How many members of Congress have the courage to do that! During his six terms in Congress, he's stood up for working people, for students and their schools and training institutions, for healthcare, for veterans, for small businesses, for the Tribes, for the environment, and most importantly, for children.

I am particularly grateful for his persistent focus on reducing poverty, in the U.S. and around the world. He's always been a strong supporter of policies and investments in the well being of children, their families, their schools, and their health. Currently he is supporting the expansion of the Child Tax Credit that will lift almost half of the children in Washington State out of poverty, improvement of policies governing our nation's investment in global education, and eradication of TB (the largest infectious disease killer globally). Derek, you are a hero to so many people. Thank you for your service to us all.

- Beth Wilson, Olalla

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/12/14/thanks-to-rep-kilmer-for-standing-up-on-behalf-of-kids/71913273007/>

No title

December 20, 2023

Editor,

Carole Jacobson's recent letter reminds us of the many emergencies around the world that need our help, even if they don't get headlines (CDN, Dec. 13, 2023). Inspired by her call for us to help, there are many avenues to make a difference. Beyond giving cash, there is also using our voices to encourage our government's positive initiatives. Calling for the renewing of the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty by 46% is a good start. Passing the End TB Now Act will help people around the world by battling tuberculosis, the world's number one infectious killer.

Renewing the READ Act will continue reaching children with a quality education where many have no opportunity. So you can make a difference by calling your members of Congress, 202-224-3121, and encouraging them to pass these and other ladders out of poverty for our country and our global community.

- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish

<https://www.cascadiadaily.com/news/2023/dec/20/letters-to-the-editor-week-of-dec-20-2023/>

TB needs more effort in Congress to end threat

December 27, 2023

I heard a report last week that health care providers need to run tests for tuberculosis on anyone who was incarcerated in Washington state during 2021-22. They are looking for 800 former inmates who were exposed to TB and were never advised about it.

If your reaction to this news is, "huh. TB. That's still a thing?" You're not alone. While most Americans don't hear a lot about this devastating illness that mostly effects the people in desperately poor countries and situations of overcrowding such as prisons. TB is alive and well; but it shouldn't be.

The above-mentioned case was reported by the Centers for Disease Control, last March. There had not been any cases of TB in our prison system in the previous 20 years. Then came covid-19 and, as in many countries with a fragile health infrastructure, TB resources were shifted to the other highly infectious airborne respiratory disease.

TB is once again the biggest infectious disease cause of death, globally. It is preventable, treatable, and curable. The End TB Now Act has sailed through the Senate with bipartisan support. Currently, it is stuck in the House. I am grateful to Rep. Suzan DelBene, D-Wash., for co-sponsoring HR 1776. I strongly suggest you call your member of Congress and show your support for this no-brainer bill at 202-224-3121.

- Mary Minor, Snohomish

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/tb-needs-more-effort-in-congress-to-end-threat/>

West Virginia media



Children need Congress to pass the READ Reauthorization Act

September 27, 2023

As a public health educator, I work in the United States and globally to educate rural and underserved communities regarding public health, chronic diseases, and maternal child health morbidity issues. I have seen firsthand the value of education among children and their families living in poverty.

While quality public education afforded me opportunities to complete a master's degree at Banaras Hindu University and a Ph.D. in Health Services at Old Dominion University to contribute to a career in Public Health at West Virginia University, a billion children worldwide are not as fortunate.

New data from UNESCO shows that 250 million school-age children are not in school & 40% of elementary school children can't read. Fortunately, the bipartisan READ Reauthorization Act (House: HR 681, Senate S 41) seeks to address this crisis and boosts U.S. leadership on global education to ensure all vulnerable children have access to quality education.

The READ Act is a proven policy that builds strong partnerships, delivers results, and empowers children, especially girls and disabled children with education. In addition, while including robust monitoring, the bill asks for no new money.

Please join me in encouraging Representative Alex Mooney and Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin to pass this bill by Sept. 30 deadline. An investment in education isn't just the right thing to do; it's also the smart thing to do.

- Ranjita Misra, Professor & PhD Program Director, School of Public Health, West Virginia University

https://www.timeswv.com/opinion/readers_write/children-need-congress-to-pass-the-read-reauthorization-act/article_8d198400-5ca6-11ee-a8ba-974b805319e1.html

Wisconsin media

Work together and put an end to tuberculosis -- America Domingo

July 23, 2023

Tuberculosis has affected me and my mother. My mother and I both were patients in a TB sanitarium.

At the age of 14, my TB returned and I was placed in a TB sanitarium for 15 months. When I was a patient in the sanitarium, I was the youngest patient, and it was painful for me because I was isolated and frightened. It was difficult for me to get an education, and I did not have visitors. My mother was a patient in the sanitarium for two years until she passed.

After being a patient in a sanitarium for 15 months, I was allowed to return home. When I grew older, I had little food to eat because my family was in poverty.

After being affected by TB, living in poverty and meeting a member of Congress, I was inspired to take action and still take action. I have a passion for those who are struggling with their health, struggling to get an education and not having enough food to eat. I am asking everyone to please get involved to end this deadly disease.

- America Domingo, Mount Horeb

https://madison.com/opinion/letters/work-together-and-put-an-end-to-tuberculosis/article_26a9b74e-27d1-11ee-8f43-9f2b2a630d15.html

Wyoming media



Please urge Congress to pass the End TB Now Act this year

May 18, 2023

TB is often thought of as a disease of the past. Yet, it kills more people each year than any other infectious disease (behind COVID-19).

TB disproportionately affects marginalized and impoverished communities, and the World Health Organization reports that 1.6 million died of TB in 2021. Over the last few years, TB resources, equipment and expertise were drafted into the frontlines of the COVID pandemic, at the expense of the already under-funded TB response.

The End Tuberculosis Now Act (H.R. 1776/ S. 288) would help us get back on track by making sure current TB resources go to the right places. It requires the U.S. to establish bold goals for reaching the most vulnerable populations to detect, cure and prevent all forms of TB. It also requires officials to track outcomes and report back to Congress on their findings.

We can truly make TB a disease of the past. I urge our members of Congress to co-sponsor the End TB Now Act and pass it into law this year.

- Jennifer Quinlivan, Cheyenne

https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/please-urge-congress-to-pass-the-end-tb-now-act-this-year/article_4d742392-f4e0-11ed-b5c4-ebb2bc908b98.html

Cutting PEPFAR program would be a deliberate choice to kill people

June 22, 2023

In 2003, George W. Bush created the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), putting the U.S. at the front of the world's struggle against this killer. The Kaiser Family Foundation describes it as one of the most successful programs in global health history. It includes significant "spillover effects" in prevention of maternal and child death and an increase in childhood vaccination rates around the world.

PEPFAR is up for its fourth reauthorization this year. Each previous reauthorization has had nearly unanimous bipartisan support in Congress. But this year is different. Some in Congress are looking at PEPFAR, a program many people have never heard of, as a convenient place to eliminate spending.

A friend of mine, a retired pediatrician, has mourned with families at the loss of children. Harder yet, he has shared with them the decision to end futile medical treatment and let their children die. To him, cutting PEPFAR would be "pulling the plug" on millions of people who, with treatment, are healthy and active – with Congress committed to saving money instead of people.

I have met some of these people. I have shopped at a dollar store with one who looked forward to taking little gifts home to family and friends and picking up some necessities for others.

And I have visited with one who gave birth to her first child (before PEPFAR) alone on the streets because she refused the abortion her doctors demanded of HIV-positive women. The husband who gave her the infection had left her, her terrified family wouldn't take her in, and the baby was born with HIV. Then help came. Today she and her first son remain HIV-undetectable with treatment, she is remarried with a husband and her second son who are both HIV-free, she speaks at international

conferences, and she has founded a charity to help other women reach the treatment they need.

Senators Barrasso and Lummis and Representative Hageman need to hear from the people of Wyoming that we understand a choice to cut or end PEPFAR is nothing less than a deliberate choice to kill people.

- Ann Erdmann, Cheyenne

https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/cutting-pepfar-program-would-be-a-deliberate-choice-to-kill-people/article_6061c28c-0fe0-11ee-a9c7-179073d53cad.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



A small financial gift now could end tuberculosis for good worldwide

September 27, 2023

On Sept. 22, U.N. member states formally adopted the most ambitious targets yet in the fight against tuberculosis. If countries follow through on their commitments, it will put the world back on track to ending TB by 2030 and providing lifesaving treatment for 45 million people between 2023 and 2027.

Next, we have Halloween, and soon it will be Christmas.

Do you remember Christmas Seals? Every year, as part of sending out Christmas cards, you could make a small donation and seal your envelopes with decorative stickers from the American Lung Association. That small gesture helped us reach the point that we scarcely need to think about TB in America.

The ALA has been so successful in the fight against TB that it has pivoted its focus to asthma, COPD, COVID-19, lung cancer and other respiratory illnesses. You can still go to the American Lung Association's webpage to make a small donation and get Christmas Seals.

But tuberculosis has regained its status as the number one infectious killer in the world after being surpassed briefly by COVID.

So, why do I mention Halloween in a letter about tuberculosis? Because TOTAL global spending on TB is one-half what Americans spend on Halloween!

We were willing to spend a small amount on Christmas Seals when average family spending on Christmas was not even measured in hundreds, let alone thousands, of dollars. As Congress wrangles over how to trim spending in places nobody important will notice, let our delegation know that you want our country live up to its commitments in the fight against TB.

I hadn't mentioned Thanksgiving. Our success against TB in America is certainly something we should be thankful for. So take action, be thankful, and enjoy Halloween, knowing you may have saved someone's life.

- Ann Erdmann, Cheyenne

https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/a-small-financial-gift-now-could-end-tuberculosis-for-good-worldwide/article_5525bf42-5c23-11ee-bc01-5702e0943ec0.html



Wyoming delegation, please help get READ Act for basic education reauthorized

October 28, 2023

Earlier this month (Oct. 7) the WTE ran an editorial from Bloomberg, "Why aren't America's students showing up?" The editorial explored reasons that ranged from no longer valuing education through parental neglect to lack of interest in actual human contact post-pandemic. Regardless of the reason, the issue raises deeply troubling questions for our society.

The problem repeats itself globally, especially in lower- and middle-income countries. The causes are very different, and both easier to understand and to address. Some schools closed during the pandemic and haven't reopened. Economic impacts limited families' ability to pay for education and increased their reliance on income their children could earn. Families sold their daughters into marriage to raise money and to relieve themselves of one mouth to feed. By and large, those girls won't return to school.

USAID's Basic Education programs and the READ Act (Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development) support countries facing these and other problems.

Congress needs to ensure substantial funding for USAID's Basic Education work. More urgently, and without complicating budget negotiations, Congress needs to pass the READ Act Reauthorization Act (H.R. 681/ S. 41). The original READ Act of 2017 protected the U.S. government's international basic education strategy and ensured congressional oversight, transparency and other accountability measures. It expired on Sept. 30. The Reauthorization Act would extend this bill for an additional five years, continuing current U.S. efforts to ensure access to quality education for children and youth throughout the world. Importantly, the bill emphasizes education for girls and for children and youth in conflict zones.

In the Senate, the bill sits in the Foreign Relations Committee, where Sen. Barrasso can encourage the chair of the committee to move reauthorization forward. Rep. Hageman comes from a family of educators and understands what education means. Sen. Lummis, too, has expressed support for U.S. leadership on these issues. Let them know Wyoming wants them to push passage of READ Act Reauthorization and will support funding basic education in the USAID budget.

- Ann Erdmann, Cheyenne

https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/wyoming-delegation-please-help-get-read-act-for-basic-education-reauthorized/article_4cad70d2-7436-11ee-b62a-3717f82327bd.html