

2019 CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS

Note on Leave-Behind Folders for Congressional Meetings

The campaign materials in this folder ***with a sticker on it that says “Policy”*** are your personal copies of these documents for both Global and U.S. Poverty.

The **RESULTS logo folders you will pick up on Monday** during lobby prep are the “Leave-Behind Folders” for Congressional offices. There will be separate Global and U.S. Poverty folders – but they include asks for both the House and Senate. Take only one folder to leave behind with the staffer for each Congressional meeting you have scheduled.

Key Global Poverty Requests

Stepping Up the Fight for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria

Through partnerships with affected countries and smart investments aimed at improving health systems and increasing access to health care, the United States is helping lay the foundations for ending the disease of poverty. As the leading international partnership dedicated to fighting AIDS, TB, and malaria in the world, the Global Fund empowers countries to invest in bold plans to combat these leading killers. To date, the Global Fund has saved 27 million lives. With continued U.S. leadership over the next three-year period, it plans to save 16 million more lives.

Congress should support the U.S. maintaining our commitment of funding one-third of the total need for the Global Fund at the 6th replenishment conference by cosponsoring the upcoming Global Fund resolutions in support of the U.S. maintaining our commitment to ending the diseases of poverty. And, by ensuring \$1.56 billion for the Global Fund in any final fiscal year 2020 spending bill.

HOUSE Request:

- When it’s introduced, will you join Chairman Eliot Engel (D-NY) and/or Ranking Member Michael McCaul (R-TX) as a co-sponsor on a Global Fund resolution?
 - You can reach out to Katy.Crosby@mail.house.gov in Engel’s office or Thomas.Rice@mail.house.gov in McCaul’s office to sign on.

SENATE Request:

- When it’s introduced, will you join Chairman Jim Risch (R-ID) and/or Ranking Member Bob Menendez (D-NJ) as a co-sponsor on a Global Fund resolution?
 - You can reach out to Joan.Condon@foreign.senate.gov in Risch’s office or Heather.Flynn@foreign.senate.gov in Menendez’s office or to sign on.
- Will you follow up with Appropriations Committee leaders and ask for \$1.56 billion for the Global Fund, and strong language indicating support for the upcoming replenishment, in any final FY20 spending bill?

Background Documents:

- Stepping Up the Fight: Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Fact Sheet

Scaling Up Global Nutrition Investments

Childhood malnutrition goes hand-in-hand with poverty globally: it is both a devastating consequence and a key driver of poverty. Its effects often follow a child throughout her lifetime – from her basic health to how far she’s likely to get in school to how much she’ll earn. The consequences of early childhood malnutrition are devastating and permanent, but they are also entirely preventable.

Alongside the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan, world leaders will come together at a summit to commit to doing a better job at building political will and increasing investments in the fight against malnutrition. But **Congress has the power to act now** to be on the record in support of U.S. leadership on global nutrition and to invest in these early years that are so critical to both physical and cognitive development.

Now is the time to build on our previous work and accelerate our efforts to fight against global maternal and child malnutrition. These bipartisan resolutions will help ensure continued U.S. leadership in providing critical nutrition interventions in an efficient, integrated and strategic manner, and reaching some of the world’s poorest and most marginalized populations.

HOUSE Request:

- Will you co-sponsor H.Res. 189, the Roger Marshall (R-KS) /Jim McGovern (D-MA) bipartisan global nutrition resolution?
 - You can reach out to Charlotte.Pineda@mail.house.gov in Marshall’s office or Cindy.Buhl@mail.house.gov in McGovern’s office to sign on.

SENATE Request:

- Will you co-sponsor S.Res. 260, the Susan Collins (R-ME)/Chris Coons (D-DE) bipartisan global nutrition resolution?
 - You can reach out to Hannah.Hudson@collins.senate.gov in Collin’s office or Kelsey.Magill@coons.senate.gov in Coons’ office to sign on.

****If your Senator signed the FY20 MCH, Gavi, and Nutrition appropriations letter in the spring:***

- We’d like to see an increase over the House’s flat-funding of \$145 million for Nutrition in FY20. Will you follow up with Appropriations Committee leaders and ask for \$250 million for the Nutrition Account in Global Health in any final FY20 spending bill?

Background Documents:

- Scaling Up Nutrition Fact Sheet
- House Resolution – Marshall/McGovern Dear Colleague Letter and H.Res 189
- Senate Resolution – S.Res 260

Key U.S. Poverty Requests

Address the Affordable Housing Crisis through a Renters' Credit

The rising cost of housing forces many Americans to struggle to make ends meet; since 1960 renters' median earnings have gone up 5 percent while cost of rent went up 61 percent. Nationally - no worker earning the prevailing minimum wage can afford a two-bedroom home in any of the 50 states. While federal housing assistance is available to try to bridge these income gaps, only one in four who qualify for housing get it, because the annual funding for these programs is insufficient.

A renters' credit could help address the affordable housing crisis by capping the out-of-pocket rent and utilities expenses a low-income household would pay at around 30 percent of their income. The credit would cover any excess above that up to 100 percent of the community's "Fair Market Rent." There have been bipartisan proposals to create a renters' credit from Senators Booker (D-NJ) and Harris (D-CA) and former Senator Heller (R-NV), H.R. 2169 and S. 1106; S. 3590, H.R. 7050 and S. 3342 in 2018, and researchers at Columbia University estimate that a renters' credit could lift over 9 million Americans above the poverty line.

House and Senate Requests:

- Will you support renters' credit proposals and voice support for a renters' credit with House/Senate leaders, including House Ways and Means Committee Leaders Richard Neal (D-MA) and Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX)/ Senate Finance Committee Leaders Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR)?

Background Documents:

- State fact sheets with data on housing, etc.

Shift Housing Policy to Reduce Racial Wealth Inequality

If you have time and are comfortable with these issues, consider discussing your policymaker's priorities to address the affordable housing crisis and reduce wealth inequality, and raise one or several proposals to reduce wealth inequality and close the racial wealth divide – with the goal of building long-term support for these measures.

Sadly, because of government policies over our country's history, **wealth inequality in the United States has worsened and it has created a staggering racial wealth divide.** Median wealth for white families is ten times greater than African American families and eight times greater than Hispanic families. Many American families cannot weather a financial emergency, such as unexpected illness or job loss, and in 2016 one million evictions occurred. Pending bipartisan bills to pilot emergency stabilization funds and services for families facing evictions can help families stay stably housed. Meanwhile, expanding the National Housing Trust Fund to build affordable housing can help address the housing crisis for low-income renters and their families. Targeting homeownership policies to close the homeownership gap and build wealth in communities of color can help reduce racial wealth inequality.

House and Senate Requests: In conversations about long-term housing and tax priorities, consider supporting the following:

- Pending bipartisan bills to pilot emergency stabilization funds for families facing evictions.

- A renters' credit, which will help address our affordable housing crisis and will have a targeted impact on people of color.
- Increasing the supply of affordable housing via expansions of the Housing Trust Fund.
- Addressing other barriers to affordable housing and racial equity including restrictive zoning, credit scores, and application fees.
- Targeting homeownership policies for first-time homebuyers impacted by segregation and redlining to reduce racial wealth inequality.
- Passing bipartisan bills to create a Task Force on the Impact of Affordable Housing (S. 1772/H.R. 3211, introduced by Senator Young (R-IN) and Rep. Peters (D-CA)), to better understand the scope of and solutions to the affordable housing crisis.

Prioritize Tax Policies That Focus on Working Families (EITC and CTC) – Targeted Ask for Congressional Democrats

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) are pro-work, pro-family financial lifelines for people working in low-wage jobs. Both credits encourage people to work while reducing poverty; together, they lifted 8.3 million Americans above the poverty line in 2017. The Working Families Tax Relief Act (S. 1138/H.R. 3157), would improve the EITC and CTC to boost the financial security of 46 million households and cut child poverty nationally by 28 percent. Specifically, the bill would:

- Increase the EITC for families with children by roughly 25 percent
- Substantially increase the EITC for workers not raising children and lower eligibility to age 19; this is the only group in the tax code that is taxed *into* poverty
- Make the full \$2,000 CTC available to all low- and moderate-income families
- Create a new Young Child Tax Credit that would provide families with children under 6 years old an extra \$1,000 per child (for a total CTC of \$3,000 per child)
- Make the CTC equally accessible to families in Puerto Rico and expand PR's EITC

While we build momentum for large-scale expansion of the EITC and CTC by securing cosponsors, we can also push Congress to expand the EITC and CTC in tax legislation this year. Last month, the House Ways and Means Committee passed temporary expansions of both the EITC and CTC in a broader tax package – H.R. 3300's expansion of the EITC would raise the after-tax incomes of 16 million childless adults and the CTC changes would benefit more than 42 million children under age 17.

Requests for Democrats who have not yet cosponsored S. 1138/H.R. 3157:

- Will you cosponsor H.R. 3157 to show support for expanding both the EITC and CTC?

Requests for Democrats who have cosponsored S. 1138/H.R. 3157:

- Thank you for cosponsoring S. 1138/H.R. 3157, and will you weigh in with party leaders to include H.R. 3300's EITC and CTC expansions in an "Extenders" package or other tax legislation as a "downpayment" on larger EITC/CTC improvements? In addition, please adhere to precedent that Congress can't pass any tax legislation that is focused on corporations without including something for low-income families.

Background Documents:

- State fact sheets with data on EITC, CTC, and how many would be impacted, etc.