RESULTS National Grassroots Webinar – Global Campaigns

Saturday, March 11, 2017

Transcript modified from captioning by CaptionAccess

**Dr. Joanne Carter:** From what we are hearing, we expect the White House to propose severe cuts to our state department. We have heard numbers like 37% and on development aid. We are talking about programs and support we have worked on. Like for vaccines that have helped and saved millions of life. Helping poor women become entrepreneurs. We heard the administration is zeroing out the account for education and food security. John Fawcett will say more about this later, and we will know more next week, but just to say the kind on cuts being envisioned by the administration would devastate these programs. In our system the administration purposes but Congress sets the budget, making our work with them critical. We have a remarkable bipartisan consensus on these issues. It will be Congress determining the fate of these programs.

You are know, after the election we launched our first hundred days campaign specifically so we wouldn't just be waiting to react, but to be proactive and working with the staff and generating media and making these things a priority. Trying to set the stage for stopping the bad things from happening. We are over halfway through the first hundred days. I want to thank you for all you have been doing to intensify your advocacy. It matters where you focus to produce results. Right now, close to half our groups have reported meetings with congressional offices with members of staff. A little over halfway to go.

This last weekend 50 REAL Change leaders were in Washington, D.C. for a retreat and on the hill meeting with congressional offices. Wonderful timing for that. The new data we shared with you from the management foundation shows and reinforces that what we are doing to meet with members and build relationships is the most important thing we can do. Given the severity of the proposed cuts of the administration, your work with Congress is incredibly important. For the programs now, but also to keep up the ambition on these efforts. We can't lose our ambition. We need to keep saying what is needed and hold that out for Congress and the world. We won't win every fight, but we will lose for sure if we lose our vision and ambition. John will say more shortly about some of the key tools we will have to bill congressional support for key appropriations issues. But March is the key month. Let's reach the other 50% of the offices we haven't reached yet.

I wanted to embrace one big opportunity. There is a new chair of the key subcomittees overseeing the foreign operations. His name is Hal Rogers, from Kentucky. We really need to work with our members of Congress to support Rogers to become a bigger champion on these issues and show the bipartisan support we have for these programs. I want to share a brief RESULTS story that many of you were a part of. In 1994 a republican congressman from Alabama took over as chair of the subcommittee we are talking about now. When he came in he had never voted in favor of a foreign aid bill before. We saw an opportunity to cultivate him as a champion. Several of his republican colleagues challenged him to take on child survival. Many of you mobilized dozens of his congressional colleagues across the spectrum to encourage him to aid more to child survival yearly. As a result of that, he and Nancy Pelosi - very far apart politically - created an expanded account for this in the budget and provided millions of dollars. When Callahan retired he said on the floor of Congress he was most proud of his work on child survival because of the work you all did to get his colleagues to show him the way on this.

To show him the kind of support he has now, to really be a leader on these things, is so important if we can really mobilize our members. I want you to surprise chairman Rogers with all the support there is for these programs. We can protect and advance these programs. I will say again, I believe we have a once in a generation opportunity with organizing. To tap into ways to get more engaged and make change. One of the examples that has been shared with me that was great, is our folks in Portland working with a group in Grants Pass, Oregon. An Indivisible Group. They are expecting maybe 80 people and they had 380 show up. The interest out there is great. The group leader in Portland heard about some of that outreach and reached out to the group and we told him we wanted a chapter in that area. So I understand that Linda from that group is working to put together an event on April 9th and maybe have to cap it at 50 people. Tons of interest in this and opportunities to share what we do and to build a RESULTS group in that area. I think there is exciting stuff we are doing. Let's be bold.

Let's also remember the RESULTS International Conference. July will be an important time on these issues. If each of your groups brings 1-2 new people along with the old, we will have a large group of people going up on the Hill. I think lots of people will be interested. Invite new people and let's bring that together as well. I believe we can come out of this stronger. Now to Mark Campbell to talk about the exciting work we are doing to build partnership in the US and around the world.

**Mark Campbell**: Thank you. I am honored to join all you today and introduce 4 outstanding volunteers. Last month we traveled to Zambia to work and share our experiences with building a grassroots group, see our funding go to aid, and other things. Thankfully we have these 4 with us to talk about their experiences. We will have time for questions at the end. Let's start with Beth Wilson.

**>>Female Speaker**: Hi! This is Beth. I am going to read my share because we are limited to a couple minutes. The RESULTS volunteers are the eyes and the ears in Zambia for all the results volunteers. I felt that as I stood in a warehouse with the medicines to treat those in Zambia with AIDS. 3 pharmacists oversee the operation of receiving the medicines and distributing them to hospitals around Zambia. As I gazed around in awe I felt humbled and grateful for the opportunity to lay eyes on this store of medicine. This is what we have been working for four decades. Ability to save the lives of people that would otherwise perish. We never get to see the people who receive our help. We don't see the child receive the immunizations or the books we provide. Or those with AIDS or malaria. We have to imagine them and care about the potential of their lives and their right to health and education. That is the miracle of RESULTS. Last month we did see the people we work for and the medicine to make their life possible. I was so moved to see the RESULTS circle completed. From writing letters to a warehouse full of medicines and people alive because of them. We can all celebrate because people live and we do the important work of making sure they do.

**Lindsay Saunders:** Great! Good afternoon. Like Beth, I also had the privilege of joining the delegation. I was amazed at the improvement in this country since the early 2000s. We saw the people becoming healthy and strong again. There is now a country with a new generation of citizens thriving. We first visited the embassy and met with USAID. For those of you that don't know, Pat Barr is the president of AIDS relief. There has been a major transformation and she is aware of the need to be accountable about progress and achievement. Zambians still talk with relief about Pres. Bush and his aid.

We visited sites there with an 8 component programs. Community health clinics, laboratories, care for children, a community school, and others. This town of happy, excited children, prompted me to be excited as well. Children just get me. We met one who received an award in 2003. Then we visited classrooms and a clinic and then I became a cliche woman dancing and singing with children. Then we got back and went Chimbago and went on home visits. Parents are receiving coaching and children are receiving care. They talk about loving and playing and cherishing their children. I remember a volunteer named Memory and we had lunch with the villagers and volunteers. On the way back we stopped by a one stop gender-based violence center. They are leading the US in that capacity. The attitude of the Zambians really impressed me. It was fantastic to see that.

**Grace Higgenbottom:** Yes. When I returned from Zambia my head was swimming with experiences. When my RESULTS group went to Capitol Hill after I returned, I found stories that came to the forefront. One of the stories I told was about Carol. After her husband died she discovered she was HIV positive and her health declined. Then she developed AIDS, TB and cancer. She was nearly comatose and ready to die. She had a 9- year-old daughter and she hung on for her. Around that time the Global Fund made the therapy for AIDS free and because of that her life was saved. She is now a community leader and advocate and she sits on the board for the global fund. I marveled at her story and all she had accomplished. We couldn't help but reflect on the unmet potential of lives lost to AIDS because of lack of medicines.

We visited another hospital built to provide end of life care for aids. Now this place has mostly empty beds because so many fewer die. It is transformed to a distribution facility, a place of life. On the Hill our RESULTS group talked about how foreign spending is less than 1% of the US budget. An aid observed that those who would cut it are missing the value of the work accomplished by USAID and all the partners who participate in this work. It is a big return on a small investment. Let's convince them of this investment and continue saving lives like Carol’s.

**Liz Clerkin:** Hi everyone. Since I have been back from Zambia I have been asked about my impressions and two things stood out. First, we created new partnerships with our friends through advocacy training while there. Since back we have celebrated with them over their successes. It was cool to be with them and do training and see our efforts come to fruition. Second, seeing for myself that people from the developing world are intimately aware of what is happening in the US. We lead the world in international development and people are appreciative. In Lusaka, we saw billboards about water and sanitation projects, brought to Zambia by people of the US. We were in a village with no electrically or running water, and they first asked what would happen to development money from the US with a new president. We know the answer to the question - it is up to us to make international development a priority. Every action and phone call and letter to an editor can save lives. This trip convinced me of the power we have as volunteers.

**Mark Campbell:** Thank you for that powerful sharing and to all of you. We are short on time so moving on - we will have time for questions later with the full webinar to share experiences. If you have questions share through social media or to me at mcampbell@results.org.

**John Fawcett**: I enjoyed hearing from our Zambia delegations. Thank you for taking the time to go and sharing why you were there. To draw a direct line to what Joanne was talking about and what you just heard from your friends and colleagues on this trip- we have a fight on our hands. There is a direct relationship between the decisions made in Washington and the kinds of successes you just heard from Zambia. I am going to talk about where we are and what to expect with the budget and actions we can be taking with appropriations to protect these programs.

Just as a quick refresher, there are 2 processes that unfold in Congress. The budget and appropriations processes. They happen often simultaneously but are distinct. The budget is the amount of money, the overall size of the pie, that we will spend. The appropriations process is where the appropriations committee slices the pie and divides it up. Of that pie, how big will go to global health programs vs. other priorities in our country. As you heard from Joanne at the top of the call, there have been press reports that they plan to purpose deep cuts to international affairs. A 37% cut. That is a level that is very hard to contemplate how you would allocate from that and preserve the programs we know save lives. It is a decision on if we will have a foreign assistance program or not. That is the bad news. We expect that budget proposal to be released this upcoming Wednesday. You may see additional headlines about taking action and letting congress know we oppose those cuts.

There is good news. There has already been strong pushback about that level of cuts. The president purposes the budget but congress sets the budget and appropriates funding. We heard from Democrats and Republicans - Rubio, McCain, McConnell - articulating their opposition to that level of cuts. So that is encouraging. There is also a process where Congress will appropriate funding for the individual programs we care about. Within the appropriations process there are a couple different ways we have been taking action. First, every single member of Congress in the house or senate can submit their own funding request to the appropriations committee. That is a process where you can contact your member of congress and ask for the form they have and see if they will submit it. The deadline that the appropriations committee has set for those request is March 30. The deadline for each member of Congress is probably coming up. That's the House. The Senate we have a bit more time, no deadline set yet. So having our members of Congress is one way we can reach the subcommittee.

The second way is through sign-on letters. Like a petition that goes to the foreign operations subcommittee expressing support for programs. This week we have 4 bipartisan letters in the house and one in the senate, with more to come. I will walk through each of those letters and discuss the tools we have. At 3, when the call closes, I will hang out online so if you have questions in the chatbox or video I will answer them.

The first letter is led by Reichert, Ross, and McCall (R) and Berra and Lee (D). This asks for support with the maternal & child health account as well as funding for nutrition. The deadline for signers is March 28. That's the first one.

Also another letter led by Rep. Barbara Lee from California and Rep. Illeana Ros-Lehtinen from Miami is about a Global Fund to fight TB, malaria, etc. It asks for robust funding. Keep in mind the US late last year made a multi year pledge and they want to see it fulfilled. PEPFAR has enjoyed bipartisan support and we expect that to continue. We are particularly concerned though with the Global Fund and want it protected. Its deadline is March 24.

Also is the TB funding that complements from the Global Fund. It is the biggest infectious killer in the world, and a leading cause of death for those with AIDS. This one has a specific dollar figure, and is bipartisan. Asks for $450 million and the deadline is March 23. If you are scribbling notes, I will have notes at the end with all this information.

Next is a letter in the House, and bipartisan, from Rep. Reichert, and this letter supports education and the partnership for education, which we will be doing more work on later this year. They ask for funding and the deadline is March 27. This one will be important for a couple reasons. We expect the end of this year or next to have a replenishment conference. A signal of strong support from the US will make this more successful. This is an account we expect to be targeted by the Trump Administration. There are indications that the 37% cut will reduce the account for funding for education to zero. Expressing strong support for these programs is critical.

In terms of the letters out now is our first Senate letter. It is bipartisan. This asks the appropriators for support and funding. It is similar to the house letter but directed to senate. The deadline is April 5 and can be extended a bit more.

A couple of resources I want to flag. One - you see a link there are a blog post which has all the information I just shared plus some. Every letter, who the lead cosponsor is, the deadline, and links to the text. That blog post will be updated as we get signers. If you want to check if your member has signed on, that is where you go to check.

There are a number of other tools. We have an appropriation fact sheet and outreach guide. A laser talk for the issues. A brief background document on each of these program requests, and a sample email to send to your legislative aid asking for support in these letters. All of this is available on that page.

Finally - remember as you heard from friends in Zambia, this stuff matters and works. It is under threat to a greater extent that before. We need to support these programs and to translate that support via congress is through these letters. When we get 80-140 members of Congress to sign on, then it really lets the appropriators know there is support. In particular, in the House there is a new chair, Rep. Hal Rogers. He is new to this position so it is doubly important to weigh in. Another thing to remember, every letter we have organized is bipartisan. One Republican and Democrat at the top of each letter. We may end up with more Democrats than Republicans but we are trying to start strong. We have had success with Republican support in the past. Now is the time to go back to those folks and ask them to stand up for funding these programs as well.

For those of you that have very progressive Republicans or Democrats, if you get a quick yes, use the champion scale to think of what else you can ask them to do. If you get a quick yes, ask them to talk to Rep. Hal Rogers in person to support these programs. Approach him on the House floor or cafeteria - tell him how important it is. Ask your member of congress if there is a colleague they work with well from the other party. Ask to reach out to them and ask for them to join on the letter. In many ways, now is an important time - don't stop at yes. Ask what else they can do. Now is the time we need them.

I will stop there and go to Ken for the Grassroots Cafe. I will be here at the end for questions or comments.

**Ken Patterson**: Thanks John and happy Saturday! Recent weeks have brought challenging information from the Trump Administration about cutting 2 of our 3 legs. But again, there is maybe good news behind that. I want to share, as John and Joanne pointed out, that members don't believe these large cuts are the best path. A lot of their concerns is about the bipartisan advocacy we have done for decades. The progress on global poverty comes from actions from both republican and democrat. We need to surprise Rep. Hal Rogers and have our members weigh in as they can.

The next piece of decent news is the Congressional Management Foundation recently confirmed that everything RESULTS teaches us to do are the best practices in influencing our officials. You are in the top 1% or smaller of skilled advocates in the US that know how to do this. Third, we are hearing there are all sorts of people interested in becoming engaged. Long-time advocate Nick Arena told me last week he reached out to an activist from New York, Ken Conner. Nick told him the challenges and Ken responded with enthusiasm. He was thankful RESULTS was still around. He said "I need to do this for me." There are a lot of people feeling the same way. Ready to be engaged. You are highly skilled advocates that can help people meet the need for engagement.

This means a couple things. We need to put aside any fears we have had about asking people to take action and move ahead boldly. This is ultimately helping people become who they want to be. People are struggling to figure out how to do this. I will share some resources we have to engage other organizations. I want to hear from Cecilia van Wick. She recently was involved in an outreach gathering and has things to share.

**Cecilia van Wijk**: At the end of January our group planned an outreach event to introduce audiences to RESULTS and the concept of education for all by showing a film about Malala. A Pakistani girl shot by the Taliban for wanting education. We took action by writing a letter to the director of education. We already had something planned and it was great we had the opportunity to have the react letter to the editor. Some of the things we did to plan was that those attending, we stayed in contact and everyone had a chance to share results. It was held in Indianapolis. The audience was engaged the entire movie. No one had phones or was walking around. For next time, for more success, two things to highlight. Choose a different room, where the group leaders are on the same level as the audience. The room I had chosen has a stage set and it is great for showing films, but there is that disconnect between the audience and the speakers. A room where everyone is at the same table.

Also a supplement event from students. It guarantees a higher attendance and increases the interaction. A group of people already familiar with each other and more likely to interact and be more excited and less threatened. But it was successful and I think we planted seeds for people that weren't aware of their power.

**Ken Patterson**: Thank you. The thing is we have been hearing a lot of stories about groups that are reaching out and finding people hungry to be engaged. This is for us to take our skills we possess mainstream. I want to share the tools we have to support you. Some of the tools at your disposal - Joann mentioned the international conference. You don't have to wait until someone is very engaged to invite them. Ask them to come now to the Hill and experience what we do best. People will be willing to jump on this. Don't think you have to wait to offer the international conference. This is a transformative experience. Offer it now.

The monthly action sheet. We will include with it a letter writing advocacy workshop outline. There is a script there and timing and a meeting outline with the action sheet, including stories and links to videos. For February and March we have a joint action sheet with both sets of issues. With a broader audience you can use that as well. Next week we will have available a longer workshop outline. A 3 hour workshop outline for advocacy training with multiple sets of skills in addition to the letter writing. You will hear more about that soon and it will have slides. Another tool for you to have to offer training to other groups and organizations.

We are organizing a training and we are looking for a dozen advocates to become master trainers. They will train in their communities but also people willing to support other groups in their communities. Some community mapping, inviting people to the training, traveling to those communities to help deliver the training and guiding them on engaging their people afterwards. If you are interested in this please send me an email after this webinar and talk to your partners and groups and find if others are interested in doing this. It would be great to have a new set of people to create this cadre of people. We need to be more comfortable with delivering and sharing what we know how to do well. I want a cadre of supporters to do these things.

The last thing we have for tools is a Laser talk. About how to have a conversation about offering an opportunity for engagement to other folks. Ann Child and Eloise Sutherland will lead us in this now.

**>>Female Speaker**: Hey Eloise!

**>>Female Speaker**: Good to see you Ann.

**>>Female Speaker**: I was hearing a lot of stuff on the news about people getting engaged and wondered if you saw that at church.

**>>Female Speaker**: Well yes. A number of people are talking so much about what is happening since the election and how they want to make a difference. They want to step up but aren't sure how.

**>>Female Speaker**: Oh, I feel really lucky I found RESULTS. It has trained me in effective tactics to be heard on issues of poverty. The recent research on the congressional management foundation confirms these tactics. I saw that in action. I have been to town halls and seen people that wanted to protest or do something but didn't know how to do it. The next day I went to visit a member of congress and had a nice conversation with them about our issues and he said he would support our funding request. It moved me. I am interested in growing my RESULTS chapter to share know how with others in the community. Would you group like that?

**>>Female Speaker**: I think that is a good idea. To give folks the opportunity to hear what we have been doing and see if they want to join our effort.

**>>Female Speaker**: We have a new advocacy skills workshop that could help people in your community.

**>>Female Speaker**: Let's look at that and get it set up.

**Ken Patterson**: Thank you so much you two. I appreciate that. What you demonstrated for me there is that this can be a natural conversation. There are things happening now that people are observing and people want to be involved. It is easy to start that conversation and then follow you and share with people all the things we know how to do. Thank you for demonstrating that today.

Let's move on to finishing up things today by checking in on the First 100 Days campaign. We have a goal of 100% of groups meeting with their member of Congress or the local office and the foreign policy aide. As of today we have 90 meetings with congress or staff, and about 37/80 groups reporting they have done this. If you haven't reported, let us know. So we are at 46% of our groups. We have a couple months to get to 100%. Let's do that.

There is a link to the lobby report form there in the slide. For the first 100 days we have registered 41 outreach activities. 17 groups reporting from 80 groups. About 21%. Please report your outreach and let's ramp up our activities.

Finally, we did planning for the first 4 months of the year. 35/80 groups have turned in their plans. Please get that done for us so we have a sense of who you are covering. This is strategic. We need to know who is covered. And to finish things off, we have a couple of webinars coming up this week. Creating bipartisan support on our issues. It will be a dialogue on Wednesday. Our regional coordinator working group is leading a book discussion group on Thursday evening on the new Jim Crow.

A national webinar the 8th of April. One final note to give you today, the book *Reclaiming our Democracy* - the e-version of the book is on Amazon and Barnes and Noble for $3. So have that book handy. It is on sale only today. Pick that up, great stories in there.

I am going to open the line. Remind you that John Fawcett will be on after the webinar if you have questions. In the chat window please tell us the name of your group or how many people are in the world, or email that information to Lisa Marchal. I will give you all a chance to say happy springtime and goodbye and let's go get them.

[Goodbyes being said all around]

[End of meeting]