

#LettersGetLOUD

What's at stake?

In a few words: the lives of moms and kids around the world.

In the minute or so that you'll spend reading this, 10 kids under the age of five will die from illnesses like diarrhea and pneumonia, simply because they don't have access to treatment. It shouldn't be this way – and it doesn't have to be.

Given the partisan battles gripping Washington, it might come as a surprise that members of both parties have come out in support of legislation that could help pave the way for the end of preventable maternal and child deaths in low-income countries.

But support isn't enough. We need Congress to act. It's time for our lawmakers to take up the Reach Every Mother and Child Act of 2017 and bring it to a vote. Every child, no matter where they are born, should have the chance to grow up healthy. Congress can help make this a reality – but they have to act now.

Why write? Is Congress even listening?

It might be hard to believe right now, but the answer is yes. The Congressional Management Foundation asked staffers on Capitol Hill to rank the most effective ways to influence Congress. What topped the list?

1. In-person visits from constituents
2. Contact from one constituent representing a group of others
3. Personalized individual communications

Writing this letter, you'll get the trifecta: your local RESULTS volunteer will take it with other personalized letters from across the community to an in-person meeting with Congress (if that sounds cool, you can join them for the meeting! Ask for details).

What will one letter do?

You're not in this alone. Your letter, along with thousands of others across the country, are being hand-delivered to Congress.

Our volunteers have been doing this for decades. What's been the response? We've seen it all: a cell phone call from a member of Congress, a shout-out on the House floor, congressional

staff tracking people down at work to follow up, a response from a representative in the newspaper...to say nothing of laws passed, policies changed, and (literally) BILLIONS of dollars in funding directed to programs that help people move out of poverty.

How to get started:

Remember: members of Congress aren't interested in form letters. They want to really hear from their constituents – that's you.

- Make it personal. Introduce yourself. Draw from the template below, but customize it with your own ideas and personal experiences. Clearly explain why you care.
- Make it local. If you can, explain how the issue impacts people in your state.
- Include a strong call to action. State clearly what you expect Congress to do.
- Inspire others to take action. Tell a friend and help them write. Or, if you're feeling fancy, record yourself reading your letter out loud, and share on social media. Include the hashtag #LettersGetLOUD and tag your members of Congress!

Dear [YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS],

This Mother's Day, we'll be celebrating the amazing moms and caregivers in our lives. But I'll also be thinking of the millions of moms around the world whose dreams of motherhood are cut short. It's 2018, but 10 children are still dying every minute from treatable causes like diarrhea and pneumonia. It doesn't have to be this way.

I'm calling on Congress to show their commitment to moms and kids by taking up the Reach Every Mother and Child Act of 2017. This bipartisan legislation will help pave the way for the end preventable maternal and child deaths in low-income countries.

[Who you are and why you care about this issue]

Thank you,

[your name]

What's next?

Give your letter to a designated RESULTS volunteer, who will personally deliver it to Congress. Ask them about how you can be part of taking these actions regularly, or – better yet – how you can join the meeting with your member of Congress!