#LettersGetLOUD

 **What’s at stake?**

Tuberculosis still kills over 4,000 people *every single day.* Yes, you read that right.It has become the world’s biggest infectious killer – now surpassing HIV/AIDS – even though it’s treatable, curable, and preventable. Why? Because world leaders haven’t made ending it a priority.

TB remains a leading *cause* and *consequence* of poverty. Living in poverty makes you more likely to get TB, and getting TB makes you more likely to be pushed into poverty (or deeper into it).

It doesn’t have to be this way. But in order to end TB, we have to prioritize the lives of all people. Every life has to be worth saving. We have to acknowledge that TB is a justice issue, an equity issue, and a poverty issue. We need the leadership to end this epidemic for good.**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?

* In-person visits from constituents
* Contact from one constituent representing a group of others
* 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],*

*Tuberculosis has become the world’s biggest infectious killer – now surpassing HIV/AIDS – even though it’s treatable, curable, and preventable. But you can help change that.*

*There’s so much more we can do to put an end to this age-old scourge. Right now, about one in three people sick with TB aren’t even being reached by their health systems. We need the resources, policies, and political leadership to turn things around.*

*[Who you are and why you care about TB]*

*I hope I can count on you, and on Congress, to step up and help end this epidemic. Your leadership is needed now more than ever.*

*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!