



2019 CAPITOL HILL TALKING POINTS

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

- Each member: introduce yourself and share where you are from.
- [I/We] represent the *Shot@Life* campaign in your [district/state]. The campaign is part of the UN Foundation and educates, connects, and empowers Americans to champion global vaccines as one of the most cost-effective investments the U.S. government can make to save the lives of children in developing countries.
- We support this cause in our communities by holding events, raising funds, and engaging in political advocacy. We are here today to talk about the importance of global childhood immunization programs and how [Senator/Representative X] can play a leadership role in ensuring all kids have a shot at life.
- We expect the President’s FY20 budget will once again call for drastic cuts to foreign affairs programs, and we would like to discuss the importance of maintaining strong support for global vaccine programs for FY20.

SECTION II: WHY GLOBAL VACCINES?

THE PROBLEM: KIDS DIE EVERY DAY FROM VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

- Every 20 seconds, a child dies from a vaccine-preventable disease, resulting in 1.5M deaths every year and accounting for nearly a third of all childhood deaths.

THE SOLUTION: VACCINES!

- Vaccines are one the safest, most cost-effective ways to save children’s lives, improve health, and ensure long-term economic prosperity.
- Thanks to the measles and rubella vaccine, which costs less than \$2 per child, measles deaths have dropped 84% since 2000 [If asked: 89,780 deaths in 2016]
- 30 years ago, polio paralyzed over 1,000 kids each day. Now, thanks to the polio vaccine, cases have dropped 99.9% and the world is nearly polio-free.
- Over the past 20 years, vaccines have prevented 20 million deaths globally.
- The UN plays a crucial role in amplifying U.S. investment in global immunization programs, as UNICEF administers vaccines that reach 45% of the world’s children and the World Health Organization coordinates outbreak responses.
- *Share your story: Why are you passionate about immunizing children? Do you have a personal connection? How have you been involved in your community?*

FAQ

How do Shot@Life Champions fight for global vaccines?

Grassroots champions like us raise awareness and funds to support the work of the U.S. government, United Nations, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and other organizations to improve access to cost-effective, high-impact vaccines in developing countries.

Where is global vaccine funding located in the budget and how is it allocated?

Global vaccine funding is located in two appropriations bills:

- State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS)
- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS)

Activity	Agency	Bill
Polio	CDC	LHHS
	USAID	SFOPS
Measles	CDC	LHHS
Gavi	USAID	SFOPS
UNICEF	State	SFOPS

Who can I contact to become more involved?

House Global Health Caucus Co-Chair:
Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)
(Ben Peterson; 202.225.6631)

Interested in making a statement for the record or learning more about global vaccines?
Contact Brian Massa;
bmassa@unfoundation.org

Background on U.S. Global Vaccine Activities

The US government has a long history of bipartisan support for global health and global immunization programs through the work of USAID, CDC, and international organizations like GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, WHO, and UNICEF.

SECTION III: WHY CONGRESS SHOULD ACT NOW

- *Global Health investments protect U.S. security:* Preventing infectious diseases overseas protects Americans at home and abroad, and USG funding for immunization activities **helps nations build strong health systems to more efficiently respond to disease outbreaks, such as Ebola, Zika, and other emerging pathogens.**
- *Global measles outbreaks are on the rise:* Cases are resurging in Madagascar and the Philippines while reaching a two-decade high in European countries like France, Greece, and Italy. An ongoing outbreak in Venezuela has resulted in 6,400 cases, spilling into neighboring countries and jeopardizing South America's elimination status.
- *A healthy country is a stable country.* **Disease outbreaks disrupt national economies,** jeopardizing international trade and investment opportunities.
- *High return on investment:* On average, every **\$1 invested in immunization produces \$44 in savings** in healthcare costs, lost wages, and lost productivity due to illness – a global health best-buy! Funding Gavi with \$290 million for FY19 will contribute to an estimated **9.2 million children immunized in 2018, leading to 164,000 lives saved and \$2.7 billion in additional economic savings from averted costs of death, disability, and health care.**
- *It's the Right Thing to Do:* Supporting global vaccines is **part of our national character and a moral obligation.** We cannot turn our backs when children die needlessly from preventable diseases.

Vaccine Success Stories

- 30 years ago polio cases appeared in 125 countries across the globe, but now only two countries – Pakistan and Afghanistan – have active transmission. Nigeria has not had a case of wild polio since Sept. 2016.
- Since 2000, the measles vaccine has prevented over 21 million deaths, an 84% reduction in lives lost to the disease.
- Since 2007, GAVI has supported the pneumococcal vaccine in over 58 countries, immunizing over 109 million children and preventing over half a million child deaths.

SECTION IV: THE 'ASK'

1. For Fiscal Year 2020, fully fund U.S. government global vaccine activities:
 - **\$233 million for Polio eradication (level funding from FY18/FY19), including:**
 - **\$176 million for CDC** through the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee
 - **\$59 million for USAID** through the State and Foreign Operations (SFOPS) Approps. Subcomm.
 - **\$50 million (level funding from FY19 for CDC measles elimination** through Labor-HHS Approps. Subcomm.
 - **\$290 million (\$15M increase over FY18 levels) for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance,** through SFOPS
 - **\$132.5 million (level funding from FY18) for UNICEF,** through SFOPS
2. **Speak out in Congress and at home in support of critical global health and global vaccine programs:**
 - Ask the member/staffer about global health interests, and what kind of activities they engage in (statements for the Congressional Record, speaking on the chamber floor, speaking engagements in DC, events in-district, etc.?) [Note their level of interest for follow-up by the Shot@Life team]

SECTION V: CLOSING & SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCE

- *Thank the Member/staffer for their time and ask if they have any questions. If they ask a questions you can't answer, don't worry! Have them contact Brian Massa, Senior Manager for Global Health Advocacy, at bmassa@unfoundation.org*
- *Give the staffer your folder with the leave-behind materials.*
 - For your reference, here is some helpful information that explains the value of U.S. investments in the fight for global vaccines, our specific funding request, and ways for the Senator/Representative to get involved.
- *Ask the staffer/member to join you in a photo in front of the office signage and share it on social media, tagging @ShotAtLife, #vaccineswork, and the social media handle of member's office.*