



Submit a Letter to The Editor: 10 Points (Additional 10 Points Upon Publication)

A great way to raise awareness is by submitting a Letter to the Editor (LTE). Not only will it inform your community about the importance of global vaccines, it may even appear in a publication your member of Congress reads! Below is a sample LTE and outline you can use as a starting point. If you have any questions, or would like assistance in writing your LTE, Shot@Life is happy to help. Email us at champions@shotatlife.org.

One and a half million children die each year from diseases that could have been prevented by a vaccine. This is because, shockingly, one in five children in the world still lacks access to the basic childhood vaccines we take for granted here in the United States. This is a problem with a solution...so we must act!

Great strides have been made over the last decade to give more families access to immunizations for their children. The measles vaccine alone has prevented an estimated 20.3 million deaths from 2000-2015, a 79% reduction! We cannot stop now and lose the significant gains we've made.

In addition to the moral and humanitarian impact, giving children around the world access to immunizations increases global and national security. In today's interconnected world, these deadly diseases don't stop at borders, as demonstrated by recent measles outbreaks and Ebola cases in the U.S. Immunizations are also a financially sound investment; for every \$1 spent on childhood immunizations, you get \$44 in economic benefits. That includes saving the money that families lose when a child is sick and a parent can't work.

*The United Nations Foundation's Shot@Life campaign is asking U.S. legislators to help reduce vaccine-preventable childhood deaths around the world by providing adequate funding for global vaccine programs. Call **[insert Member's name]**'s office and ask them to strengthen and prioritize funding for global vaccine programs through partners such as the United Nations, Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance), CDC, and USAID.*

We all have a stake in the outcome and parents around the world will sleep more soundly knowing their children are protected.

- **Introduction: The Issue**
 - One and a half million children die each year from diseases that could have been prevented by a vaccine
 - One in five children in the world still lacks access basic childhood vaccines

- This is a problem with a solution...so we must act!
- **Statistics**
 - For every \$1 spent on childhood immunizations, you get \$44 in economic benefits
 - By expanding access to existing vaccines, we can save a child's life every 20 seconds
 - Funding global vaccine programs is less than 1% of the total U.S budget, but this funding helps save 2.5 million lives
 - Nearly one third of deaths among children under five are preventable
 - The measles vaccine has resulted in an 84% decrease in measles deaths globally; since 2000, the vaccination has prevented over 20.4 million deaths
 - Pneumonia accounts for 16% of all deaths of children under the age of five, killing nearly 1 million children each year
- **Add a personal connection to your community and this issue**
 - Have you or a member of your family contracted a vaccine-preventable disease? Work in an area where they are at higher risk to (i.e. military, peace corps, etc.)?
 - Has your occupation or previous travel allowed you to see first-hand the ways communities without access to vaccines are affected?
 - Has your community ever suffered from an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease?
 - Do you have a personal story to include? What motivates you to advocate for Shot@Life?
- **Our specific ask**
 - The United Nations Foundation's *Shot@Life* campaign is asking U.S. legislators to help reduce vaccine-preventable childhood deaths around the world by providing adequate funding for global vaccine programs.
 - Call **[insert Member's name]**'s office and ask them to strengthen and prioritize funding for global vaccine programs through partners such as the United Nations, Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance), CDC, and USAID.
 - Visit <http://bit.ly/Advocate2V19> to learn more about the ways you can get involved with Shot@Life and make a difference for children around the world
- **Conclusion: compelling readers to take interest**
 - We all have a stake in the outcome of keeping our children and family safe
 - I urge you to take action now to help children live safe and healthy lives.

Once you submit your LTE, let us know on the Champion Community. All throughout World Immunization Week, we want people to wake up and read about the importance of global childhood immunizations!