Making Your Voice Heard to the New Congress
TODAY’S AGENDA

- Why the UN Matters
- Advocacy 101
- The Significance of the 116th Congress
- Gallup Poll on American Support for the UN
- Advocacy in Challenging Times
- The President’s Budget Explained
- Our Core Ask
- Putting Advocacy Into Action
- Questions
“Throughout the history of the United Nations, since its founding in San Francisco in 1945, United States’ leadership and generosity have always been indispensable.”

—

“We need multilateralism and the engagement of the U.S. more than ever because we live in testing times.”

His Excellency Mr. António Guterres
United Nations Secretary-General
Remarks at UNA-USA Global Engagement Summit 2019
Why the UN matters...
Uses diplomacy to prevent conflict and assists some 67 countries a year with their elections.
Supports maternal health programs, helping over 1 million women a month overcome pregnancy risks.
Assists over 65 million refugees and people fleeing war, famine or persecution
Keeps peace and promotes stability with over 100,000 peacekeepers, police, and civilian personnel serving in 14 peacekeeping operations.
Vaccinates 45% of the world’s children, saving 3 million lives
Works with 195 nations to hold the rise in global temperature below 2 degrees C / 3.6 degrees F.
Provides food to 80 million needy and vulnerable people across the planet
Advocacy 101

Educating someone about a cause, and changing perspectives.

Expressing support for a cause, idea, or policy.

Putting a problem on the agenda, presenting a solution, and building support for the solution.

Speaking out, letter writing, meeting with a legislator, promoting an issue over dinner with friends, making phone calls.
WHAT DO WE ADVOCATE FOR?

UN

Dues
UN regular budget= $590 million
UN peacekeeping= $2 billion

Awareness

Crisis Communications
The u.s. federal budget

- Medicare, Medicaid, other Health: 24.1%
- National Defense: 18.5%
- Interest on Debt: 6.5%
- Social Security: 21.7%
- Income Security: 14.7%
- Other: 13.0%
- International Affairs: 1.6%
- Global Health: 20%
- UN: 10%
UNA-USA’S IMPACT ON ADVOCACY

Advocacy

Delivering Resources + Support

Fundraising

UNA USA
How Do We Influence Key Policy Makers?

UNA-USA Members

Houser and Senate Appropriations Committees

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

HOUSE AND SENATE Authorizing Committees

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

New Members of Congress

u.s. Department of State

Agency-specific Programs and Activities; Global Fund; President’s Malaria Initiative; Bilateral maternal and child health programs; Global family planning; GAVI; UNICEF; UN
The Significance of the 116th Congress

- 102 women were elected to the House – the most ever!
- 15 women were elected or appointed to the Senate
- There are now at least 10 LGBTQ Members of Congress
- 23 freshmen House members are people of color
Gallup’s 2019 world AFFAIRS SURVEY found that 66% of AMERICANS say the UN plays a necessary role in the world.

And

44% of Americans said the UN does a good job trying to solve problems, up from 34% last year.
ADVOCACY IN Challenging TIMES

disqus_uQa680rt77 - an hour ago
Taxation Without Representation that’s what we Americans get by giving any of Our Money to the UN. They are to close to home, let’s kick them out of the US once and for all. Lets get rid of them!

PottersField ★ Leader - 1 Mar
Why is the US still giving money, much money, to the United Nations?
‘Cmon, Pres. Trump, take us out of that corrupt organization.
Reply · Share · Report · 12 Likes ·

ElevenBravo ★ Leader - 1 Mar → PottersField
He’s already saved us millions perhaps billions there but we do need to pull out completely
Reply · Share · Report · 9 Likes ·

Gustavo Suarez @gus_1954 - Feb 12
Replying to @marcorubio @antoniogutierrez and @UN
The UN should be abolished or moved to Moscow! The US should stop paying to the UN.

P.J. Hughes The US should completely pull out of the #UN and remove HQ from our nation. Plus, the UN should have no diplomatic or military authority/influence. The UN should be humanitarian only. Nothing more.
Like · Reply · 1y · Edited
34 Replies
The President’s FY20 budget request

- The White House requested $42.7 billion for the International Affairs Budget – an overall 24% cut when compared to FY19
- A 25% cut to the UN Regular Budget
- A nearly 27% cut to UN Peacekeeping Budget
- A 34% cut to our global humanitarian assistance programs
- A 100% cut to UNICEF, UN Development Programme, UN Environment, UNFPA, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and more (IO&P)
For the third year in a row, the President has proposed dramatically slashing U.S. funding to the UN.

We must tell our Members of Congress to reject the President's budget and urge them to fully fund the UN’s lifesaving work!
WHEN SHOULD WE ADVOCATE?

President’s Budget Request
February

Appropriations Season
March-April

Congressional Budget Resolution
May-July

Recess
August

Comprehensive spending agreement finalized & sent to POTUS for signature
September-October
1. **Who and Where:** Each Member of Congress has an office in Washington, DC and (typically) several local offices located throughout the district or state. Be sure to reach out to the office scheduler to get your in-district/state meeting set up!

2. **Reach out to UNA-USA:** Contact us and we will provide you with helpful tips and information such as talking points and suggestions to get you prepared for your meeting.
THE 2019 CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING BOOK

- The Value of the UN
- U.S.-UN Priorities
- Peace and Security Issues
- Economic and Social Issues
- Key UN Institutions
- UN Funds, Programs & Specialized Agencies
Advocacy best practices

- Own your story;
- Own your ask;
- Don’t feel like you have to go it alone;
- Be organized; and always
- Follow up and build lasting relationships.
Things to avoid

Don’t...

- Mention your party affiliation;
- Make up answers on the spot; or
- Record audio or video during the meeting.
TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1. Arrive early!
   • Make a solid first impression.

2. Introduce yourself
   • Simple but important, who you are/where you’re from.

3. Introduce your organization
   • Members of Congress are interested in everything that goes on in their districts, share your impact!

4. Summarize your research
   • Don’t worry about being too in-depth, that’s why you have leave be hind s.
Okay, now what?

1. Tell your personal story!
   - Why are you passionate about this topic?

2. Be concise, and stay on message.
   - Highlight what’s most important, and engage when they’re interested.

3. Ask for a photo to commemorate your visit!
   - Thank them via social media and tag their office in your post!
Questions?

Contact Marco Sanchez:

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