

2025 Talking Points for Congressional Meetings

PART 1: Introduction

- Introduce yourselves (starting with constituents), where you're from, and share your story! Why are you a United to Beat Malaria champion? Why does malaria matter to you and your community?
- We support this cause in our communities by holding events, raising money, and advocating to our elected officials. **We are here today to talk about the fight against malaria and how these prevention activities not only save lives but also directly benefit America's health, security, and prosperity.**
- Ask about any familiarity the office has with malaria or global health—make it a conversation!



Remember to make your meeting a conversation!

Engage your meeting lead in a dialogue, use these talking points as a guide as needed.

PART 2: Framing & Context

We are grateful to Congress for the long-standing and strong bipartisan support for life-saving malaria programs including in the FY25 bills the House and Senate approved last summer.

House Meeting Only

Additionally, we want to thank the House Appropriations Committee for passing the NSRP funding bill for FY26 with strong funding for malaria and other global health programs.

U.S. leadership has helped drive significant progress against malaria the last twenty years, helping to save lives abroad and to protect us at home. Funding for these life-saving programs must continue to put an end to this entirely preventable and treatable mosquito-borne infectious disease.

↓ PART 3: Why Malaria Prevention?

THE PROBLEM: A Child Dies Every Minute from Malaria

- In just 20 minutes of our meeting today, at least 20 children will die from malaria -- a completely preventable and treatable disease.
- In 2023, there were 262 million malaria infections worldwide, 94% of which occurred in sub-Saharan Africa, a region that is home to dozens of U.S. military bases.
- Malaria remains one of the world's oldest and deadliest infectious diseases, imposing a devastating economic burden of approximately \$12 billion annually on Africa alone through direct healthcare costs and lost productivity.
- Beyond mortality, malaria causes lifelong cognitive impairments in survivors, trapping communities in cycles of poverty and preventing children from reaching their full potential.

THE SOLUTION: Malaria Prevention Activities

- Since 2000, global malaria investments have averted 2.2 billion malaria cases and prevented 12.7 million malaria deaths.
- For every \$1 invested in malaria control, there is a \$36 return on investment in terms of health benefits, worker productivity, and economic growth in affected regions – allowing communities to successfully fight disease with epidemic and pandemic potential.
- Thanks to targeted and sustained elimination efforts, this year Suriname and Timor-Leste were certified malaria-free, meaning 47 countries and 1 territory are now free of this disease.
- Though strides have been made to expand access to insecticide-treated nets and preventative medicines, the number of malaria cases have surpassed pre-pandemic levels.
- The approval and rollout of the RTS,S and R21 malaria vaccines—the first against this disease—represents a historic breakthrough in our fight against malaria. These vaccines are already reaching 17 countries collectively home to 70% of the global malaria burden and can transform this fight if this rollout continues to scale.
- With recent innovations, now more than ever it's critical we continue to support funding for malaria intervention programs to finally end suffering worldwide.

Part 4: Keeping America Safe

- Malaria is not only a global health issue, but also a national security concern. In fact, our military, diplomats, and travelers face exposure to malaria daily. Infectious diseases including malaria are the leading cause of hospitalization of U.S. military personnel or “warfighters.”
- **The risk of reintroduction in the U.S. is real. Locally-acquired cases of malaria in Arkansas, Florida, Texas, and Maryland in 2023 proves that malaria is a risk to Americans’ health.**
- Combating malaria strengthens global health security by building resilient health systems that can detect and respond to multiple disease threats, including emerging infectious diseases with pandemic potential.
- Historical data shows that countries that successfully eliminate malaria experience significant economic growth, expanding markets for U.S. goods and services while reducing dependency on foreign aid.
- Any disruptions to malaria prevention activities, such as those conducted by the U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), threaten to expose more people to malaria-carrying mosquitoes.
 - Analysis from the Malaria Atlas Project projected that a 90-day disruption of PMI-funded programs would result in 1.7 million additional cases and 17,000 additional deaths. A yearlong disruption would result in 14.9 million additional cases and 107,000 additional deaths.



Remember to flag for staff that we’ve included more details regarding the direct economic benefits for Americans in your folder.

PART 5: Deliver the ‘Ask’

For these meetings, our ask will be different depending on whether you are meeting with a Senate or House office.

House Meetings

We are grateful for the passage of the House NSRP appropriations bill that sustained U.S. support for the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Global Fund), and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

We additionally request \$29 million for CDC Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria.

Senate Meetings

- \$800 million for the U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative
- \$2 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- \$340 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.
- \$150 million for UNICEF
- \$29 million for CDC Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria.
 - We are grateful to the Senate for passing this at committee level.

Non-Programmatic Asks

Please consider joining the **Bipartisan Malaria and Neglected Tropical Disease Caucuses**. Malaria intervention programs have historically seen robust bipartisan support, evidenced by investments in key programs and the leadership of our bipartisan and bicameral Malaria and Neglected Tropical Disease Caucuses.

- Senate:
 - Kendyl Willox (Sen. Wicker): Kendyl_Willox@wicker.senate.gov
 - Katie Pannel (Sen. Coons): Katie_Pannell@coons.senate.gov
- House:
 - John McDonough (Rep. Smith): John.Mcdonough@mail.house.gov
 - Emma Bruce (Rep. Bera): Emma.Bruce@mail.house.gov

PART 6: Offer Concluding Thoughts

Thank the staff for their valuable time and ask if they have any questions. If they ask a question you can't answer, don't worry! Let them know that they can contact Harsh Patel, Director, Global Health Advocacy: hapatel@betterworldcampaign.org