

Activity 3

Taking Action

The First Amendment guarantees every American the right “to petition the Government.” You are now prepared to exercise this right by writing to your congressional representatives as part of this activity.

You might think that letters are old-fashioned. Wouldn't it be just as effective to send a text or email, or leave a comment on a representative's website or Facebook page? Those are all good ideas, but a letter is still the best way to make personal contact with your representatives and have an influence on their legislative decisions. A letter carries your signature. It speaks with your voice and expresses your feelings. It allows you to explain your position and give reasons why your representatives should agree with you.

Part 1

Join the **Shot@Life** campaign by writing letters to your congressional representatives in support of global child health and vaccination programs. Use the facts you have researched to explain why global childhood vaccination programs are important. Use what you have learned about your representatives to make your letters persuasive. Express your feelings so that your representatives know you are passionate about this issue.

For help getting started, take a look at the letter on the **Shot@Life** website (<http://goo.gl/QmGyZ1>), or follow the model below. When you have finished, give your letters to your teacher, who will mail all the letters from your class to your representatives in Washington, D.C.

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives/U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Representative/Senator _____,

I am deeply concerned about providing vaccinations to children around the world.

I urge you to... [state what you want your representative to do].

As you may know... [provide facts to support your position].

We need to take action... [express your personal convictions or share a personal story about the issue].

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,
[your signature]
[your name and address]



Part 2

There are many other ways you can make your voice heard on the issue of global access to vaccines. For example:

- Speak personally to your congressional representatives by phoning them, asking them to visit your classroom, or visiting their offices, locally and in Washington, D.C.
- Attend your representatives' town hall meetings in your area and ask them to support global child health and vaccination programs.
- Get your friends and family involved by hosting a letter writing party, so they can all urge your representatives to support global child health and vaccination programs.
- Use social media to raise awareness of this issue, encourage support from your member of Congress, and link your online community to the **Shot@Life** website, shotatlife.org.
- Invite a **Shot@Life** champion to speak at a school assembly about global child health and vaccination programs around the world.

As a class, choose one of these ideas or come up with a plan of your own to take the next step as informed citizens and help **Shot@Life** build congressional support for global childhood immunization programs that work to save the lives of millions of children around the world.

