

# Engaging in Virtual Congressional Town Halls

**Virtual or telephone town halls and other events** are opportunities to get to know more about your members of Congress and what they are focused on. It is also a way to share your concerns. Asking questions at town halls and in other forums can help ensure your elected officials hear about key issues that impact our human family around the world.

**Use these tips and sample prompts to help guide how you can engage in congressional virtual events in the coming weeks and month before the November election.**

## Tips

Establishing a relationship with your members of Congress is a key way to be invited into forums and events they host for constituents.

Follow your members of Congress' accounts on social media and sign up for their email so you know when these constituent events are happening.

Take time to prepare how you will introduce yourself and ask your question if called upon. Your introduction is an opportunity for you to contextualize your role in your community and as a constituent.

Make your remarks and question concise and clear. Congressional staff often screen constituents by having you share your question with them before they invite you to engage in the event.

## Sample Framework for Your Introduction

*Thank you for holding this forum. My name is [X] and I am your constituent living in [city]. I am a [share about yourself by what you do/communities you are a part of]. With the COVID-19 pandemic threatening us all, I am also very concerned about the children and families who are living in extreme poverty around the world. With little or no access to health care services, clean water or opportunities for work given restrictions, the consequences could be catastrophic.*

## Sample Questions to Add to Introduction

**COVID-19 Supplemental Package:** *How will you work with your colleagues in the [House/Senate] to ensure that poverty-reducing international and development assistance is funded to the highest possible level, including \$20 billion for this life-saving aid as part of the COVID supplemental package?*

**Global Child Thrive Act:** *Research has shown that Early Childhood Development interventions can make a life-changing difference. The Global Child Thrive Act is a bill moving in Congress and would require this approach for the U.S. government's international programs that involve children.*

**For engagement with your US Representatives in the House:** *Will you support the Global Child Thrive Act, which is currently attached to the House National Defense Authorization Act as the Castro-Fitzpatrick Global Child Thrive Act amendment by speaking with leadership of the House Armed Services Committee so it can get into the final NDAA bill?*

**For engagement with your US Senators:** *Will you support the Global Child Thrive Act (S. 2715) by ...*

- ... cosponsoring? **(If not already a cosponsor: [check here](#))**
- ... speaking with Senate Foreign Relations Committee leadership to take up the bill? **(If already a cosponsor of bill: [check here](#). Be sure to thank member first for cosponsoring.)**
- ... urging Senate Armed Services Committee leadership to include the Castro-Fitzpatrick Global Child Thrive Act amendment in the final National Defense Authorization Act? **(for select U.S. Senators)**