

August Advocacy Messaging Guidance: Centering Children and Pushing for Aid Access to Gaza

Prepared for FCNL Advocacy Teams

Key August Recess Message:

“While kids in the U.S. are going back to school, kids in Gaza just want to eat.”

This August, our advocacy should focus on **children and malnutrition** in Gaza, emphasizing the urgent need for **baby formula**, clean water, and basic medical supplies like polio vaccines. Aid exists — the problem is **access**, not funding. Our push is to get existing aid through, not to request new money.

Congressional Messaging: By Audience

Republican Offices

Use these talking points when lobbying Republican Members of Congress:

- **Acknowledge common ground:** Former President Trump has expressed concern for Gaza’s civilians and called for increased humanitarian access. That message matters and should be supported.
- **The system isn’t working:** Aid is being **delayed, restricted, or weaponized** (see FCNL’s Gaza Humanitarian Foundation fact sheet).
- **Center the ask around children:** Focus on **malnourished babies**, formula shortages, and vaccine access. These are clear, nonpartisan humanitarian needs.
- **Make the ask simple:**

“Can your boss make **one phone call** to the White House or State Department to push for the urgent entry of aid – like baby formula – into Gaza?”

- **Avoid asking for funds:** Aid resources exist. The ask is about **delivery**, not appropriations.
- **Power of children’s needs:** “Mothers are unable to produce enough milk, and some are forced to give newborns sugar water due to lack of formula.”

Use this line during recess meetings:

“Kids here are starting school. Kids in Gaza just want to survive.”

Democratic Offices

Tailor the message depending on whether they’ve co-sponsored the Jayapal humanitarian aid bill:

Group 1: Co-Sponsors (approx. 100 House Members)

- Thank them for supporting the Jayapal bill.
- Encourage them to **make a public statement** about their support, and to **urge the administration to act on aid access** — especially for formula and vaccines.
- Frame this as a chance to show **moral leadership**.

Group 2: Non-Sponsors (approx. 100 Members)

- Emphasize that **all but one Senate Democrat** has supported this effort. This isn’t fringe — it’s aligned with **mainstream Democratic leadership** (Schumer, Gillibrand, Kelly, etc.).
 - Share this recent news as a credible source: [Former Israeli PMs oppose Gaza concentration camp plans \(Al Jazeera, July 14\)](#) — especially persuasive for moderate Dems.
 - Urge them to **join the bill and publicly support humanitarian access**.
-

What to Ask and Report Back

In every meeting, please **ask these questions and report answers in your lobby visit form**:

- “What would it take to get to a yes?”
- “What advice would you give to us as advocates?”

If there’s time, hold a deeper discussion and take notes on:

- What clarifying questions did the office have?
- Where have you received **pushback**, and how did you respond?

- Where do you need **help with messaging or framing**?
 - What messages are **resonating**, and which are falling flat?
-

Additional Messaging & Values

- **Center spiritual and moral arguments** when appropriate:
 - *Matthew 25:40*: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me.”
 - **Scripture critiques nations**, not just individuals. It’s not enough to say, “I didn’t personally do this.”
 - **Water scarcity**: Gazans are surviving on 3 liters/day — far below minimum humanitarian standards.
 - **Extend care across borders**: If we care for vulnerable children here, that compassion must extend to children born in Gaza under unimaginable conditions.
-

Focus List: “Gettable” Senators

FCNL staff have identified these Senators as potential champions. Prioritize outreach:

- **Republicans**: Young, Daines, Paul, Cassidy, Lankford, Collins, Murkowski, Tillis, Moran, McCormick, Curtis
 - **Democrat**: Fetterman
-

Let us know how your meetings go and where you need more support. Together, we can shift the conversation and ensure that **no child is left without the food and care they need to survive**.