

Every 60 seconds a child dies from malaria. Malaria, a disease transmitted from the bite of a common mosquito in Africa, kills 600,000 people each year. The most commonly affected age group are children under the age of five. In recent years, the United States has taken steps to reduce this number. Since 2005, the number of deaths per year has been significantly reduced with the help of American federal funding. Our purpose of meeting with you is to:

1. Thank you for voting to fund malaria-based programs in the past and
2. To persuade you to continue to vote to fund these programs in the future.

As members of the reform Jewish community, we personally understand the importance of taking action early on. Dating back to the 1940s, the Jewish population was a minority that was for too long ignored by the international community. Many Jews perished as a result of the global indifference of the time. In our Torah, we are forbidden to “stand idly by the blood of [our] neighbor” (Leviticus [19:16](#)). Before the American government stepped in 50% more people died. Since then, the issuance of national funding has largely reduced the mortality rate by assisting the economically unstable African governments to produce the needed materials. Through this funding, we are taking steps to not stand idly by. “For one who saves one life, it is as if he saves an entire world.” (Genesis [1:26](#))

So how does this affect Americans? It is basic supply and demand. The law of economics states that low supply is equated with high price. Lack of a work force is a contributing factor to the deficiency of supply of natural resources. Africa has many untapped resources that could aid Africa and the world’s economy by increasing the size of their work force and helping to create a vibrant new market. Last year, Africa lost \$12 billion due to an unstable workforce and costs attributed to treating malaria. This instability in turn leads to an increase in natural resources costs. In addition to the moral aspect, the potential for economic growth is astounding as well.

Luckily, easy and affordable ways to prevent the spread of malaria have been developed. Insecticide treated nets used as drapery over beds provide an effective method to prevent potential outbreaks of malaria and other mosquito-carried diseases. Nothing But Nets is a global, grassroots campaign created to save lives by preventing malaria through the institution of nets. A \$10 donation to Nothing But Nets goes directly towards the purchase and distribution of an insecticide treated bed net that will protect a family against malaria. In addition to providing families with these nets, Nothing But Nets helps to fund medical clinics for malaria-infected victims, research for malaria-fighting vaccines and medicines, and the issuance of rapid diagnostic testing. This organization is supported by the President’s Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund. The President’s Malaria Initiative is an Act created by former president George W. Bush to treat and prevent malaria. The Global fund is a distributor of malaria nets. To date, 160 million bed nets have been distributed. However, with their deteriorating conditions, people in malaria-infested areas are in need of more nets. This very simple act of continuing to support these two programs could make all the difference as we hope that you have seen.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our perspective on this issue. We hope that we have your support in funding malaria programs in the 2015 fiscal year. Finally, in the duration of time in which we have given this speech, 5 children have died as a result of malaria. Let’s reduce this number to zero.

-Ryan McCoy  
-Ashley Jones  
-Arianna Fano