

UNA-USA Summer

# Recess Challenge



# A UNA-USA Toolkit for **US-UN Advocacy in August**

## Take Action During the August Recess

Congressional recess isn't a vacation; it's a dedicated work period where members of Congress interact with their constituents back in their hometowns. This is a crucial time for citizens to advocate for their causes (like supporting the United Nations). The in-person interactions and local media coverage during this time directly influence a representative's decisions when they return to Washington. For UNA-USA, it's the perfect opportunity to remind elected officials that their constituents care about global issues and support the UN.

Be a star student and make sure the issues you care about stay at the top of your Member's syllabus.

**The following are ways that YOU can make top grades by advocating for stronger and more impactful ways that the United States can support the United Nations.**



### Schedule an In-District Meeting

When Members of Congress are in their home district, you have a golden opportunity to walk into their local office and talk directly to them – or their staff – about why your issue matters.

#### **Your steps to ace the meeting:**

- [Find your Member](#): Look up your Representative and both Senators' local offices. Decide who to visit.
  - If you're part of a UNA-USA chapter, reach out to the Advocacy Lead to see if they will plan a visit that you can join before the August Recess ends.
- Know that meeting with a district office staffer (instead of the Member of Congress) is just as impactful as they must relay constituent concerns and discussions.
- [Print your leave-behind: A one-page explainer they can pass around the office.](#)
- Review [the sample script](#) and customize your own talking points with issues about the UN that are important to you.
- Remember, you should NOT respond to questions for which you do not have the answers. Instead, please let the Member or staffer know that you will find the information and circle back.

Feel free to provide your contact information for direct follow up since you are the constituent—they want to hear from YOU, their voter.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Please complete the [In District Meeting Form](#) for tracking purposes.



### Join a Town Hall

Town halls are democracy's open mic night. They're where lawmakers update constituents, hear questions and – if you show up – hear you.

Here's how it works:

**Part 1:** Your Member talks for 15-30 minutes about what's happening in D.C.

**Part 2:** The floor opens for questions from people like you. **This is your shot to ask about the UN and foreign aid funding in front of your local community** – and your Member.

**To find a Town Hall:** Check your Member's website, social media or call their local office to find their Town Hall (virtual or in person).

**Don't forget:** Sign up for their newsletter so you're always in the loop.





## Write a Letter to the Editor or Op-Ed

A crisp letter in your local paper can reach your neighbors *and* land on your Member's desk. Keep it short, local and focused on why the UN matters right now. Check below for a template to customize for your local newspaper.



## Sign the Petition: FY26 Funding for the UN

Signing the UNA-USA petition is good – **making it your own is better.** Add your personal “why” in the opening paragraph by sharing a story, a connection or a reason your Member should care about full U.S. funding for the UN.

Access the petition online [here](#).



## Do Nothing (!)

Skipping advocacy this month is like skipping class before the final exam...doing nothing during August Recess is a risk. Elected officials might think that supporting the UN isn't important to their voters **if they don't hear from them.**

## Template for Letter to the Editor/Op-Ed in Support of the UN

Dear Editor,

As a proud member of the UN Association of the USA and a resident of [NAME], I urge [REPRESENTATIVE] to defend America's global leadership by protecting funding for the United Nations.

Right now, some in Congress are proposing deep cuts to programs that protect Americans by maintaining peace, fighting global hunger and responding to humanitarian disasters worldwide – programs that are both lifesaving and squarely in America's national interest.

Even here in [NAME OF CITY], the UN makes a difference. [INSERT PERSONAL CONNECTION TO THE UN].

From [NAME OF CITY] to the crises we read about every day, the UN is on the frontlines. But it can only do this work with American support.

To be clear: this support isn't just charity – it's strategy. Every dollar we invest helps prevent conflicts before they start, curbs the spread of disease and upholds values like freedom and democracy.

As a [STUDENT, PROFESSIONAL, HEALTHCARE WORKER, ETC.], I believe our nation is stronger and safer when we lead with our values and show up on the global stage. Personal story?

I hope [REPRESENTATIVE] and all of us will continue to support strong U.S. engagement at the UN. The world is watching.

[YOUR NAME]

## Turn in Your Recess Report Card

If you are a high achieving advocate, we would love to hear what actions you've taken during the August Recess.

Simply take 2 minutes to **fill out the [Recess Report Card](#)** and let us know if you made the grade!

For more information about supporting the US-UN relationship or other advocacy initiatives, visit [www.unausa.org/advocacy](http://www.unausa.org/advocacy) or email Farah Salim Eck at [feck@unausa.org](mailto:feck@unausa.org).