Tips for Writing Letters to the Editors (LTEs)

• Keep in mind the many different types of publications – national, local and daily newspapers
• Be concise (typically around 150-175 words max) and credible, using statistics and personal experience where appropriate.
• Refer to recent stories published in the paper. The letter to the editor typically references an article or editorial published in the last day or two and either agrees with the writer’s thesis (usually adding additional detail or supporting information) or takes issue with the facts or arguments presented in the article (and offers an alternative point of view). Always be respectful and constructive.
• Include your name, address, e-mail and phone number.
• Once submitted, share with your regional advocacy coordinator! We would love to highlight your LTE on our platforms.
• You can also visit Advocate U to learn more about how to write an LTE.
• If your LTE gets published, post a photo of your published LTE or share/retweet the news outlet’s tweet/post of your LTE, tag @CAREActionNow, and add #voteifyoucare.

Sample LTE for Midterm Elections:

The Bergen Record
Letter to the Editor
October 9, 2018

To the Editor:

Your paper has done a thorough job of providing extensive coverage of the mid-term national elections, which are just four weeks away, including yesterday’s article on [insert article title here]. While much attention is given to domestic issues, I fail to see any mention of an issue that should be on your front page each and every day – global development.

I support CARE and am dismayed that 836 million people still live on less than $1.25 a day. What’s more, 830 women die every day from the complications of pregnancy and childbirth, while most of these deaths are preventable. The impact of poverty on human lives, not to mention global stability and prosperity, is enormous. The media should be covering these issues more often, and candidates running for office next month should let us know how they’ll tackle them when they get to Washington. I plan on raising this issue with my local officials and hope that this paper will do the same.

Pete Kraft
Fort Lee, NJ