

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-127

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee  
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-125

The Honorable Herb Kohl  
Chairman  
Senate Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-129

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Senate Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-190

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
House Foreign Operations Subcommittee  
Capitol Building, HB-26

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Foreign Operations Subcommittee  
Longworth House Office Building, 1016

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman  
House Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee  
Rayburn House Office Building, 2362-A

The Honorable Sam Farr  
Ranking Member  
House Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee  
Longworth House Office Building, 1016

Dear Chairpersons Leahy, Kohl, Granger, and Kingston and Ranking Members Graham, Blunt, Lowey and Farr:

We are writing to urge you to maintain longstanding U.S. support for efforts to address global hunger and poverty. Current proposals to return federal funding to FY 2008 levels could result in dramatic reductions to our global food security programs, which save and improve the lives of millions of the world's poorest people each year.

U.S. efforts to address global hunger have enjoyed decades of bipartisan support, from the Marshall Plan and the creation of the McGovern-Dole Program to U.S. leadership in responding to the 2008 global food price crisis. The U.S. provides critical leadership on this issue not only because it is the right thing to do – it is in our national security and economic interest.

We live in a world where hunger, poverty and instability are inextricably linked. As we watch food prices rise sharply around the world, already helping to spur riots in multiple countries, it is critical to global stability that the U.S. lead in addressing short-term emergencies while also working to eradicate hunger in the long-run. Scaling back funding for global hunger programs limits our ability to respond to current emergencies while undermining the vital efforts to address hunger's root causes that have been expanded in the wake of the 2008 global food crisis. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has highlighted the value of our development and humanitarian programs as a critical U.S. foreign policy tool that helps prevent conflict, noting that "development is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers."

Likewise, the negative economic impacts of hunger are clear. In developing countries, undernutrition costs countries 3-6 percent of GDP. Children who were undernourished in early life have wages that are half as high in adulthood. When hunger and poverty are addressed, the rise in prosperity leads to increased capacity to trade, which is vital to our own continued economic growth. Our earlier development assistance to countries such as South Korea has helped foster stable growth, leading to enhanced prosperity for both nations. Already about half of U.S. exports are sent to developing nations and with every 10 percent increase in exports, there is a 7 percent decrease in the unemployment rate here at home.

Now is not the time to roll back progress. Emergency hunger needs in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sudan and many other countries are high and expected to rise as food prices increase and new emergencies occur. The U.S. government is matching longstanding U.S. leadership in responding to emergencies with more robust efforts to address the long-term causes of hunger. We are by no means shouldering this global burden alone. We are collaborating with governments, NGOs, private companies and other partners to develop and support sustainable, country-led food security strategies in 20 of the world's poorest countries. Our leadership has resulted in \$18.5 billion in commitments from other countries to support sustainable, country-led food security plans.

Even though Congress will face many contentious issues and difficult budgetary decisions in the weeks and months ahead, it is essential to maintain our support for efforts to address global hunger. We should maintain our commitment to addressing global hunger without cutting broader humanitarian and development programs. There is now unanimous support for a comprehensive approach to address global hunger among NGOs, businesses and government. Please ensure that funding for global hunger programs is maintained and not cut in the final FY 2011 Appropriations Bill.

Sincerely,

1. ActionAid USA
2. Africa Faith and Justice Network
3. Africare
4. Alliance to End Hunger
5. American Jewish World Service
6. Bread for the World
7. CARE
8. Catholic Relief Services
9. The Centre for Health Policy and Innovation
10. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
11. Church World Service
12. Church of the Brethren Global Partnerships
13. Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
14. Concern Worldwide US
15. Conference of Major Superiors of Men
16. Congressional Hunger Center
17. Counterpart International
18. EcoAgriculture Partners
19. Fabretto Children's Foundation
20. Global Child Nutrition Foundation
21. Helen Keller International
22. The Humpty Dumpty Institute
23. The Hunger Project
24. International Medical Corps
25. Life for Relief and Development
26. Lutheran World Relief
27. Mercy Corps
28. ONE
29. Oxfam America
30. Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa
31. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Office of Public Witness
32. Providence International Enterprises, Inc dba Providence International Foundation
33. Save the Children
34. RESULTS
35. United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
36. United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
37. Washington Office on Latin America
38. Women Thrive Worldwide
39. World Food Program USA
40. [www.EndPovertyZONE.org](http://www.EndPovertyZONE.org)

**act:onaid**



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the **alliance**



to **end** hunger



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**CHPI**



**CRWRC**

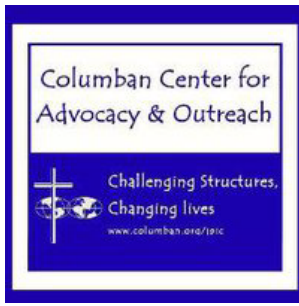
CHRISTIAN REFORMED  
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