

This sign-on letter went to all Budget conferees.

The  
**Food Policy**  
Working Group

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April 19, 2004

Representative Jim Nussle  
Chairman, House Committee on the Budget  
309 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nussle,

The Food Policy Working Group is a mostly faith-based coalition that works to achieve comprehensive food policies to end hunger in the United States. As you develop and consider a conference report on the FY05 budget resolution, we urge you not to include provisions that could reduce funding for U.S. nutrition and commodity programs.

Specifically, please adopt a budget resolution that does not include reconciliation instructions to the House Agriculture Committee to reduce mandatory spending by \$371 million. These instructions could lead to reductions in the Food Stamp Program and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

Hunger is on the rise in America. According to the latest U.S. government statistics, 34.9 million people—including almost 13 million children—live in households that experience hunger or the risk of hunger. Food stamp usage has been increasing each year since 2000, yet the program still does not serve everyone who is eligible. In addition, local food banks and food pantries across the country report rising numbers of families seeking assistance – including more families with workers that need emergency food. In short, too many families today struggle to put food on the table.

Please adopt a fair budget that does not undercut the programs that so many families rely on to avoid hunger.

Sincerely,

American Baptist Churches USA  
Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies  
Bread for the World  
Capital Area Food Bank  
Church Women United  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Food Research and Action Center  
The Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National WIC Association  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office  
RESULTS  
Volunteers of America