

July 19, 2005

Dear Senator/Representative,

As people of faith and service, we urge you to *co-sponsor The Hunger-Free Communities Act of 2005 (S. 1120/H.R. 2717)*. This legislation will rekindle our national commitment to end hunger and strengthen community-based organizations working together to create innovative local solutions to hunger.

In 2000, through the Healthy People 2010 initiative, the federal government set the goal of reducing food insecurity by half by 2010. Every day, millions of people across the country, many of them volunteers in community-based organizations, strive to meet the needs of hungry people in our country. Yet, each year since the goal was set, the number of food insecure and hungry people in the United States has risen. To reverse this trend we need a stronger national commitment to monitor progress and stay on track toward the 2010 goal. The national nutrition programs, which are the fastest, most effective way to reduce hunger, must continue to receive adequate funding and their entitlement nature must be preserved.

A modest increase in resources to local groups to bolster their efforts to solve the problem of hunger in their communities would also help. The Hunger-Free Communities Act would increase the resources available to faith and community-based organizations working locally to address hunger by authorizing competitive grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Local groups could use these grants to implement new anti-hunger programs or to expand and maintain the infrastructure of existing emergency food providers.

Your support for this legislation is a crucial step to reducing hunger in our country and generating the political will to cut food insecurity in half by 2010. The 36 million people – including 13 million children – in the United States who struggle to put enough food on the table are waiting for your leadership.

Sincerely,

America's Second Harvest – The Nation's Food Bank Network  
Bread for the World  
Call to Renewal  
Capitol Area Food Bank, Washington, DC  
Church Women United  
End Hunger Network  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Council of Jewish Women  
NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office  
Society of St. Andrew  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society