



WASHINGTON OFFICE
NATIONAL MINISTRIES DIVISION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

October 20, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
SR-328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Chambliss:

On behalf of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), I am writing to thank you for protecting the Food Stamp Program from cuts in the Senate Agriculture Committee's budget reconciliation package and for your opposition to structural changes to the Program, including block grants and superwaivers.

The 207th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) called on Congress "to defeat any proposals that base budget or deficit reductions primarily on the services provided to children, families, the needy, and the homeless" and urged strengthening of federal commitments to these groups. The Assembly also called on Congress "to insist on a government that follows ethical values of justice for the poor, welfare for children, hospitality to the stranger, and assistance to the disadvantaged."

Our concern is rooted in our Biblical tradition. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus was asked, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?" ...And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"

As the budget reconciliation process proceeds in the House and Senate, we offer our support for your continued efforts to protect the Food Stamp Program from cuts that would harm people who are struggling to feed their families.

Thank you again for your most recent support for the national nutrition safety net. If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me orCarolynn Race at (202) 543-1126. Thank you.

Cordially yours,

The Rev. Elenora Giddings Ivory
Director, Presbyterian Washington Office