

CONGRESSIONAL VOTING RECORD

114th Congress

As of April 2016

This voting record shows how members of Congress stood on legislation during the 114th Congress (2015-2016) that would end hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world.

Specifically, this report details the support of legislation addressing both domestic and international issues. For the 114th Congress, Bread for the World has urged lawmakers to protect programs for low-income individuals and families by:

- ending sequestration
- making improvements to the earned-income and child tax credits permanent
- reforming our criminal-justice system
- passing the Global Food Security Act
- reforming international food aid
- reauthorizing the African Growth and Opportunity Act
- providing better access to summer meals for low-income children

This voting record enables you to know how your members of Congress stand on these issues. During this election season, this record can be a helpful resource as you listen to candidates debate the issues that are important to you.

Bread members can also use the information here to thank members of Congress who supported our efforts to make ending a hunger a national priority and to voice concern about votes that will result in more hunger.

We appreciate your continued support in the fight against hunger and poverty. For more information, visit Bread for the World's website at www.bread.org.



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HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

VOTE TO END HUNGER

Visit www.bread.org/elections for:

- Resources to help you engage in the elections and with candidates
- Fact sheets that show the prevalence of hunger and poverty in your state

VERMONT

Senate Legislation

Co-sponsorship (as of April 4, 2016)							Votes		
Senator	1 Summer Meals Act (S.613)	2 Stop Child Summer Hunger Act (S.1539)	3 Global Food Security Act (S.1252)	4 Food for Peace Reform Act (S.525)	5 Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act (S.2123)	6 Second Chance Reauthori- zation Act (S.1513)	7 Bipartisan Budget Act (H.R.1314)	8 Consolidated Appropri- ations Act (H.R.2029)	9 African Growth and Opportunity Act (H.R.1295)
Leahy, Patrick (D)					X	X	Y	Y	Y
Sanders, Bernard (I)	X	X					Y	N	Y

CO-SPONSORSHIP

Domestic Hunger & Nutrition

1. The **Summer Meals Act (S. 613)** would make it easier for current summer meal sites to serve children at risk of hunger by streamlining requirements and paperwork, allowing a third meal or snack for children in all-day programs, and providing transportation grants to help children in rural and underserved areas access summer meal sites.

Bread for the World endorsed this legislation and urged senators to co-sponsor it.

2. The **Stop Child Summer Hunger Act (S. 1539)** would help children who have difficulty accessing summer meal sites to receive food at home. It provides summer EBT (electronic benefit transfer) cards, similar to pre-loaded debit cards, to low-income families that have one or more children eligible for free- or reduced-price meals during the school year.

Bread for the World endorsed this legislation and urged senators to cosponsor it.

International Hunger & Nutrition

3. The **Global Food Security Act (S. 1252)** would make Feed the Future a permanent program, creating a whole-of-government strategy to combat hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. The strategy would help hungry and malnourished nations around the world develop smart, long-term, country-owned agriculture policies and ensure these nations independently meet the nutrition needs of their people. It also authorizes the continued use of the International Disaster Assistance account to respond to emergency food needs and maintains its flexibility to ensure the U.S. government can respond appropriately to the needs

of vulnerable people affected by disasters.

Bread for the World endorsed this legislation. It passed the Senate with no vocal opposition.

4. The **Food for Peace Reform Act (S. 525)** offers an opportunity to reform the federal government's food-aid programs so that funds are used more efficiently and reach millions more people each year — at no additional cost to U.S. taxpayers. The proposed bill changes the Food for Peace program currently authorized through the farm bill and places food-aid authorities into the Foreign Assistance Act. Doing this allows the government to drop the harmful policies of U.S.-only procurement, U.S.-only cargo preference, and monetization.

Bread for the World endorsed this legislation and urged senators to co-sponsor it.

Criminal Justice Reform

5. **Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act (S. 2123)** reforms some U.S. sentencing laws and better prepares incarcerated persons to re-enter the workforce and the community. The bill reduces mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent offenses and gives judges more flexibility when issuing sentences. The bill also provides more resources for individuals seeking rehabilitative programs, such as work or job training, education programs, drug rehabilitation, and faith-based programs.

Bread for the World endorsed this legislation and urged senators to co-sponsor it.

6. **Second Chance Reauthorization Act (S. 1513)** reauthorizes a variety of programs under the Second Chance Act, including mentoring, substance use, and family-based programming. It also expands current correctional education and employment initiatives, increases the number

of grant programs available for nonprofits, and promotes increased accountability.

Bread for the World endorsed this legislation and urged senators to co-sponsor it.

VOTES

Budget & Tax

7. The **Bipartisan Budget Act (H.R. 1314)** established a budget framework and replaced much of the harmful automatic spending cuts, known as sequestration, for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. While not perfect, the bill can take critical anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs, like WIC and poverty-focused development assistance, off the chopping block. It also provides budget stability and economic certainty.
Bread for the World supported this bill. It passed 64-35.
8. The **Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 and the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (H.R. 2029)** provided discretionary spending at the levels agreed to in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (see above) and made permanent key improvements to the earned income tax credit (EITC) and the child tax credit (CTC). The EITC and CTC together lift more people out of poverty than any other program in the U.S. besides Social Security. Making the improvements permanent will prevent 16 million people from falling into or deeper into poverty.

On spending, the bill increased funding for children's programs like Head Start and provided alternative access to food during the summer months when school is not in session. The bill also increased funding for international food aid and maternal and child health and nutrition, and continued funding to build long-term agriculture sustainability. Notably, the bill did not include a provision to increase subsidies to the world's largest shipping companies to ship food aid. The provision could have resulted in up to 2 million people losing lifesaving U.S. food aid while increasing transportation costs to taxpayers by \$75 million.

Bread for the World supported this bill. It passed 65-33.

International Hunger & Nutrition

9. The **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) (H.R.1295)** reauthorizes a preferential trade agreement created in 2000 with the intent to stimulate economic development and help integrate Africa into the broader global economy. This legislation is a 10-year renewal of the agreement for the development of African economies and includes an important amendment to expand U.S. technical assistance, especially to businesses that engage women and smallholder farmers.
Bread for the World endorsed this legislation. It passed 97-1.

VERMONT

House of Representatives Legislation

		Co-sponsorship (as of April 4, 2016)				Votes			
District	Member of Congress	1 Summer Meals Act (H.R.1728)	2 Stop Child Summer Hunger Act (H.R.2715)	3 Sentencing Reform Act (H.R.3713)	4 Second Chance Reauthorizati on Act (H.R.3406)	5 Bipartisan Budget Act (H.R.1314)	6 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R.2029)	7 African Growth and Opportunity Act (H.R.1295)	8 Global Food Security Act (H.R.1567)
At-Large	Welch, Peter (D)	X	X	X		Y	N	Y	Y

CO-SPONSORSHIP

Domestic Hunger & Nutrition

1. The **Summer Meals Act (H.R. 1728)** would make it easier for current summer meal sites to serve children at risk of hunger by streamlining requirements and paperwork, allowing a third meal or snack for children in all-day programs, and providing transportation grants to help children in rural and underserved areas access summer meal sites.

Bread for the World endorsed this legislation and urged representatives to co-sponsor it.

2. The **Stop Child Summer Hunger Act (H.R. 2715)** would help children who have difficulty accessing summer meal sites receive food at home. It provides summer EBT (electronic benefit transfer) cards, similar to pre-loaded debit cards, to low-income families that have one or more children eligible for free- or reduced-price meals during the school year.

Bread for the World endorsed this legislation and urged representatives to co-sponsor it.

Criminal Justice Reform

3. The **Sentencing Reform Act (H.R. 3713)** reduces certain mandatory minimum sentences and reduces the three-strike mandatory life sentence to 25 years for certain nonviolent offenses. The bill also provides judges with more discretion in determining appropriate sentences. H.R. 3713 unanimously passed the House Judiciary Committee and is currently awaiting further consideration by the full House of Representatives.

Bread for the World endorsed this legislation and urged representatives to co-sponsor it.

4. The **Second Chance Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3406)** helps returning citizens who have completed their sentences

successfully return to society. This bill reauthorizes the Second Chance Act of 2008 and continues to authorize funding for both public and private entities to evaluate and improve re-entry programming, including academic and vocational education for offenders in prison, jails, and juvenile facilities. H.R. 3406 unanimously passed the House Judiciary Committee and is currently awaiting further consideration by the full House of Representatives.

Bread for the World endorsed this legislation and urged representatives to co-sponsor it.

VOTES

Budget & Tax

5. The **Bipartisan Budget Act (H.R. 1314)** established a budget framework and replaced much of the harmful automatic spending cuts, known as sequestration, for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. While not perfect, the bill can take critical anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs, like WIC and poverty-focused development assistance, off the chopping block. It also provides budget stability and economic certainty.

Bread for the World supported this bill. It passed 266-167.

6. The **Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 and the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (H.R. 2029)** provided discretionary spending at the levels agreed to in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (see above) and made permanent key improvements to the earned income tax credit (EITC) and the child tax credit (CTC). The EITC and CTC together lift more people out of poverty than any other program in the U.S. besides Social Security. Making the improvements permanent will prevent 16 million people from falling into or deeper into poverty.

On spending, the bill increased funding for children's programs like Head Start and provided alternative access to food during the summer months when school is not in

session. The bill also increased funding for international food aid and maternal and child health and nutrition, and continued funding to build long-term agriculture sustainability. Notably, the bill did not include a provision to increase subsidies to the world's largest shipping companies to ship food aid. The provision could have resulted in up to 2 million people losing lifesaving U.S. food aid while increasing transportation costs to taxpayers by \$75 million.

Bread for the World supported this bill. It passed 316-113.

International Hunger & Nutrition

7. The **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) (H.R.1295)** reauthorizes a preferential trade agreement created in 2000 with the intent to stimulate economic development and help integrate Africa into the broader global economy. The legislation is a 10-year renewal of the

agreement for the development of African economies and includes an important amendment to expand U.S. technical assistance, especially to businesses that engage women and smallholder farmers.

Bread for the World endorsed this legislation. It passed 397-32.

8. The **Global Food Security Act (H.R. 1567)** would make Feed the Future a permanent program, creating a whole-of-government strategy to combat hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. The strategy would help hungry and malnourished nations around the world develop smart, long-term, country-owned agriculture policies and ensure these nations independently meet the nutrition needs of their people.

Bread for the World endorsed this legislation. It passed 370-33.