



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

17 December 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's leaders to end hunger at home and abroad. We are an advocacy network with 250,000 activists, 3,500 local churches, and partnerships with many national denominations and other faith-based and anti-hunger organizations throughout the country.

Bread and its members are encouraged that Congress continues to work on a COVID-19 relief package. Hunger in the U.S. and abroad is surging, and the U.S. must lead in any relief and recovery package that assists the most vulnerable.

Bread and its members prayerfully request the following provisions be included in the upcoming COVID-19 relief package:

Increase food and nutrition assistance programs in the United States:

- Increase the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit by 15 percent, which will help families buy sufficient food for the month.
- Strengthen the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- Provide food assistance to U.S. territories not served by SNAP such as Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- Provide funding for senior nutrition services, including Meals on Wheels, and extend waivers providing flexibility in the Older Americans Act nutrition services.
- Extend free meal reimbursements through the Child and Adult Care Food Program to young adults up to age 25 residing in emergency shelters.
- Include funds for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

Nearly 26 million adults—12 percent of all adults in the U.S.—reported that their household sometimes or often did not have enough to eat in the last 7 days (data collected Nov. 25-Dec.7), according the Household Pulse Survey.

It's important that the provisions listed above be included in the COVID-19 relief package. They will provide people with access to the food they so desperately need, including immigrant

families with U.S.-born children. Your investments are an essential step forward in helping children and families facing hunger around the country.

In addition, Bread and its members also want Congress to:

Provide no less than \$20 billion for the United States global pandemic response.

The global pandemic's effects on hunger and malnutrition are expected to be catastrophic, with a potential doubling of the number of people worldwide facing acute hunger to 270 million. Children are most at risk. It is expected that nearly 7 million more children will be acutely malnourished and face a higher risk of death and long-term health and cognitive impacts. Therefore, Congress must allocate at least \$20 billion for international COVID-19 response in the next relief package. This funding should include \$2 billion for hunger relief and \$500 million to treat and prevent malnutrition.

Extend pandemic unemployment insurance programs through 2021.

Unemployment remains in the double digits, extending the unemployment insurance by 16 weeks from its expiration at the end of December. It will help benefit tens of millions of workers and their families.

Extend stimulus checks to families, regardless of immigration status.

Millions of people were left out of the last round of stimulus checks because their spouse or parents were ITIN filers. The exclusion of mixed-status families and individual ITIN filers from relief legislation was profoundly unfair and disproportionately harmed those families hardest hit by the global pandemic.

As a Christian organization, we take our cues from Scripture, particularly those stories that show Jesus' deep compassion and feeding the multitudes of people. In these stories, Jesus models what it means to love God and love our neighbors by working with the disciples to provide food for the people around them.

Now is the time to heed God's call to care for the "least among us," and we pray that you will demonstrate the generosity so many of our faith traditions call for in times like these.

Sincerely,



Rev. Eugene Cho
President & CEO
Bread for the World