



Great News about ending World Hunger!

For several decades, ending hunger has been our **top legislative priority**. During that time, we've learned a lot and grown in skill and determination. What is unique this year is that our efforts have a receptive administration. **Our advocacy is still urgently needed:** lobbyists for every special interest group are promoting their own priorities – at the expense of needs like development aid or food stamps. Here's the great news: if we do our part, we have a **good chance of achieving much or even most of what we seek!**

So take a few minutes and email, call, or write a post card or note to your members of Congress. **Urge them to:**

1. Pass a FY 2010 federal budget with at least the **\$4.2 billion for hunger and development** that the Senate and House added in the recently approved budget framework.
2. Place **reaching the Millennium Development Goals** at the heart of our nation's efforts to help the poorest of the poor.
3. **Improve the effectiveness and coordination** of our efforts to end hunger and extreme poverty – key underlying causes of conflict in our world today. President Obama was a cosponsor of the Global Poverty Act as a Senator. Urge your elected officials to make that measure the minimum of what we achieve this year in Congress.

The past decade has shown how modest increases in aid can make a big difference. For example, 19 million children in Africa are going to school who would not have without changes we helped bring about. The price tag for what we want next is about equal to the cost of a week of the Iraq war. And we can help make it happen with 10 minutes of our time this week.



Where many of us get stuck: So many people only rarely write or e-mail their elected officials because they find it intimidating, or wonder if it makes any difference. But if we don't do so, our point of view will be undercounted.

The solution: A simple 4-6 sentence note, email, or postcard, written in 8 or 10 minutes. Begin by thinking about how to approach your particular member of Congress (e.g. thanks for past leadership). Center your note on **what you want your official to do**. Add a reason or statistic. State clearly what you want and ask for a response. If you get inspired, write more. Brief is just fine!

(see page two for examples of messages)

Two examples of notes to elected officials.

Dear Senator Smith,

Members of our church are discussing the situation of poor and hungry people in other countries.

I would like to see you work to retain or expand the \$4.2 billion increase in International Affairs funding for programs addressing hunger and extreme poverty. And please take leadership to strengthen the effectiveness and coordination of the means for delivering that aid along the lines of last year's Global Poverty Act (S. 2433).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, Mary L. Public

Dear Representative Jones,

The continued fighting in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa and Gaza reminds us that military options have grave limits in dealing with conflicts. Thus, I was dismayed to see pressure to add tens of billions for the military, but only a fraction of that for International Affairs programs that address extreme poverty and hunger in the world – key underlying causes of conflict.

I hope you will work to contain military spending and expand programs that reduce violence in the world. Specifically, work for at least the \$4.2 billion increase in poverty-related foreign aid in the budget resolution approved in April. And push at a minimum for the key features of last year's Global Poverty Act (S. 2433) to strengthen our the effectiveness of our aid. Thanks for listening – I'd appreciate a reply on what you're doing about these concerns.

Your constituent,
John Q. Citizen



Make the most of your letter: Send it to other members of Congress, and to Sec. Hillary Clinton since she is also a key player on these issues (U.S. State Dept., 2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20520, to email, go to www.state.gov or call 202-647-4000).

Adapt your letter for your local newspaper, too! Even if your letter isn't chosen it can help another on the issue get printed. And send us a copy: LPF, 1710 11th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122. lpf@ecunet.org

For more information, go to: www.lutheranpeace.org
www.bread.org www.interaction.org