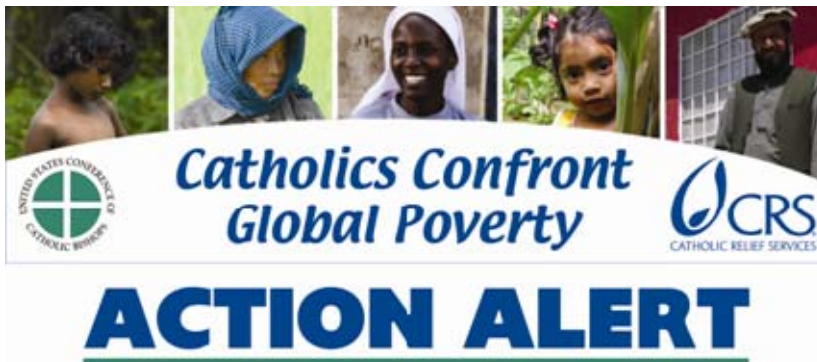


May 22, 2009



## URGE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO CO-SPONSOR H. RES. 278, THE "GLOBAL SECURITY PRIORITIES" RESOLUTION

**TAKE ACTION NOW!** Visit the Action Center (<http://actioncenter.crs.org>) and urge your members of Congress, especially those on the Foreign Affairs Committee (<http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/members.asp>), to co-sponsor the "Global Security Priorities" Resolution, H. Res. 278, reintroduced by Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Rep. Dan Lungren (R-CA) as their previous bill on the same topic expired in the last Congress.

**WHY IS H. RES. 278 IMPORTANT?** H. Res. 278 has two goals:

- 1. Addresses the threat of international terrorism and protects the security of the United States by reducing the number of and access to nuclear weapons and preventing their proliferation.** H. Res. 278 urges the President to continue negotiations to further reduce nuclear arms to minimal levels, to have the U.S. and Russia agree to cut the number of deployed nuclear weapons, to assist other countries in reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons throughout the world, and to expand efforts to prevent terrorists from gaining access to nuclear materials.
- 2. Directs a portion of the resulting \$13 billion saved annually towards child survival, food security, and universal education.** H. Res. 278 requests \$5 billion over five years to enhance global child survival through new high-impact and low-cost health and nutrition interventions at the community level, and an additional \$1.5 billion annually over five years for existing programs that reduce child hunger and increase child nutrition and educational opportunities. These added resources would enable organizations such as Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to strengthen food security programs with local partners in poor countries to boost long-term food security and life-saving emergency aid.

President Obama has already called for substantial verifiable reductions in the nuclear arsenals of the United States and Russia, and has committed the U.S. to new leadership in the international campaign to reduce global poverty by doubling international assistance. Supporting H. Res 278 is timely given these stated intentions.

### **WHY DOES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SUPPORT H. RES. 278?**

The U.S. bishops have long supported the dismantling of nuclear weapons systems, the effective securing of nuclear materials from terrorists, and a reduction in the overall number of nuclear armaments. Church teaching supports preventing proliferation of these horrific weapons and ultimately eliminating them. The "Global Security Priorities" Resolution, H. Res. 278, embraces these goals and takes important steps in this direction.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and CRS recognize that if we want peace, we must work for justice. We commend the bill's commitment to "enhance child survival in the world's most needy countries" and to improve "child nutrition and educational opportunities." Through funding vital programs that assist poor and vulnerable people worldwide we can strengthen our nation's commitment to reduce global poverty and the situations of injustice and deprivation that terrorists can exploit. CRS has a long history of providing lifesaving nutritional and educational programs in developing countries around the world.

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard noted in a March 30, 2009 letter (<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/2009-03-30-ltr-to-hfac-global-security-priorities-act.pdf>) to the members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs that Pope Benedict XVI has linked disarmament and development. In his January 1 message for the 2009 World Day of Peace, the Holy Father recommended that "resources saved [by reducing expenditures on arms] could then be earmarked for development projects to assist the poorest and most needy individuals and peoples." H. Res. 278 does just that.

### **For more information contact:**

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