



December 9, 2013

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

“Give us this day our daily bread...”

Food is a basic need and a fundamental human right; yet one in eight people around the world go hungry every day, even in our own country. This is an injustice that we can and must help to change. Pope Francis will help launch a global campaign of prayer and action against world hunger so our brothers and sisters here and around the world have enough nutritious food. Beginning on December 10, the Catholic community in the United States and throughout the world will unite with people of faith in a sustained effort to end hunger.

As leaders of the Catholic Church in the United States and heads of Catholic organizations dedicated to fighting hunger, we invite you to join the Catholic community in praying on December 10 for an end to hunger. Pope Francis will offer his blessing and support for the One Human Family – Food for All campaign in a video message to be released on the eve of this global launch.

Our prayers must lead to action, however. Right now, you face critical decisions about how the United States will respond to hunger here and around the world. In response to Pope Francis’s call, we urge you now to put a circle of protection around poor and vulnerable people:

- Reject harmful cuts and changes to the domestic anti-hunger program (SNAP) that will harm vulnerable children, seniors, unemployed and underemployed people, and persons with disabilities.
- Make sensible changes to the U.S. international food assistance program so that it is more efficient and reaches more people with the same level of funding.
- Protect and provide full funding for critical food programs that serve vulnerable populations.
- Support U.S. poverty-focused humanitarian and development assistance that helps prevent and alleviate poverty and hunger around the world.

Ours is a blessed nation. If you and all our nation’s leaders marshal our public and private resources in response to the Pope’s call to end hunger, then we could truly make a significant difference. Please ensure that the Farm Bill, the budget, and all the other legislative vehicles you consider do everything possible to help the least among us have enough nutritious food to eat.

As we join Pope Francis in prayer on December 10, we will pray for you, and all our nation's leaders, as you seek to shape budgets and policies that give priority to the needs of poor and hungry people.

Sincerely,



Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski
Archbishop of Miami
Chairman, Committee on Domestic Justice
and Human Development



Most Rev. Richard E. Pates
Bishop of Des Moines
Chairman, Committee on International
Justice and Peace



Rev. Larry Snyder
President,
Catholic Charities USA



Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo
President,
Catholic Relief Services



December 9, 2013

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

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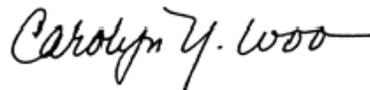
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