

The

Food Policy

Working Group

January 31, 2005

House and Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator and Representative

The Food Policy Working Group, a coalition of religious and other anti-hunger advocacy organizations concerned with ending hunger in the United States, thanks you for your support of federal domestic nutrition assistance programs. Congressional leadership during the last farm bill helped to strengthen the Food Stamp Program, The Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Commodity Supplemental Feeding Program. And, the recent enactment of the strongly bipartisan reauthorization of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program, and WIC exemplifies the tremendous support of these important programs for the nation's children.

We urge your continued support of the nutrition assistance programs throughout the 109th Congress. Since their inception, these programs have been modified to make them more efficient, and recent legislative changes have increased their effectiveness in reaching those in need. We oppose any reduction in funding or change in the basic structure of these programs that would deny benefits to people who are most in need including children, elderly and disabled people, and the working poor, the primary beneficiaries of the nutrition programs. As organizations who work with and represent these vulnerable populations, we are very concerned that they will become victims of budget cuts by this Congress.

The powerful partnership between our faith-based network of service providers and advocates and the federal nutrition assistance programs is exemplary, and we know you share our commitment to keeping it strong.

Sincerely,

American Baptist Churches USA
America's Second Harvest – The Nations' Food Bank Network
Association of Farm Worker Opportunity Programs

Bread for the World
Catholic Charities USA
Congressional Hunger Center
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Food Research and Action Center
General Board of Church and Society, The United Methodist Church
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA
National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness
NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
National WIC Association
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Washington Office
The Jewish Council for Public Affairs
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Volunteers of America