



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Advocacy on COVID-19 Legislation

Background

Bread for the World has acted quickly and effectively to get Congress to address the huge surge in hunger that the coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused in the United States and worldwide.

The two political parties worked together to pass three COVID-19 response bills over two weeks in March: an \$8 billion health-focused bill, the \$200 billion Families First Act focused on unemployment insurance and food assistance, and the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act focused on economic stimulus through credit to businesses.

Bread's staff helped to recruit bipartisan support in both the House and Senate for the Families First Act.

As the two parties negotiated the CARES Act, Bread urged Congress to raise the cash payments to very low-income people to the same level as most other

Americans would receive, worked in broad coalition with international development organizations to push successfully for \$1.5 billion in international aid, and convened a separate coalition to lobby for legal authorization of U.S. participation in the next round of funding for the World Bank and African Development Bank programs in low-income countries.

The small business program in the CARES Act quickly ran out of funds, and Congress passed a \$500 billion supplemental bill in April. Bread for the World, its members and partners continuing to lobby vigorously for an increase in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). However, we were pleased that the final bill included \$25 billion for public health systems that are crucial to sustained recovery of the economy and job market.

Bread's Role, Commitment, and Priorities

Bread for the World is urging Congress to pass another COVID-19 response bill. We are focused mainly on two issues:

- **Increasing the maximum monthly SNAP benefit by 15 percent.** Bread for the World's membership is contacting their members of Congress, Bread is working together with many other groups, and Bread has helped to secure national media attention.
- **\$12 billion for international assistance.** Only two-tenths of one percent of Congress' response to the pandemic so far has been directed to international activities. Our request includes funding for nutrition interventions to bolster the resilience of mothers and children against COVID-19 infection.

Working in coalition, Bread for the World is also supporting efforts to:

- Fund free, fair, and safe elections despite the pandemic.
- Help states and localities maintain community services.
- Address racial inequities exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis.
- Target assistance to immigrants in detention, prisoners, and returning citizens.
- Make safety-net programs available regardless of immigration status.

Visit bread.org/coronavirus to learn more about how the coronavirus (COVID-19) impacts hunger.



Lacey Johnson for Bread for the World