



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

September 23, 2020

Dear Senators,

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's leaders to end hunger at home and abroad. We are an advocacy network throughout the country with 10,000 core supporters, 350,000 activists, 3500 local churches, and partnerships with many national denominations and other faith-based and anti-hunger organizations.

We applaud the bipartisan efforts in the House of Representatives to pass the Continuing Resolution, which provides an additional \$8 billion in nutrition assistance for children and families who face hunger and poverty due to COVID-19. This expands the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT) that enables parents to buy groceries for school breakfasts and lunches that their children miss from school—extending it to Puerto Rico and the territories. Since its implementation, P-EBT has [lifted at least 2.7-3.9 million children out of hunger](#).

Also, the Continuing Resolution provides waivers for the National School Lunch Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). It gives state Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) agencies the needed flexibilities to adjust operations during COVID-19. These programs will provide people with access to the food they so desperately need, including immigrant families with U.S.-born children

Bread for the World urges that the Senate support the additional \$8 billion in nutrition assistance included in the Continuing Resolution to support the programs mentioned above. These temporary investments are an important step forward in helping children and families facing hunger around the country.

The number of people who face hunger and poverty due to COVID-19 will continue to rise at alarming rates, especially among Black, Indigenous, Latino, and other communities of color. To meet people's urgent needs, we strongly and prayerfully urge Congress to pass a longer-term COVID-19 relief package that prioritizes the following:

- Increase the maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit by 15 percent, which will help families buy enough food for the month.
- Extend the \$600 weekly enhanced unemployment benefit
- Provide no less than \$20 billion for international assistance for the U.S. global pandemic response.
- Include immigrant and refugee families in any future legislation and retroactively make them eligible for past relief efforts.



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Through the voices of the prophets in our Scriptures, God calls us to care for widows, for orphans, for sojourners—the most vulnerable among us. We are called by God to care for those hit hardest by the pandemic.

We thank you for your leadership during this difficult time. We join you in prayer for those who are hungry, those who are sick, those doing essential work, and those on the frontlines caring for our sick neighbors and family members.