

July 6, 2016

Dear Representative/Senator:

As organizations engaged in efforts to end global hunger, malnutrition, and extreme poverty, we applaud Congress for passing the bipartisan Global Food Security Act (H.R. 1567/ S.1252).

We thank Senators Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Robert P. Casey Jr. (D-PA) for introducing this important piece of legislation in the Senate, as well as Representatives Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Betty McCollum (D-MN) for introducing the legislation in the House. These Members of Congress are well-known leaders in the fight against global hunger and malnutrition, as well as champions of small-scale producers' efforts to lift themselves out of poverty. We thank the leadership of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the House and Senate Agriculture Committees for their input and support. We also thank Senate and House Leadership, especially Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), for shepherding the bill through to final passage.

Globally, 795 million people are hungry and malnutrition causes nearly half of all deaths of children under 5 (3.1 million children) each year. Hunger and malnutrition prevent millions of people in developing countries from living healthy, productive lives and stunt the mental and physical development of future generations.

After decades of declining support for farmers in developing countries, renewed U.S. leadership from President Bush and now President Obama has sparked a global commitment to help people feed themselves. Governments, nongovernmental and civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, businesses, multilateral institutions, and producers themselves have all recommitted to fighting extreme hunger and malnutrition through new agriculture-focused investments. The impacts are clear. Growth in the agriculture sector is 11 times as effective at reducing poverty as growth in other sectors in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Global Food Security Act is an exciting step forward in building the political will needed to end global hunger and malnutrition in our lifetime. The Act includes the development and implementation of a comprehensive, whole-of-government strategy to combat hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. The strategy focuses on increasing sustainable and equitable agricultural development; reducing global hunger; and improving nutrition – especially in the key first 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday. The legislation also promotes country ownership and accountability, improving upon existing monitoring and evaluation practices to ensure U.S. taxpayer investments are implemented transparently, efficiently, and effectively.

This bill responds to the full spectrum of global food security needs. In addition to capturing and improving upon the successes that the U.S. government is already achieving through its Feed the Future Initiative, this legislation authorizes the continued use of the International Disaster Assistance (IDA) account to respond to emergency food needs with the Emergency Food Security Program. The bill also maintains IDA's existing flexibility to ensure the U.S. government can respond appropriately to the challenging and changing needs of vulnerable people affected by disasters.

Thank you again for passing the Global Food Security Act. It is an important step in ensuring that the U.S. continues to lead efforts to sustainably tackle hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Sincerely,

1. 1000 Days
2. ACDI/VOCA
3. Action Against Hunger
4. ADRA
5. AGree
6. Alliance to End Hunger
7. American Academy of Pediatrics
8. American Jewish World Service
9. Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD)
10. Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
11. Bread for the World
12. CARE USA
13. Catholic Relief Services
14. Church World Service
15. Congressional Hunger Center
16. Edesia
17. Farm Journal Foundation
18. Food for the Hungry
19. Global Citizen
20. Global Communities
21. Global Harvest Initiative
22. GrainPro, Inc.
23. Heartland Global, Inc.
24. Helen Keller International
25. InterAction
26. International Medical Corps
27. Lutheran World Relief
28. Mercy Corps
29. Mercy-USA for Aid and Development
30. One Acre Fund
31. ONE Campaign
32. Oxfam America
33. Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa
34. Presbyterian Church (USA)
35. Project Concern International (PCI)
36. Save the Children
37. Stop Hunger Now
38. The Global FoodBanking Network
39. The Hunger Project
40. U.S. Fund for UNICEF
41. United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
42. United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
43. Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA)
44. World Food Program USA
45. World Vision