

PJIC Office Update 2017 Special Edition “Ways We Can Do Our Part to End Hunger”

The Global Poverty Task Force works closely with many organizations, such as Bread for the World, that address one or more of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this special PJIC Update the GPTF invites you to participate with them in Bread for the World’s 2017 Offering of Letters Campaign. Information in this Update is taken from the 2017 Offering of Letters kit and can be found at: bread.org/ol.



In the United States, 1 in 6 children lives in a family that struggles with hunger.

AN INVITATION – Tell Congress to Help End Hunger.

Through Bread for the World’s 2017 Offering of Letters Campaign hundreds of thousands of people will urge their members of Congress to make funding decisions that put our country and the world on track to end hunger.

Biblical Reflection: The issue of hunger is prevalent in the biblical narrative. Lessons throughout the Bible circle back to the importance of meeting people’s most basic need to be physically nourished. Lessons from the Bible also show that when groups of people come together with each person doing his or her part and sharing common resources, all can have enough to eat.

Background: The U.S. Congress, through the budget process, can make funding decisions that put us on track to end hunger and poverty by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goal #2) ...Federal budget proposals and resolutions can set forth a long-term vision of

eliminating hunger and poverty. These proposals include full employment, job creation, reframing our tax codes, safety-net programs like SNAP, WIC, global nutrition, and international development programs focused on poverty. By working to persuade Congress and the president to fund these measures, we are doing our part to end hunger and realizing God’s vision of a world where all people “will hunger no more” (Revelation 7:16).

A budget is more than a financial document – it is a moral document, too.

Two Key Decision Points in the Budget: *In 2017, Congress is expected to use two budget tools that could lead to drastic cuts or changes to anti-hunger programs:*

1. **Sequestration.** Enacted in 2011, sequestration – automatic budget cuts – impose tight limits on the government’s discretionary spending, capping funding for programs that need yearly funding, like WIC, humanitarian assistance and global nutrition.
2. **Budget Reconciliation.** This is a legislative procedure that enables Congress to make big changes to many policies and programs at the same time. Reconciliation bills have fast-

track privileges that allow them to more easily pass through Congress. Many in Congress are pushing to use this year's reconciliation bills to fundamentally change the structure and funding for Medicaid and SNAP.

Programs that help hungry, struggling people are at risk:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- Poverty-focused development assistance (PFDA)
- Earned income tax credit (EITC) and the refundable portion of the child tax credit (CTC)

KNOW THE FACTS: Visit link below for national and international statistics on hunger.

<http://www.bread.org/sites/default/files/downloads/2017-offering-of-letters-facts-hunger-poverty.pdf>

ADVOCATE to Make Funding Decisions that End Hunger by 2030. For the most current version of a sample letter to guide you in writing a personalized email that is updated as legislation moves in Congress, visit www.bread.org/eol.

PRAY! Prayers and other resources are at:

<http://www.bread.org/sites/default/files/2017-offering-of-letters-kit-with-cover.pdf>

We offer the following Litany for prayer:

Lord, you are the bread of life; we ask that all of God's people have both spiritual bread and the bread to nourish themselves every day.

Lord, help us to be the expression of our love and mercy in the world.

Lord, you are merciful; we pray for our elected leaders, especially the new Congress and new president, that your spirit of love and wisdom be shed on them so that all people may be treated with justice and dignity.

Lord, help us to be the living image of your mercy in the world.

Lord, you are a just God; we ask that you cultivate in each of us the thirst for fighting for those most in need.

Lord, help us to be protectors of your creation.

Lord that the mission of helping others by eradicating hunger become the duty of all, following your example in the Gospel: "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.:"

Lord, help us to eradicate hunger in the world.

God and Creator of all, we ask that your love and charity fill our hearts, guide our actions, and enlighten our words. We ask you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Nearly 800 million people worldwide suffer from hunger, and 159 million children under the age of 5 suffer from malnutrition.

Please join the Sisters of Charity of New York Global Poverty Task Force in ENDING HUNGER.

Use Bread for the World's 2017 Offering of Letters as a resource. Write letters to your Senators and Representatives in the U.S. Congress. **Tell them, "I urge you to make funding decisions that put us on track toward ending hunger by 2030."** *Carol De Angelo, SC, cdeangelo@scny.org*