



## EMAILS / LETTERS TO CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON, DC

As people of faith we affirm the right of all people to access nutritious food with dignity. Unfortunately, the global COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a **global hunger pandemic**, and hunger has risen sharply in the U.S., disproportionately affecting communities of color.

### OUR “ASKS” OF CONGRESS IN 2021

1 – **GLOBAL NUTRITION**: Co-sponsor H.R. 4693 The Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act and invest \$300 million in global nutrition programs that promote community health. Hundreds of millions of people overseas are on the brink of starvation, and these programs help people escape hunger.

2 – **CHILD TAX CREDIT, or CTC**: Earlier this year, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act, which included a landmark expansion of the CTC. Ask Congress to make this CTC expansion permanent and available to all children in the U.S. regardless of immigration status. This would move millions of children out of poverty, help reduce hunger, and narrow the racial wealth gap exacerbated by unemployment as a result of COVID-19.

### TO EMAIL CONGRESS

Go to [https://secure.bread.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=401&s\\_subsrc=website-offering-of-letters-microsite](https://secure.bread.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=401&s_subsrc=website-offering-of-letters-microsite). Fill in your contact information so your email goes to your House representative and both senators.

Personalize the email either by replacing the entire message with your own message or adding a few sentences of your own to the beginning of the email. If you say something personal and mention how hunger is affecting people in your district, your email will carry greater weight. For more tips, go to <https://ol.bread.org/>

**If you have questions or need help with anything, contact David Gist at [dgist@bread.org](mailto:dgist@bread.org) or 626-394-3940.**

**WRITE CONGRESS -- *SAMPLE LETTER*** Please personalize your letter or email and use your own words when possible.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Alex Padilla  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_ **or** Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_: Date

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. Ending hunger is a priority for me because [...*provide personal reason why you care about hungry people*]. My church and I network with Bread for the World to help end hunger.

Stunting, malnutrition, and hunger are increasing around the world as a result of the global pandemic. Please co-sponsor The Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act and invest at least \$300 million into global nutrition programs.

Here in the U.S., hunger levels are higher than during the Great Depression, but the recent expansion of the Child Tax Credit could do more to reduce hunger and poverty among our nation’s children than any single policy in decades. Please make the new Child Tax Credit extension permanent and available to all children regardless of immigration status.

Thank you,  
Your name  
Your address w/ zip code

## Background on Our Asks

**Q:** What exactly are the “expansions” to the Child Tax Credit [CTC] as part of the American Rescue Plan Act?

**A:** The American Rescue Plan 1) increased the credit amount per child, 2) made the full credit available to more families, and 3) made the payments monthly so that families in need could access the payments sooner. Consequently, on July 15 the IRS began administering monthly payments of the expanded CTC to families who qualified and applied for the CTC. This is a tremendous boost for struggling American families and will do more to reduce child hunger in America than any single policy has in decades. That’s the good news. The challenge is that, unfortunately, Congress only expanded the Child Tax Credit for one year.

**Action:** Let’s move Congress to make this expansion permanent, and let’s also explore how we can help eligible families access this timely support following so many months of hardship. To learn how to access CTC payments, go to <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-update-portal>

**Q:** What does The Global Malnutrition and Treatment Act actually do?

The bill will elevate nutrition in USAID as a core pillar of development by establishing a 5-year nutrition strategy to support partner country-led efforts towards ending malnutrition in all its forms by 2030. Some of the key elements of the strategy are:

- Scaling up efforts to prevent and treat malnutrition.
- Setting specific and measurable goals and targets.
- Establishing clear and transparent selection criteria to identify partner countries.
- Prioritizing improvement of the nutritional status of women and children in the first 1,000-day window through timely scale up of evidence-based nutrition interventions.

The legislation will establish a Nutrition Leadership Council who will be responsible for overseeing the strategy and international maternal and child nutrition programs.

### Talking Points for Emails / Letters / Calls to Congress or In-District Meetings with Congress

*The Global Malnutrition and Treatment Act has bipartisan support, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee voted unanimously to pass it out of committee. Pass this bill ASAP to address the global hunger pandemic.*

*The American Rescue Plan Act that Congress passed earlier this year featured the 1-year expansion of the CTC. But I am calling upon Congress to make this expansion PERMANENT and available to all children, regardless of immigrant status. Making the expanded Child Tax Credit [CTC] permanent will do more to reduce hunger & poverty among our nation’s children than any single policy has in decades.*

*Children from groups that have disproportionately high hunger rates will benefit most. With the expansion to the CTC, poverty among Black children will be cut by an estimated 52%, among Latino children by 45%, among Native American children by 62%. Let’s make those cuts to poverty permanent and close the racial wealth gap.*

*Like the WIC program--where every dollar spent on pregnant women generates anywhere from \$1.92 to \$4.21 in Medicaid savings--CTC is a good return on investment because U.S. child poverty costs between \$800 million and \$1.1 trillion every year via lower productivity, higher healthcare costs, public safety, and other services.*

*The idea of expanding the CTC to help lower-income families is not new and has had bipartisan support. Roughly 39 million households – covering almost 90% of children in the United States – will receive these monthly payments. Distributing the credit monthly instead of as a one-time tax refund is an important feature of the expansion and will help families make ends meet every month.*