

Date TBD

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker,

As members of a broad coalition of organizations representing diverse sectors including business, charity, academia, philanthropy, advocacy, healthcare, and others, we write to you today to ask for you to consider the creation of a Select Committee on Hunger within the U.S. House of Representatives. As organizations focused on issues of food security and malnutrition, we understand the unique threat that hunger can pose to U.S. and global stability and progress, and we are of the strong opinion that the people of the United States would benefit from this select committee.

Many communities both in the United States and around the world are plagued by these issues. There are more than 40 million people in the United States today who struggle with poverty and/or hunger. Worldwide, 821 million are unsure where their next meal will come from. While these problems may broadly be based on issues of economics, injustice, conflict, and governance, the reality across communities tends to be complex and multifaceted.

The U.S. House of Representatives – through its standing committees – is excellent at parsing and addressing complexities of broad topics impacting Americans’ lives. However, the unique interconnectedness of issues driving hunger presents a challenge to American policy that is difficult to pin on the jurisdiction of any existing policymaking mechanism within the current House committee structure. This not only presents a problem when trying to address these issues in a necessary holistic way, but also threatens to exacerbate the long-term health, security, and productivity of our country, as well as the basic efficiencies and effectiveness of existing programs.

The potential success of a House Select Committee on Hunger does not go without precedent. In the 1980’s and early 1990’s, the previous House Select Committee on Hunger drew focus to issues and ideas related to hunger in the United States and worldwide that were not focused on by any one standing committee. It was, however, highly complementary – calling for hearings, recording testimony, and improving functionality of policies related to critical issues such as infant mortality, emergency assistance accessibility, and community economic development right here in the United States. Globally, issues addressed included foreign aid, multilateral assistance, refugees, microfinancing, and child and maternal survival, among others. In our own consideration of this issue we have consulted and relied on the expertise of former Congressman Tony Hall, the former Chair of the Select Committee, who strongly endorses this idea.

We, the signatories of this letter, have committed ourselves to the eradication of hunger in the United States and around the world. We recognize the existential threat hunger-related issues pose to U.S. and global prosperity and security. We also recognize the leadership role that the United States has played in addressing these issues in the past. We believe this role – and the

related policies – would be greatly benefitted through the unique role a Select Committee can provide.

We therefore urge you to consider the approval of the formation of a Select Committee on Hunger. Thank you for your consideration and commitment to addressing these fundamental issues. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further with you.

Signed,

Questions and responses may be directed to:

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