

January 7, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
S-221 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer:

The undersigned are hopeful that Congress will enact a bold Build Back Better Act, making historic investments that will lift low-income families out of poverty, alleviate hunger while improving nutrition, and address racial disparities in the United States. We applaud the House for passing significant investments toward advancing specific anti-hunger and poverty provisions in the Build Back Better Act and we urge the Senate to maintain these critical provisions and pass the bill.

It is with great urgency that the undersigned organizations call on the Senate to pass a final Build Back Better Act that includes key nutrition, anti-poverty, and health-equity provisions as outlined in the recently passed House bill and below:

- expand the Summer EBT program nationwide for two years to all children eligible to receive free or reduced price lunch;
- expand the number of schools that can offer free meals to students by increasing the community eligibility multiplier to 2.5 and lowering the eligibility threshold to 25% ISP, for five years;
- provide \$250 million to launch a healthy food incentive demonstration and \$30 million for school kitchen equipment grants,
- allocate \$140 million to support senior nutrition programs;
- provide full Medicaid coverage for pregnant and postpartum individuals for 12 months after pregnancy; and
- extend the expanded Child Tax Credit for one year and make full refundability for families with little to no income permanent.

Throughout the pandemic we have witnessed how millions of families have been left behind. Today we are at a critical moment where the Senate can choose to support a more equitable recovery or one that continues to exacerbate the disparities and leave behind underserved communities that have experienced significant hardship.

We urge the Senate to reject any changes to the bill that will weaken provisions that seek to feed hungry American families and invest in an equitable recovery from COVID. We thank Congress for its continued commitment to eradicating poverty, hunger, and racial inequities and are excited to see the Senate move these critical provisions across the finish line through the Build Back Better Act.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

1,000 Days
A Place at the Table
Alliance to End Hunger
Black Women's Health Imperative
Bread for the World
CareCentrix
Church World Service
Congressional Hunger Center
DoorDash
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Feeding America
FoodFinder
GIVN
GrainPro Incorporated
ICNA Council for Social Justice
Islamic Relief USA
MAZON - A Jewish Response to Hunger
Meals on Wheels America
MEANS Database
National WIC Association
Nuro
Poetry X Hunger
ProMedica
RESULTS
The Root Cause Coalition
Share Our Strength
Society of St. Andrew
Souper Bowl of Caring

State Organizations

Alabama Food Bank Association
Arizona Food Bank Network
Beyond Hunger (IL)
Children's Hunger Alliance (OH)
Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger
Community Food Advocates (NY)
Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC)
Food Bank of East Alabama
Hall Hunger Initiative (OH)
Hunger Free Vermont
Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force
Indy Hunger Network
Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes
Meehan & Associates
NH Hunger Solutions
Nourish Colorado
NourishKC
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon