



Sowers of Justice

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

**Ask Your U.S.
Representative to Help
Reduce Hunger!**

July 13th, 2007

Background:

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture will be considering the 2007 Farm Bill (H.R. 2419) the week of July 16th. The Farm Bill has many purposes, one of them being the reauthorization of the federal Food Stamp Program. Thirty-five million people struggle with hunger in America. While more than 26 million people a month currently benefit from the Food Stamp Program, 40 percent of those eligible for food stamps are not receiving them.

The reauthorization of the 2007 Farm Bill is an opportunity to strengthen the domestic nutrition programs so these crucial programs reach all hungry people who need them. The U.S. Bishops have stated that "the primary goals of agricultural policies should be providing food for all people and reducing poverty among farmers and farm workers in this country and abroad."

Recommended Action:

Call Your U.S. Representatives Today!

Ask them to support anti-hunger provisions in the 2007 Farm bill that provide full funding and improved access to Food Stamps and other anti-poverty initiatives.

Specifically, urge your Representative to reduce hunger in America by supporting a strong nutrition title in the Farm Bill that:

- Provides a significant increase to the current minimum benefit of \$10. Such a low amount discourages people in need from accessing critical food assistance, especially the elderly. The current average benefit for food stamps is a mere \$1 per person per meal (or \$3 a day).
- Eliminates the five year residency requirement for legal immigrants.
- Repeals the current provision penalizing low-income families headed by a parent (usually a single mother) with a past drug conviction.
- Simplifies the application and recertification process so that more working families can take advantage of the program.
- Funds improvements in education, outreach and administration to simplify the system and address enrollment barriers.

FFI: Contact Patrick Ness at 651-291-4484



Minnesota's U.S. Representatives

Michelle Bachmann (R-District 6)

412 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
DC Phone: 202-225-2331
Woodbury Phone: 651-731-5400
Bachmann.house.gov

Keith Ellison (D – District 5)

1130 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
DC Phone: 202-225-4755
Minneapolis Phone: 612-522-1212
Ellison.house.gov

John Kline (R-District 2)

1429 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
DC Phone 202-225-2271
Burnsville Phone: 952-808-1213
Kline.house.gov

Betty McCollum (D-District 4)

1029 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
DC Phone 202-225-6631
St. Paul Phone: 651-224-9191
mccollum.house.gov

James Oberstar (D-District 8)

2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
DC Phone: 202-225-6211
Duluth Phone: 218-727-7474
Oberstar.house.gov

Collin Peterson (D-District 7) *

2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
DC Phone: 202-225-2165
Detroit Lakes Phone: 218-847-5056
collinpeterson.house.gov

Jim Ramstad (R-District 3)

103 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
DC Phone: 202-225-2871
Minnetonka Phone: 952-738-8200
Ramstad.house.gov

Tim Walz (D – District 1) *

1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
DC Phone: 202-225-2472
Rochester Phone: 507-206-0643
walz.house.gov

* Messages to all House members are critical, but contact from constituents of members on the House Committee on Agriculture is especially helpful. Representatives Collin Peterson (CD 7) and Tim Walz (CD 1) will play a key role in the early stages of Farm Bill reauthorization.