

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

Hunger Caucus
An Hour for Hunger
To Raise Awareness about Hunger

November 22, 2011

Dear Colleague,

We invite you to join us in dedicating one hour to raise awareness about hunger during the upcoming holiday season.

Unfortunately, no community is hunger-free and there are currently Americans suffering from hunger in every state and every congressional district across the United States. To raise awareness about the problem of hunger throughout the United States, please join us in dedicating one hour to raise awareness about efforts to fight hunger in your state or district. By working together, we can have a major impact in the fight to end domestic hunger by supporting efforts that are helping Americans put food on the table. If you would like additional information or would like to share your ideas or efforts, please feel free to reach out to Zachary Hartman, Zachary_Hartman@boozman.senate.gov, or Megan Provost, Megan_Provost@lugar.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Senator Richard Durbin



Senator Richard Lugar



Senator Robert P. Casey Jr.



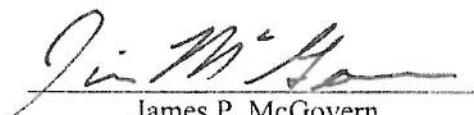
Senator John Boozman



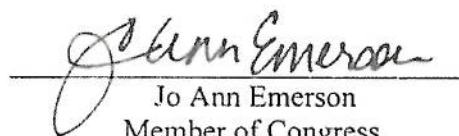
Senator Sherrod Brown



Senator Jerry Moran



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress

Hunger Caucus

An Hour for Hunger

Information Packet for Hunger Site Visits

To raise awareness about the problem of hunger and to support anti-hunger efforts in your state or district, the Hunger Caucus is asking fellow Senators and Representatives to dedicate one hour during the holiday season to observe and recognize anti-hunger efforts in their states. To generate media attention to this issue, Members are encouraged to write a press release about their visit or event. Attached you will find examples of media coverage of previous hunger visits from similar activities in the House and Senate, as well as press releases from Member offices regarding hunger issues.

Whether you are just starting to work on this issue in your state or district, or are a seasoned anti-hunger advocate, the Hunger Caucus is here to support you in planning an event or site visit that will raise awareness about hunger and your Member's commitment to this issue.

There are a variety of private and federally funded anti-hunger programs that feed children and help families put food on the table. The attached materials provide some ideas to help you start thinking about the possibility of participating in our efforts to raise awareness about hunger and ongoing efforts to end hunger. If you have any questions, comments, feedback, or needs please contact Zachary Hartman (Zachary_hartman@boozman.senate.gov), Megan Provost (megan_provost@lugar.senate.gov) in the Senate, or Keith Stern (Keith.Stern@mail.house.gov) or Justin Rone (Jutin.Rone@mail.house.gov) in the House.

Should your Member chose to participate, please feel free to contact one of the points of contact above so that your Member can be added to a list of participants and notified of other Hour for Hunger initiatives.

Attached Documents:

- Dear Colleague
- Site visit ideas
- **Press Releases and Media coverage from previous hunger visits and activities**

Hour for Hunger Site Visit Suggestions

Charitable Food Program

Charitable food efforts include the work of food banks, food shelves and soup kitchens. A site visit to a charitable food site would provide Members with an opportunity to learn about the role of charitable food in their communities, especially during the current economic environment. This could also be an opportunity to visit a Backpack program. Operated by food banks across the country, Backpack programs provide a bag containing child-friendly, easily prepared, non-perishable food to children to consume over the weekend or during a school vacation.

Community Food Initiative

Community food initiatives include projects that focus on increasing access to fruits and vegetables in low income communities. Examples of community food initiatives include community gardens, green carts and farmers markets that accept SNAP and WIC coupons. A site visit to a community food initiative would provide Members with an opportunity to learn how underserved communities have worked creatively to increase access to healthy foods.

Child Care Center or Home using the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

CACFP is a source of support for serving nutritious meals and snacks in child care centers, family child care homes, Head Start, after school programs, shelters and adult day care centers. The program provides federal reimbursement for food and meal preparation costs, ongoing training on the nutritional needs of children, and onsite assistance in meeting the programs strong nutritional requirements. A site visit to an entity that is a beneficiary of CACFP would provide Members with an opportunity to learn more about this programs.

WIC Clinic

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federal program providing low-income pregnant women, new mothers, infants and children with nutritious foods and nutrition education. A site visit to a WIC clinic would provide Members with an opportunity to learn about the WIC process.

School Lunch and Breakfast Programs

A site visit to a school nutrition program would provide Members with a firsthand look at these programs, as well as an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act with education and nutrition professionals.

Afterschool Snack and Meal Programs

Afterschool programs are operated by a variety of institutions, including 21st Century Learning Centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Kids Café programs run by area food banks. A site visit to an afterschool feeding program would give Members an opportunity to see how food and activities combine to keep children engaged and learning afterschool.

SNAP Offices

Local SNAP offices provide service to low-income families by determining if they are eligible for the program. A visit to a local SNAP office would provide Members with an opportunity to meet with employees and families to learn about the program and the application process.

For more information, please contact Zachary Hartman, Zachary_Hartman@boozman.senate.gov, or Megan Provost, Megan_Provost@lugar.senate.gov.

Hunger Caucus Urges Members to Raise Awareness

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 22, 2011

Contact: Brown - Brown Meghan Dubyak (202) 224-3978

Boozman - Sara Lasure (202) 224-4843

Casey - April Melody (202) 228-6367

Durbin - Ben Garmisa (202) 224-7028

Lugar - Wayne Stanley (202) 224-8370

Moran - Garrette Silverman (202) 224-7784

Emerson - Jeffrey Connor (202) 225-4404

McGovern - Michael Mershon (202) 225-6101

WASHINGTON- Senate and House Hunger Caucus co-chairs are encouraging their colleagues to dedicate one hour during the holiday season to raise awareness and recognize efforts underway in their states to combat hunger. The Hour for Hunger initiative seeks to remind members that hunger knows no boundaries and when working together, this is a fight we can win.

Today, Senators Richard Durbin, Richard Lugar, Robert P. Casey Jr., John Boozman, Sherrod Brown, Jerry Moran along with Representatives James P. McGovern and JoAnne Emerson released the following statements regarding the Hour for Hunger initiative.

“Hunger in America is not something we can ignore. Nearly 15% of households have trouble keeping food on their tables, and 46 million Americans—including 1 in 7 Illinoisans—rely on essential food assistance programs,” said **Sen. Durbin**. “By participating in the Hour for Hunger, we can help raise awareness of this important problem. I encourage Illinoisans—and every American that has the means—to lend a hand by volunteering their time this holiday season. I will continue working in Congress to make sure that eliminating hunger within our borders remains a national priority.”

“While food drives are popular during the holiday season, it is important to remember that hunger knows no season,” said **Sen. Lugar**. “Indiana Food Banks make a difference in the lives of many Hoosiers all year long, and they depend on contributions from generous citizens to meet the needs of communities throughout our state.”

“The current economic climate has made it more difficult for many families in Pennsylvania to afford nutritious food,” **Sen. Casey** said. “Raising awareness is the first step to combatting the devastating effects of hunger and food insecurity across our Commonwealth and the nation.”

“More often than ever we are seeing families that used to make deposits at the food bank being forced to make a withdrawal. This is true all across America,” **Sen. Boozman** said. “By

committing one hour of their time during the holidays, Members of Congress can help raise awareness and put an end to hunger in their communities.”

“Hunger isn’t a seasonal condition for more than 680,000 Ohioans who are food insecure – it’s a daily struggle that demands close attention and constant action,” **Sen. Brown** said. “We must continue to make time to address new ways to improve access to healthy, nutritious foods and other resources needed urgently by our fellow citizens.”

“In Kansas and across the country, committed organizations and caring individuals work to help hungry Americans,” said **Sen. Moran**. “The holidays are an appropriate time to recognize their efforts and redouble our own commitment to ending hunger.”

“Hunger in America never takes a day off,” **Rep. McGovern** said. “It’s especially important during this holiday season that we remind ourselves that too many of our neighbors struggle to put enough food on the table. I hope that all members will take the time to participate in this bipartisan effort.”

“Especially during the holidays, when we reflect on all of the blessings in our lives, it is appropriate to take time out to be mindful of less-fortunate Americans who suffer from hunger. This time of year is also empowering to Americans who want to help. When we contribute even a small portion of our time and talent to fight hunger, it makes a great difference in the lives of others who don’t have enough to eat,” **Rep. Emerson** said.

According to recent studies, for one in six Americans, hunger is a reality and many of those suffering from food insecurities are children. During the Hour for Hunger initiative, Hunger Caucus co-chairs are sending information to members about programs, types of visits and activities, and other actions that members can do to raise awareness and learn more about the face of hunger in America.

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PoliticalNews.me - Sep 01,2011 - Lugar Partners with Grocers for Hoosiers Fighting Hunger Food Drive

Sen. Dick Lugar announced his partnership with Kroger, Marsh, and Walmart for the 3rd Annual Hoosiers Fighting Hunger state-wide food drive held September 1 through September 30. September is National Hunger Action Month.

“During these tough economic times, many families are facing the fear of not having food on the table each day,” said Lugar. “It is crucial for Hoosiers to donate to food banks year round. I am pleased to partner with Kroger, Marsh and Walmart once again to fight hunger throughout our great state.”

Participants can purchase items at any Kroger, Marsh or Walmart throughout the state and donate them on-site. All donations will go directly to local food banks serving Indiana communities.

Since 2009, the Hoosiers Fighting Hunger Food Drive has collected more than 1,017,000 pounds of food for Hoosiers, equaling more than 782,000 meals.

In 2009, Lugar reintroduced the Good Samaritan Hunger Relief Tax Incentive Extension Act to make permanent provisions that allow farmers and small business owners to receive a tax deduction for donating food products to food banks, pantries and homeless shelters. Provisions of this bill were temporarily extended in the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, but have since expired.

Lugar is also an inaugural member of the Senate Hunger Caucus, which provides a forum for Senators to discuss and debate important hunger issues facing the United States and the rest of our world.

For additional information on the food drive, please visit <http://lugar.senate.gov/food/>.

F. R. Herald

9/22/08

FRONT PAGE.

McGovern headlines anti-hunger TV show

DEBORAH ALLARD
Herald News Staff Reporter

U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern, D-Mass., took part in a panel discussion aimed at ending hunger to be aired on community access networks statewide this month.



McGovern

The one-hour program, "Hunger in the Commonwealth," was taped in July as a joint effort of the Massachusetts Medical Society and HCAW-TV, the public access station in Hopkinton.

"A lot of my efforts are trying to end hunger here in the state and in the world," McGovern said. "Hunger is a political condition and it can be solved."

McGovern, co-chairman
Tune in HUNGER, Page A2

Home Equity Lines be

Hunger: Food summit set today

FROM PAGE A1

of the Congressional Hunger Center and the Human Rights Caucus, said fighting hunger "is a passion of mine." He said more funding is needed to fight hunger and hunger must be treated as a health issue.

He noted the rise in the price of food in supermarkets and said that people are having a "hard time making ends meet" and turning to less expensive junk food.

McGovern said he is working with supermarkets to offer special deals on healthier food and to do more to get businesses and schools involved in adopting a food bank or soup kitchen in their area or hosting a food drive.

"The cost of hunger is significant," McGovern said.

Hungry children cannot learn in school, McGovern said. Hungry seniors may compromise their immune systems or get sick from taking medications on an empty stomach. Pregnant women who are not eating healthy foods can harm their babies. Obesity, McGovern said, is an outgrowth of hunger because hungry people rely on inexpensive unhealthy foods to sate their appetites. Obesity can lead to diabetes and other health problems. All of these hunger issues increase the cost of health care and contribute to unhealthy communities.

"We have people in our state going without," McGovern said.

"We need to solve this problem. This can all be prevented."

Project Bread, a leading anti-hunger agency in Massachusetts, reported that some half a million people across the state experience hunger or "food insecurity" on a regular basis.

McGovern took the food stamp challenge for a week last year and found himself and his wife with just \$3 per day to feed themselves. They found the cheapest hamburger is the fattiest, and those who can't afford fresh vegetables eat canned vegetables "packed with sodium."

"We tried to eat as healthy as we could," McGovern said. "We ate a lot of lentils. To be poor, it takes a lot of time to go shopping."

In "Hunger in the Commonwealth," McGovern introduces the show, acts as a panelist on hunger and health and speaks during the show's conclusion.

The show is split into three segments, "The Role of Food Banks," "On the Front Lines," and "Hunger and Health."

Others appearing on the show include Ellen Parker, executive director of Project Bread, Catherine D'Amato, president and CEO of the Greater Boston Food Bank; Maureen Schnellmann, senior director of food and nutrition programs at the American Red Cross; Dr. Edward Saltzman, chief of the

SEEKING SOLUTIONS

U.S. Rep. James McGovern, D-Mass., will chair a summit today examining the rising cost of food and how consumers can cut their weekly shopping bill. The details:

WHAT: Affordable Food Summit

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. today

WHERE: Stop & Shop supermarket, 815 G.A.R. Highway, Somerset

Consumer food prices have increased 8.7 percent since this time last year, the largest increase since 1981, according to the Producer Price Index.

McGovern will be joined at the summit by state Sen. Joan Menard, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth finance professor Michael Anderson, Greater Boston Food Bank President and CEO Catherine D'Amato and Stop & Shop consumer advisor Andrea Astrachan.

Division of Clinical Nutrition of Tufts Medical Center and several others involved in nutrition and health care.

To see the show in its entirety, view the webcast at <http://hcam.tv/hunger>.

E-MAIL DFBORAH ALLARD AT DALLARD@HERALDNEWS.COM.

F.R. Herald - 9/22/08

DailyJournal  ONLINE

Volunteers turn out for food fair

By MARIDEE LAWSON | Posted: Thursday, September 2, 2010 3:04 am

Monday afternoon the community came together to help those in need, courtesy of the Ministerial Alliance Food Fair.

Food pantry director Laura Raymer said they served approximately 270 families and gave away close to 10,000 pounds of food working with about 50 volunteers.

Raymer complimented all the volunteers, including Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson, who came out and helped hand out food, raked cabbage leaves, gave recipes and loaded cabbage into the back of trucks to be delivered to other places.

The food left over from the food fair did not go to waste. It was delivered to two churches for the soup kitchens this week, the Ministerial Alliance food pantry, the St. Vincent De Paul food pantry and senior apartments. The cabbage and bakery items will be handed out this week so they don't go to waste.

Donna Hickman with United Way delivered cabbage and bakery items to her church. As volunteers loaded it up she said she called the cook and asked what they could do with cabbage. They replied "we can find something to do with it".

Another woman pulled up with a truck and asked where could she take stuff to. Raymer said she could drop food off at the United Methodist Church. They needed things and had no way to pick them up. Volunteers quickly loaded up the leftover cabbage and some bakery items.

Many people attending the food fair began lining up at the old Wal-Mart gas station around 6:30 a.m. Monday. By 9:15 a.m., when Raymer arrived, there were more than 15 cars in line already. Traffic in the area was directed by Farmington police officers and a sheriff's deputy who volunteered to help.

By 11 a.m. traffic was so congested additional officers were called to help.

Volunteers worked quickly to get items bagged up and keep cars moving through the lines. When customers pulled up volunteers checked their name and identification to make sure they were on the Ministerial Alliance list. If they were, they pulled forward and were directed to a line. They received cabbage first, then pulled up to get the rest of their food items. At one time there were four lines of traffic.

Shortly after noon the lines started slowing down and cars arrived less frequently. Raymer said some families showed up with multiple families in the car because some didn't have transportation to pick up food. Some walked, and some sent family members to pick up the groceries.

One volunteer brought her son to help. The mom said it was a good experience for him to learn to help others.

By the end of the day Raymer said there were a lot of hugs, smiles and tears from everyone involved.

"I'm amazed. When you let people know you need help this community comes out to help. God was truly at work Monday," said Raymer

Food items handed out included juice, fresh cabbage, cereal, bakery items, milk, liquid eggs, baby food, candy, coffee and many other items.

Raymer said a man heard about the food fair and brought a load of cereal to be handed out. A local business asked what they could do to help and brought peanut butter to hand out. Others passing by handed money to volunteers to go toward the food pantry's efforts.

"Some people who don't deal with this everyday don't see the dire need people are in," said Raymer.

John Boozman, United States Senator for Arkansas

Search

Weekly Columns

Arkansas children are increasingly wondering if they will eat tonight according to a recently released study by Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger relief organization. The most staggering statistic is that nearly one fourth of Arkansas children go to sleep hungry. While we've seen the images of starving children in Somalia in news coverage, the reality is we don't have to go far to see that hunger exists here.

September is designated as National Hunger Action Month and this is an issue that I believe we can and must make a significant impact on. This month is more than just speaking about this issue, it's about getting out to help our neighbors by increasing access to nutritious food.

As a co-chair of the Senate Hunger Caucus, a bipartisan coalition of Senators committed to fighting hunger and food insecurity, we're working to raise awareness and resources to address hunger issues.

During the August recess I visited the Arkansas Foodbank and saw how it works with organizations throughout the state to distribute food to Arkansans in need. This facility serves central and southern Arkansas and is leading efforts to raise awareness through its "30 Ways in 30 Days" initiative including the "Paper Plate Campaign," which tells the stories of the hungry on paper plates.

I was touched by the stories I read from Arkansans using this service. Several stories on the paper plates indicated people lost their job and had to choose between putting food on the table and paying electricity bills and other utility costs.

It's painfully clear that our current economic environment is intensifying our hunger issues in the state. Little Rock Church representatives told me the increased outreach they've done within the past two years and that more than half of the people they help are 65 and over or 18 and younger.

I'm proud to see the community involvement throughout our state that is working to address hunger and malnourishment. In Fort Smith, the River Valley Regional Food Bank is raising awareness by lighting the downtown

Ferris wheel with orange lightbulbs and a recent donation of \$500,000 to the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank by the LPGA Wal-Mart NW Arkansas Championship golf tournament will go a long way to help hungry Arkansans.

While these organizations can't cure hunger by themselves, they are making great strides to provide nutritious food. Please consider what you can do to help eliminate hunger and improve nutrition in your community. Consider making a donation to a hunger-relief organization, like a centralized food bank, or a food pantry at your church.

I am committed to working with my colleagues in Congress, through existing federal programs and agencies, and most importantly, our local hunger relief networks to fight hunger in our state and throughout the world.

Permalink: <http://boozman.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2011/9/fighting-hunger-in-arkansas>

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