

January 3, 2025

Dear Member of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress,

On behalf of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, welcome to Washington, and congratulations on your election to this influential body. As you step into the halls of Congress, you assume the weighty role of steward to the people's needs, aspirations, and hopes for a better future. To ensure such a future is available to all, we look forward to working with you to advance policies to end hunger and support those facing food insecurity.

As you may be aware, despite being one of the wealthiest nations in the world, over 47 million Americans struggle daily to put food on the table. This is a moral failure and a call to action.

At MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, we have spent the last 40 years fighting food insecurity among people of all faiths and backgrounds. Inspired by Jewish values and ideals, we advocate for anti-hunger policies at all levels of government and work to ensure that our elected officials understand and consider the needs of the 13.5 percent of the U.S. population that may not know where their next meal will come from.

As a Member of Congress, you now hold the power to craft and approve policies that expand nutrition assistance programs, strengthen the safety net for the most vulnerable, and tackle the root causes of hunger. We stand ready to help you use that power to defend against attempts to narrow, weaken, and withhold resources that so many in your district rely on in times of need.

As an organization driven by our faith, we believe that access to food is a right, not a privilege, and that it is the obligation of our leaders to make this possible for all Americans. Every person is created *b'tselem Elohim* (in the image of God) and is deserving of dignity and respect. It is the responsibility of the government to respond to the circumstances and systemic challenges that it has created and perpetuated which contribute to hunger and poverty.

This will require both courage and compassion. It will require accepting the data and science, collaborating across party lines, and finding solutions that prioritize people over politics.

The American people are counting on you to act swiftly and decisively. Their trust in your leadership is built on the hope that, with your help, no one should go hungry—regardless of circumstance.

We look forward to working alongside you and your team as we take on this challenge together, and we are confident that, with your commitment and leadership, we can reverse the course of hunger in this country.

Respectfully,



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