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HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Create a Circle of Protection in **Alaska**

As Congress debates the deficit, Alaska families are struggling to put food on the table:

Even though the recession is over, too many Alaska families remain in need. For example, in 2010:

- 9.9 percent of people in Alaska, including 12.9 percent of children lived below the poverty line (\$22,113 for a family of four) compared to 15.1 percent of all persons and 22 percent of children nationwide.
- 4,394 families lived in extreme poverty (less than \$11,057 a year for a family of four).
- 18.8 percent of children under 5 lived in poverty.

Charities and food banks are stretched, and many families don't know where their next meal will come from.

- 13.6 percent of Alaska households struggled to put food on the table in 2010 (compared to 14.6 percent nationwide).
- 21.2 percent of children in the state were at risk of hunger in 2009 (compared to 16.6 percent nationwide).

Alaska needs jobs and a growing economy:

- Alaska's unemployment rate was 7.2 percent in January 2012, compared to 8.3 percent nationwide.

Congress should not cut federal programs that combat poverty and prevent Alaska families from going hungry:

- Refundable tax credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) boost household earnings, provide a critical buffer for emergencies, and lift millions of Americans out of poverty every year.
 - The EITC and CTC encourage work. Parents with two children who work just 10 hours a week at a minimum-wage job receive less than \$100 through the Child Tax Credit, but if they work full time, they receive a credit of about \$1,800.
 - These credits promote economic mobility. A majority of Earned Income Tax Credit recipients only receive the benefit for one or two years before moving into higher-income brackets.
 - 515,339 Alaska households claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in 2008.
 - 336,101 households claimed the refundable portion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in 2008.
- One in seven Americans currently receive benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps): yet, even as the poverty rate increased because of the economy, the rate of those who struggled to put food on the table remained the same. Program participation has risen based on need with the lowest error rates on record. In addition, every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates between \$1.73 and \$1.79 in economic growth.
 - 35,072 households in Alaska received SNAP benefits in 2011.
 - Even working families rely on SNAP: IN 2010, 33.2 percent of SNAP beneficiaries in Alaska lived in households with two or more workers and an additional 45.9 percent lived in households with one worker.

Congress must create a circle of protection around funding for programs that are vital to hungry and poor people in the United States.

Bread for the World

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Create a Circle of Protection around **Poverty-Focused Development Assistance**

International Hunger and Poverty Facts:

- 1.5 billion people live in extreme poverty, on less than \$1.25 a day.
- 990 million people suffer from chronic hunger worldwide.
- Nearly 7.6 million children around the world die each year before they reached their fifth birthday. For one in three of them, malnutrition is the underlying cause of death.
- Malnutrition is associated with slow physical and mental development, including a loss of 10-15 IQ points, and costs developing countries two to three percent of their GDP through lost productivity.

Poverty-focused development assistance, which comprises just 0.6 percent of the U.S. budget, delivers results. Critical aid programs help vulnerable families and children around the world:

- Hunger:**
- In FY10, P.L. 480 Food Aid fed 46.5 million of the world's most vulnerable people and children, and the McGovern-Dole School Feeding Program fed more than 5 million schoolchildren.
 - Since 2008, Feed the Future's 20 target countries have increased their total agricultural production by an average of 5.8 percent, which is over eight times higher than the global average increase of 0.7 percent.
- Poverty:**
- With the help of U.S. foreign assistance, the number of people living in extreme poverty has fallen by 400 million since 1990.
 - The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) provides programming that aims to increase income levels of hungry and poor people around the world. A MCC program in Honduras raised participating farmers' income levels by 88 percent, in comparison to the 7 to 11 percent income increase experienced by farmers not participating in MCC programs.
- Health:**
- In 2011, 3.9 million people received antiretroviral treatment, and 660,000 HIV-positive pregnant women received antiretroviral prophylaxis, resulting in more than 200,000 infants to be born HIV-free.
 - In 2010, U.S. efforts helped more than 1.35 million people gain access to clean water and 2 million people access to sanitation facilities.
- Security:**
- For every 5 percent drop in income growth in a developing country, the likelihood of violent conflict or war within the next year increases by 10 percent.
 - Development is an important part of our own national security. As former Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates stated, "[T]he work performed by diplomatic and development professionals helps build the foundation for more stable, democratic and prosperous societies. These are places where the potential for conflict can be minimized, if not completely avoided, by State and USAID programs."
- Trade:**
- For every 10 percent increase in U.S. exports abroad, there is a 7 percent increase in jobs here at home.
 - U.S. exports to developing countries have grown six times faster than exports to major economies, making developing countries the future of U.S. trade. In fact, 10 of America's top 15 trading partners were once recipients of foreign aid.

International assistance programs also impact Alaska:

- Since 1961, about 900 Peace Corps volunteers from Alaska have served in dozens of countries overseas.
- About 50 percent of U.S. exports go to developing countries and one in five jobs in the U.S. are tied to trade. In 2010, Alaska exported \$4.2 billion in merchandise to foreign markets.

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