

# Welcome to Bread for the World's 2020 "At Home" Offering of Letters

[Bread for the World](#) is doing the Offering of Letters differently this year. Instead of writing letters and collecting them for a centralized delivery to our legislators, we are organizing letter writing at home and folks will mail them directly to their Members of Congress. There is also an electronic option available for the Offering of Letters. You may choose the option with which you feel most comfortable OR you can do BOTH. Everything you need to get your messages to your legislators is covered in this document. Thank you in advance for your patience and your faithful commitment to ending hunger. If you need any assistance with, or clarification of, these instructions, please don't hesitate to contact **Clark Hansen, Bread for the World Regional Organizer** at [chansen@bread.org](mailto:chansen@bread.org) or 509-264-1214.

## 2020 Bread for the World "At Home" Offering of Letters Letter Writer's Tool Kit

### Washington State Congregations and Individuals

#### TWO WAYS TO REACH YOUR LEGISLATORS Handwritten Letters AND Emails

##### HANDWRITTEN LETTERS

LETTERS - Hand-written letters have the greatest impact. But a typed document is the next most impactful format. The sample letter provided in this kit is focused on BOTH topics of this year's Offering of Letters campaign - International Nutrition and Domestic Summer EBT. Please write one letter to **EACH** Senator (Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell), and one letter to your Representative. (**3 letters in total**).

Washington Senators are [Patty Murray](#) and [Maria Cantwell](#)

To find your Representative [CLICK HERE](#)

In previous years, we have hand-delivered thousands of handwritten letters to legislators to demonstrate the size of our movement. Due to COVID-19, we ask that each letter writer submit a report on their handwritten letters. This will allow us to tally the number of handwritten letters sent and to which Members of Congress. This will help us when we meet with Members of Congress in DC or In-district we can let them know how many constituents have written to them on this issue and we are able to show the strength of our cause.

To report your handwritten letters [CLICK HERE](#)

**SAMPLE Letter to Senator(s)**

**[Date]**

Sen. \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

As we all work together to respond to the Covid-19 global pandemic, it is more important than ever that we make strong investments in nutrition programs for the most vulnerable in the U.S. and abroad. Malnutrition makes children and other vulnerable populations more susceptible to disease and infection.

Federal Nutrition programs help U.S. families lead healthy lives. Congress should expand the summer EBT program so more children can access nutritious food during the summer months – the hungriest time of the year for children. Specifically, I urge you to cosponsor S1918 “the Hunger Free Summer for Kids Act” which would expand this program nationwide.

I also urge you to support legislation that strengthens U.S. leadership on global nutrition and increases funding for global nutrition programs. Too many children globally are malnourished and suffer from stunting, which affects physical, cognitive and immune system development.

Now more than ever, my faith calls me to stand alongside vulnerable people in my community and around the world. Our government should provide leadership toward a well-nourished and more resilient world.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your Address]**

**[City, State ZIP]**

Mail the letters to your **Senators** to  
**U.S. Senate**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

**Don't forget to add postage.**

**SAMPLE Letter to Representative**

[Date]

Rep. \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

As we all work together to respond to the Covid-19 global pandemic, it is more important than ever that we make strong investments in nutrition programs for the most vulnerable in the U.S. and abroad. Malnutrition makes children and other vulnerable populations more susceptible to disease and infection.

Federal Nutrition programs help U.S. families lead healthy lives. Congress should expand the summer EBT program so more children can access nutritious food during the summer months – the hungriest time of the year for children. Specifically, I urge you to cosponsor S1918 “the Hunger Free Summer for Kids Act” which would expand this program nationwide.

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Now more than ever, my faith calls me to stand alongside vulnerable people in my community and around the world. Our government should provide leadership toward a well-nourished and more resilient world.

Sincerely,  
[Your Name]  
[Your Address]  
[City, State ZIP]

Mail the letter to your **Representative** to  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**Don't forget to add postage.**

## **EMAIL LETTERS**

Email is another way to reach out to your two Senators and your one Representative. Global Nutrition and Domestic Summer EBT are two separate emails. We have made it easy for you to write on each topic by creating a link for each of the requests. These links are unique to your Congregation or group and will automatically generate a tally of emails sent.

You will need your 9 digit Zip Code to submit your Email letters.

[CLICK HERE](#) to look up your 9 digit Zip Code.

**First**, [Click Here](#) to connect to the Global Nutrition link and fill in the information as prompted. When you hit the send button your message your Global Nutrition email is delivered to all three of your legislators at once.

**Second**, come back to these instructions and [Click Here](#) to connect to the Domestic Summer EBT form and fill in the email information as prompted. Again, once you hit the send button your Domestic Summer EBT email to all three legislators at once.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** When you personalize the content of the emails by at least 10%, your unique email will be delivered individually, rather than being diverted to a bulk mail inbox. Your email will have MUCH greater impact this way.

## **TIPS FOR AN EFFECTIVE LETTER OR EMAIL**

- *Share your experience. What made you write? If you have one, share a story about your personal connection to people suffering right now.*
- *Be clear - "I urge you to cosponsor S. 1918" (The Hunger Free Summer for Kids Act – Summer EBT).*
- *Include your address so they know you're their constituent.*
- *Include one or more of the points below, or emphasize other points, to make your letter unique to you.*

## **Talking Points to Help You Personalize Your Communication**

- *Private individuals and organizations cannot mobilize the resources the U.S. government can to support those at risk of hunger during this crisis. In fact, federal nutrition programs provide roughly 10 times as much food assistance as private churches and charities.*
- *I wish to thank Congress for its bipartisan support of the COVID-19 Relief packages, and its continued efforts to respond to this pandemic.*

- The importance of good nutrition in maintaining community health cannot be overstated.
- Funding and flexibility to administer Summer Feeding federal nutrition programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), school meals, and emergency food assistance at the state level is essential.
- In the U.S., the hungriest time of the year for children is summertime when they no longer have access to school meals. With schools closed during the pandemic, children are facing “summertime” hunger now.
- COVID-19 shows us we are connected. Neglecting those who struggle with hunger threatens everyone.
- Relate to your Faith – for example - My Faith calls me to feed the hungry/care for the vulnerable...etc

## **A Prayer for Your “At Home” Offering of Letters**

*Our Father in Heaven, the Father of every good and perfect gift, Who righteously gives to the poor, graciously providing seed to the sower and bread for food— we worship You as Provider. Grant us the love and will to meet the needs of all humanity—from African humanity to all peoples throughout the earth. We desire to give more than we do but have lost much land and resources. Nevertheless, Lord, increase our capacity to share. Help our governing leaders to resist cutting back on essential food and nutritional programs. Dear Lord, You can work miracles. You fed your people with manna from heaven in the wilderness, as they journeyed in the food deserts of life. Please show us the same compassionate care. Obediently, we follow You in the great path of feeding the hungry, even as You provide bread for our world. Thank you so much! Amen and Amen.*

— Rev. Dr. Walter Arthur McCray, Gospelizer President, National Black Evangelical Association

***Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. (Matthew 25:31)***



