

Writing to your representatives in Washington

(Global nutrition and “Hunger-free Summer for Kids”)

<https://www.bread.org/toolkit>

will take you to the “Offering of Letters” page. Scroll down to “About the Campaign”. For more information click on the bullet item “Overview of this year’s topic”. Then click on “Sample Letters to Congress”, which downloads a Word document with three pages: a sample letter for Rep. Fortenberry, a letter for Sens. Fischer and Sasse, and a list of tips. Edit the letter if you like and add a personal statement of your own. You may print the letters and mail them or else copy them to each recipient’s web site:

<https://www.fischer.senate.gov> Click on “Contact” button -> “Contact Deb” -> “Comment on an Issue” -> “Please write your message”. Copy and paste your letter in the space provided.

<https://www.sasse.senate.gov> Click on “contact” -> “e-mail Ben”, and follow instructions above.

<https://www.fortenberry.house.gov> Click on “Contact me” -> “hare your opinion by e-mail”. Verify you district by entering your ZIP code. Follow instructions above.

(Increasing SNAP benefits)

<https://www.bread.org/hunger-and-coronavirus>

will take you to the “Coronavirus” page. For more information, click on “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.” Then click on the button “Write to Congress now”, which takes you to a letter urging support for an increase in SNAP benefits. You may edit the letter and add a personal statement of your own. When you are satisfied click on “Send Your Message” and Bread for the World will make sure your letter is sent to the right recipient.

If you write letters will you please let me know? Thanks!

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Some facts about free and reduced-price school lunches

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) was established under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA), signed by President Harry Truman in 1946, to “safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation’s children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities and other foods.”

Children in households with incomes below 130 percent of the poverty level (e. g., \$33,475/yr for family of four) qualify for free meals, and households with incomes between 130 and 185 percent of the poverty line (\$47,638/yr for family of four) qualify for reduced-price meals. In addition, children in families receiving SNAP or TANF qualify for free meals.

Twenty-two million children receive free or reduced-price lunch at school, but fewer than 4M receive food assistance during the summer.

Lincoln Public Schools has a total enrollment of 42,258. Of those students 16,278 qualify for free lunch and another 3453 qualify for reduced-price lunch, so 46.7% qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

Nebraska has a total school enrollment of 366,966. Of those students 122,449 qualify for free lunch and another 30,198 for reduced-price lunch, so 42.0% qualify for free or reduced-price.

There are other issues of hunger and nutrition that will come up in the Congress or the state legislature in the future. Would you be willing to write more letters (i.e., three or four letters a year?) if I provide you with the information you need? If so, please let me know!

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