

Tips for the Offering of Letters

We provided WORD files of the sample letter so you can customize it more readily. We also attached a WORD copy of these tips so you can cut and paste into the sample letter if you want to do so.

- You may leave your letter in the parish hall and we will mail it. In the event are mailing it yourself, **use the Oklahoma office addresses unless something is time-sensitive.**
- **Don't "bury the lead."** Start with a general statement on the topic of your concern (e.g. hunger). Then add something personal. Then get more specific about your "ask."
- There are **two options for your own opinions in the sample letter provided**, one in the first paragraph and one in the first bullet point, set off in brackets and italics. **Make sure to change the typeface** to normal after you have inserted your option.
- **Include your full, physical address** so you can be identified as a constituent. You will be asked for your zip code if you use the government email site.
- By all means **look at the Offering of Letters site** for information, **but do not use their email platform.** We have been advised by a member of the Oklahoma delegation that mail through these collective sites is not read.

Quick Tips for an Effective Letter from Bread for the World

Remember to **personalize your letter.**

- Make it personal. Share your experience and what motivated you to write.
- Be sure to include your physical address, even if emailing.

Some sample talking points to personalize:

- Reducing malnutrition, especially for children, has become even more urgent as we struggle against COVID-19; malnutrition makes children and at-risk populations more susceptible to disease, including COVID-19.
- For millions of people living in households that struggle with hunger in the United States, COVID-19 presents unique challenges. It is clear that private individuals and organizations cannot mobilize the resources that 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 expansion of the child tax credit in the last stimulus bill. The child tax credit has always left out the families with the greatest need and this legislation will do more to cut child poverty than any other policy, especially in Black and Latino low-income families who have less cash reserves than their white counterparts.
- I remain concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on all Americans, especially the most vulnerable, who are likely to be hit hardest. I am also concerned about the impact of the pandemic on people living in developing countries. I urge you to consider their needs in future legislation, especially by investing in global nutrition through the appropriations process.
- It is critical that Congress expand support to those who are most affected by the health and economic effects of the virus and ensure that all families receive the support they need – including access to good nutrition.
- The importance of good nutrition in maintaining community health cannot be overstated.
- COVID-19 directly connects all people together and neglecting those who struggle with hunger threatens us all.
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