Offering of Letters (Updated)

Before the coronavirus crisis hit, St. Paul’s Offering of Letters was already focused on summer nutrition programs for school-aged children. Funding for these programs and global initiatives is needed now more than ever. Malnutrition weakens peoples’ immune system. Children who are malnourished face long-term health and cognitive consequences. Even people and families who do not contract the virus will be impacted due to loss of work and wages. As is often the case, people living in hunger and poverty are most likely to suffer the greatest impacts.

Bread for the World is actively involved in advocating for assistance for these people. Some of the emergency measures Bread is supporting include:

* Food assistance for families with children who receive free or reduced-price meals if their schools are closed (scheduled vacations or emergency closures).
* Waivers on SNAP benefit limits for adults without children.
* Additional funding for Women Infants and Children (WIC) to assist pregnant women and mothers with young children.
* An extension of unemployment insurance.

The House has already passed H.R.6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This bill includes much of what Bread hoped for. The Senate will debate the bill soon.

**Please contact Senators Warren and Markey and ask them to pass legislation that addresses the needs of the most vulnerable during this public health crisis! Here is the contact information and a sample script you can adapt.**

Senator Warren: <http://www.warren.senate.gov> Phone: (202) 224-4543

Senator Markey: <http://www.markey.senate.gov> Phone: (202) 224-2742

Sample script:

Dear Senator Warren/Senator Markey,

Thank-you for your past support for legislation supporting poor and hungry people around the world! As a person of faith, I am deeply concerned about hungry children everywhere, particularly during this time of crisis caused by COVID-19.

I now urge you express your commitment and concern by supporting strong legislation that protects those most vulnerable to the economic impact of closures of schools and workplaces. The House has already passed H.R.6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Please do all you can to get it passed in the Senate as well. Thank-you!

Sincerely yours,

[Name]

[Address]