



Contact: Suzanne Treviño
Gordon C. James Public Relations
Office: (602) 274-1988 | Cell: (602) 618-7857

U.S. Congress Passes Global Food Security

Bill codifies federal support of sustainable hunger and malnutrition programs

PHOENIX (July 7, 2016) -- Food for the Hungry (FH) applauds the U.S. Congress' passage of the Global Food Security Act (GFSA). This legislation adds statutory authority to the Feed the Future initiative. It will coordinate the efforts of 11 government agencies in improving basic nutrition and reducing hunger among the most vulnerable people in 19 priority countries. It coalesces the abilities of private businesses, faith-based organizations like FH and community-based non-profits while fostering women's economic empowerment and building the capacity of local small shareholder farmers.

FH has been a strong supporter of this legislation because it epitomizes what FH stands for: providing a long-term solution to global hunger through sustainable approaches.

“Food for the Hungry would like to recognize and thank Senators Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA) and Representatives Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Betty McCollum (D-MN),” said FH President/CEO Gary Edmonds. “We applaud their work to address global hunger and look forward to working with the federal government as we continue to implement sustainable programs that enable countries to feed their own people.”

Launched by President George W. Bush and continued by President Barack Obama, the current U.S. food security program has been funded by Congress in annual appropriations legislation, but without official statutory authorization. The GFSFA permanently codifies and authorizes such efforts and will help marshal a worldwide commitment to tackling hunger and malnutrition. President Barack Obama is expected to sign the GFSFA into law soon.

The GFSFA will require the development of a comprehensive global food security strategy. It will also prioritize growing small-scale producers' income, productivity, livelihoods and improving nutrition, especially among women and children.

Founded in 1971, [Food for the Hungry](http://FoodfortheHungry.org) provides emergency relief and long-term development programs with operations in more than 20 countries to help the world's most vulnerable people. Learn more by visiting fh.org. Social connections include facebook.com/foodforthehungry and twitter.com/food4thehungry.

###