

Advocacy for Global Nutrition Policy Senate Bill 2956

May 15, 2022

Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator for California
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Padilla,

Malnutrition is preventable. I urge you to co-sponsor the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act of 2021 (S. 2956). As you determine funding priorities for the fiscal year 2022 Foreign Operations and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, I also ask that you increase global nutrition funding to \$300 million.

The bipartisan Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act of 2021 will authorize USAID to advance targeted programs to prevent and treat malnutrition around the world; ensure an elevated focus on nutrition programs across global health, food systems, and other sectors; and require robust monitoring of these interventions to ensure the effective use of taxpayer dollars. An additional 13.9 million children are expected to be severely malnourished by next year.

Approximately 811 million people are facing hunger across the globe, erasing years of progress. Investing in nutrition saves lives, creates stability, and is economically smart; for every \$1 invested there is an estimated \$35 in economic return. The crisis in Ukraine is serving as a catalyst to worsen these crises around the world, and if it continues into the coming months, the number of people facing acute hunger worldwide could rise by an additional 47 million people this year. An additional 8 million to 13 million people will become undernourished in less than a single year between 2022 to 2023 on top of the more than 800 million undernourished today.

Targeted interventions protect the nutrition of women and children during the critical 1000-day period between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday and are essential for ensuring the development of children's physical and mental health.

As a Christian, I am called to love and care for my neighbors wherever they are. Every human being is made in God's image and carries a sacred dignity and immeasurable worth (Genesis 1:27). Again, I urge you to co-sponsor S. 2956 and increase global nutrition funding to \$300 million.

Sincerely, _____ Signature

Print Your Name _____

Your Address _____

Your City, State ZIP _____