



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

November 30, 2015

Dear Chairman Cochran and Ranking Member Mikulski:

On behalf of the more than 160 member agencies of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), I write to urge and request that no funding cuts be applied to major social service and anti-poverty programs as Congress determines where to allocate monies based on the Budget Act PL 113-235.

The numbers of children and families who live in or at the threshold of poverty continue to increase. Many local economies are still recovering from pervasive unemployment, insufficient housing and inadequate food sources. We want to help these people move out of poverty. Reducing programs that help them to self-sufficiency is not the way.

The following programs and those already existing need to be kept at current funding levels: (1.) Health and Human Services Programs such as those for child welfare, family support and the elderly; (2.) Nutrition Programs such as those for women, infants and children, and summer food services for children; (3.) Housing and Urban Development Programs such as emergency shelter grants and housing counseling assistance; and (4.) Juvenile Justice Programs.

We do not ask for increases in funding, and we are always willing to work on making programs more effective. However, as improvements are identified and implemented, we cannot abandon the people who need help now.

CCUSA and its member agencies are confident that working together with our public sector partners, we can find the best solutions to addressing poverty at its core. We are committed to serving those people, our brothers and sisters, who not only should not be poor but also do not want to be poor. We remain available for any questions that you may have,

Sincerely,

Brian R. Corbin
Executive Vice President

