



January 2026

Dear Senator/Representative,

Happy New Year!

As you embark on this second session of the 119th Congress, I want to thank you for your service to our nation and invite you to continue to work with us on our goal of reducing poverty while providing help and creating hope for those in need.

Catholic Charities USA is one of the nation's largest faith-based networks of social services, with 168 diocesan member agencies and more than 3,300 service locations providing comprehensive care to more than 16 million people annually, whether they are Catholic or not. This service has always been carried out in collaboration with the government and the private sector. Our mission remains serving those in need, advocating for justice in social structures, and calling the entire church and other people of goodwill to do the same.

I know that in the coming weeks you will face many difficult decisions, whether to extend the Affordable Care Act subsidies, enact appropriation bills or pass a continuing resolution. I ask that as you engage in these critical discussions, you keep the following in mind.

- Support real solutions to address the housing supply and housing affordability.
- Consider reversing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts and burdensome requirements for individuals and states in the budget reconciliation law (H.R. 1), which include revoking or narrowing eligibility for many humanitarian-based noncitizens.
- Restore full Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) funding for food banks and bulk food distribution programs.
- Ensure the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is fully funded beyond September 30, 2026.
- Protect school meals.

In the spirit of collaboration, I have enclosed our priorities for the 119th Congress. Please know that you and your staff can count on our organization to be an effective collaborator and voice for the vulnerable. We believe that our perspective and principles, rooted in faith while based on the on-the-ground realities that our member agencies experience daily, are critical to our nation's ongoing work to build a social safety net that empowers families to thrive and break out of poverty.

My team and I are always eager to discuss the issues included in this document or serve as a resource for information or data if you are interested in learning more about the everyday struggles facing families in need. Don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of any assistance or to connect you to the local Catholic Charities agency in your state or district.

Sincerely,

*Kerry Mays Robinson*

President & CEO