

Dear Senator Gillibrand: Dear Senator Schumer: OR Dear Representative Tonko:

The Trump administration's fiscal year 2017 and 2018 budget proposals include deep and disproportionate cuts to critical anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs. I am deeply opposed to such proposals that, if passed, would increase hunger and poverty around the world and in the U.S.

Right now, 20 million people are at risk of starvation due to famine, and near-famine conditions, in South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, and Nigeria. International poverty-focused development assistance (PFDA) funding which represents less than 1 percent of the federal budget means the difference between life and death for these people. But beyond saving countless lives, our own nation's security is benefited by alleviating suffering and decreasing poverty to create a more stable and prosperous world. These programs are critical to U.S. leadership in the world.

In the U.S., 1 in 8 families struggles to put food on the table. Cuts to programs that address economic development in struggling communities or provide energy assistance to some of America's poorest families will increase hunger and hardship. Programs like WIC, SNAP, HEAP, and tax credits for low-income workers (EITC and CTC)—these programs help millions of people escape from hunger and poverty.

As Congress works on the 2017 and 2018 budget and spending bills, I urge you to reject cuts to lifesaving programs. We have made great progress in reducing hunger and poverty in our country and around the world, but our work remains unfinished if our goal is to end hunger by 2030. Therefore, as your constituent and a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Delmar, New York, I urge you to make decisions that will reduce and end hunger.

Sincerely, Your Name. Your Address City, State, Zip Code