

Letter or Phone Call to Member of Congress

Dear Senator/Representative _____:

I am writing today as a citizen and a voter to share my concerns about global poverty and to ask you raise awareness of the issue as well as take action to address it.

Globally, more than 3 billion people live on \$2 a day. Poverty turns each aspect of the day—eating, drinking, bathing, and sleeping into an act of survival. We know that reducing poverty leads to greater economic growth and that putting money into women’s hands means that additional money will go to provide better food, healthcare, and education for her children. Investing in poor people today is an investment in the next generation as well. Young people comprise a large number of the world’s poor and they are growing up in an environment with few prospects for improving their lot. Presently, however, the United States allocates less than half of 1% to poverty-focused development assistance programs. Furthermore, our foreign assistance policy has not been substantially updated since it was written in 1961. Much has changed in the past four decades, and it is in the U.S. national interest to make fighting global poverty a foreign policy priority.

This October 18th, the UN recognized International Day to Eradicate Poverty, I am working with Americans for Informed Democracy (AID) www.aidemocracy.org to raise awareness of global inequality and to raise money for innovative projects that combat poverty and violence in low-income countries. AID has launched a “\$2 a Day Challenge”—asking people to document their spending on October 16th and to live on \$2 on October 17th. The difference in spending between October 16th and October 17th will be donated to development projects via Global Giving www.globalgiving.com/2dollar. Students and community members will be documenting their experiences via film, which they will submit to AID in order to win mini-grants to continue poverty-awareness work on their college campuses and in their communities.

As someone who cares about reducing poverty, your participation in this campaign would send a strong signal to other policymakers about the importance of increasing U.S. development assistance for fighting poverty. It would be a wonderful opportunity to release a statement highlighting the need for increased development assistance. I hope you will join me and other constituents in taking the “\$2 A Day Challenge” and commit to taking further action in support of more a comprehensive U.S. foreign humanitarian assistance program.

Sincerely,

Name

Address