

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 5, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As members of Congress committed to reducing hunger, advancing food security and improving global health, we urge your administration to maintain the strong U.S. commitment at the *Nutrition for Growth* summit being convened by the UK Government on June 8, 2013 in London. This event presents a key opportunity for the U.S. to continue to demonstrate its leadership on nutrition.

Malnutrition remains one of the world's most pressing but preventable problems. Globally, nearly 200 million children are chronically malnourished and suffer from serious, often irreversible, physical and cognitive damage. For 2.5 million young children every year, malnutrition is a death sentence.

While the human and economic costs of under-nutrition are enormous, the solutions are basic, proven, and cost-effective. Nutrition programs – especially those that target women and children during the critical 1,000 day window from pregnancy to age two – offer one of the best returns on investment. Every \$1 invested in nutrition generates as much as \$138 in better health and increased productivity. In contrast, malnutrition can cost individuals up to 10 percent of their lifetime earnings and countries up to 11 percent of their annual GDP in lost productivity.

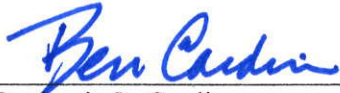
We capitalize on other international development investments when we address nutrition. An undernourished child has a diminished capacity to learn and work, therefore, malnourishment puts at risk the potential for continued progress in education, health, and economic growth around the world.

On June 8th, global leaders – from donor and developing countries, foundations, civil society and the private sector – will gather at *the Nutrition for Growth* summit in advance of the G8 Summit to commit to tackling malnutrition. This is a unique opportunity to leverage U.S. leadership on these issues and we urge your administration to seize this opportunity by:

1. Pledging support for plans in poor countries to strengthen and expand nutrition interventions;
2. Developing a whole-of-government nutrition strategy to coordinate and align U.S. nutrition efforts; and
3. Committing to transparency and accountability by reporting and tracking U.S. investments in nutrition across programs and accounts.

The U.S. has a strong, bipartisan history of supporting international nutrition and food security efforts. Such interventions strengthen our national security and the security of our allies. We urge you to make the most of this opportunity by continuing the tradition of U.S. leadership to fight malnutrition.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin



John Boozman



Richard Blumenthal



Tim Kaine



Sherrod Brown




Thad Cochran



Susan Collins



Richard J. Durbin



Dianne Feinstein



Kirsten E. Gillibrand



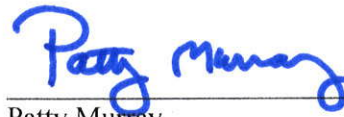
Johnny Isakson



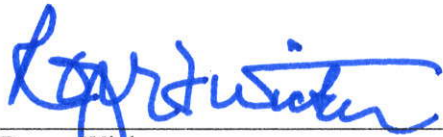
Carl Levin



Barbara Mikulski



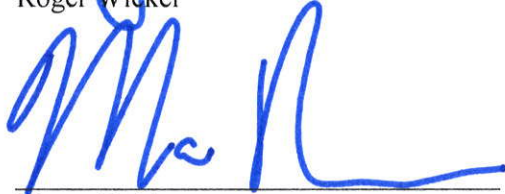
Patty Murray



Roger Wicker



Ron Wyden



Marco Rubio

CC:

The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State

The Honorable Rajiv Shah, USAID Administrator

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture