

Join the Rules Committee's Effort to End Hunger in America

Sending Office: Committee on Rules

Sent By: Rules.Democrats2@mail.house.gov



April 22, 2021

Dear Colleague –

As you know all too well, the coronavirus pandemic has shined a bright light on the hunger crisis happening across the United States. More than forty million Americans are at risk of food insecurity because of COVID-19. Our food banks have seen a more than 50 percent increase in demand, with 4 in 10 people turning to these resources for the very first time.

Make no mistake: COVID-19 has worsened the hunger crisis, but it didn't cause it. Thirty-five million Americans were dealing with food insecurity before this health emergency hit. More than 10 million children already lived in households facing food insecurity. And no community was immune, from densely-populated cities to the most rural parts of our country.

Working together, we have made great strides to build back better, most notably through the recently-passed American Rescue Plan, which included provisions that could slash childhood hunger in half. But I want to think even bigger – I want to build back hunger-free.

This is an all-hands-on-deck moment that will require the full weight of the federal government. That's why I've called on the Biden administration to hold a White House hunger conference and why I will be using the Rules Committee to examine what Congress can do.

This week, I announced that the committee will be holding a hearing on Wednesday, April 28th at 12pm ET. Entitled *Ending Hunger in America: Challenges, Opportunities, and Building the Political Will to Succeed*, it is the first in a series of events that will highlight the reality of food insecurity and examine the steps that Congress and the Biden administration could take to equitably combat it. I invite each of you and your staff to watch live at [Rules.House.Gov](https://www.rules.house.gov).

I want to take this moment to also ask each of you to join me in this effort. Please encourage your constituents and local leaders to share their experience and ideas through [a new portal on our website](#) so that each region of our nation and every segment of our Congress has their voice heard. Because as we know, hunger is a problem that people are facing at kitchen tables all over the country. I want to hear firsthand stories, see the latest research from educators, and get a sense of what is being done locally through organizations on the ground nationwide.

It is my hope this effort will include not just include hearings, but briefings, on-site visits as COVID safeguards permit, and a significant digital presence. If any of you have an idea or want to be a part of this effort, please let my team know – because this crisis requires each of us rolling up our sleeves, thinking big, and entertaining new ideas. Kim Corbin in my office will be available to coordinate with each of you at Kim.Corbin@mail.house.gov.

Many of us have been fighting to combat food insecurity for years. I believe we are at a unique moment in history – one that presents us an opportunity to finally end hunger in America once and for all. Thank you for joining with me in this fight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James P. McGovern". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

James P. McGovern