

BECAUSE IT TAKES MORE THAN FOOD TO FEED THE HUNGRY



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The Honorable Jim McGovern
Congressman for Massachusetts' 2nd District
370 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

On behalf of Long Island Cares, Inc.—The Harry Chapin Food Bank, I would like to state our enthusiastic support for convening a White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger, and Health. We believe, just as our founder Harry Chapin did, that we can eradicate hunger in America and that this conference is a crucial first step in accomplishing this goal.

The proposed second conference would take a whole-of-government approach to combatting nutrition insecurity. It would call upon the nation's charitable sector, elected officials, farmers, academics, doctors, distribution experts, and especially those with lived experience to craft the multi-tiered solutions required to rid our nation of this lingering societal ill.

We had the distinct privilege of meeting with Representative McGovern during one of his recent trips to New York City. Alongside fellow members of Feeding New York State, we shared how the pandemic significantly increased demand for our services and prompted us to strategically revise our distribution protocols to increase both efficiency and safety for food bankers and clients alike. We also recommended that any future conference analyze hunger's complex intersection with nutrition, chronic illness, health care, food access, transportation, climate change, and national defense.

Fifty-two years ago, the Nixon Administration convened a conference dedicated to ending hunger which ultimately led to the creation of WIC. We are not sure of what this conference will yield, but we pledge to stand with the Biden Administration, you and your fellow Members of Congress, and advocates across the nation in facilitating the coordinated response needed to end hunger in America. It would be an honor to attend, share our observations, and help formulate the multi-tiered solutions necessary for future generations to find themselves in disbelief whenever hunger in America is mentioned.

Thank you for your stalwart commitment in the fight to end hunger and for championing the creation of a White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger, and Health.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael W. Haynes, M.P.A.
Chief Government Affairs Officer



*"To know is to care. To care is to act. To act is to **make a difference.**"*
- Harry Chapin, Founder, Long Island Cares