

February __, 2022

Dear Senator:

The undersigned organizations strongly urge you to enact omnibus FY 2022 appropriations legislation including all twelve subcommittee bills. Continued flat funding in the face of growing needs would be irresponsibly harmful. Inadequate funding over the past decade has caused many human needs programs to lose ground. Whether serving health, education and training, child welfare, nutrition, substance use disorders, housing or other needs, appropriated programs cannot meet today's demands with yesterday's inadequate funding.

The groups signing this letter focus on a host of essential services in order to meet the needs of the young and aging, workers, people with disabilities, the poor, families and retirees, immigrants, students and youth disconnected from education, women, and people of color. We know that the dislocations of the pandemic, including the past year's rising prices and disrupted employment, have made things much harder for millions of Americans – your constituents.

About two-thirds of a compilation of human needs programs tracked by the Coalition on Human Needs have shrunk in size from FY 2010 to FY 2021, taking inflation into account. Higher inflation now added to rising need makes it especially urgent to enact an omnibus appropriations bill.

Examples of growing need are plentiful. [Deaths from opioid overdoses](#) leapt to 100,000 for the period ending in April 2021, up from 78,056 the year before. [Rents rose](#) an average 14 percent last year, with rents in previously lower-cost states such as Florida, Ohio, and Texas jumping 25 percent or more. During the past month, 15 percent of renters were [behind in rent](#); that was true of 18 percent of Hispanic renters and 23 percent of Black renters. [Hunger is rising](#), with close to 2.6 million people 65 and older reporting that their households sometimes or often did not have enough to eat in the previous week this past month, up from about 1.8 million six months ago. More than 10 million people in households with children reported going without enough food during the same period. Children have been [falling behind in their education](#) due to the pandemic; overall, progress in math declined by 10.4 percent as of January 23, 2022, with losses of 18.2 percent in low-income communities. Such severe declines are widening racial gaps as well. With utility bills rising, nearly one in five people reported that their households were unable to pay some or all of their [energy bills](#) for at least one month in the past year; this was true of 39 percent for people in households with low incomes, and over 30 percent in households of color. More than 16 million people with children younger than 5 had work interrupted or had to leave work altogether because their children couldn't attend [child care](#) due to concerns about COVID. [Employment rates dropped](#) 11.6 percent in jobs paying below median income (below \$37,000), but rose 8.1 percent for jobs paying above median wages. Many workers who held below-median wage jobs need training to fill jobs with higher pay, but most federal job training programs have declined by 18 percent or more since FY 2010.

In all these examples and more, appropriated programs can contribute to solving problems if their funding levels reflect these painful realities. Flat funding is failing to address urgent needs.

In many ways, adequate appropriations are necessary to carry out all the vital functions of government. Social Security staff need adequate funding to administer Social Security and SSI. Updated appropriated funds are necessary to carry out the bipartisan infrastructure legislation recently passed. Health care, substance use and mental health appropriations work in tandem with Medicaid and Medicare. Many millions of people are going without the help they need because of Congress' delay in passing appropriations that respond to our current problems. Please do not delay any longer; enact an omnibus appropriations bill as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

20/20 Vision DC

Addiction Connections Resource

Adelante Healthcare

Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region

AFL-CIO

AIDS United

Alabama Arise

Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Federation of Teachers

American Friends Service Committee

Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition

Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Autism Society of America

Barrier Free Living Inc.

Bay Area WIC

Be a Hero

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Better Organizing to Win Legalization

Blue Wave Postcard Movement

Broward for Progress

California Association of Food Banks
California Housing Partnership
Cathedral Square
CCI Health Services
Center for American Progress
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Centers Against Violence
Child Welfare League of America
Church World Service
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
Coalition on Human Needs
COHHIO
Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (Delaware)
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Connecticut Chapter - National Association of Social Workers
Council for Opportunity in Education
Custer Health WIC Program
Day One
Disability Rights Oregon
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Dominicans Sisters of Sinsinawa Office of Peace and Justice
Drug Policy Alliance
End Hunger Connecticut!
Faith in Public Life
Faiths for Safe Water
Family Advocates, Inc.
Family Crisis Center, Inc.
Family Equality
First Focus Campaign for Children

Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
Franklin Primary Health Center, Inc.
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Full Plates Full Potential
Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Inc.
Harm Reduction Action Center
Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!
Health Care Voices
HIPS
Hispanic Federation
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Housing Action Illinois
Housing Oregon
Howard Brown Health
Hudson County Housing Resource Center
Hunger Task Force
ICNA Council for Social Justice
In The Works
Indiana Chapter - National Association of Social Workers
Institute for Policy Studies, Criminalization of Poverty Project
International Nutritional Sustainable Partners
International School of Louisiana
Islamic Relief USA
Jefferson County Farmers Markets
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis
Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs
La Cooperativa Campesina de California
La Mesa Boricua de Florida

Lafayette Urban Ministry
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
LeadingAge
LSF Services
Marion County Commission On Youth, Inc.--MCCOY
Maryhurst
Maryland National Organization for Women
Maryland WAM
Massachusetts Association of WIC Directors
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
MEO
Mom's Fresh Foods
Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity
Multi County Community Service Agency, Inc.
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA)
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR)
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Aging
National Diaper Bank Network
National Employment Law Project

National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Immigration Law Center
National League for Nursing
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Parks Conservation Association
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
National WIC Association
National Women's Law Center
Nebraska Chapter of NASW
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
New Jersey Association on Correction
New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness
New York State - - National Association of Social Workers
NH Hunger Solutions
Non Profit Housing Association of Northern California
Nonprofit Finance Fund
Occupy Bergen County (New Jersey)
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Oregonizers
Our Children Oregon
Partnership for America's Children
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Penny Appeal USA
Poligon Education Fund
Pouhana O Na Wahine
Preble Street
Project Bread

Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator

Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

Public Citizen

Rachel Carson Council

RESULTS

Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition

Safer Foundation

San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Sisters of Charity

Sisters of Charity Federation

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership

Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

Sisters of Charity, BVM

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA

Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York

Sisters of St. Francis Assisi

Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston

Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace

Sisters of the Good Shepherd

Sisters of the Presentation Dubuque, IA

Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque

Sisters of the Presentation: Dubuque, IA

SMOC

Society of Helpers

Sojourners

South Carolina Equality

South Dakota Chapter of NASW
Stafford County Health Department
Staten Island Center for Independent Living, Inc.
Supportive Housing Network of New York
Supportive Housing Network of NY
Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program
Texas Homeless Network
The AIDS Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Center for Popular Democracy
The Leadership Team of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Dubuque, IA
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
The Workers Circle
Thrive Alabama
Townhall II
Trystereo/New Orleans Harm Reduction Network
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
USAging
Utah County Health Department WIC Program
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Victim Rights Law Center
Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay
Virginia Housing Alliance
Voice for Adoption
Voices for Progress
Voices of Hope, Inc.
Wake County WIC
West Chester Food Cupboard
West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services

West Virginia Hepatitis Academic Mentoring Partnership (WVHAMP)

WHEAT - the World Hunger Education, Advocacy & Training org

Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

Women Helping Women

Woodland Christian Church

Youth Villages

ZERO TO THREE