LAUNCH OF THE VOTE TO END HUNGER CAMPAIGN
Panel Moderator: David Beckmann
October 13, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn
President - World Food Prize Foundation

So our last session for this morning has a couple of my personal heroes who are going to be part of it. Rev. David Beckmann, our 2010 World Food Prize laureate, who is a great personal hero of mine, the head of Bread for the World; and Bishop Pates, Richard Pates, the Catholic Bishop of Des Moines here, another one of my heroes; and Lisa Davis, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs of Feeding America; and Jamy Rentschler, who is a Hunger Advocate. So it’s all yours.

Panel Moderator:
David Beckmann
President, Bread for the World

Panel Members:

Rev. David Beckmann  President, Bread for the World
Ms. Lisa Davis     Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Feeding America
Bishop Richard Pates  Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Des Moines
Ms. Jamy Rentschler  Hunger Advocate, Results

Rev. David Beckmann

Well, we’re here to talk about ending hunger. The world, in fact, is making unprecedented progress against hunger, poverty and disease. You know, I’m a preacher, so I think this is God moving in our time. But it’s because of that that we can credibly talk about ending hunger—dramatic progress, maybe even ending hunger around the world and certainly in the USA.

Two weeks ago, the United Nations, all the nations of the world at the level of presidents resolved to adopt new global goals, and those goals include the goal of ending hunger. Pope Francis, both at the White House and at the United Nations, commended these goals to us and urged Americans and the world’s leaders not to just adopt the goals but to take them seriously and to try to work for those goals.

I’m David Beckmann. As Ken said, I’m the president of Bread for the World. When I first started my career, my wife and I worked way up in the northwest corner of Bangladesh, where Fazle Abed, this year’s honoree, is from. And I got a chance to go back to the same places just a few years ago. So I got to meet old friends, people that I drank tea with three decades ago. But
the most wonderful part of that trip was that, even though people in Bangladesh are still very poor, they are obviously much less poor than they were when I lived there. So if you go to the market, there is now a variety of food available in the market. And when you look at the children, and the children are visibly, visibly better nourished. And you can tell stories like that in lots of countries around the world, from Bangladesh to Brazil, from Ghana to Great Britain. In fact, the World Bank estimates that in 1990 there were two billion people in extreme poverty and today there are one billion people in extreme poverty. The man who won the Nobel Prize yesterday in economics, one of his accomplishments is to say that the World Bank underestimates how much progress we’ve made. His name is Angus Dean.

In our country, too, we have been able to make progress against hunger and poverty, most clearly in the ’60s and ’70s. That was a period of economic growth, so people could get jobs, jobs that paid. And then in the administrations of both Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, our nation made focused efforts to reduce poverty and hunger—and it worked. I think, the data show that we haven’t, our experience shows that we haven’t made much progress against hunger and poverty in the USA since then. And in my judgment, it is mainly because other things have been more important to us as a nation. So Americans are very generous to charities, but we haven’t had a president and congress who together made reducing hunger and poverty one of their top five priorities since Lyndon Johnson.

We need to get our government to do its part. I don’t think that government can solve the problem of hunger, but a thousand points of light is not enough light; we need to also have our government providing leadership, providing a framework in which poor people themselves, charities, businesses can together work toward the end of hunger.

Let me just cite two examples of good things that our government is already doing, first, in the area of food assistance in this country. You know, every church, synagogue and mosque in the country is collecting and distributing food to hungry people. But all of that effort together, it’s really important, it’s great work, it’s necessary work, but all of that effort together amounts to less than 5% of the food assistance that people need in this country, get from the federal nutrition programs—mainly SNAP, school lunches and WIC.

So we can’t slash those programs and think we’re going to end hunger. And what we should do is complement those programs with other policies and programs that make it possible for people to get jobs, and if people have jobs, they ought to be able to feed a family. That can be fixed, and it needs to be fixed.

We live in this very powerful nation, and our government also has an impact on the possibilities for hungry and poor people all over the world. We saw it when President Bush was in power. Our country led the world in responding to the global AIDS pandemic, and we got AIDS under control through U.S. Government leadership, and charities did a lot on that—but U.S. Government leadership was crucial.

During the Obama administration, President Obama, in fact, has led the world in investing more in agriculture and nutrition in the world’s poorest countries. Our government’s leadership has managed to get the world on track toward ending hunger.
So how do we then make hunger a higher priority for our government? Well, clearly, the elections of 2016 are a wonderful opportunity, especially because we have competitive primaries on both sides, so all the candidates are trying out different issues. So in that context, we’re going to end up with different priorities as a nation in 2017 than we’ve got now. And we want hunger to be a higher priority. It’s not that this is a crazy idea. Bread for the World just completed a poll of voters. We found that two thirds of voters say that reducing hunger ought to be a very high priority for the federal government. So they’re going to spend billions of dollars in this election, but at the outset the voters are with us if we can make that voice heard.

Over the last few months, a wide array of organizations have come together to forge a “Vote to End Hunger” Campaign. What we want is that by 2017 the president and congress who take office then will make hunger, poverty, opportunity for everybody a national priority. That’s very possible. And if they do that, we could get that president and that congress working together on a program of change that would put the world and certainly our country on track toward ending hunger.

So today, like right here, right now, we are launching the Vote to End Hunger Campaign. We had to come here to Iowa. We had to come here to you. I love the Iowa Hunger Summit, and I love the people that it draws. You know, you people have come from all over the state. You spend the whole day thinking about “what can we do to reduce hunger?” And you have this unique opportunity of the Iowa caucuses. It is a unique opportunity to shape what our priorities, what our nation’s priorities, what the world’s priorities will be for the next four or maybe eight years. I don’t know how many people are in the room, if there are 500 of us here in this room—if you, this group of people, if you make it your business to raise the hunger question with other voters in Iowa and with the candidates, especially the candidates for president of the United States, you’ll bend history toward the end of hunger.

I also just want to celebrate these people on the stage with me. They represent the organizations, the really impressive array of organizations that are joining together in this grassroots campaign Vote to End Hunger, and I’m really grateful for your leadership. Now, if we’re going to win, we’ve got to bring all different kinds of people together, and this campaign does that. And so now you will hear from three different people, leaders of Vote to End Hunger, who bring very different perspectives to the work.

The first will be Jamy Rentschler. Jamy is a leader in the RESULTS organization here in Iowa. She is an activist to end hunger. Jamy.

Ms. Jamy Rentschler

Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak with you today. You know, hunger is a reality for many people in our communities, and it was a real concern for my family when I was growing up. My mom was a single teenage mom. She didn’t have many opportunities for work, because daycare was just really expensive. So we received critical benefits, such as WIC, food stamps and free school lunches.

As a child, I remember going to the grocery store with my mom and watching her pull out the food stamps to pay for our groceries. I also remember times when the cupboards got pretty bare, but I do not ever recall going hungry. Unfortunately, I can’t say the same thing for my
mom. My mom told me that if it had not been for the food assistance programs, there would have been many days where I would have gone hungry. My mom was an excellent planner, and she managed limited benefits very carefully to make sure that they lasted throughout the month. I used to tease my mom because we would have very similar meals each week; there was very limited variety. I always thought it was because she was really picky, and she kind of is; but mostly it’s because there just are not a lot of options when you’re on that tight of a budget. We would only get fresh fruits and vegetables when they went on sale, because often they were just too expensive for us to afford.

Many families are in that same struggle today. The average SNAP benefit is about $1.41 per person per meal. The next time you go to buy groceries, think about how difficult it would be to feed your family on just $1.41 per person per meal. Receiving food assistance was critical to ensuring that I had sufficient food and nutrition. Without that support, I doubt I would have been able to achieve the accomplishments that I have reached. I am the first person in my family to go to college, where I’ve earned two bachelor’s degrees and an MBA. And currently I’m in the process of applying for a PhD in sociology with a research interest in how public policy impacts domestic policy.

I believe it is critical to have strong public policies to provide a much-needed safety net for people in our communities that are struggling to make ends meet. Programs such as SNAP, WIC and free and reduced-price school lunches are critical to ensuring that at-risk children and other vulnerable populations have sufficient food to meet basic nutritional needs. Children should have the right to flourish and to achieve their fullest potential, which makes it necessary to ensure the basic nutritional needs are consistently met.

Here in Iowa, as David mentioned, we have access to many presidential candidates as they campaign for the 2016 presidential election. This gives us a unique opportunity to engage these candidates and to ask them specifically what they plan to do to end hunger. By going to these town hall meetings and local rallies and voicing our concern about hunger, we can send a strong message that hunger is an important issue that must be addressed.

Another important way to advocate in the fight against hunger is to contact your elected officials. Just this past spring, our Des Moines Results group was able to meet with Senator Joni Ernst. I had the opportunity to share with her my story of growing up in poverty and how critical these food assistance programs were to ensuring that I had proper nutrition. That provided the opportunity to have a real conversation about this issue and to build a relationship with Senator Ernst that will hopefully lead to more discussions about proposed solutions to addressing hunger.

It’s important that our elected officials hear from their constituents, to hear from the people who are impacted by their policy votes. It can be easy to lose touch with the reality if it’s not one that they are typically familiar with. It is up to us to remind them of the struggles that many people face. We are very fortunate to be part of a democracy where we can use our voice to influence our government. However, if we fail to use our voice, then our democracy erodes into an oligarchy.

Finally, I hope that you will talk about the problem of hunger with your friends and family and others in your social circles. It’s important to highlight that hunger is not only a problem that
exists in third-world countries but exists here as well. You can share with them the reality that 48 million people were food insecure in 2014, or how SNAP helps roughly 1.7 million struggling veterans. But most importantly, I want you to share with them why eliminating hunger is important to you.

I am proud to support the Vote to End Hunger, and I hope that you will join me in raising your voice in the fight against hunger as well.

Now I would like to introduce Lisa Davis. She is the Vice President for Government Relations of Feeding America, the national network of Food Banks.

**Ms. Lisa Davis**

Thanks, Jamy, and thanks to all of you. It’s really exciting. I’m a first-timer here at the Iowa Hunger Summit, and it’s thrilling to see so many people who have come together to have conversations, to learn and share from one another, all of whom are committed to the fight to end hunger. So thank you. I know many of you volunteer with Food Banks, with pantries and other programs. Many of you regularly contact your elected officials to advocate for stronger anti-hunger policies, and many of you spread the word in your community, spreading enthusiasm and educating your neighbors and friends about the prevalence of hunger. And all of us, we so appreciate everything that you do, and we’re really excited to be here with you today.

I also want to give a special shout-out to Feeding America’s Iowa Food Banks—their staff, their leadership, their board members and their volunteers, many of whom are here today either in the audience or up on stage. And the work that they do feeding hungry Iowans and helping connect them to other services and programs is critically important. And as David said, if we want to end hunger, if we believe that we can end hunger, we know that we can only accomplish it by harnessing the collective energy, goodwill and passion from across business, the nonprofit world, faith groups and religious leaders, individuals and communities like Des Moines that care about making hunger a priority.

Here in Iowa, about 390,000 are struggling with hunger. They’re making tough choices—do I pay the rent, or do I pay for food? Can I fill my pantry, or do I need to fill this prescription instead? Can I fill my car with gas or buy food? Do I keep the lights on or feed my children? And those are choices that no American should ever have to make. Iowa isn’t alone. As Jamy said, 48 million Americans across this country are facing hunger; 15 million of them are children. That’s unacceptable. The faces of hunger are as diverse as the faces in every community in America. They’re seniors, they’re working parents, they’re college students, they’re veterans, they include your neighbor who just lost his job, and far too many of them are children. There is not one county in this country that doesn’t have people who are hungry and who are food insecure. And it is a national problem.

What has been missing to date is that we have not as a society had the political will to come together and to really commit to end hunger, to alleviate poverty and to make sure that every American, no matter where he or she is born, no matter what the circumstances of his or her life
is, has the same opportunity to succeed, to create a life, to build a better future for themselves and their children.

And that’s what Vote to End Hunger is all about. We’re a diverse collection of anti-hunger, anti-poverty, faith-based groups and others that have come together believing that in this election, this presidential election, we have the ability to elevate the issue of hunger and to put pressure on those folks that are interviewing with us, to lead our country, to talk about hunger, to talk about poverty, and most importantly to share their policy ideas for ending it and to make a commitment that these issues will be a priority.

And you all in Iowa know better than almost anyone in the nation, with the possible exception of New Hampshire, just how hard those candidates are working to sell themselves — right? They’re going to diners, to VFWs. They’re practically showing up at your doorstep every morning. So you have a tremendous opportunity. And we know that if everywhere these candidates go, whether it’s Des Moines, Iowa, Keene, New Hampshire, Detroit, Michigan, Sarasota, Florida, my hometown of Great Falls, Montana (although no candidates are really headed there), if everywhere they go they’re hearing from voters, from concerned citizens just like you – “If elected, what is it that you will do to end hunger, alleviate poverty and create opportunity?” – they’ll have to start talking about these issues. They’ll have to start putting out their ideas, and we can have a national conversation, and we can create that political will that is so critical.

I want to ask you — who here in this room thinks that hunger is a disgrace? Raise your hand if you agree with that. Great. And who here thinks that it’s possible to end hunger in the U.S. and worldwide by 2030 if we work together. Great. We believe that, too, and so we’re going to be working with our extensive networks to help mobilize our supporters to make sure that, whether it’s social media, town hall events, online, people are asking those candidates — “If elected, how will you end hunger, alleviate poverty and create opportunity?” But we can’t do it alone. We have really impressive networks and grassroots, but we need all of you, and we need your friends and your families and communities. So we’re hoping that you guys will be with us and help us make sure that these candidates are talking about hunger, committing to action and putting forth their ideas — because we can’t do it without all of you. But we know that with everyone in this room and in communities across the country, we can make sure that these are critical issues for the president and congress in 2017.

So thank you all so much for your time. It is my great pleasure to introduce Bishop Pates, who leads the Diocese of Des Moines since 2008, and who is a tremendous leader on social justice within the Catholic Conference of U.S. Bishops. So let’s hear it for Bishop Richard Pates.

**Bishop Richard Pates**

Thank you, Jamy, and on behalf of all my fellow Iowans, it’s a great delight to welcome you here. And with all due humility, I think we have to say that Iowa is Number One, you know. New Hampshire can raise its voice but only after Iowa has spoken, so we just have to keep that in mind.
From the Christian perspective with laser clarity, Jesus identifies feeding the hungry as feeding Him. At the time of judgment, these are the words to be spoken, “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food.” The Islam tradition recognizes that every human being manifests a trace of God, and thus in caring for the hungry and thirsty, we minister to the divine.

Shimon Peres, the immediate past president of Israel, has created a center, the Peres Center for Peace. Among the three principal goals of this center is to confront wasting food. It is estimated that 40% of food is wasted, as it is scraped off our plates into the garbage or stands rotting because distribution methods are insufficient and inadequate. Yesterday, Polk County supervisors, which county you and I stand and sit at this very moment, John Mauro and Angela Connelly, visited me and stated to me that one in five in this very jurisdiction, the county of Polk, suffer from hunger. It is a scandal.

But there is hope, because very significant action is in the works to address it. They are organizing us from all stripes in Polk County to overcome hunger both in the provision of food and in the implementation of social justice, insisting on the establishment of a family wage for every deserving worker.

The intermediary institutions in the hunger crusade are the United Nations and the citizens of the United States. Surely, people of faith working with global citizens of goodwill can overcome worldwide hunger by 2030. We in the United States are in a particularly pivotal position, in light of the abundant blessings God has showered on us, “from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded. And from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

Because of the availability of vast resources, the U.S. Government can be a substantial partner in ending hunger locally, nationally and very importantly globally. It is imperative that this government implements the innate altruism and inbred generous spirit of its citizens. We are people of goodwill; we are people of high values and high ideals. But let’s ask our government to reflect those ideals.

The responsibility of us voters is to communicate to those we elected our priorities, our values that will enable those elected to fulfill the leadership of which Pope Francis spoke in his September 29, 2015, speech to congress. He said, “A good political leader is one who, with the interests of all (underline that word “all”) in mind, seizes the moment in a spirit of openness and pragmatism. A good political leader always opts to imitate processes rather than possessing spaces.”

Positively responding to the opportunity of Iowa’s first-in-the-nation status to identify candidates for the 2016 presidential election, Bread for the World and the Iowa Catholic Conference will sponsor a hunger rally on Sunday, November 8th, at 2:00 p.m. at Grandview University Sisam Arena. So please get your iPhones out, put that down, that date. So again, November 8th, Sunday, 2:00 p.m. at Grandview University here in Des Moines. Its purpose is to highlight the Vote to End Hunger initiative being implemented nationwide and establish momentum, continuing momentum for the critical effort of all of us to end hunger everywhere by 2030.
In his address to Congress, Pope Francis challenged all of us believers, all of us who live by the guidance of the Divine, and he said, “In this land, the various religious denominations have greatly contributed to building and strengthening society. It is important that today, as in the past, the voice of faith continue to be heard; for it is a voice of fraternity and love, which tries to bring out the very best in each person and in each society. Such cooperation is a powerful resource in the battle to eliminate new global forms of slavery, born of grave injustices, which can be overcome only through new policies and new forms of social consensus.” And we hope to do this by our Vote to End Hunger. So muchas gracias.

**Rev. David Beckmann**

Bishop Pates is part of a group of church leaders from all stripes of churches, who have been reaching out to the presidential candidates since they announced their candidacy and asking a version of the hunger question. As you come out, you’ll get your Vote to End Hunger buttons, if you want one, and also a card that includes a specific phrasing of the hunger question. Bishop Pates and his colleagues asked the hunger question of all the presidential candidates as they declared their candidacy.

And you can go to a website: www.CircleOfProtection.us. And all of the leading presidential candidates, except Donald Trump, have given us videos. They are three-minute videos, so in half an hour you can see – not all the candidates, but it’s 9 out of 19 that have given us those videos. So you can see how the full range from Senator Cruz to Bernie Sanders, Senator Sanders, you can see how they answer the hunger question, or at least how they answered it about when they declared. It’s really interesting, because all nine of them say it’s a really important problem. Some of them have clearly given it more thought than others, and there’s a very wide array of ideas about how to respond. So just taking a half an hour with them will bring you up to speed on how they’re now thinking about the hunger question. And then it’s also a resource that you can use among your friends and family or in a church or an educational setting to spark people. It’s done in a scrupulously bipartisan—We’re not picking one candidate over another—way. So you can show it in a setting where all different kinds of people come together, and it sparks a conversation about the issue and helps people see that the hunger question is an election issue.

Now we’re going to take some questions from anybody here, and I think we’ve got a couple of mics, so raise your hand. We will take some questions.

**Q&A**

**Q** Thank you. Well, when I was a child, my parents always brought up this statement when we didn’t want to eat our food, which was, “Think of the starving Armenians.” And my response, of course, was, “Well, Dad, I am Armenian, and obviously we’re not starving.” But it’s a good statement, and people from his generation, of course, having his parents having grown up with this issue and grown up in Turkey, and they didn’t have food during World War I, but maybe we need to reinvent this and think of the starving people of the world and what can we do to help them.

**David** Amen. Anybody have a question. That’s a great comment. Anybody got a question?
The question I have is, I mean, I think many of us agree this is a moral issue, but the scientist in me just kind of wonders—is this also a biological issue? Because I’m really concerned—what happens to the brain development of young people who really don’t have adequate nutrition to really develop brain-wise to all they could be. So what have you talked about in terms of that?

David You want to do it, Lisa?

Lisa That’s an excellent question, and I think the growing body of science connecting the impact of hunger and food insecurity to health for everyone but particularly for vulnerable populations like children and seniors is pretty definitive. We know that, when kids go hungry, particularly in those early years, their brain development is slowed and not as good. They develop less well physically, they’re more likely to get sick, they don’t do as well in school. And what this means is that they live with those consequences for a lifetime. And I think it’s really important, as we are making the case for ending hunger, to continue to focus on the moral—hunger is quite simply wrong—but also to focus on the economic benefits of ending hunger. We will have healthier, better-nourished children who will be better able to help our businesses compete in a global workforce; we will have a more productive workforce, and we will decrease healthcare costs and improve health outcomes—and those are critical points to make.

David Another question in the back. Yes.

Q Thank you for the opportunity. So I feel like part of the issue with hunger is reducing wastage. And I think America, if you would all agree, is a land of plenty, so we see a lot of wastage, not only in food but in almost every sector. What, if any, any of the organizations here are doing to work around reducing the wastage of food. I bet each one of us in this room have felt guilty of wasting food at some point in our lives.

Dave So I don’t want to go too much into the detail of that, just because, you know, we’re trying to push for a concern about the issue generally; but the whole Food Bank system is a huge recycling process that a lot of food would be dumped in landfills, and instead it gets to hungry people. And as you and I have talked about, Bread for the World is working on reforming the U.S. food aid system in a way that would make it much more efficient and waste much less food. Yeah, the question here.

Q As we talk about hunger as a whole, I feel like one of the questions that we need to be asking is—Why are people hungry? But also—how do you change people’s perceptions. There’s people that are hungry that could have the ability to utilize programs and don’t because of the stigma. So is there anything related to this campaign in terms of how to reduce that stigma but also how to talk about addressing some of those root causes?

Dave Lisa, let’s go to you again.

Lisa Excellent point. Unfortunately, there is too much stigma. How many of you are familiar with Fox News’ Surfer Dude as the face of the SNAP program? So there’s stigma among our elected officials and people that are making decisions and who they perceive as benefiting from these programs. And there is a sense of stigma and shame among
people who qualify. And so I think all of our organizations and many others continue to do a lot of outreach to eligible folks on programs to help them understand the benefits and to clear up some of that stigma and to, you know, for folks like Jamy who will bravely share their personal stories, that really helps move elected officials. On root causes, we have to deal with them. We need to have a safety net that can feed people who are struggling and in need today, but we also have to look at policies that create opportunity, that help people stabilize their lives so that we can end poverty and more Americans can share in the benefits of being in the middle class and moving out of poverty. So we’re all working, as Vote to End Hunger, and individually on a number of different tracks, all of which are really important and welcome your assistance on any of those.

David Okay. Jamy is going to speak a little bit about actions that she and you can take.

Jamy So today, as we hear the speakers, it’s very exciting and we get a lot of energy, but it’s important to make sure that that energy continues and we keep the momentum. So I want you all to think about a couple of different ways that you can ask the hunger question. And I’m wondering if anybody would like to offer some suggestions of ways they plan to ask the hunger question to keep the momentum going.

Q When I was in high school, I was on free lunch, and it made all the difference in the world to my family. How are you going to support programs that empower families today?

Jamy Wonderful. Anyone else?

Q Hi. I’m a graduate student at Iowa State University, and I am in a class right now called “Comparative Social Change.” And so we have been talking about hunger and global development, and I am very much planning on sharing this campaign with my class on Wednesday.

Q I would just ask the candidates if they can give us some idea of their knowledge of the cost of hunger. It’s not just about the cost to feed the hungry. What is the cost to our country for the people that go hungry, for the assistance programs, for all the ancillary consequences that are associated with hunger. Politics, I’ve noticed, sometimes is about money.

Jamy Absolutely, absolutely.

David I think the most recent estimate is that the annual cost of allowing hunger to persist is on the order of $150 billion, maybe $200 billion. Actually, Bread for the World Institute is publishing a report on the money before Thursday that will include a current estimate of what the cost is. Just the healthcare cost is on the order of $150 billion, because hunger and poverty make people sick. Ironically, you know, it would help us reduce our deficit to deal with hunger and poverty, rather than let people suffer and deal with the impact of poor nutrition among little kids. It has a huge cost, just taxpayer costs.
Okay. We’ve talked a lot about the presidential candidates and other federal candidates, but how do we celebrate local government leaders, such as the Polk County Supervisors who are making it a priority in this county and challenge other local and state leaders to address hunger?

Jamy I think that’s great, and I think utilizing social media, letters to the editor, ways of calling that out, calling out that information. I know that all of my friends and family are very familiar with poverty-based topics, because I am posting on it on Facebook all the time, trying to raise awareness and to promote where the successes are.

Bishop From the perspective of a faith, that we, certainly in our Catholic faith, throughout Polk County, are a hundred, or a thousand percent behind this. We want to hold up these supervisors as terrifically enlightened and that they have all of our support. So we’re doing that, I think, throughout the entirety of the faith community, very strong, because, as they said, it’s a scandal, but there’s also hope because they’re willing to do something substantial about it. So let’s get behind our leaders.

David We’ve got to quit, but before we do, I just want to exercise your legs and your voices. So if you support Vote to End Hunger, would you stand up? Okay, then we’re going to say three times, “Vote to end hunger,” with the accent on the VOTE to end hunger. Ready? VOTE to end hunger, VOTE to end hunger, VOTE to end hunger. Thanks.