

May 31, 2017
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Dear Mr President:

I am very concerned by growing poverty. Hunger has been increasing since the 60s with the scaling back of antipoverty programs. Currently Americans suffer much more food insecurity than people in many other countries. There has been considerable research on the effects of various programs. These have found that childhood hunger (which is much higher here than for adults) leads to statistically much worse outcomes for the rest of their lives. This creates a cycle of poverty, a less prepared and innovative work force, poorer health and more crime.

Secretary Carson has claimed that a state of mind is a primary driving force in poverty and hunger. This would create a very different (for instance more uniform) pattern of poverty than is seen. He is clearly wrong and dangerously so. His attitude allows people to believe that vicious cuts to antipoverty programs are not extremely immoral. The cuts proposed in your budget as well as the increase in bureaucratic restrictions you suggest would similarly increase hunger.

Please assure me that you will work to end hunger again.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our compassionate government.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson