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**FRIENDS OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM SUPPORTS BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO
EXPAND THE McGOVERN-DOLE FOOD FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM**

***Leaders in the fight against hunger introduce historic legislation in the House and
Senate to fight child hunger and promote education in poor countries***

Washington, DC – Friends of the World Food Program welcomes bipartisan legislation to expand the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program introduced in both the House and Senate today. If included in the farm bill, this expansion will ensure that millions of school-aged children in the world's poorest countries, who currently go to bed hungry, get a chance to break the cycle of poverty.

The two bills call for an increase in funding from \$100 million a year to a sliding scale of \$140 million per year with increments of \$40 million each subsequent year, and change the funding structure of the program to ensure it has mandatory support.

Senators Elizabeth Dole (R-NC) and Richard Durbin (D-IL), and Representatives Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and James McGovern (D-MA) introduced the legislation in the Senate and House, respectively.

"I thank these Members of Congress for their leadership on this historic bipartisan effort to fight chronic child hunger and promote education in the world's poorest countries," said former Senator George McGovern. "Their efforts will help feed children who either receive no meal at school or do not even attend class."

"We are not talking about ordinary charity. Feeding children at school yields tangible results in their lives as well as long-term benefits for society as a whole," said former Senator Robert Dole. "The McGovern-Dole Program focuses on reducing hunger and improving educational opportunities that create the human infrastructure needed by nations if they are to prosper and become self-reliant."

The George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program reaches nearly 3 million schoolchildren each year, yet more than 110 million school-aged children still go hungry every day and most of them do not attend school. The program, which shares America's food bounty with schools in poor countries, has proven to be a success.

Studies show that when food is provided at schools in the developing world, enrollment and attendance rates skyrocket, particularly among girls. Academic performance improves, students remain in school longer, and more of them graduate.

School feeding programs are often enhanced by health initiatives implemented by organizations working in the field to treat malaria, provide clean water and sanitation, and teach healthy habits. Many school feeding operations also include an HIV/AIDS education component which has been directly linked to a decline in new infections. The nutritious meals provided in schools also prolong the life of those children who are already infected with HIV/AIDS and increase the effectiveness of medications.

Renewed and increased funding for the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program will provide an opportunity for school feeding programs in developing countries to gradually become independent and self-sufficient. The ultimate goal of the program is to help break the cycle of hunger and poverty for present and future generations.

For more information about the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, please visit www.friendsofwfp.org.

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Friends of the World Food Program (Friends of WFP) is a US-based non-profit organization dedicated to building support for the World Food Program (WFP) and other hunger relief efforts. WFP is the largest international food aid organization in the world and the United Nations' frontline agency in the fight against hunger. For more information, visit www.friendsofwfp.org.