



Sowers of Justice

A Catholic Legislative Network

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ACTION ALERT

Urge U.S. Representatives to Support HR 2634, *the Jubilee Act, to Relieve the Debt of Poor Countries!*

April 14, 2008

Background:

While major progress has been made in reducing poor country debt, a substantial number of the poorest countries continue to shoulder heavy debt burdens that draw precious government resources away from critical investments in health care, education, water and other sectors necessary to improve lives.

Many poor countries have seen their debts reduced through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative that was adopted in 1996 and expanded in 1999 in response to successful advocacy by the global Jubilee 2000 movement, in which the Catholic Church played a major role. In the succeeding years, it became apparent that further efforts were required, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has continued to make important contributions to the debt cancellation effort that offers new hope to some of the world's poorest and most forgotten people.

The Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007 (H.R. 2634) would extend debt cancellation to virtually all very poor countries that have, or develop, financial management systems to assure that debt relief savings are used to reduce poverty.

On April 3, 2008, the House Financial Services Committee approved HR 2634. The next step is consideration by the full House of Representatives which is likely to occur next week during the Apostolic Visit of Benedict XVI to the United States.

Recommended Action:

Encourage strong bipartisan support for passage of the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007. Call your U.S. Representative and tell her or him to support HR 2634 when it comes up for a vote.

For more information:
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For all contact information click on the links below

U.S. Senators:

[Contact Senator Norm Coleman](#)
[Contact Senator Amy Klobuchar](#)

U.S. Representatives:

[Contact Representative Tim Walz \(District 1\)](#)
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