



breadfortheworld
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Sample Letter to the Editor on the U.S. Budget

Tips:

- In general, letters to the editor should not exceed 200 words. When in doubt, check with the particular media outlet.
- Always include your name and address at the end of the letter. Some media outlets will require a phone number.
- If the media outlet offers it, use their online submission form to send a letter to the editor.
- Many media outlets also offer a comment section at the end of their articles. When you use it, please be as brief and direct as possible.

Sample Letter

Date

Dear Editor:

I believe in reducing our nation's deficit, but people's lives are hanging in the balance as Congress considers cuts to programs that are vital to vulnerable people around the world.

For the first time in our country's history, funding for development assistance is being pitted against military spending. I urge our senators to protect funding for development aid that is focused on lifting people out of poverty—such as aid to small farmers so they can feed their families and nutrition programs for healthier mothers and children. Although we spend less than 1 percent of our budget on these programs, their impact is huge in terms of saving lives and protecting our national security.

I recall former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates saying, "Development is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers." Research shows that the likelihood of violent conflict increases by 10 percent for every 5 percent drop in the income of a developing country.

There is no question that poverty-focused development assistance is an important, strategic investment that will save us from costly military interventions in the future. We urge Congress to protect fiscal year 2012 funding for poverty-focused development assistance and consider alternatives to cutting programs needed by the least among us.

Hunger and poverty are not partisan issues. We must protect families and children in developing countries from budget cuts that cost lives.

Yours sincerely,

Your name
Your address
Your phone