



**Pennsylvania Senate
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Legislative Hunger Caucus**



*Senator Mike Brubaker, Senate Chair
Representative John Myers, House Chair*

January 22, 2009

Memorandum

Subject: 2009 Legislative Hunger Caucus
To: All Senators and Representatives
From: Senator Mike Brubaker, Chairman
Representative John Myers, Chairman

As we are all well aware, hunger and food insecurity are pressing moral and economic issues for the Commonwealth. Even though we pride ourselves in Pennsylvania on being a world leader in food production and processing, far too many of our citizens struggle every day with hunger, particularly in these pressing economic times. Requests for emergency food assistance is at an all time high and many people who have never had to access the emergency food network are now seeking help after the loss of a job or other tragedy.

While Pennsylvania produces and sells more than enough food to meet the nutritional needs of its people, we currently lack both the focus on ending hunger and food insecurity and a strategy to act on our shared commitment. Government at the state, federal and local levels working together with community partners can more effectively address hunger and the underlying causes contributing to it.

There is no legislative district in Pennsylvania where hunger does not exist. Hunger and food insecurity are not just urban problems; our rural communities also suffer, compounded by issues of transportation and distribution.

For these reasons we have decided to form a new bipartisan, bicameral caucus in the Pennsylvania General Assembly – the Legislative Hunger Caucus – with the goal of decreasing the human and economic toll of hunger in the Commonwealth in a cooperative manner. Please join us in making this new caucus an effective tool in the fight against hunger, food insecurity and the many problems that arise when these most basic needs are not met.

The first meeting of the Legislative Hunger Caucus will be held on February 9, 2009, at noon in room 8EB of the East Wing; we will be asking emergency food providers from around the state and the Department of Agriculture to frame the issue for us and discuss possible legislative assistance. If you are interested in joining in this effort, please contact Kristin Crawford in Senator Brubaker's office at 717-787-4420. An agenda will be distributed closer to the date of the meeting.