



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

---

*"The campaign to make poverty history—a central moral challenge of our age—cannot remain a task for the few, it must become a calling for the many ... Together, we can make real and sufficient progress towards the end of poverty."*

– Kofi Annan, United Nations Ex-Secretary-General

Dear Friends:

This year, as we observe the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, we focus on the plight of children and families living in poverty and how best to meet the needs of these members of our local, national, and global communities.

Poverty directly affects the Ninth Congressional District of Tennessee. Our district has a 23.3 percent poverty rate. Of further concern is the fact that, in our community, 36 percent of our children, 25.3 percent of women, 27.6 percent of African-Americans, 21.4 percent of Asian-Americans, and 33.5 percent of Latinos are living in poverty.

In the Ninth District, we have a unique opportunity to listen, learn and reflect upon the real life struggles our neighbors face on a daily basis. It should be our mission to find new and innovative means of addressing the harmful effects of poverty in our community and around the world. The fight against poverty requires attention, collaboration, and action. If we come together as a community in action, we can dismantle, reduce, and perhaps one day, eliminate global poverty.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Women's Foundation of Greater Memphis for raising awareness about the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and the many Memphians living in poverty. If we build upon and learn from our own experiences and knowledge of poverty's drastic effects upon our community, we can advance practical steps and develop informed strategies to eradicate poverty here in the Ninth Congressional District and around the world.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Congressman Steve Cohen