

SPEAKING TOUR
SPRING 2008



ACTION ALERT

YOUR SENATOR, SENATOR GEORGE VOINOVICH IS IN A KEY POSITION TO ACHIEVE DEBT CANCELLATION FOR THE WORLD'S MOST IMPOVERISHED COUNTRIES. BUT HE NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU FIRST. READ ON TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP!

The Senate version of the Jubilee Act (S. 2166) is currently under consideration by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. There will be a committee hearing on the Jubilee Act on Thursday afternoon, April 24 at 2 p.m. Visit the Jubilee USA website at www.jubileeusa.org to watch it online at that time.

Senator Voinovich is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee. In fact, he is one of only 9 committee members who have not yet co-sponsored the Jubilee Act. **Please call Senator Voinovich today and urge him to:**

- 1) Attend the Foreign Relations Committee hearing on international debt and the Jubilee Act on Thursday, April 24, 2p.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm. 419.
- 2) Co-sponsor the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation (S. 2166)

PLEASE TAKE THESE 6 SIMPLE STEPS TO MAKE YOUR CALL TODAY!

- 1) Dial 202-224-3353 to reach Senator Voinovich's office. The receptionist will answer.
- 2) Ask to speak with Matt Ortman (the staff person advising Senator Voinovich on the Jubilee Act).
- 3) Say (or leave a voice mail): *"Hello! My name is _____ and I'm a constituent from (city), Ohio. I'm calling to urge Senator Voinovich to attend the upcoming Foreign Relations Committee hearing on international debt and the Jubilee Act. The hearing will be held on Thursday, April 24th at 2pm. I'm also calling to urge Senator Voinovich to co-sponsor the Jubilee Act (S. 2166), which would allow additional impoverished countries to access debt cancellation so the money can be used for healthcare, clean water, and education."* If you'd like, you can add a sentence or two about why this issue is important to you.
- 4) Be sure to ask: *"Does Senator Voinovich plan to attend the hearing on Thursday?"* and *"Does Senator Voinovich plan to co-sponsor the Jubilee Act?"*
- 5) If Matt cannot answer these questions (or if you are leaving a message), ask him to call or email you with the Senator's position.
- 6) Email Danielle Pals at Jubilee with the result of your call at danielle@jubileeusa.org

Please let us know if you have any questions! Call us at 202-783-0214 or email danielle@jubileeusa.org

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Today, the world's most impoverished countries spend more than \$100 million each day in debt payments to wealthy governments and financial institutions like the World Bank and IMF. In countries where the majority of the population lives on less than \$1 per day, this money should be spent on clean water, basic health care, and education, not sent to the world's wealthiest financial institutions.

In 2000 and again in 2005 world leaders came together to cancel billions of dollars of debt in dozens of impoverished countries around the world. The money freed by debt cancellation so far has been used to fight global AIDS, enroll children in school, provide clean water, improve rural infrastructure and more. But there is still much more that needs to be done – dozens of impoverished countries around the world are still waiting for debt justice!

The most important and prophetic debt legislation in 7 years, the Jubilee Act will expand access to debt cancellation to all the countries that need it to fight extreme poverty. Without debt cancellation, it will be nearly impossible for many countries to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015.

The Jubilee Act also requires that debt cancellation be provided without harmful economic policy conditions attached, calls for the initiation of a responsible lending framework, and requires a debt audit in countries like South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo which have a heavy burden of odious debt.

For more information visit www.jubileeusa.org or contact Jubilee Policy Fellow Danielle Pals at 202-783-0214 or danielle@jubileeusa.org.

