

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

October 5, 2007

Madhu Sridhar
President
Akshaya Patra USA
92 Montvale Avenue, Suite 2500
Stoneham, MA 02180

Dear Friends:

I'm writing to express my strong support for the outstanding work of Akshaya Patra Foundation in addressing two of India's most pressing challenges, hunger and education. I commend Congressman Jim McGovern for his leadership on these critical issues, and I wish very much that I could be with all of you in person for this special evening.

How we meet these challenge is not just a matter of feeding people. It is also a measure of our humanity. I commend you all for fighting hunger and promoting education in India so well, as you near your goal of feeding one million underprivileged school children in India every day. Your innovative model is combating hunger on an impressively large scale, and it has the potential of improving the way we approach poverty throughout the world.

As my brother Robert Kennedy said, "I believe that, as long as there is plenty, poverty is evil. Government belongs wherever evil needs an adversary and there are people in distress who cannot help themselves."

I believe that our moral commitments, our international obligations, and our long-term security interests demand that we give high priority to human rights and foreign aid. I will continue to advocate stronger humanitarian leadership and a more viable international food policy by our country. I will also support measures to bring new hope to developing nations striving to meet their basic food needs, and to help relieve the appalling human tragedy of world hunger and famine.

Please accept my warmest wishes for a wonderful event and continued success of your extraordinary good works.

With great respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy