



Video Transcript
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**Senator Ted Cruz,
Republican**

Thank you for giving me the time to talk about an important challenge, that is near to my heart. How we can work together to improve the lives of the less fortunate among us. Poverty can be devastating. It is heartbreaking, that a child should go to bed hungry. Worry about where they will live, or wonder if their parents are going to find work.

Your help is desperately needed. And you are changing lives. Things are getting better. In 1990, 43% of the world's population lived on \$1.25, or less a day. By 2011, that number had been slashed in more than half. But still 17% of the world lived in extreme poverty.

We can change that but it is going to be folks like us. Not some program out of Washington that's going to do it. The heroes at the anti-poverty movement are you. People who care deeply about the less fortunate. In addition, sacrifice their time, money, and energy to help their neighbors. The plight of the poor is close to the heart of God. God insists that each of us join in his passion. For the less fortunate among us.

As it says in Psalm 72:13, he will have compassion on the poor, and needy. In addition, the lives of the needy he will save.

Federal government policies have done little to alleviate poverty. Since President Johnson declared war on poverty in 1964, US taxpayers have spent more than 22 trillion dollars on government anti-poverty programs. That is more than three times the cost of all US wars since the American Revolution. However, little progress has been made by any reasonable measure. The federal government's war on poverty has been a failure.

All major European nations have higher levels of public spending than the United States. And all of them are poor, just throwing money at poverty doesn't work.

Conservative policies that honor individual liberty, that builds responsibility are the best and only way to break the poverty cycle.

If I'm elected president of the United States. I will support policies that strengthen private charitable organizations. Which have proven to be dramatically more effective. In helping people escape poverty. Then any government program.

As a senator, I was proud to cosponsor the Welfare Reform and Upward Mobility Act. Which tackles, some of the problems, in the federal welfare system. That make it tough for low income Americans to reach the middle class.

Meanwhile you are doing the best work in ending poverty. You need government to support you, not to compete with you. I will work to ensure that Americans who give generously to nonprofits and Christian ministries will be rewarded. Not punished with threats of regulation, and taxes.

As President Reagan said, "How can we love our country, and not love our countrymen? In addition, loving them reach out a hand when they fall. Heal them when they are sick. And provide opportunity to make them self-sufficient. So they will be equal in fact, and not just in theory."

So thank you again, for your work.

It's an honor to support you, to stand with you, and to work together in this mission.

Thank you and God bless you.

END