2018 Farm Bill Conference – Letters in Support of SNAP

Check out FRAC’s SNAP Support Letters in the 115th Congress posting for pre-conference letters, op-eds, resolutions, and other resources in support of SNAP from national, state, and local advocates and government officials.

National Organizations and Coalitions

- The LGBTQ and allied groups letter signed by 31 orgs urges conferees to “defer to the Nutrition Title in the Senate version and reject the draconian proposals in the House’s version” and protect “the health and well-being of all Americans, including the LGBTQ community.” (Aug. 29)
- The senior groups letter signed by 33 national orgs supports improvements to SNAP in the Senate Farm Bill and opposes the House provisions “that would that would limit access to SNAP for millions of Americans,” urging conferees to “advance a bipartisan farm bill that supports healthy aging and builds on the many successes of our nation’s nutrition programs.” (Aug. 22)
- The American Psychological Association, on behalf of its 115,700 members and affiliates, supports “the relevant Senate provisions that expand and strengthen SNAP” and opposes “provisions in the House bill that weaken the program.” (Aug. 21)
- Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) letter urges conferees to “continue the longstanding bipartisan commitment to protect and strengthen SNAP,” noting that “cutting off food assistance from SNAP would only make it harder for people to work and increase their economic self-sufficiency, including people with disabilities and their families.” (Aug. 14)
- Interreligious Working Group on Domestic Human Needs (DHN) letter urges Congress to “pass a conferenced Farm Bill modeled after the bipartisan Senate bill that will protect and strengthen SNAP” and that “reduces hunger and improves nutrition in the U.S.” (Aug. 13)
- NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Justice letter urges Farm Bill conferees to “to protect and strengthen SNAP, in line with the Senate bill’s Nutrition Title.” (Aug. 6)
- Hundreds of cantors and rabbis from across the country joined MAZON in calling for protection of SNAP in the Farm Bill. (Aug. 2)
- National Association of Counties analysis of the House and Senate Farm Bills notes that “the House legislation contains several [SNAP] proposals of concern to counties.” (July 31)
- National Skills Coalition letter strongly urges conferees to reject the proposed changes to SNAP and SNAP E&T under the House bill “and instead adopt the more sensible reauthorization approach under the Senate bill.” (July 30)
- AARP letter urges conferees to “work in a bipartisan manner to produce a conference agreement that protects SNAP and rejects creating additional program barriers for individuals and families struggling with food insecurity.” (July 26)
- The Nemours Children’s Health System letters urge conferees and House and Senate Agriculture Committee leadership to maintain the Senate provisions that would protect the structure and funding of SNAP. (July 26)

National/State Officials and Governmental Entities

- Senator Murkowski (R-AK) letter urges Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow to “continue to resist the changes to [SNAP] proposed by the House, including but not limited to those related to work rules for able bodied adults,” stating that the House-proposed changes are “completely unworkable in Alaska.” (July 30)
**State/Local Organizations and Coalitions**

- This [New York groups sign-on letter](#) from 142 anti-hunger, emergency food programs, and other concerned partners urges Reps. Engel and Tonko to adopt the Senate’s approach to SNAP in conference and oppose any proposals that reduce SNAP or other nutrition programs. (Aug. 24)
- The [California groups sign-on letter](#) from dozens of CA and regional organizations urges conferees to “embrace the Senate’s approach and reauthorize critical food, farming and nutrition programs while safeguarding our most vulnerable communities from hunger.” (Aug. 24)
- This [letter from private, faith-based and community nonprofits in Texas](#) urges Farm Bill conferees to protect SNAP and “work wisely and in a bipartisan fashion to pass a farm bill that is helpful, and not harmful to all Americans.” (Aug. 7)

**Community Voices**

- [Maryland op-ed](#) from Maryland Hunger Solutions urges policymakers to “protect and strengthen SNAP and reject the House Farm Bill,” noting that unlike the House bill, the Senate bill provides “fundamental support for low-income residents and helps lift and keep people out of poverty.” (Aug. 17)
- [Ohio op-ed](#) from Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank and United Way of Summit County urges Congress to include the Senate SNAP provisions in the Farm Bill conference report, noting that the House bill would make it “harder for older adults, families with young children and workers who lose their jobs or have their hours cut to receive nutritional help.” (Aug. 19)
- [Alabama op-ed](#) “strongly urge the Alabama congressional delegation to support a final Farm Bill that protects SNAP benefits,” noting “Alabama has many accomplishments to take pride in, but the fourth highest hunger rate in the nation is not one of them.” (Aug. 10)
- [Montana op-ed](#) urges Rep. Gianforte and Sens. Tester and Daines to “keep SNAP available without further restrictions that would be an unfunded mandate for the state or cut off low-income folks who struggle with disabilities, illness and jobs where hours vary.” (Aug. 6)
- [New Mexico op-ed](#) notes that “in the noise of the political debate that will certainly ensue, it is important to keep the focus on one important thing: SNAP works” and “bipartisan Senate bill is far superior to the House version and deserves our support.” (Aug. 4)
- [North Dakota op-ed](#) from farmer Ellen Linderman and registered dietitian Karen Ehrens urges Rep. Cramer and Sens. Hoeven and Marshall to support only a final farm bill that is bipartisan and protects both farmers and SNAP.” (Aug. 2)
- In this [New York op-ed](#), Drs. Goldstein and Goel note their concern “about the fate of [their] patients — mothers who work the equivalent of multiple jobs in the informal sector as caregivers, the elderly, people with disabilities or illness — who may not meet the [House Farm Bill] requirements related to work, disability, child rearing, or caregiving for the disabled.” (Aug. 2)
- [Kansas op-ed](#) thanks Sen. Roberts (R-KS) for his leadership in drafting a Senate Farm Bill that supports farmers and SNAP and urges “him, Sen. Moran and Rep. Marshall to support only a final farm bill that is bipartisan and protects both farmers and SNAP.” (Aug. 1)
- This [Kentucky article](#) notes that SNAP “provides food assistance to about 650,000 Kentuckians, and a new poll by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research reveals that nearly two-thirds of people said they were opposed to reducing SNAP funding.” (Aug. 1)
- [Georgia op-ed](#) from registered dietitian nutritionist Ashley Matthews urges Members of Congress “to not cut SNAP’s funding or include harmful changes in the Farm Bill. Let’s continue to build on SNAP’s strengths and the programs that ensure its success for Americans.” (July 31)
- [North Dakota op-ed](#) urges Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) to “support a Farm Bill in conference committee that looks more like the Senate’s bipartisan version that supports and strengthens SNAP”, noting “our children and our future are counting on you.” (July 29)