

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable John Boozman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Chairman  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable David Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Scott,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and Congress to prioritize ensuring the food security for over 40 million families, children, seniors, veterans, active-duty military families, people with disabilities, and individuals who receive food assistance every day.

In the coming weeks, the House Agriculture Committee will consider reauthorization of the Farm Bill, legislation that serves as the backbone for our nation's agriculture and nutrition programs. Throughout this process, we have clearly articulated that we will support a Farm Bill reauthorization that strengthens America's federal nutrition programs that have proven to be most effective at reducing hunger. **We would oppose a Farm Bill that would make harmful cuts and policy changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), SNAP's Thrifty Food Plan future benefits, or any of the other federal nutrition programs.**

We urge Congress to pass a Farm Bill that:

- Protects the purchasing power of the SNAP by ensuring that benefits keep pace with the cost of a healthy, realistic diet in the future. The cost of the Thrifty Food Plan must be able to adjust accordingly if the evidence shows that factors other than inflation, such as changing dietary guidelines and food consumption patterns, have increased the cost of a healthy diet.
- Identifies opportunities to expand access without cutting access or benefits for other SNAP participants.
- Does not restrict current eligibility or benefits for SNAP.
- Preserves dignity and food choices for SNAP-eligible individuals.

- Invests in the workforce helping SNAP beneficiaries and preserves merit staffing to help beneficiaries navigate the program and receive full benefits, receive timely and unbiased assistance, and ensure confidentiality for the documentation submitted to qualify.
- Ensures that The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is funded to provide the food needed to meet a demand for food assistance that has persisted following the COVID-19 pandemic while also supporting the farmers and producers who provide TEFAP foods.
- Ensures the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP), and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program are funded to meet the needs of vulnerable and underserved individuals and communities.

Our organizations stand united for a Farm Bill that prioritizes decreasing food insecurity and providing every person and child with access to the programs and nutrition they need to thrive, and we will oppose any legislation that would undermine these efforts. We look forward to working together with Congress to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

AFL CIO

AFT

Alliance to End Hunger

Alliance for Retired Americans

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)

Actors Equity Association

Bread for the World

Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Coalition on Human Needs

Congressional Hunger Center

Feeding America

Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)

Islamic Relief USA

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

Meals On Wheels America

National Education Association (NEA)

National WIC Association

RESULTS

Save the Children

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Share Our Strength

United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)