

SNAP Support Letters – 115th Congress

Check out FRAC's [2018 Farm Bill Conference – Letters in Support of SNAP](#) posting for recent letters, op-eds, and other resources in support of SNAP from national, state, and local advocates and government officials during the Farm Bill Conference.

National Organizations and Coalitions

- This [United States Conference of Mayors resolution](#) calls for protecting SNAP and federal nutrition programs in the 2018 Farm Bill.
- The [AARP letter](#) to Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow commends the committee for its “bipartisan work in developing [a farm bill] that will protect SNAP for millions of older Americans.”
- These [66 statewide and regional health care organizations in Northeast states](#) urge Senators to oppose any Farm Bill that cuts or restricts access to SNAP and actively push back against any health-harming proposals.
- [Veterans organizations](#) call on Congress to vote against H.R. 2 and support SNAP, which “helps 23,000 active-duty service members and nearly 1.5 million veterans purchase food and improve their nutrition, health, well-being, and economic security.”
- The [National Hispanic Leadership Agenda’s letter](#) opposing H.R. 2 states that the bill’s provisions related to SNAP would be detrimental to Latino and other communities across the United States.
- [AARP](#) “opposes H.R. 2 in its current form because it adds new barriers in the SNAP program ... that will result in greater food insecurity and older Americans losing the nutritional assistance they need and depend on.”
- [The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities](#) sent a letter to Congress opposing cuts to SNAP under H.R. 2, with 40 national disability groups signing on.
- The [United Food and Commercial Workers International Union letter](#) to the U.S. House of Representatives urges members to vote against H.R. 2.
- These [21 Unions](#) urge a “no” vote on H.R. 2.
- The [National Association of County Human Services Administrators](#) writes to Congress that “[t]he proposed [Farm Bill] policies would increase food insecurity for millions of low-income households and will also increase the administrative complexity for counties serving them.”
- [MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger’s letter](#) to Congress, signed by 678 rabbis and cantors, from 41 states and D.C., brings “together a unified Jewish voice in opposition to the changes to SNAP in the draft Farm Bill.”
- [The American Psychological Association](#) supports SNAP and opposes the House Farm Bill.
- [The National Child Support Enforcement Association’s](#) letter to the House Agriculture Committee states that “at this time cannot support the mandatory child support cooperation provision as currently drafted.”
- The [Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights](#) urges Congress to “combat hunger and food insecurity by protecting and strengthening SNAP in a bipartisan farm bill.”
- This [letter signed by education organizations](#) represents school employees, school food service workers, paraprofessionals, teachers, principals and school leaders in elementary and secondary schools, in opposition to H.R. 2.
- 167 National women's groups sent [this letter](#) to House Members stating the Farm Bill's “proposed changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) threaten the economic security of women and families by proposing restrictions on categorical eligibility, mandatory participation in the federal child support enforcement program, harsh expansions of work requirements, and increased paperwork for families and states.”
- This group of [national children’s organization advocates](#) in the areas of hunger and nutrition,

- poverty, health, welfare, housing, and education urges Congress to vote NO on H.R. 2.
- This group of 56 [LGBTQ and allied organizations](#) urge Representatives to oppose H.R. 2, which “as written, will have exceptionally negative impacts on the health and wellness of the LGBTQ community, as well as that of all low-income Americans.”
 - [This letter](#) opposes H.R.2 due to the significant and negative impact the bill would have on the lives of millions of formerly incarcerated Americans.
 - [2018 Farm Bill letter to House and Senate Budget and Appropriations Committees](#) – FRAC is proud to have played a leadership role in developing support for this letter urging the House and Senate Budget and Appropriations Committees not to “hinder development and passage of the 2018 Farm Bill with further cuts.”
 - [Agriculture/conservation/food and nutrition groups urge Congress](#) not to make budget cuts to the agriculture and nutrition programs.
 - The [National Anti-Hunger Organizations \(NAHO\) letter](#) asks Congress and the Administration to safeguard and protect all federal nutrition programs.
 - The [SAVE \(Strengthening America’s Value and Economy\) for All letter](#) advocates for economic fairness, asking Congress and the Administration to prioritize the funding needs of programs serving vulnerable families and individuals.
 - [The National Association of Counties \(NACo\) resolution](#) demonstrates their support for moving a SNAP reauthorization in conjunction with a reauthorization of the Farm Bill and protecting the current entitlement status and funding structure of SNAP.
 - The [House Agriculture Committee’s Budget Views and Estimates letter](#), addressed to the House Budget Committee Chairman Black and Ranking Member Yarmuth, urges the House Budget Committee to maintain the entitlement structure of SNAP and reject any attempts to further cut funding or place additional burdens on those looking to access SNAP benefits.
 - U.S. Conference of Mayors resolution: [Urging the Passage of a Farm Bill That Supports Healthy Food Access and Sustainable Food Systems](#) (*scroll down page for resolution*).
 - [The Council of State Governments resolution](#) urges Congress to enact a 2018 Farm Bill reauthorization that includes a strong domestic hunger and nutrition safety net, noting the importance of SNAP in rural areas, for military families and farmers, and in response to disasters.
 - [The AARP letter](#) to OMB Director Mick Mulvaney urges the Administration and Congress to work together on a bipartisan basis to protect and strengthen SNAP in the Farm Bill reauthorization, stating the importance of SNAP for millions of older adults and other low-income Americans.
 - The [National Grocers Association letter](#) to Members of Congress, signed by nearly 900 grocers from all 50 states, notes Congress’s “decades-long recognition that supermarkets remain an indispensable private sector partner in the successful public-private partnership of the SNAP program”—and strongly opposes replacing household SNAP benefits with a government-run direct food distribution service.
 - The [eGovernment Payments Council of the Electronic Funds Transfer Association letter](#) to USDA FNS Administrator Brandon Lipps opposes the America’s Harvest Box proposal in the President’s 2019 Budget, which would shift a portion of SNAP benefits to USDA commodity foods.

State Officials and Governmental Entities

- [47 bipartisan mayors](#) urge Congress to not “impose cuts and new requirements [in the Farm Bill] that would punish those already struggling to make ends meet.”
- Statement from [NJ Governor Phil Murphy](#): “[t]he Farm Bill being discussed in the House could prevent tens of thousands of New Jersey families just trying to get by, and who are turning to SNAP as a matter of pure necessity, from being able to put food on their table.”
- [Governor Jay Inslee letter](#) to Washington State congressional delegation opposes House Farm Bill and urges Congress to work toward “meaningful solutions to shore up our food supply, strengthen our agricultural sector and meet the needs of all Washingtonians.”
- [The Alaska letter from Governor Walker to the Alaskan Congressional Delegation](#) urges a shared commitment to ensuring a strong and effective national nutrition safety net for vulnerable low-income individuals and families in Alaska.

- A proposed state legislative resolution from the [General Assembly of Pennsylvania](#) opposes efforts to block grant funding or reduce the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- The federal farm bill is vital for bringing food from North Dakota farms to households across America. SNAP is the largest section of the farm bill and it “supports our economy and keeps our families healthy and strong,” writes [State Rep. Gretchen Dobervich \(ND-District 11\)](#) in this letter to the editor.
- The [California Legislature](#) asks California's Congressional Delegation "to reject all proposals in the House farm bill that would result in reduced food assistance and weaker environmental protections to Californians.”
- The [California Department of Agriculture, California Environmental Protection Agency, California Natural Resources Agency, and California Health & Human Services Agency](#) letter to Senate and House Ag Committee leadership provides recommendations for the 2018 Farm Bill, including robust funding for domestic food and nutrition programs. The letter also urges that the structure of SNAP be maintained so that it stays responsive to economic changes and can adequately support Californians in need.
- The [County Welfare Directors Association of California](#) has joined with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) to oppose provisions in the House Farm Bill, H.R. 2, that would reduce eligibility and cut benefits to needy families who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as CalFresh in California.
- [The Minnesota letter from Governor Dayton to the Minnesota Congressional Delegation](#) urges a strong nutrition title in the 2018 Farm Bill, including protecting and strengthening SNAP—no funding cuts, block grants, or structural changes.
- The [Montana letter from Governor Bullock urges the Montana Delegation](#) to “support Montana’s priorities and oppose any cuts, structural changes, or cost-shifts within the Nutrition Title of the 2018 Farm Bill,” stressing that “SNAP makes all of Montana stronger.”

City Councils and Local Municipalities

- [Albany City Council](#) supports the SNAP/CalFresh programs, and opposes any cuts to benefits, limits on eligibility, and efforts to block grant the SNAP program.
- The [Municipality of Anchorage](#) supports efforts to protect SNAP from cutbacks and restructuring, as these programs are essential to Anchorage’s most vulnerable households.
- The [Alameda County Community Food Bank letter](#) contains signatures of elected representatives from cities and communities across Alameda County, and urges support of CalFresh/SNAP, and opposes any cuts to benefits, limits on eligibility, and efforts to block grant the SNAP program.
- The [Marin County Board of Supervisors letter](#) outlines the importance of SNAP/CalFresh for residents of Marin County and the state of California and urges Representatives from California on the House Agriculture Committee to defend and strengthen SNAP.
- [Six Massachusetts Mayors](#) have written [letters](#) in support of SNAP and urged Massachusetts Senators Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren and Massachusetts Representatives Jim McGovern and Richard Neal to support SNAP and oppose any cuts, limits on eligibility, or efforts to block grant the SNAP program.
- The [New York City Council](#) approved a resolution on September 7 urging Congress to reject proposed reforms to cut funding to SNAP and to reject efforts to block grant the program.
- On October 10, [Clearfield County, Pennsylvania Commissioners](#) passed a resolution opposing proposed cuts to SNAP.
- The [City of Philadelphia Mayor, James F. Kenney, letter to Representative Evans](#) urges Congress to “focus on policies that help create jobs and boost wages rather than punishing people who are already facing economic hardship.”
- On May 29, 2018, the [Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution](#) 15 to 0 to oppose any Farm Bill that cuts SNAP.

Community Voices

- [Three Square Food Bank](#) "strongly oppose[s] the House version of the 2018 farm bill and are actively working to educate our lawmakers that their NO votes on this measure are critical to the safety net for tens of thousands of Southern Nevadans."
- [Utah organizations letter](#) states Farm Bill will increase hunger, food insecurity and poverty in the state.
- [Christian leaders](#) from around the country are urging a vote of no on H.R. 2.
- [Massachusetts doctors, nurses, and health care providers](#) write Governor Baker that "[r]estricting access to SNAP or cutting benefit levels threaten the health of our patients and make our job of treating illness more difficult and costly."
- [Massachusetts letter](#) to the members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, from The Massachusetts Food Association, the Retailers Association of Massachusetts, the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts (made up of the Greater Boston, Worcester County, Merrimack Valley and Western Massachusetts food banks), the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, and Massachusetts Public Health Association.
- The [California letter](#) details why the federal nutrition programs are so critical and the severe consequences of cutting the funding for these programs.
- The [Massachusetts letter](#) from the Massachusetts SNAP Coalition and state, regional and local organizations outlines who benefits from the federal nutrition programs and why protecting and defending the current structure of the programs is so important.
- The [New York letter](#) addresses how vital access to the federal nutrition programs is and urges the New York delegation to protect the programs from any structural changes.
- The Illinois letters addressed to the [Illinois Congressional Delegation](#) and the [Illinois Governor](#) urges them to protect and strengthen the federal nutrition programs against any benefit cuts or changes in entitlement structure in 2017 and beyond.
- [Maryland's letter](#) strongly urges the Maryland Congressional Delegation "to support the vital federal nutrition programs in the 2018 Farm Bill."
- [Nebraska's letter](#) urges protection of the "federal nutrition assistance programs from block grants and other structural changes and protect these programs from arbitrary budget cuts that target the most vulnerable among us."
- [This letter to the Tennessee Congressional Delegation](#) urges rejecting SNAP cuts or structural changes.
- In a joint op-ed, [Greater Cleveland Food Bank and Ohio Grocers Association](#) warn that "draconian cuts to SNAP will result in families, seniors, veterans and children - people most in need - going hungry and will negatively affect local businesses, as well."
- In an op-ed, [The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts](#) urges Members of Congress to oppose budget resolutions that would decimate SNAP and other programs, stating that if SNAP were to be cut, "the private sector would be unable to fill the enormous gap that would remain."
- In an op-ed, the [Flathead Food Bank in Montana](#) urges Montana Senators Steve Daines and Jon Tester and Representative Greg Gianforte to support SNAP—"one of our nation's most powerful tools in the fight against hunger"—and strongly oppose any federal budget that "takes away food from our neighbors."
- In [Colorado](#), a single mother who works three jobs to support her family and medical costs for her son's chronic illness talks about the importance of SNAP to help put healthy food on the table and remove the fear of not being able to feed her children.
- In a joint op-ed, [the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma](#) talk about the importance of SNAP, stating that "the food banks simply could not fill this gap. This kind of reduction would seriously harm the health and well-being of hundreds of thousands of Oklahomans."
- In an op-ed, the [Kentucky Association of Food Banks](#) covers why Congress should support SNAP and oppose any budget that proposes cuts to SNAP and other poverty-reduction programs, noting that food banks help constituents "meet a short-term need while SNAP helps them get by on a day-to-day basis."
- In a joint op-ed, [Feeding Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association](#) write about the importance of SNAP for Pennsylvanians and local economies, urging

Members of Congress to vote ‘no’ on any budget resolution or bill which harms SNAP.

- In an op-ed, [Dr. David Mark, a pediatrician from Hardin, Montana](#), asks Representative Gianforte, Senator Daines, Senator Tester, and other Members of Congress to stand strong and continue the longstanding, bipartisan fight against childhood hunger by protecting SNAP.
- In an op-ed, [The Idaho Foodbank board chair Lynn Hoffmann](#) calls on Congress to oppose budget resolutions that would pave the way for harmful cuts to the programs like SNAP that provide basic nutrition to Idahoans.
- In an op-ed, [Hans Helmstetler, owner of Snow Country Gardens in Montana](#), calls on members of Congress to protect and strengthen SNAP in the reauthorization of the Farm Bill, stating that “SNAP funding is not only important to disadvantaged families, but is also a significant economic benefit for a great many Montana farmers.”
- In an op-ed, [the Association of Arizona Food Banks](#) urges Arizona residents to talk to their elected officials about supporting Arizona’s families to put healthy food on the table by protecting programs like SNAP.
- In a letter on behalf of a broad spectrum of social service, food access and other agencies in the Los Angeles area, [Hunger Action Los Angeles and the Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles](#) urge California Representatives to protect and strengthen SNAP by co-sponsoring [H.R.1276—The Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2017](#).
- In this posting, the [Center for Rural Affairs](#) urges policymakers to recognize SNAP as an investment in rural Nebraska and a critical safeguard against food insecurity and poverty for rural residents in Nebraska.
- In this op-ed, the [Community Food Basket in Idaho](#) calls on Senator Risch, Senator Crapo, Representative Labrador, and Representative Simpson to defend SNAP for Idaho’s most vulnerable families.
- In an op-ed, the [Great Plains Food Bank in North Dakota](#) urges Senators to support SNAP and other nutrition programs in the Farm Bill, stating that charitable providers like the food bank are “already stretched to capacity” and would not be able to meet the gap if SNAP were cut.
- In an op-ed, [Bill Daniel of Arcata, California](#) urges Congress to strengthen SNAP by passing [H.R.1276](#), stating: “SNAP needs MORE, not LESS, support. Cuts and other harmful policies that take food from people have no place in the farm bill.”
- In an op-ed, the [New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition](#) urges Congressional representatives to protect and strengthen SNAP in the upcoming Farm Bill, stating that “instead of punishing people who can’t find a steady, good-paying job, we should focus on shoring up this critical safety net.”
- In this op-ed, [Hunger Solutions New York and the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley](#) talk about the importance of SNAP for many working families, older adults, children, veterans, and others in the region and urge House Agriculture Committee member John Faso to “make the right choice and work to oppose harmful cuts and changes to SNAP in the farm bill.”