

June XX, 2013

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to urge you to oppose the House farm bill (H.R. 1947) as currently drafted and to work to restore the cuts to critical nutrition programs contained in the bill.

The House bill as currently written would cause nearly 2 million individuals to lose their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits entirely, 210,000 children to lose free school meals, and 850,000 households to see their benefits cut by an average \$90 per month. It would also slash SNAP nutrition education funding that helps low-income families stretch limited resources to maximize nutrition.

SNAP provides millions of low-income Americans, including people with disabilities, children, seniors, and working families, with critical nutrition benefits to strengthen their food security and provide access to a nutritious diet. SNAP-Ed is a vital nutrition education program that promotes healthy options for low-income children and families receiving SNAP benefits. Cutting these benefits is short-sighted and any short-term savings will be far outweighed by the long-term costs to the nation's health.

We are keenly aware of the chronic health problems associated with poor nutrition, food insecurity, and unhealthy diets. Chronically malnourished children do more poorly in school, are at risk for learning problems and developmental delays, and exhibit more behavioral problems in school. Food-insecure adults may need more time off from work for health reasons and are at increased risk of diabetes, hypertension and other chronic diseases; food insecurity is associated with increased mental health problems as well. Adequate funding for SNAP, SNAP-Ed, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and other important nutrition programs is critical to reducing these impacts and improving the public's health.

We strongly urge you to reject the bill and to oppose any additional amendments to further cut funding for critical nutrition programs when the bill is considered on the House floor.

Sincerely,

American Public Health Association
Public Health Institute
Trust for America's Health