

June 18, 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 of \$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,

**National organizations**

AIDS United  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance  
American Heart Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Public Health Association  
Association of State & Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors  
Bread for the World  
ChangeLab Solutions  
Children's HealthWatch

Defeat Diabetes Foundation  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Meals On Wheels Association of America  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs  
National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities  
National Council on Aging  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
National WIC Association  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Partnership for Prevention  
Public Health Institute  
RESULTS  
Shape Up America!  
Share Our Strength  
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior  
Trust for America's Health  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Voices for America's Children

**State and local organizations**

Alliance for a Healthy Orange County  
Arizona Public Health Association  
Boston Public Health Commission  
California Food Policy Advocates  
California Public Health Association-North  
CAN-Act  
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (WA State)  
Community First Consulting  
Connecticut Public Health Association  
Delaware Public Health Association  
FGE Food & Nutrition Team  
Health First Wisconsin  
Iowa Public Health Association  
LiveWell Colorado  
Maine Public Health Association  
Michigan Public Health Association  
Mississippi Public Health Association  
Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Missouri Public Health Association  
Montana Public Health Association  
NC State Alliance of YMCAs  
New Hampshire Public Health Association  
New Jersey Public Health Association  
New York State Public Health Association  
North Carolina Alliance for Health  
Oregon Public Health Institute

PEACHSF

Public Health Association of Nebraska

RiverStone Health

San Diego Hunger Coalition

Seneca Diabetes Foundation

Southern California Public Health Association

Vitalizm

Washington State Public Health Association

Winneshiek County Public Health Nursing Service

Wisconsin Public Health Association