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