

May 7, 2018

RE: Oppose House Resolution 2 - 2018 Farm Bill

Dear California Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

We are writing on behalf of California's anti-hunger and our broader anti-poverty community to express our concerns about the [H.R. 2 - the 2018 Farm Bill](#) passed out of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture on April 18, 2018.

Food insecurity and hunger is a significant issue threatening the health, wellbeing and future opportunities of Americans of all ages from urban and rural communities alike. USDA's Economic Research Service reports that 42 million individuals nationwide—13 million of them children—experience food insecurity, including [12.8 percent of Californians](#). Many of these people turn to government and private programs to prevent hunger, but our local food pantries and congregate meal programs report they are unable to meet the need that already exists.

While this high incidence of hunger is disgraceful, it would be far worse were it not for the nation's profoundly successful and cost-effective [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), known as [CalFresh in California](#).

SNAP is not only not only effective at preventing hunger and some of the worst outcomes of poverty, it also strengthens communities and retailers who depend on shoppers paying with SNAP when their income falls short. In fact, every \$1 billion in SNAP benefits redeemed generates \$97 million in farm cash receipts, which translates into [950 farm jobs and \\$32 million of income to farmers and hired farmworkers](#) and an increase [of 8,900-17,900 full-time equivalent jobs](#) in the general economy. Making cuts to SNAP will result in fewer jobs, especially in communities like those throughout California that rely on farming and food production industries.

H.R. 2 would cut aid from working families with high childcare expenses. It would shorten the SNAP three-month time limit to one month and apply it to a larger group of people, including older adults and families with children. While it purports to cushion the work requirement by providing every out-of-work or underemployed SNAP recipient the ability to participate in workfare, or free work, programs to avoid sanctions, it only funds these programs with a budget so small that it wouldn't even pay for a monthly bus pass for participants. Simply put, [H.R. 2, if enacted, would erect new red-tape barriers to providing vital food assistance for the nearly 4 million California SNAP recipients](#) who need it most and who live in [every California Congressional District](#).

We are asking California's Congressional Delegation to reject H.R. 2 and all amendments that would result in reduced food assistance to low-income Californians. Congress should be strengthening, not weakening, national anti-hunger programs.

*Over 100 California Organizations Have Co-Signed This Statement:*

**Statewide Organizations:**

AC Strategic Solutions  
All of Us or None  
A New Way of Life Reentry Project  
BeHealthyTulare  
California Association of Food Banks  
California Asset Building Coalition  
California Food Policy Advocates  
California Hunger Action Coalition  
California Institute for Rural Studies  
California Latinas for Reproductive  
Justice  
California LGBT Health and Human  
Services Network  
California Lutheran Office of Public  
Policy  
California Partnership  
California Rural Legal Assistance  
(CRLA) Foundation  
California Work Family Coalition  
Children's Defense Fund - California  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights  
(CHIRLA)  
Coalition of California Welfare Rights  
Organizations (CCWRO)  
Congress of California Seniors  
County Welfare Directors Association of  
California (CWDA)  
Courage Campaign  
Clinica Sierra Vista  
Friends Committee on Legislation of CA  
Insight Center for Community Economic  
Development  
Justice in Aging  
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
Legal Services for Prisoners with  
Children  
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California  
Meals on Wheels California  
National Association of Social Workers  
(NASW) - CA  
Organizing for Action California  
Root & Rebound  
Rubicon Programs  
Service Employees International Union  
(SEIU) - California State Council

**Statewide Organizations Continued:**

Social Security Works  
Swipe Out Hunger  
TURN: The Utility Reform Network  
United Domestic Workers of America  
United Ways of California  
United Food and Commercial Workers  
Western States Council  
Universal Income Project  
Western Center on Law and Poverty  
Western Regional Advocacy Project

**Regional Organizations:**

Alameda County Community Food Banks  
Community Action Partnership of  
Orange County  
Community Action Partnership of San  
Bernardino County  
Community Action Partnership of Kern  
Emergency Food Bank of Stockton and  
San Joaquin Counties  
Feeding San Diego  
FIND Food Bank  
Follow Your Heart Farm  
Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano  
Foodbank of Santa Barbara County  
Food for People, the Food Bank for  
Humboldt County  
Food Share, Inc.  
Housing on Merit  
Hunger Action Los Angeles  
Humboldt State University and Oh  
SNAP! Student Food Programs  
Humboldt Food Policy Council  
Imperial Valley Food Bank  
Indivisible Central Contra Costa County  
Indivisible Auburn  
Indivisible CA 29  
Indivisible CA-33  
Indivisible CA-33  
Indivisible CA39  
Indivisible CA-43, Los Angeles  
Indivisible Cloverdale  
Indivisible East Bay  
Indivisible Marin  
Indivisible Ojai Valley

Indivisible San Francisco	Sacramento Hunger Coalition
Indivisible Tracy	San Diego Hunger Coalition
Indivisible Ventura	San Diego Hunger Advocacy Network
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles	San Diego Food System Alliance
Jewish Family Service of San Diego	San Francisco Marin County Food Bank
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	Sebastopol Farmers Market
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo	Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County
Livermore Indivisible	Second Harvest Food Bank of San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties
Los Angeles LGBT Center	Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank	Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties
Locally Delicious, Inc	Sierra Harvest
Merced County Food Bank	SLO Food Bank Coalition
Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program Inc.	St. Anthony Foundation – San Francisco
MultiFaith Action Coalition, Contra Costa, CA	St. Mary’s Center
Oakland Food Policy Council	The Food Bank for Monterey County
Orange County Food Bank	The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank
Orange County Food Access Coalition	The Resistance Elk Grove
Orinda Progressive Action Alliance	Yolo Food Bank
Placer Food bank	2-1-1 Humboldt Information and Resource Center
Redwood Empire Food Bank	
Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services	

cc:

Honorable Kevin McCarthy, U.S. House of Representatives, Majority Leader  
Honorable Nancy Pelosi, U.S. House of Representatives, Minority Leader  
Honorable Michael Conaway, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Agriculture  
Honorable Collin C. Peterson, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Agriculture  
California Members of the U.S. House of Representatives  
California Members of the U.S. Senate

**For more information about California’s Anti-Hunger Priorities for Federal Lawmakers, go to [www.cafoodbanks.org](http://www.cafoodbanks.org); [www.wclp.org](http://www.wclp.org); or [www.cfpa.net](http://www.cfpa.net) or contact:**

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