



Yesterday, the Farm Bill Conference Report was published, including a Nutrition Title that protects the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as CalFresh in California. In particular, we applaud that the bi-partisan Report rejects the work requirement expansion proposed by the House Farm Bill and would have increased hunger for so many Americans. Anti-hunger advocates and partners across the county fought hard to prevent this short-sighted proposal from becoming law. We are grateful for the dedicated work by so many California leaders who are responsible for this outcome. We are thankful to live in a state where policymakers are taking proactive steps against hunger – from city halls and county boards of supervisors to the state legislature and in our Congressional and Senate Delegation.

We are also eager for a renewed conversation about hunger in 2019. Despite some declines in food insecurity, [more than 40 million Americans struggled with food insecurity at some time during 2017, including 11.2% of Californians](#) (USDA) and [two of America's hungriest cities— Bakersfield \(1\) and Fresno \(3\)— are located in California's Central Valley, which feeds the world](#) (FRAC). SNAP is our nation's most important anti-hunger program and California's first line of defense against hunger. We look forward to opportunities to strengthen SNAP and the nutrition safety net that are [proven to fight hunger and provide long-term health and economic benefits to our nation](#).

We support passage of the final bill based on the Conference Report, and will issue a detailed statement about the impact of the legislation in California after the bill is signed into law.

Contacts:

Andrew Cheyne, California Association of Food Banks [andrew@cafoodbanks.org](mailto:andrew@cafoodbanks.org)

Rachel Tucker, California Association of Food Banks [rachel@cafoodbanks.org](mailto:rachel@cafoodbanks.org)

Jared Call, California Food Policy Advocates [jared@cfpa.net](mailto:jared@cfpa.net)

Cathy Senderling-McDonald, County Welfare Directors Association [csend@cwda.org](mailto:csend@cwda.org)

Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty [jbartholow@wclp.org](mailto:jbartholow@wclp.org)