



**Greater Chicago Food Depository**  
**Summary of the House Farm Bill Passage – Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018**  
**June 21, 2018**

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On June 21, 2018, the U.S. House of Representatives passed their Farm Bill (H.R. 2) by a narrow vote of 213-211, following a previous failed vote on the bill. This vote represents hurtful cuts and structural damage to SNAP, our nation's most effective anti-hunger program. More than 41 million Americans, and nearly 1.9 million Illinoisans depend on SNAP to access nutritious food. H.R. 2 threatens their ability to afford food for themselves and their families. It ignores what millions of Americans know to be true: protecting and strengthening SNAP is the right thing to do; SNAP helps lift families out of poverty; and the vast majority of SNAP recipients who can work, do work.

The Food Depository is thankful to the Members of Illinois' Congressional delegation who voted 'No' on H.R. 2. They voted to protect SNAP recipients from harmful cuts while recognizing the vital role that federal nutrition programs play in preventing hunger. We also thank the anti-hunger advocates who raised their voices in opposition to this bill. However, our work is not done. The Food Depository remains committed to advocating for a better Farm Bill that our struggling neighbors deserve. We need a Farm Bill that gives people food and strength to get back on their feet, rather than cutting them off at the knee.

This fight continues as the Senate is expected to vote on their version of the Farm Bill before July 4. The Senate's bipartisan Farm Bill is a far more promising measure that maintains and strengthens SNAP, so the program can continue to effectively reach men, women and children in need. We also urge the Senate to make a stronger investment in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which supplies food banks across the country with high-quality, nutritious food.

If you believe that we should end hunger in Chicago, Cook County and the United States, we encourage you to write and call your U.S. Senator and urge them support a Farm Bill that protects SNAP and strengthens federal nutrition programs for all people in need. Tell them to reject any proposal that weakens SNAP for even one of our neighbors. For action alerts and more information, please visit <https://chicagosfoodbank.org/advocacy>.