



**Greater Chicago Food Depository**  
**Statement on the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018**  
**Updated June 11, 2018**

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On June 8, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry released its version of the Farm Bill – the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. This bipartisan bill is a stark improvement from the Farm Bill (H.R. 2) released by the House Agriculture Committee in April.

The Greater Chicago Food Depository applauds the Senate Committee for introducing a Farm Bill that protects the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – our nation’s most effective anti-hunger program. The Senate Farm Bill recognizes that SNAP already encourages work among recipients. It also recommends reforms that will better connect unemployed or underemployed SNAP recipients with employment or training programs to put them on the path to self-sufficiency.

Last year, SNAP helped more than 42 million people in the United States, including 1.9 million people in Illinois, purchase food. As a food bank striving to end hunger in our community, we support the Senate Committee’s recommendations to protect SNAP benefits for our most vulnerable neighbors while identifying opportunities to lift more households out of poverty.

We are, however, concerned that Agriculture Improvement Act does not include sufficient investments in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). TEFAP supplies food banks across the country with high-quality, nutritious USDA food for the people we serve. **The Food Depository urges the Senate to support a Farm Bill that protects both SNAP and TEFAP.** These programs allow charitable organizations and government to work in tandem, preventing millions of Americans from going hungry.

This Farm Bill is expected to be marked-up on Wednesday, June 13. During this process, the Food Depository hopes the Senate Committee will protect every federal nutrition program that provides food, health and opportunity to the people we serve.

For more information on how this Farm Bill would affect federal nutrition programs, [please see our detailed analysis](#).

This is another step in the process to craft a new Farm Bill. We will continue to advocate for the future of SNAP, TEFAP and other programs that protect Americans from hunger. Our struggling neighbors, and the more than 700 partner agencies and programs in our local network, deserve a Farm Bill that strengthens the federal response to hunger.

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. Senators. Tell them to only support a Farm Bill that protects SNAP, TEFAP and other vital nutrition programs. For action alerts and more information, please visit <http://chicagosfoodbank.org/advocacy>