

Greater Chicago Food Depository
Statement on the Senate Farm Bill Passage
June 28, 2018



The Greater Chicago Food Depository congratulates the U.S. Senate on passing a strong Farm Bill by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 86-11 and we thank Sen. Durbin and Sen. Duckworth for voting for this bill. This legislation maintains the structure and funding levels that make SNAP our nation's most important anti-hunger program and demonstrates the Senate's strong commitment to protect access to nutrition assistance for our most vulnerable neighbors. We are thankful to all of the advocates who reached out to their elected officials in recent weeks – this outreach was so important to achieving this outcome.

During the Senate debate, amendments that would restrict access to SNAP benefits for older adults, people with disabilities, and underemployed or unemployed Americans were considered but these amendments were ultimately defeated. The Food Depository applauds the Senators who voted to reject these amendments and protected SNAP and the people it serves. Additionally, during the floor amendment process, food banks were successful in securing an additional \$100 million in funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to help meet the need in local communities.

As Congress continues the legislative process to implement a new Farm Bill, the Food Depository remains committed to advocating for a bill that protects access to vital nutrition assistance. The best outcome for our community, Illinois and the U.S. is a strong, bipartisan Farm Bill that protects SNAP. The Senate Farm Bill meets these criteria, and it is now up to all lawmakers to ensure that the conference bill does the same. This process will likely continue in the coming weeks with the creation of a bipartisan conference committee with representatives from the House and Senate, with the ultimate goal of reauthorizing the Farm Bill before the September 30 deadline.

The Food Depository thanks all the champions from individuals to community organizations, donors and volunteers who raised their voices to protect SNAP and other federal nutrition programs. As this process continues, we will continue to advocate for the Farm Bill that our struggling neighbors deserve.

For the latest advocacy updates and action alerts, please visit <https://chicagosfoodbank.org/advocacy>.