

June 20, 2017

Dear Members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation:

We strongly urge you to support the vital federal nutrition programs in the 2018 Farm Bill. As leaders of faith communities, food banks, health care advocates, educators, community-based organizations, and anti-hunger advocates we know the critical role that the federal nutrition programs play in our communities and in the lives of our neighbors. For example:

- Maryland's Food Supplement Program (nationally known as the Supplemental Assistance Program or SNAP) supports more than 700,000 Marylanders with access to the nutrition they need. FSP also benefits our local economy; infusing our state with over \$1 billion in revenue that invests in our retailers, farmers and food processors.
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federally funded program that provided more than 11 million pounds of fresh, healthy food to over 66,000 Marylanders last year. TEFAP is free for families, providing high quality food and service to their communities all over our state.

Due to the critical support that these programs provide for improving the health and well-being for more than 700,000 Marylanders, we strongly oppose reductions in TEFAP and SNAP.

Additionally, a key feature of SNAP is its ability to respond to fluctuations in need, increasing as it did during the Great Recession, and reducing as the economy grows stronger (as it has over the last year). Therefore, we strongly oppose any efforts to block grant the federal nutrition programs, which would diminish their effectiveness and flexibility, and lead to reduced funding regardless of need.

Instead, we support protecting and strengthening SNAP and the federal nutrition safety net. We urge you to join us in opposing block grants, structural changes, and benefit reductions.

It is our hope that you will hear and amplify the voices of Marylanders and consider these views as the Congress deliberates on these critical programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Organizations

Maryland Hunger Solutions
Capital Area Food Bank
Maryland Food Bank
Advocates for Children and Youth
Maryland Partnership to End Childhood Hunger
Maryland Farmers Market Association
Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Critical Issues Forum: Advocacy for Social Justice
Community Action Council of Howard County
Castles of Love Assisted Living Homes, Inc.
Family League of Baltimore
Community Support Systems, Inc.
Crossroads Community Food Network
ECO City Farms
Grassroots Crisis Center
Job Opportunities Task Force
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland, Inc.
Montgomery County Community Action Board
RESULTS Metro Maryland
Out for Justice, Inc.
Overlea Caterers
Port Towns Farmers Market
Baltimore Jewish Council
Baltimore Partnership to End Childhood Hunger
Marian House
Power Inside
SHARP (Stop Homelessness and Reduce Poverty)
FBCOG-The Collaborative
First Pentecostal Church of God
Fort Washington Food Pantry
Horeb Haitian Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Maryland CASH Campaign
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Public Justice Center
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore
The True Vine Center
Sowing Empowerment & Economic Development, Inc. (SEED)
Diakonia, Inc.
Doctors for America Maryland
Healthy School Food Maryland
Real Food for Kids – Montgomery
House of David, Advocates for Fathers, Inc.
Jews United for Justice
National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter
Paul's Place

Peace Lutheran Church
PeterCares House
Primary Care Coalition
RESULTS Baltimore
Southern Maryland Food Bank
Urban Farming Association, University of Baltimore
Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services, Inc.
Wurzbacher & Associates
Addiction Connections Resource
Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington
Am Kolel
Edmondson Village Farmers Market
Food & Water Watch
Lower Shore Support Services Inc.
Maryland National Organization for Women
The Montgomery County Renters Alliance, Inc.
SHARE Food Network
Edible DC
Family Services, Inc.
Gaithersburg HELP
Galilee Community Development
Hands of Hope
In Reach, Inc.
Rainbow Place Shelter
Rainbow Community Development Center (RCDC)
Seedco
United Way of Central Maryland
United Way of the National Capital Area
Welfare Advocates
Maryland State Conference of NAACP Branches
Baltimore County Food Policy Task Force
Consumer Health First
Bethesda United Church of Christ
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
Harvest Crusade Ministries
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
Manna Food Center
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
Real Food Hopkins
The Build Haiti Foundation
United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
United Ministries
Ascension Lutheran Church
Baltimore City Health Department
Chizuk Amuno Congregation & Schools

Christ Episcopal Church
El Hope Ministry, Inc.
Project Plase, Inc.
Ready at Five
Sisters Circle
Reservoir Hill Improvement Council
St James Parish
Prince of Peace Baptist Church
Progressive Baptist Convention of Maryland
Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ
Charles Village Civic Association
Edmondson Village Community Health Alliance
Govanstowne Farmers Market
No Kid Hungry Maryland, Share Our Strength
Maryland Food Access and Nutrition Network
Maryland Alliance for the Poor
Green Line SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice)