



Working together toward a hunger-free and healthier community.

August 8, 2018

Mid-Ohio Foodbank

House-Senate Farm Bill Conference Committee

Work has begun to reconcile differences between the House and Senate Farm Bills as Congressional leadership has met and conferees from both chambers have been named. Ohioans from the House named to the Conference Committee are Republicans Steve Chabot of Cincinnati and Bob Gibbs of Lakeville, as well as Democrat Marcia Fudge of Warrensville Heights. In all, the House appointed [29 Republicans](#) and [18 Democrats](#). The Senate appointed [nine members](#), including Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown. While leadership has had initial discussions, the Conference Committee has not met and with the House on recess, likely will not meet this month. For advocacy resources related to the Farm Bill, go to the [Advocacy Resource Center](#) page on Feeding America's website or for questions or information, contact policy@feedingamerica.org.

Appropriations Update

The Senate passed its fiscal year 2019 Agriculture Appropriations bill as part of a broader spending package that included the Financial Services, Interior-Environment, and Transportation-HUD spending bills. The House is expected to vote on its fiscal year 2019 Agriculture Appropriations bill in September. Senate Bill Funding includes:

- TEFAP Storage and Distribution: \$64.4 million;
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): \$238.12 million;
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): \$6.15 billion.

House Bill Funding includes:

- TEFAP Storage and Distribution: \$64.4 million;
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): \$222.89 million;
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): \$6 billion.

Both the Senate and House CSFP funding levels are expected to maintain current caseload, with the Senate number possibly allowing for an increase in caseload. The House explains their funding level is due to a large inventory of food currently available and allots funding to add Alabama should the state CSFP plan get approved.

Ohio Congressional District 12

The special election for Ohio's 12th Congressional District has been held and Republican State Senator Troy Balderson came away with an approximate 1,700 vote lead on Democratic Franklin County Recorder Danny O'Connor. There are still about 8,500 provisional ballots to count – absentee, overseas and military votes – so the race has not been conceded. The two will face off again in November; the special election was for the remainder of the current term this year; November's election is for the new term commencing in January.

Johnson Amendment

The House approved its fiscal year 2019 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill, which provides funding for the Internal Revenue Service. The measure included a provision that would prohibit the IRS from enforcing violations of the Johnson Amendment by religious organizations. The Johnson Amendment since the 1950s has prohibited 501(c)(3) public charities from engaging in political activity, including the endorsement or opposition of candidates for elected office, as well as providing financial support to political campaigns. A repeal of the Johnson Amendment may politicize charitable organizations, undermine public support for public charities and provide donors a tax deduction for contributions used to influence the outcomes of elections. Watch for further developments and for questions about the Johnson Amendment, contact policy@feedingamerica.org.

Administration Announces New Measures to Aid Farmers, Including Food Purchases

As part of a much larger effort to provide aid to farmers and producers that have been impacted by trade issues, the Administration announced that they would undertake several new programs. A major part of the effort is aimed at direct payments to growers and a trade promotion program. Feeding America is working with USDA to determine details of a third program mentioned in the announcement: purchasing surplus food to distribute to food banks and other charities. Initially, this sounds similar to the current USDA bonus commodity purchases that are distributed through TEFAP.

Connect with Us



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