



Working together toward a hunger-free and healthier community.

## Mid-Ohio Foodbank

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### **The Farm Bill: Lifeline for the Hungry under Attack**

President Donald Trump laid bare his policy agenda earlier this year with the unveiling of a budget blueprint that would decimate programs combatting poverty and hunger. (See Mid-Ohio Foodbank's [response](#) to this initial salvo in a Letter to the Editor in *The Columbus Dispatch*.)

The Farm Bill - which contains funding and policy direction for anti-hunger programs such as SNAP – has now been introduced by House Agriculture Chair Mike Conaway (R-Texas). Sadly, the proposal follows the path laid out by the President in undermining programs to end poverty and hunger. The bill seeks to expand work requirements to include adults up to age 59 and parents with children over age 6, with limited exceptions despite potential extenuating circumstances; limits eligibility for some recipients to one month; and takes away state and local flexibility while adding additional burdens in program administration.

Cuts and structural program changes also threaten innovative health-based food initiatives. Providing access to fresh foods for those in need cultivates healthier citizens with measurable positive outcomes. Efforts to provide critical access to fresh food need to be protected. So, while there are increases in TEFAP spending and other favorable provisions, those pale in comparison to the harm this bill will inflict.

### **Call-to-Action on Farm Bill**

[Contact your Congressional Representative](#) to tell them no cuts in hunger assistance programs. Follow the [link](#) to send a message to your Congressional Representative urging opposition to this bill.

The bill moved out of committee this week along partisan lines and is now awaiting assignment for consideration by the full House. While it was able to move out of committee, the bill's future on the House floor is less certain as opposition to the changes in the nutrition program is generating intense opposition. Now is the time to reinforce opposition to the bill with our Congressional Representatives, to keep it from moving further in the process with these onerous provisions.

### **Stay Informed on Farm Bill and Federal Activity**

[Feeding America](#) and the [Food Research and Action Center](#) (FRAC) have dedicated resources for advocacy, including primers and templates for contacting elected officials on specific issues. Stay informed on federal advocacy issues by signing up for their newsletters, alerts and calls-to-action.

### **Mid-Ohio Foodbank Announces New Advocacy Manager**

Mid-Ohio Foodbank is committed to being the voice for those they serve and the partners who make this mission-driven service possible. As part of this effort, the Foodbank recently announced the hiring of Tim White as Advocacy Manager. In this newly restructured position, Tim will serve as the lead advocate for the organization and in directing grassroots efforts. As part of the marketing team, he will also be integral in helping further the organization's anti-hunger outreach efforts. Contact your advocacy team for federal, state and local government-related issues:

- Tim White, Advocacy Manager: (614) 317-9480 or [twhite@midohiofoodbank.org](mailto:twhite@midohiofoodbank.org).
- Marilyn Tomasi, Vice President, Marketing, Communications and Public Affairs (614) 317-9446 or [mtomasi@midohiofoodbank.org](mailto:mtomasi@midohiofoodbank.org).

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#### Connect with Us



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