

FRAC WEEKLY NEWS DIGEST

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Senate Farm Bill

[FRAC Applauds Proposed Farm Bill From Senators Roberts and Stabenow](#) - FRAC, June 8, 2018

The Senate Agriculture Committee's proposed Farm Bill takes a vastly different approach from the House draft Farm Bill, said Jim Weill, president of FRAC, in a statement. Chairman Roberts' and Ranking Member Stabenow's proposal is carefully considered, positive, and bipartisan; a clear acknowledgment of the harm hunger and poverty cause to children, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, and struggling workers; and a strong affirmation of the strengths of SNAP in addressing hunger and poverty.



Cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

[Act on SNAP](#) — Tri-City Herald, June 2, 2018

The House Farm Bill, which failed to pass recently, contained changes to SNAP that would hurt more than 2 million people relying on the program, notes Gretchen Patrick in this letter to the editor. According to FRAC, 18 percent of households in Washington's 4th congressional district participated in the program in 2016. "Rep. Dan Newhouse voted for the Farm Bill and cuts to SNAP. He has a chance to do the right thing for struggling constituents in June." Patrick asks readers to call Rep. Newhouse and urge him to vote against H.R. 2 in the next Farm Bill vote.



[Hunger weakens our society. House Farm Bill would make it worse.](#) — Bangor Daily News, June 5, 2018

Maine began instituting time limits on SNAP benefits in January 2015, and 80 percent of residents subject to the new requirements lost their assistance, yet the limits did not promote employment, according to a study by the Governor's Office of Policy and Management. "It found, in fact, quite the opposite: 60 percent of those who lost food assistance — the same percent as those unemployed a year earlier — remained unemployed at the end of the year with neither wages nor food assistance," write Luisa Deprez, professor emerita of sociology and women and gender studies at the University of Southern Maine, and Lisa Dodson, visiting scholar at Brandeis University, in this op-ed. "SNAP works — it's our nation's most effective tool to fight hunger," the authors

conclude. “Changes proposed by the Farm Bill place tens of thousands of Mainers in grave jeopardy — work-wise, learning-, and education-wise, and certainly health-wise.”



[Farm Bill Could Make Benefits Disappear in a SNAP](#) — Flagpole.com, June 6, 2018

While the House version of the Farm Bill failed to pass, future restrictions on SNAP benefits are still possible, which could affect the nearly quarter of a million Athens, Georgia, residents receiving SNAP. “SNAP is the last social safety net that we have left that’s responsive to an economy that goes bust,” said Grace Bagwell Adams, health policy professor at the University of Georgia’s College of Public Health. “You take away that and put these inflexible bounds on it, then you basically remove a safety net that’s really important for families.” Adams noted that there’s a belief that people in poverty are lazy. “The fact is, [SNAP] is not a luxury benefit. It’s an emergency supplement for families who have very little.” Most SNAP benefits help the working poor, Adams noted.



[No Free Lunch? Schools Worry Kids Left Out of Meal Program Cuts](#) — Bloomberg Government Blog, June 5, 2018

The stalled House Farm Bill would change categorical eligibility in SNAP, a move that the Congressional Budget Office estimates would deny free school meals to 265,000 children. While most of these children would still qualify for reduced-price lunch, the 40-cent cost will still be steep for some families. “Even though the copay doesn’t seem like a lot, it really does add up,” said Crystal FitzSimons, director of school and out-of-school time programs for FRAC. “We expect a lot of kids wouldn’t participate and lose free benefits.”



Summer Food Service Program

[Cass Clay Y strives to feed more hungry kids in summer months](#) — Valley News Live, June 5, 2018

In North Dakota’s Cass and Clay counties, nearly 28 percent of students (more than 7,000, according to the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction) rely on free or reduced-price school meals, potentially leaving them hungry during the summer months. The Cass Clay Y has served free summer meals to children for the past six summers; last year it increased the number of food sites from the year before, and this year they have a goal of increasing the number of meals served from 51,929 to 75,000.



[Oklahoma City Public Schools to provide free meals throughout the summer](#)— KFOR, June 5, 2018

Many of the 46,000 Oklahoma City Public School District students rely on free school meals, and the district plans to provide summer breakfast and lunch at no cost to children at 12 elementary schools, two high schools, and 19 offsite locations this summer. “Studies show that hunger is one of the most severe roadblocks to the learning process, and lack of nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins again,” said Rebecca Kaye, the district’s acting superintendent.



[Programs help to fight hunger over summer](#) — Canton Repository, June 6, 2018

One in 4 of the more than 62,000 Stark County, Ohio, schoolchildren are hungry six or more months of the year, notes this editorial, and these children depend on school breakfast and lunch during the school year. "This is why the federally funded Summer Food Service [Program] is so important." The editorial concludes by urging "local families in need to take advantage of these meal programs, which should help take a bite out of hunger in Stark County."



[East Texas Food Bank's summer program for kids begins](#) — KTRE, June 5, 2018

According to the East Texas Food Bank, 78,000 East Texas children rely on free or reduced-price school meals during the school year. "So, you can imagine being a child and not having access to that for the next three months," said Tim Butler, the organization's program service director. According to the food bank's child hunger program manager, 70 free summer meal sites will help feed children in the East Texas area this summer.



FRAC Benefit Dinner

[Food Research & Action Center's FRAC's Annual Benefit Dinner Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Two Landmark Child Nutrition Programs](#) — FRAC, June 8, 2018

FRAC held its 28th Annual Benefit Dinner on June 6 in Washington, D.C. This year's dinner celebrated the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Through SFSP, sponsor organizations in communities across the country serve nutritious meals to low-income children during the summer. CACFP provides meals and snacks to over 4 million children in child care centers, home day care, Head Start programs, and afterschool programs. FRAC welcomed over 300 guests to this year's event. Speakers included Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA), Judy Whittlesey, board chair of FRAC, and Jim Weill, president of FRAC.



About Us: The Food Research & Action Center (www.frac.org) is the leading national organization working for more effective public and private policies to eradicate domestic hunger and undernutrition. Visit our Web site (www.frac.org) to learn more. Click [here](#) to unsubscribe from this e-mail.