



ALAMEDA COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK

Until everyone's fed

How the farm bill affects hunger

- and what you can do about it



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GRUB STREET

June 14, 2017

The New Foodieism

To care about food now is to care about the future of this country.

By Mark Bittman

“good food can define a democracy”





What is the farm bill?



POLITICO

The farm bill drove me insane

America's top nutrition thinker tried to unpack the most important food law. It was a mistake.

By MARION NESTLE | 03/17/2016 04:55 AM EDT

“hundreds of programs”

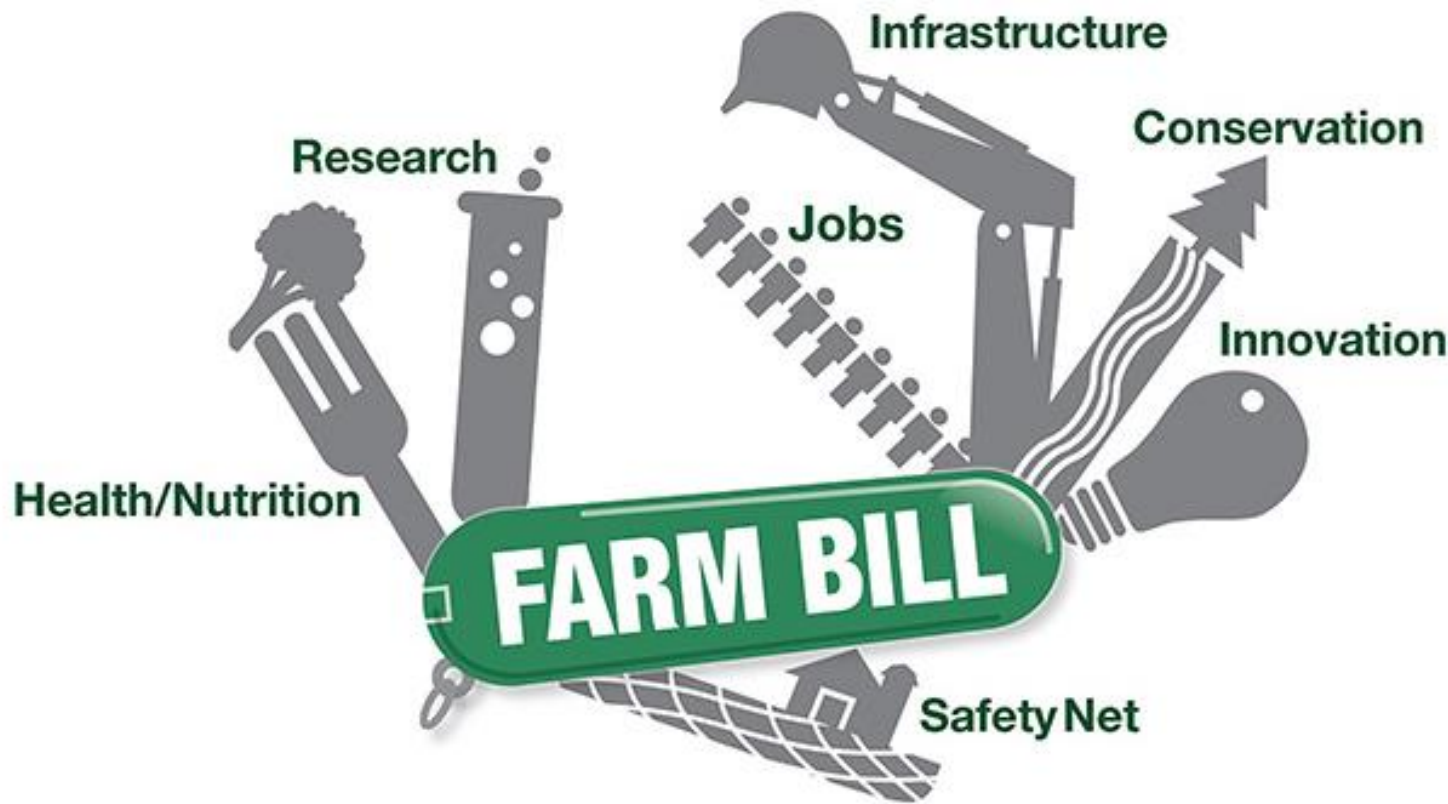
“357 printed pages”

“too big, bloated and sprawling for any one human mind to absorb”

“blatant conflicts of interest”

“strongly favors industrial agriculture”





“It’s like a Swiss Army knife.”

- President Obama 2/7/14



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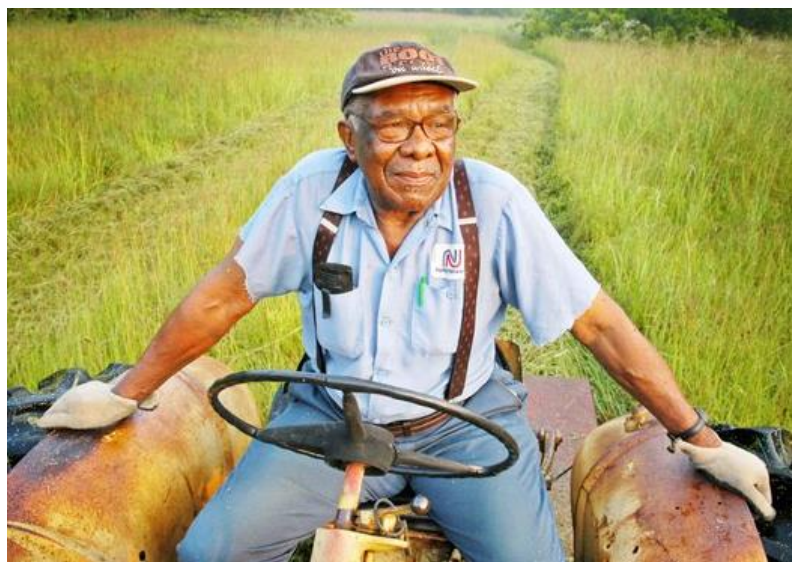
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The farm bill connects the food on our plates, the farmers and ranchers who produce that food, and the natural resources – our soil, air and water – that makes growing food possible.



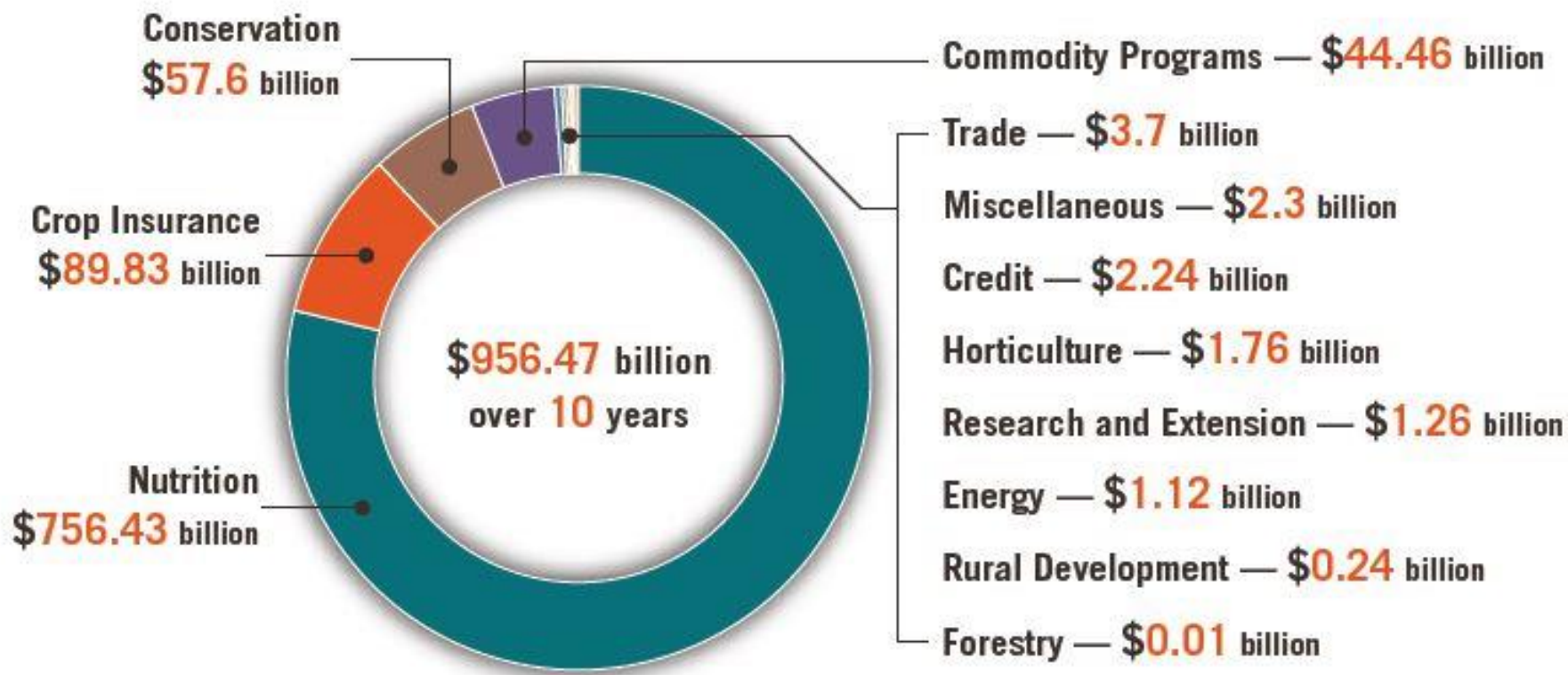
What is the farm bill?

- A large piece of legislation that authorizes most federal policies governing food and agriculture programs
- It is reauthorized about every five years
- The 2014 Farm Bill expires on Sept. 30, 2018
- The largest program it authorizes is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, and known in California as CalFresh

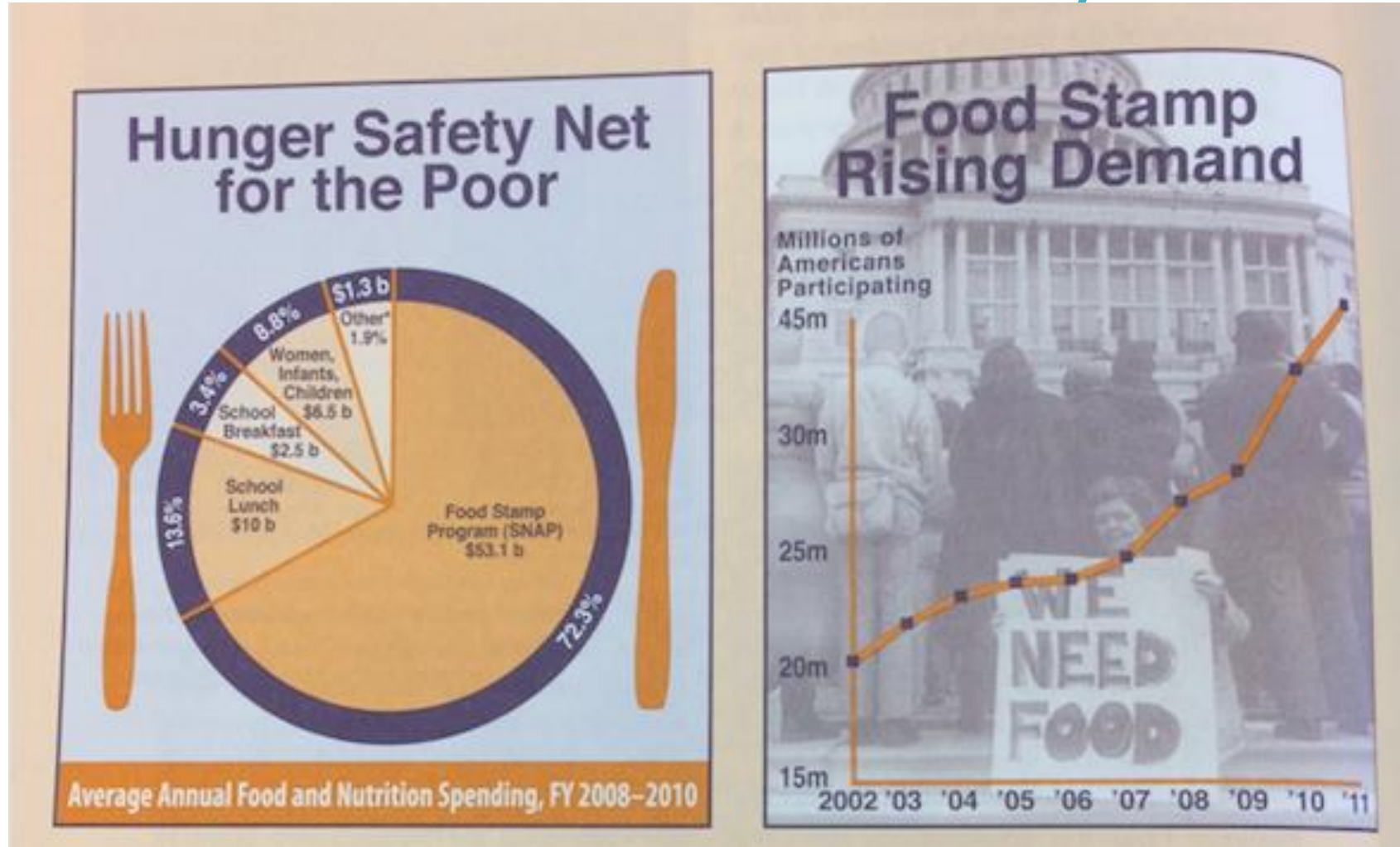




2014 US Farm Bill Spending by Title



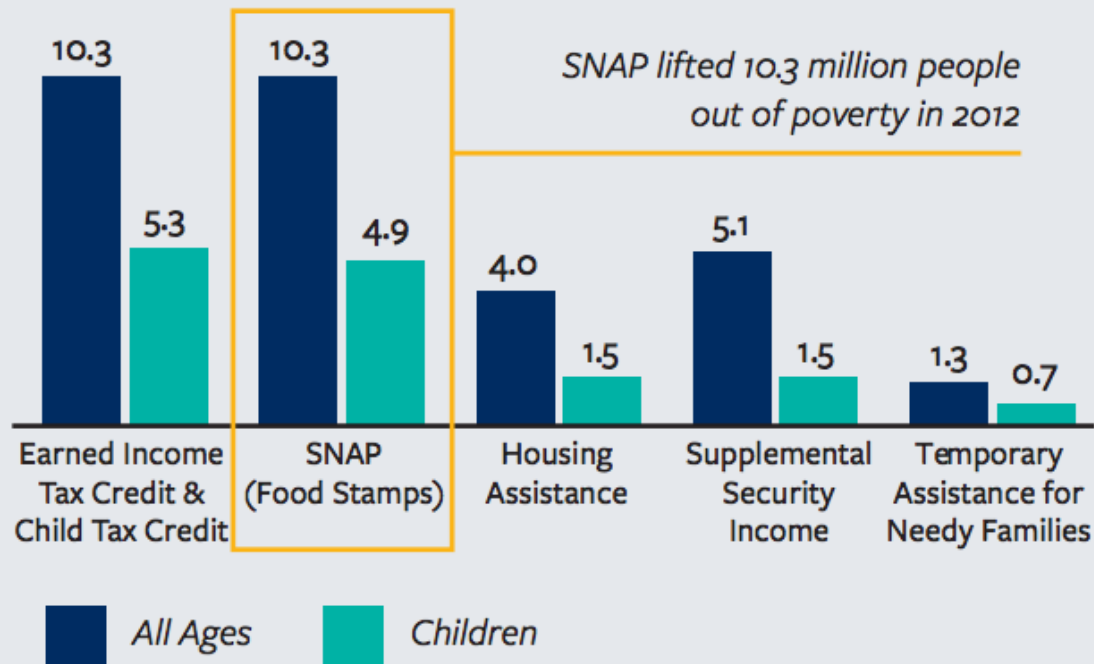
SNAP: Our Universal Safety Net





SNAP: Our Universal Safety Net

Major Tax Credits and Means-Tested Programs Lifted Millions Out of Poverty in 2012



Source: Center for Budget and Policy Priorities analysis of 2012 Census Bureau data from the March Current Population Survey, SPM public use file; corrections for underreported benefits from HHS/Urban Institute TRIM model.





Who uses SNAP?

Myths

People who don't need it
People who don't work
Only people in urban areas

Facts

- ✧ Keeps 806,000 Californians out of poverty, annually
- ✧ 74% of SNAP recipients are in families with children
- ✧ 6% are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities
- ✧ 50% are in working families
- ✧ Both rural and urban residents
- ✧ Only US citizens and documented immigrants are eligible





What people buy with SNAP

Myths

- Unhealthy junk food and soda
- Lobster and other luxury foods

Facts

- ✧ The same things people buy who are not on SNAP
- ✧ SNAP gives people the ability to buy items that are not available at food banks





SNAP and Fraud

Myths

- There is a lot of fraud

Facts

- ✧ SNAP is one of the most efficient and effective programs in the country
- ✧ The switch to EBT cards in late 1980s drastically reduced fraud
- ✧ Only about 1% fraud rate



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SNAP and the economy

Myths

SNAP weakens the economy

Facts

- ✧ SNAP stimulates local economies and businesses
 - Every \$1 of SNAP benefits generates \$1.70 in local economies
 - SNAP helps grocers
- ✧ SNAP creates jobs

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The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

What Americans get wrong about food stamps, according to an expert who's spent 20 years researching them

By **Caitlin Dewey** April 4

TIME

The Very Short History of Food Stamp Fraud in America

Emelyn Rude

Mar 30, 2017





Why is SNAP important to Alameda County?



SNAP, known as CalFresh in California, is our nation's first line of defense against hunger. With the other federal programs including the National School Breakfast and Lunch programs, TEFAP, WIC and others, the nutrition safety net reduces hunger and poverty, improves health and learning, increases productivity, creates jobs, and invests in the future of our communities.

1 in 8 Californians suffers from food insecurity.¹ 23 percent of California children live in food insecure households.²

We ask California Members of Congress to protect and strengthen the federal nutrition programs. Every Californian should have access to the food they need to live healthy and productive lives.



Threats to SNAP (as of Sept. 27, 2017)

President's budget proposal: Cut SNAP by 25%

House Budget Proposal

- \$10 billion in cuts over ten years – will come mostly from SNAP
- \$150 billion in cuts

Senate

- Will mark up a proposal next week
- Tax cut proposals for the rich and corporations are expected - \$1.5 trillion
 - These cuts would drastically harm safety net programs, including SNAP and other entitlement programs
 - Could result in block grants (explained on the next slide)

Farm Bill

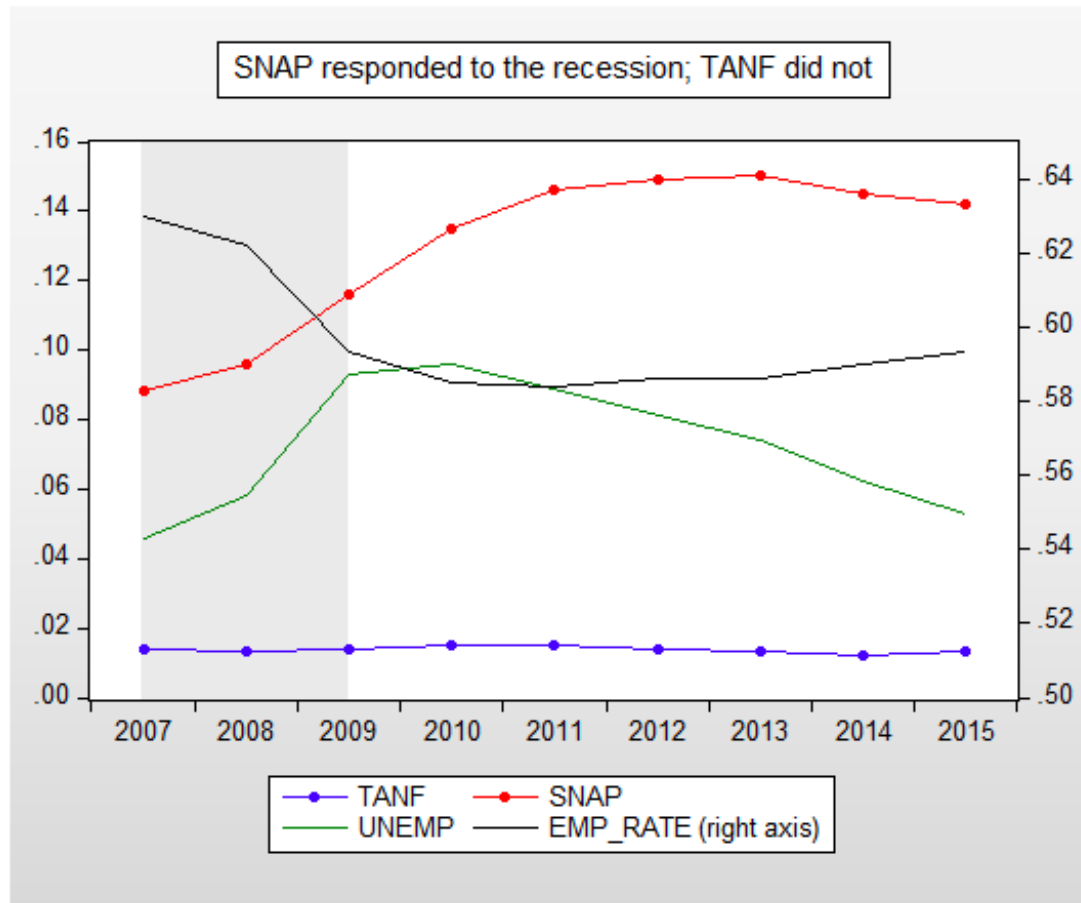
- House Agriculture Committee is saying they will draft a bill this fall
- Tax cuts will put pressure on the committee to cut SNAP over the next decade

Block grants would be a disaster.



By **Jared Bernstein** January 11, 2016 [Follow @econjared](#)

Jared Bernstein, a former chief economist to Vice President Biden, is a senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and author of the new book 'The Reconnection Agenda: Reuniting Growth and Prosperity.'



Sources: SNAP, USDA; TANF, OFA; Unemp, Emp Rate, BLS

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What is the farm bill reauthorization process?

- 1. Hearings and listening sessions** in Washington, DC and across the country for Congressmembers to hear from the public (Started earlier this year)
- 2. House and Senate Agriculture Committees each draft a bill**
- 3. Each Committee's version of the bill goes to "the floor"** for debate, amendments and a vote (this can take a while and may require the bill being sent back to committee for more work before it passes)

What is the farm bill reauthorization process?

- 4. Conference Committee:** a smaller group of senators and representatives, usually from the agriculture committees, combine the two separate bills into one compromise package
- 5. Full Congress:** combined version of the farm bill goes back to the House and Senate floors to be debated – and potentially passed.
- 6. The White House** for signature or veto



ACCFB and Anti-hunger Advocates Advocate for SNAP

POLITICO

AGRICULTURE

Food banks fight against food stamp cuts

The charities fear they'll be overwhelmed if government benefits are reduced.

By HELENA BOTTEMILLER EVICH | 09/03/2017 07:20 AM EDT

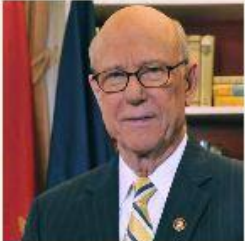




Who has power over the farm bill?

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, & FORESTRY

21 member committee



CHAIRMAN

Pat Roberts
(Republican - Kansas)
[Official Website »](#)



RANKING MEMBER

Debbie Stabenow
(Democrat - Michigan)
[Official Website »](#)



Who has power over the farm bill?



- 46 member committee
- **4 California members**



K. MICHAEL CONAWAY
Committee Chairman
(R-TX-11)



COLLIN C. PETERSON
Ranking-Member
(D-MN-07)



Who has power over the farm bill?



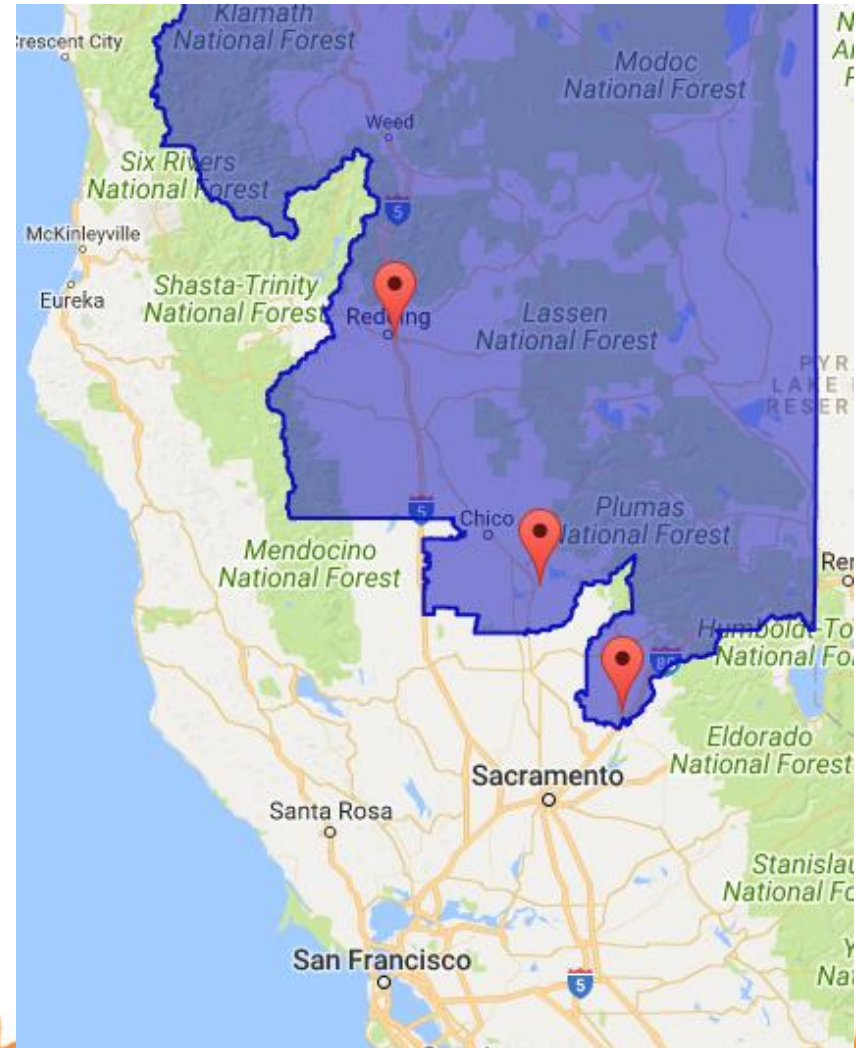
DOUG LAMALFA
(CA-01)

Auburn
(530) 878-5035

Oroville
(530) 534-7100

Redding
(530) 223-5897

Washington, DC
(202) 225-3076



Who has power over the farm bill?



JEFF DENHAM
(CA-10)

[Stanislaus County](#)
[San Joaquin County](#)



Give me a call

Modesto Office: (209) 579-5458

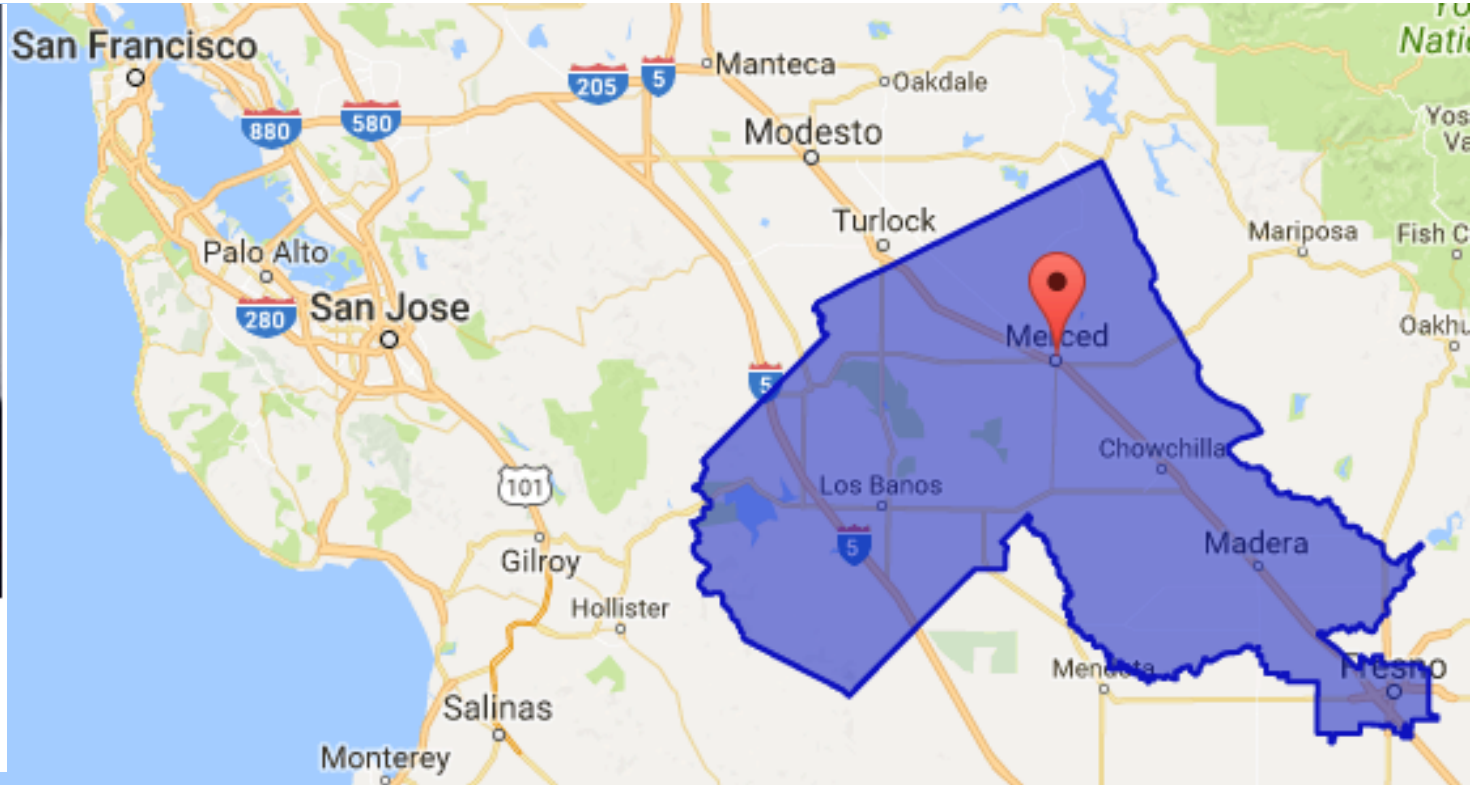
Washington, DC Office: (202) 225-4540



Who has power over the farm bill?



JIM COSTA
(CA-16)



Washington, DC Office

2081 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3341

Fresno Office

855 M Street, Suite 940
Fresno, CA 93721
559-495-1620

Merced Office

2222 M St, Suite 305
Merced, CA 95340
209-384-1620

Who has power over the farm bill?

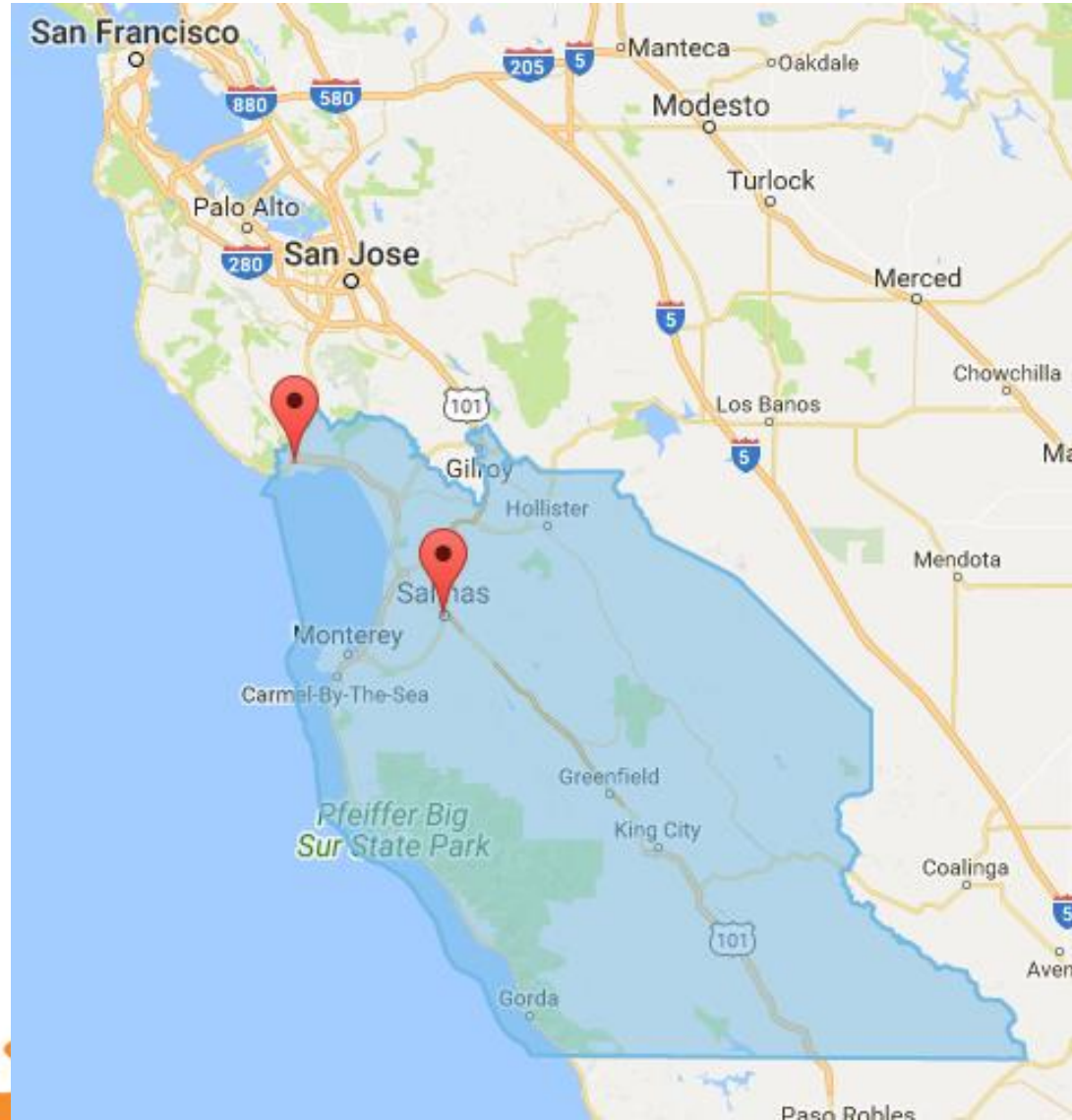


Santa Cruz
(831) 429-1976

Salinas
(831) 424-2229

Washington, DC
(202) 225-2861

JIMMY PANETTA
(CA-20)



What ACCFB is doing to protect SNAP

Farm Bill Listening Session in Modesto, CA



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What ACCFB is doing to protect SNAP



ALAMEDA COUNTY
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Friday, May 26, 2017

Rep. Jim Costa
2222 M St, Suite 305
Merced, CA 95340

Rep. Jeff Denham
4701 Sisk Road, Suite 202
Modesto, CA 95356

Rep. Jimmy Panetta
100 W Alisal St
Salinas, CA 93901

Rep. Doug Lamalfa
2399 Rickenbacker Way
Auburn, CA 95602

RE: Defend SNAP/CalFresh

Dear Reps. Costa, Denham, Lamalfa, and Panetta:

The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate are currently considering making drastic cuts to, and changes to the structure of the benefit entitlements provided by the SNAP program, through either the 2018 Farm Bill re-authorization or the 2017 Budget Reconciliation process. We are writing to you, as Representatives from California on the House Agriculture Committee, to express our strong support for SNAP/CalFresh, and opposition to any cuts to benefits, limits on eligibility, and efforts to block grant the SNAP program.



Victor Aguilar, Jr. - Board Trustee, San Leandro USD

Wilma Chan - President, Alameda County Board of Supervisors (Dist. 3)

Sophie Hahn - Berkeley City Councilmember

Ty Alper - Board President, Berkeley USD

Amber Childress - Board Trustee, Alameda County Board of Education

Barbara Halliday - Mayor of Hayward

Jesse Arreguin - Mayor of Berkeley

Jacob Clark - Board Member, Albany USD

Gray Harris - Vice President and Board Member, Alameda USD

Vinnie Bacon - Fremont City Councilmember

Deborah Cox - San Leandro City Councilmember

Kate Harrison - Berkeley City Councilmember

Ben Bartlett - Berkeley City Councilmember

Ardella Dailey - Board Member, Alameda USD

Ed Hernandez - San Leandro City Councilmember

John Bauters - Vice Mayor of Emeryville

Scott Donahue - Mayor of Emeryville

Jamie Yee Hintzke - Board Trustee, Pleasanton USD Board of Education

Michele Berke - Board Member, Fremont USD

Lori Droste - Berkeley City Councilmember

Jumoke Hinton Hodge - Board Director, Oakland USD

Don Biddle - Vice Mayor of Dublin

Carol Dutra-Vernaci - Mayor of Union City

Barbara Inch - Board Trustee, Emery USD

Desley Brooks - Oakland City Councilmember

Shanthy Gonzales - Board Director, Oakland USD

Rick Jones - Fremont City Councilmember

Lisa Brunner - President and Board Trustee, Hayward USD

Abel Guillen - Oakland City Councilmember

Dan Kalb - Oakland City Councilmember

Keith Carson - Alameda County Board of Supervisors (Dist. 5)

Scott Haggerty - Alameda County Board of Supervisors (Dist. 1)





Sharan T. Kaur - Board Member, New Haven USD

Alan Nagy - Mayor of Newark

Nina Senn - Board Director, Oakland USD

Aisha Knowles - Board Trustee – Area 4, Alameda County Board of Education

Arne Olson - Pleasanton City Councilmember

Leo Sheridan - Board Trustee, San Leandro USD

Benny Lee - Vice Mayor of San Leandro

Marvin Peixoto - Hayward City Councilmember

Trish Herrera Spencer - Mayor of Alameda

Steve Maher - Board Trustee, Pleasanton USD

Francisco Preciado - Board Member, Newark USD

Dot Theodore - Trustee, Castro Valley USD

Linda Maio - Berkeley City Councilmember

Larry Reid - Oakland City Councilmember

Richard Valle - Vice President, Alameda County Board of Supervisors (Dist. 2)

John Marchand - Mayor of Livermore

Joaquin Rivera - Board Trustee – Area 1, Alameda County Board of Education

Malia Vella - Alameda City Councilmember

Elisa Márquez - Hayward City Councilmember

Tim Rood - Piedmont City Councilmember

Annette Walker - Board Trustee, Hayward USD

Peggy McQuaid - Mayor of Albany

Megan Rouse - Board President, Dublin USD

Susan Wengraf - Berkeley City Councilmember

Lily Mei - Mayor of Fremont

Kate Runyon - Board Member, Livermore Joint Valley USD

Janet Zamudio - Vice President and Board Trustee, San Lorenzo USD

Donn Lee Merriam - Board President, Emery USD

Mark Salinas - Hayward City Councilmember

José Francisco Zermeño - Hayward City Councilmember

Al Mendell - Hayward City Councilmember

Raj Salwan - Fremont City Councilmember

Nate Miley - Alameda County Board of Supervisors (Dist. 4)

Libby Schaaf - Mayor of Oakland





What ACCFB is doing to protect SNAP

Online action alerts to our advocacy network

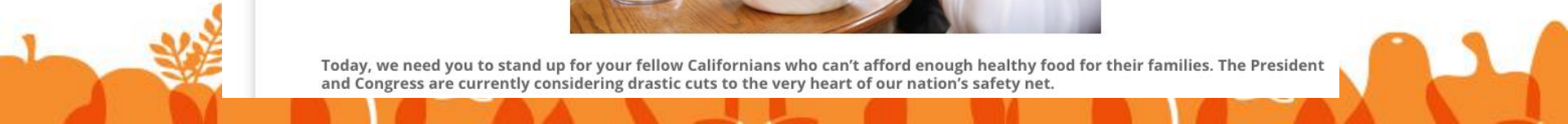
➤ Sign up at accfb.org/advocacy



Tell Congress to Defend and Strengthen SNAP/CalFresh



Today, we need you to stand up for your fellow Californians who can't afford enough healthy food for their families. The President and Congress are currently considering drastic cuts to the very heart of our nation's safety net.





Statewide efforts to protect SNAP

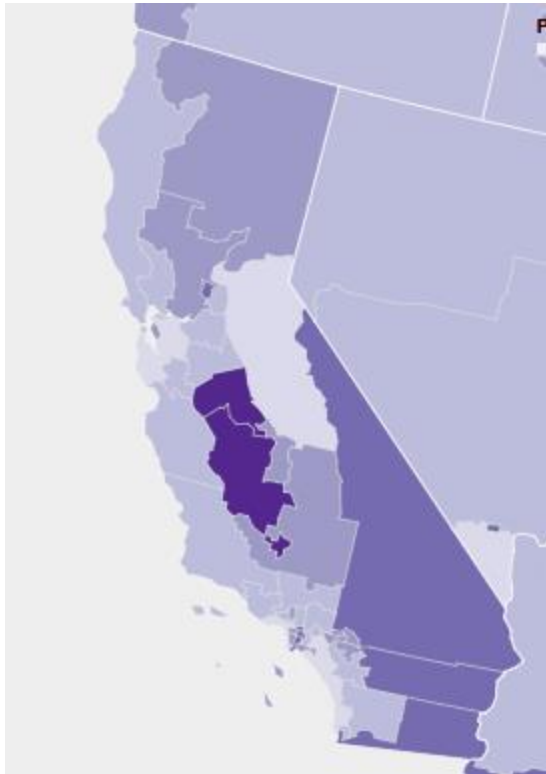
Melissa Cannon
Nutrition Policy Advocate



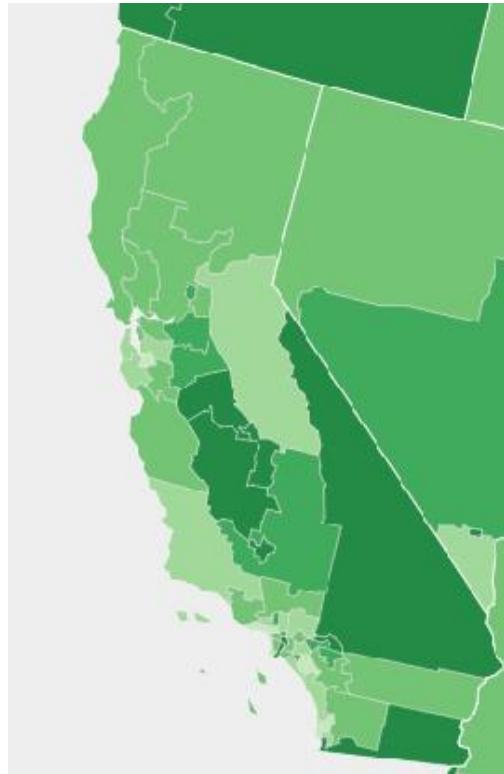


Statewide efforts to protect SNAP

Poverty by Congressional District

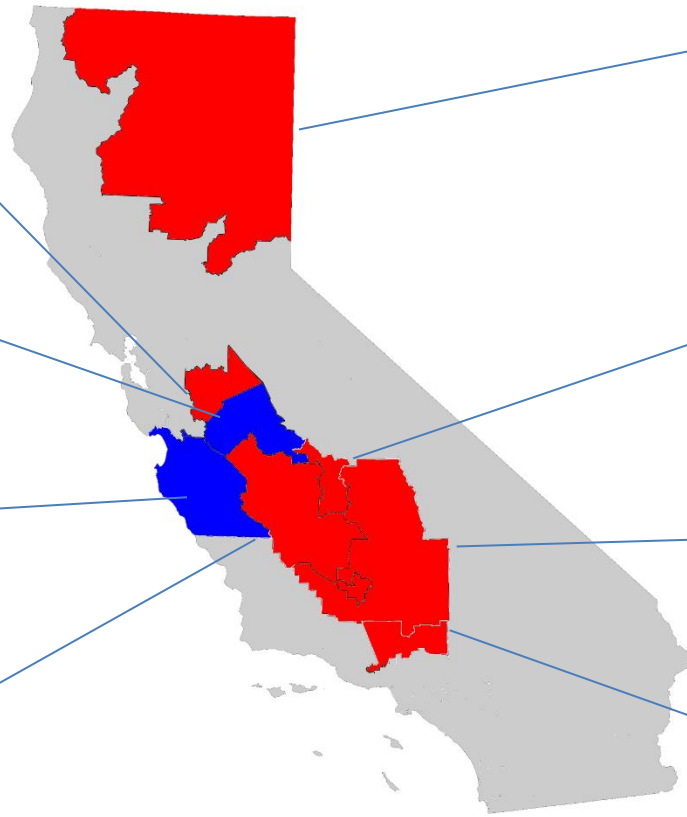
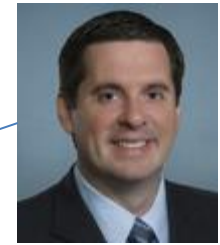


SNAP participation by Congressional District



Source: <http://www.frac.org/maps/snap-cd/snap-congress.html>





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What you can do to protect SNAP

✓ Take action when you receive an email action alert from us

- Call your elected officials
- Find your elected officials at accfb.org/advocacy



Find Your Elected Officials

Enter your zip code to find all your local, state, and national elected officials.

[Find your representatives >](#)

✓ Forward the action alerts to your network, especially to those in the districts we covered





What you can do to protect SNAP

- ✓ Tell people about the benefits of and threats to SNAP
- ✓ Support the Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2017 (H.R. 1276)
 - The bill strengthens and expands SNAP
- ✓ Use social media to share facts and stories
 - Use the #SNAPMatters hashtag
 - Retweet and share from the facebook and twitter accounts of @ACCFB, @CAFoodPolicy, @CAFoodBanks



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Alameda County Community Food Bank

12 hrs · 🌐



A story from Cindy, our CalFresh Outreach Associate:

“A student approached me one day curious about the CalFresh program. After pre-screening him, I could see that was potentially eligible. Even so, he was still hesitant to apply, and I could tell he was not going to budge. I gave him my business card and our pamphlet hoping he would come around.

More than a year later, I receive a phone call and it was the student! I helped him with his application, and he was approved for nearly the full amount for a household of one: \$194. It made me so happy to know he was finally getting a little extra support, especially knowing how financially draining it can be as a student.

Food insecurity is a common issue across college campuses. We aim to reduce the number of students who are food insecure by going to various college campuses throughout Alameda County to promote the CalFresh program and help fill out the applications on the spot.”

[#HungerActionMonth](#) [#SNAPMatters](#)



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Alameda County Community Food Bank

September 20 at 11:00am · 🌐

A story from Vanessa, our CalFresh Outreach Coordinator:

"I recently assisted a man who came to the Food Bank for a walk-in appointment. He was a bit reluctant at first, but he wanted information about the CalFresh program since he lost his job months ago and had used almost all of his savings.

As we were walking down the hallway, he mentioned how he could not believe the situation that he was in right now. 'I used to donate to the Food Bank, I can't believe now I am asking for help...' he said. I tried to reassure him that that this is exactly why there are programs like CalFresh, to help when people need a little extra support. I also thanked him for all his previous donations as we started through the application process.

The CalFresh Program is a supplemental program that can help you so you do not run out of your money. You might need temporary assistance or you just need that extra support to be able to pay your rent or bills. This is help being provided to you so you have something less to worry about."





Y. Armando Nieto
Executive Director



Community Food & Justice Coalition
Food for People, Not for Profit



Happy Birthday

to the SNAP Program!

September 29, 1977 the bi-partisan Food Stamp Act was signed into law.





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Food is a basic human right.

Questions? Email us at advocate@accfb.org





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Until everyone's fed

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Shanti Prasad
Senior Policy Advocate
510-635-3663, X307
sprasad@acafb.org

Interested in being a Community Advocate Against Hunger?
Email us at advocate@acafb.org

