

**St. Louis Area Foodbank Response
to Final Passage of 2018 Farm Bill
December 20, 2018**



Today, the President signed H.R. 2, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, into law. Also known as the 2018 Farm Bill, the legislation funds critical programs nationwide that address hunger and food production. The St. Louis Area Foodbank joins Feeding America, our fellow food banks, and anti-hunger advocates across the country in commending Congress for writing and the President for signing a bipartisan bill that upholds our nation's collective commitment to making healthy food accessible to all. The 2018 Farm Bill protects and strengthens important nutrition programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which are critical resources for our community members who are food insecure and for organizations like ours working to bring food to the tables of families in need.

The Farm Bill's thoughtful investment and improvement of SNAP affirms how critical this program is to making nutritious food accessible to our neighbors struggling to make ends meet. For every meal one of Feeding America's 200 food banks, like the St. Louis Area Foodbank, provides, SNAP provides twelve. Its impact on our nation's hungry and its critical place in our country's broader anti-hunger efforts simply cannot be overstated. For the millions of children, seniors, veterans and families who need food assistance, this Farm Bill delivers welcome peace of mind.

In addition to protecting SNAP, the legislation increases funding for critical programs like TEFAP, which responds to hunger locally by providing food banks with nutritious, USDA commodities which go on to fill the shelves of neighborhood food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. In fact, TEFAP accounted for nearly 15% of the 43.5 million pounds of food the St. Louis Area Foodbank distributed in the last fiscal year, accounting for a significant portion of our region's hunger-fighting resources. We are thrilled that this increase in TEFAP funding will help us continue to provide a steady source of nutritious meals to the nearly half a million families and individuals in our community that are food insecure.

At the St. Louis Area Foodbank, we aim to build stronger communities by empowering people with food and hope, and we understand that this work cannot be accomplished alone. We are so proud that all 12 of the Senators and Representatives who represent our service territory voted in support of this bipartisan legislation and the work we seek to do in Missouri and Illinois. Together – with the government's partnership and with strong programs like SNAP and TEFAP – we are confident that we can continue to fulfill our mission by making a real difference in the lives of those facing hunger. We thank Congress for taking this opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to fighting domestic hunger as the Foodbank and our network of partners prepares to fight hunger and feed hope in the new year and for years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meredith Knopp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Meredith Knopp
CEO, St. Louis Area Foodbank