

## ***House and Senate Agriculture Committees Pass the Farm Bill***

Last week the House and Senate Agriculture Committees debated and passed their respective drafts of the farm bill. The farm bill is the driving legislation behind American agriculture policy, but also includes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The last time Congress passed the farm bill was in 2008 and the programs administered through the law will expire on September 30.

The drafts that were passed through both the House and the Senate committees last week contain cuts to SNAP. The Senate version cuts \$4.1 billion, and the House draft cuts \$20.5 billion. Both of these proposals are completely unacceptable. I understand the concern over federal budget deficits, but not at the expense of 50 million hungry Americans. These cuts are not targeted at improving the access or efficiency of the program. The cuts in the House version will kick 2 million Americans out of the program, people who are relying on these benefits to feed themselves and their families. The cuts will cause 850,000 families to lose \$90 each month, cause 210,000 children to lose free meals at school, and cut education programs that help SNAP beneficiaries learn how to prepare healthier meals.

During the House committee's markup Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) offered an amendment that would eliminate the \$20.5 billion cut; it was defeated 27 to 17 and the bill was passed by the committee 36 to 10. I look forward to supporting Rep. McGovern's amendment on the House floor and will urge my colleagues in joining me in support of full funding.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) proposed an amendment that would do away with the \$4 billion in SNAP cuts, but withdrew the amendment before the committee voted. The amendment was voted on by the full Senate this week and was rejected by a vote of 70 to 26. Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) urged her colleagues to vote against the amendment.

I will be watching these proceedings closely in the coming weeks. This is a fight that we cannot afford to lose for the 50 million Americans who are struggling with food insecurity. Please feel free to communicate the importance of the issues by sharing your thoughts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### ***A Place at the Table***

I recently attended a meeting of the House Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity where I met with filmmakers Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush as well as chef Tom Colicchio to discuss the importance of their film *A Place at the Table*. I shared the success of the event you participated in last month and encouraged my colleagues to host similar events in their districts.

I am also excited to announce a second screening next month in Palm Beach County. The screening will be held at the Alco Capital Theaters, 9764 S. Military Trail at 2:00 pm on June 9, 2013. After the film a panel of community leaders fighting hunger in South Florida will discuss the policy response and community action that can help provide low-income families in Florida's 21<sup>st</sup> District with access to nutritious food. Please refer to my [website](#) for additional details.

Sincerely,  
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress