

Advocating for Strong Nutrition Policies in the Farm Bill

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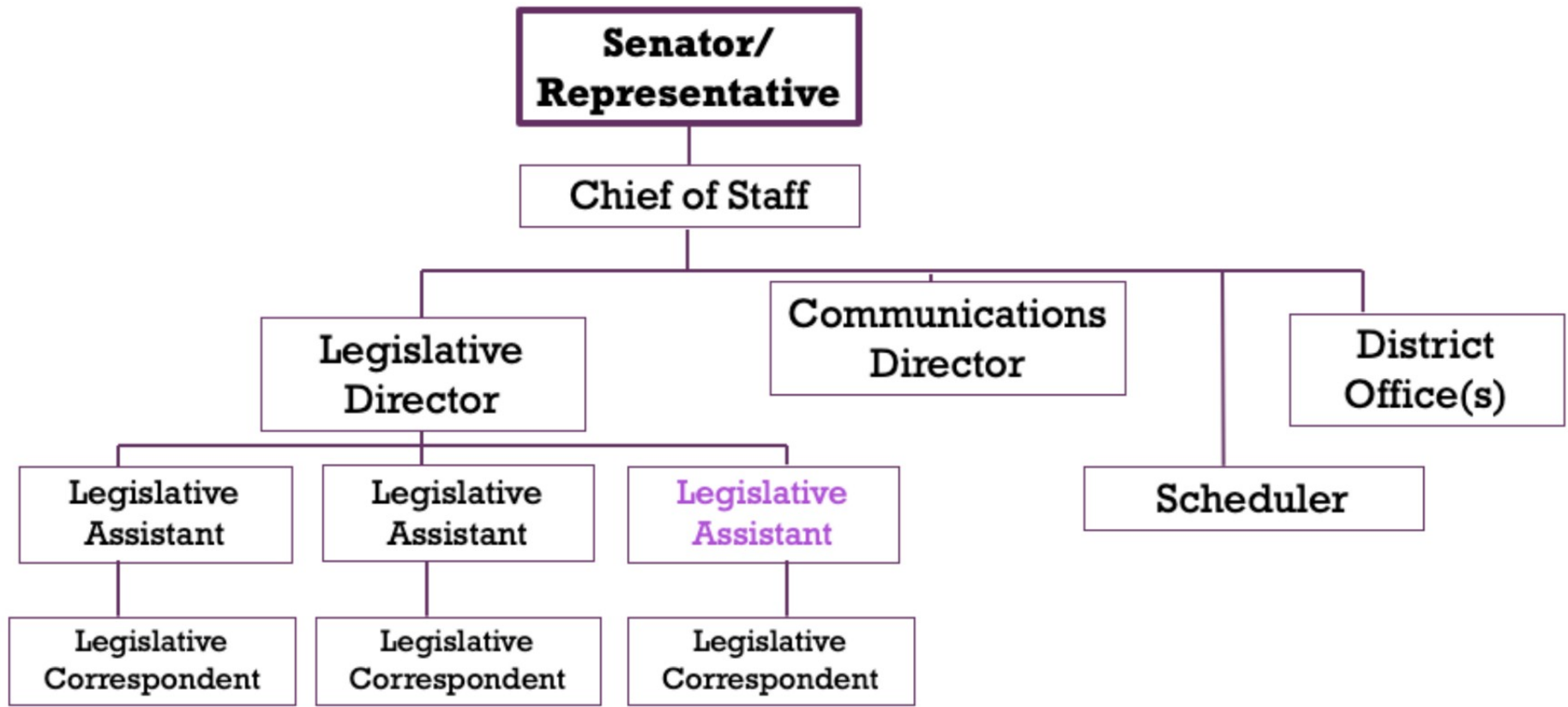
February 21, 2019





- AAAS Academy-sponsored Congressional Fellowship 2013-2014
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
- Communicate effectively with public and other non-academic audiences
- Research, develop, draft legislation





Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Legislative Public Policy Committee

- Guides Academy's advocacy strategies & public policy work
- 9 volunteer leaders serve 3-year terms
- Identify opportunities to advance nutrition and dietetics in public policy & grassroots initiatives
- Time commitment: 4-6 hours/month + travel



Farm Bill Work Group: Areas of Practice

- Hunger and environmental nutrition
- Food and culinary
- Public health nutrition
- Nutrition education
- Agriculture and nutrition research
- International nutrition
- Emerging leaders



Farm Bill Workgroup

- Lauren Au, PhD, RDN, Chair
- Karen Ehrens, RD, LDN, Co-Chair
- Fern Gale Estrow, MA, RDN
- John Krakowski, MA, RDN, CDN, FAND
- Carla Honselman, PhD, MS, RDN
- Patty Keane, MS, RDN
- Leigh Ann Edwards, MPH, RDN
- Tracy Fox, MPH, RDN
- Alison Harmon, PhD, RDN
- Janice Giddens, MS, RDN
- Amanda Hege, RDN, LDN
- Johanna O'Malley, RDN

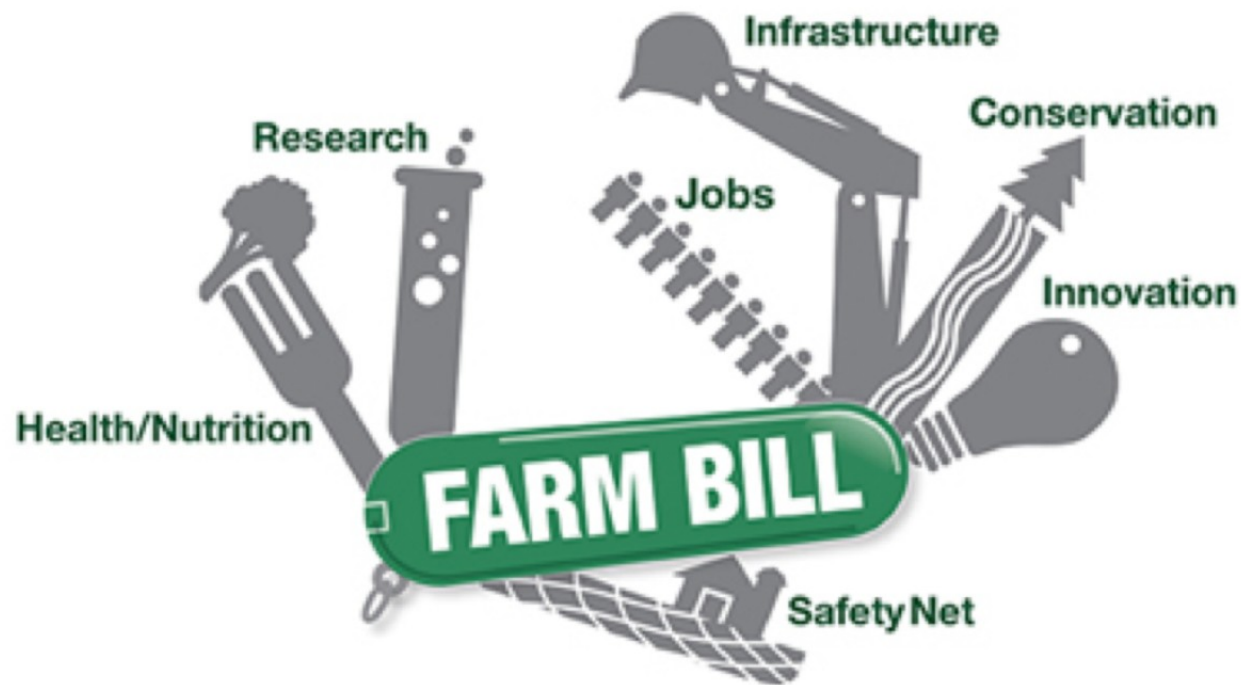


Farm Bill Recommendations



Academy Farm Bill Recommendations





“It’s like a Swiss Army knife.”

- President Obama 2/7/14



Farm Bill Work Group's Recommendations

- 1 **Empower Consumers** – Drive Demand Toward Healthful Foods and Reduce Food Waste
- 2 **Ensure Sound Science** and Program Evaluation for Future Evidenced-Based Decision Making
- 3 **Support Innovative Nutrition Assistance** Programs to Improve Access to Healthful, Affordable and Safe Foods
- 4 **Support the Food Supply Chain:** Producers and Retailers That Create a Healthful and Safe Food System and Reduces Food Waste



Empower Consumers

- **Goal:** Nutrition education programs are tailored to participants' education levels and lifestyles to help them make lifelong healthful behavior changes



Empower Consumers

- Sufficient funding for SNAP-Ed & EFNEP
- Program effectiveness in public nutrition education and assistance programs
- Initiatives to reduce consumer food waste
- Support for nutrition leadership within the USDA and regional offices



Ensure Sound Science

- **Goal: Science portfolio informs development and enhancement of nutrition program content**
- **Systematic monitoring and evaluation provide guidance for strengthening consumer education implementation and delivery systems**



Ensure Sound Science

- DGA and new Birth to 24 months guidelines funding
- Funding for vital agricultural and nutrition research
- Evaluation funding to examine ways to improve health outcomes of low-income populations
- Strengthen linkages to nutrition programming and research through the Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research



Support Innovative Nutrition Assistance

- **Goal: Nutrition safety nets are protected and strengthened by streamlining administrative requirements and food production**



Support Innovative Nutrition Assistance

- Maintain structure of SNAP
- Increase the SNAP benefit level
- Update standards for SNAP retailers of healthy foods
- Eliminate basic allowance requirement for housing for military members



Support Innovative Nutrition Assistance

- Reauthorize the Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- Maintain current funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Funding for transportation of TEFAP commodities
- More fresh, frozen and perishable foods on Indian reservations
- Current funding and integrity of the FFVP
- Maintain funding for the successful, research-based FINI grants



Support the Food Supply Chain

- **Goal: Support producers and retailers to meet demand for healthful foods**



Support the Food Supply Chain

- Funding for regional agriculture and food access initiatives
- Conserve soil, water, air, habitat and biodiversity
- Farmers have incentives to grow healthful foods
- Maintaining funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grants
- Supply chain innovation for food retail outlets
- Initiatives to reduce consumer food waste



Farm Bill Resources

- 2018 Farm Bill Recommendations: Full Report
- 2018 Farm Bill Recommendations: Summary
- Academy Recommendations on SNAP Time Limits
- Nutrition Education Programs Are Vital to the Farm Bill
- Nutrition Research



<https://www.eatrightpro.org/advocacy/legislation/all-legislation/farm-bill#q7>

RD Advocacy in Action



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videos/public-policy-workshop-2017-promo](https://www.eatrightpro.org/media/multimedia-news-center/videos/public-policy-workshop-2017-promo)**



Nutrition Education Programs Are Vital to the Farm Bill

Highlights

- The Academy calls on Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the SNAP Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program, or SNAP-Ed, and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, or EFNEP.
- Effective nutrition education strategies in combination and coordination with nutrition assistance programs ensure that federal investment in these programs is optimized.

The Role of Nutrition Education to Improve Diet Quality and Reduce Food Insecurity



USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/advocacy/legislation/all-legislation/farm-bill#q7>



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Farm Bill Goals Include Consumer Empowerment, Sound Science and More

August 28, 2017 Lauren Au, PhD, RD and Karen Ehrens, RD, LRD





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From the Academy

Public Policy News

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Priorities in the 2018 Farm Bill





Lauren E. Au PhD, RD, Karen Ehrens RD, LRD, Nicole Burda MPH, Erin Zumbrun

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jand.2018.01.021>

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From the Hill

Senate Agriculture Committee Advances Farm Bill

06/14/2018 - The U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee advanced its version of the 2018 farm bill with bipartisan support on June 13. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics applauds Chairman Pat Roberts (Kan.) and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (Mich.) for their leadership on the farm bill.

The Academy is pleased that the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 continues to build on what has worked in the past with common sense investments to strengthen nutrition programs to ensure critical food access for families in need, continue advancement in agricultural research and support nutrition education to empower people to make lasting, healthful food choices.



- In Practice 
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House Passes Academy-Opposed Farm Bill

06/21/2018 - The U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed the farm bill 213-211 on June 21. This is the second attempt by the House to pass H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, the same bill that failed in May.

The [Academy opposed the bill](#), which would result in more than 2 million people losing their food assistance benefits or having their benefits reduced and undermine the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.





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Academy Helps Organize Congressman's Farm Bill Roundtable

08/02/2018 - The Academy, in coordination with the Tisch Center for Food, Education and Policy and the Cornell Cooperative Extension, organized a roundtable discussion with U.S. Rep. John Faso (N.Y.) in Millbrook, N.Y. to discuss the farm bill on August 1. The timely roundtable came as the House and Senate will work to reconcile the differences in each of their versions of the farm bill in a conference committee.



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> **Congress Passes Farm Bill, President's Signature Will Ensure Access to SNAP and SNAP-Ed**

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From the Hill

Congress Passes Farm Bill, President's Signature Will Ensure Access to SNAP and SNAP-Ed

12/12/2018 - Congress passed the bipartisan Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 – the farm bill – on December 12. The bill, which is expected to be signed by President Trump, invests in a strong food safety net and strengthens nutrition education programs that collectively promote healthy people, a robust food system and a strong economy.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics believes the inherent link between agriculture and nutrition is reinforced by this legislation, which fosters access to nutrient-dense foods that promote optimal health and provides consumer education that increases nutrition literacy and life management skills.



Thank Your Member of Congress



How can YOU help?

- YOU are an expert!
- Explain importance of nutrition education or public health nutrition research provided by RDNs
- Academy resources available
- Connect with your state policy members, attend in-district meetings with your legislators
- Complete Action Alerts



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Action Alert 101

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Action Center

Amplify the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' voice for better food, nutrition and health policies. Learn how to speak effectively on behalf of public health and reformed health care policies and help build recognition that you are the food and nutrition expert!



Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs



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MCH Advocacy



Maternal and child health practice involves advocacy for resources, policies, and programs that protect and promote the health of women, children, and families. As a national association dedicated to supporting state MCH programs and providing leadership on MCH issues, advocacy is core to what we do at AMCHP. We provide resources and assistance to individuals looking to get more engaged in policy development and be more effective in working with local, state, and federal policymakers.

This site contains resources you can use to advocate for the Title V MCH Services Block Grant and

Related:

Legislative Alerts Feed

- Letter to EC re CYSHCN.pdf
- Partial Government Shutdown Persists
- ACA Court Ruling Update
- Preventing Maternal Deaths Act Heads to the President
- Preventing Maternal Deaths Act Passes House of Representatives!



National WIC Association (NWA)



National WIC Association

NWA is the non-profit education arm and advocacy voice of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).



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Learn about and take action on our latest WIC-related advocacy activities and efforts. To read the latest policy news, check out [our blog](#).

ACTION ALERTS

**Take Action to Ensure
WIC is Funded: Tell
Congress to Pass a
Long-Term Spending
Deal**

WIC ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

No one knows WIC as well as WIC staff! That knowledge and experience present you and your colleagues with the unique opportunity to be a voice for WIC. This toolkit from the National WIC Association walks you through a variety of advocacy activities with tips, worksheets, and examples of how you can elevate your WIC voice.

In this toolkit you will find:



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