



September 28, 2023

Dear House of Representatives:

Greetings on behalf of Alliance to End Hunger, a multisector coalition united to address today's hunger and malnutrition needs and to solve the root causes of hunger at home and abroad. The Alliance to End Hunger represents over 100 corporations, non-profits, faith-based organizations, universities, foundations, international organizations, and individuals.

I am writing today to express dire concerns with H.R. 4368, The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2024. The bill, and adopted amendments, would significantly reduce funding levels to vital food and nutrition programs necessary for food insecure families and individuals in the U.S. and around the globe. Alliance to End Hunger opposes this bill and urges you to **vote "NO" on final passage of H.R. 4368.**

The bill imposes a 14 percent cut to discretionary funding on top of already inadequate funding levels from FY23. This is unacceptable at a time when food inflation is continuing to cause significant pain to low-income families in the U.S. and we are in the midst of a global food crisis.

We anticipate this bill will have serious consequences for the most vulnerable families and individuals here and abroad.

#### Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

While WIC was exempted from across-the-board cuts, the underlying bill has immense funding shortfalls that impose harmful changes to the program. It underfunds WIC relative to current caseloads, positioning the program to have to turn away 600,000 eligible new parents and young children. Additionally, it imposes a 56 to 70 percent cut to healthy produce for WIC participants.

#### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Two harmful SNAP amendments were included in the Agriculture Appropriations bill that would expand the number of individuals that will be subject to SNAP's arbitrary work-reporting requirements. This policy could take away food assistance from potentially 500,000 individuals who live in areas with insufficient job opportunities.

#### The Emergency Food Assistance Program

The proposed funding cuts will significantly impact the TEFAP program that helps farmers and families. The underlying bill already includes a steep \$12 million cut for TEFAP from FY 2023 funding levels (\$92

million in FY23 to \$80 million in FY24). This will impair food banks across the country, particularly under- and low-resourced food banks and those serving rural areas.

#### Commodity Supplemental Food Program

The proposed funding cuts would further exacerbate the high rates of senior and older adult hunger by severely hindering the ability of CSFP to provide supplemental food packages to over 700,000 older adults in need.

#### International Food Aid

Across the globe, this bill would impose damaging extreme cuts to programs which not only help feed some of the world's most vulnerable men, women, and children, but also help U.S. farmers who supply commodities for these programs. These programs also help to build resilience in communities so that they become less dependent on foreign assistance, addressing U.S. national security interests. A cut of 43 percent to McGovern-Dole, as called for in the bill, would be devastating for the program. It would dramatically cut support for education, child development and food security to countries around the world. Even more troubling is the cut to Food for Peace, which the bill slashes by nearly 70 percent. Food for Peace programs saves lives around the world, mainly by providing U.S. commodities to combat severe hunger and malnutrition in times of humanitarian crisis. A cut of this magnitude would be catastrophic to the program.

Congress should prioritize funding for the neediest among us and we urge you to work in a bipartisan manner to pass an appropriations bill that protects critical anti-hunger programs.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

**Minerva Delgado**

Director, Coalitions & Advocacy



**Alliance to End Hunger**

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