



September 10, 2018

Dear Members of the Farm Bill Conference Committee,

As you begin work on the conference agreement for the *Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018* (H.R.2), 1,000 Days urges you to protect and strengthen federal nutrition programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), for the health and well-being of women and children.

1,000 Days is the leading organization working in the U.S. and around the world to improve nutrition for mothers and children during the critical 1,000 day window from a woman's pregnancy through her child's 2nd birthday. During this time, how well or how poorly a child is nourished has a profound impact on her ability to grow, learn and thrive. A growing body of scientific research shows that good nutrition early in life provides the essential building blocks for brain development, healthy growth and a strong immune system. Poor nutrition, on the other hand, can predispose children to obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and other diseases as well as cognitive and behavioral problems — the effects of which can be felt at a societal level, from a less competitive workforce to higher healthcare costs and greater inequality of opportunity.

Federal nutrition programs – including SNAP – are critical investments in the future health and well-being of children and their families. Today 1 in 4 children in America participate in SNAP, which helps ensure proper nutrition for vulnerable families by working in distinct ways to supplement families' food budgets. SNAP reduces food insecurity among children, improves birth outcomes, and improves child health. Children who receive SNAP are shown to perform better in school. SNAP and other federal nutrition programs provide much needed support to millions of American children and their families.

As members of the Conference Committee, you have the power to finalize strong and bipartisan legislation that protects SNAP. The overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation passed by the Senate affirms the important role that SNAP plays in addressing hunger and poverty. In addition, it protects and strengthens SNAP, ensuring that SNAP will continue to help feed children and their parents, seniors, people with disabilities, and working people who struggle to make ends meet.

Unfortunately, the House-passed version undermines SNAP and will increase food insecurity among low-income families. It cuts billions of dollars in funding and would impose harsh rules and penalties to millions of SNAP participants, putting at risk parents and their kids, people with disabilities, older workers, and people who are already working but can't get enough hours at work to meet the requirement. If enacted, the language in the House bill will mean more children in America will go hungry.

1,000 Days urges you to reject the House's harmful SNAP provisions and adopt the carefully crafted Senate language on SNAP in the final agreement. 1,000 Days—and moms across the country—stand ready to support this program.

Sincerely,

Adrianna Logalbo
Managing Director