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Congress of the United States

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EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
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INVESTIGATIONS, OVERSIGHT, AND REGULATIONS

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

February 16, 2018

The Honorable Michael K. Conaway
Chairman
House Agriculture Committee
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
Ranking Member
House Agriculture Committee
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conaway and Ranking Member Peterson,

As you continue consideration of the 2018 Farm Bill, I write to ask that you take into account the following priorities of the Adams Hunger Initiative. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee and the Sub-Committee on Nutrition, I founded the Adams Hunger Initiative in 2015 to bring together stakeholders in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina who are working to address hunger and food insecurity in our community. The following items within the Farm Bill are of utmost concern to North Carolina's 12th District and Mecklenburg County, where around 162,000 individuals are considered food insecure, including over 47,000 children.¹

As a broad coalition of health and hunger advocates, the Adams Hunger Initiative strongly supports strengthening and protecting vital programs like SNAP in the 2018 Farm Bill. While we recognize the fiscal challenges facing the Committee as it works to construct this multiyear reauthorization, we strongly caution against severe cuts or changes to critical Farm Bill programs that help combat hunger in our community and the nation as a whole. SNAP benefits remain essential to millions of working families, helping more than one million people in North Carolina alone put food on their tables.² Any cuts to SNAP, or attempts to alter its programmatic structure, are unacceptable and could cause tremendous harm to our community.

Therefore, we ask that the House Agriculture Committee oppose harmful proposals to cap or reduce SNAP funding, block-grant the program, reduce benefits, limit choices for recipients, eliminate broad based categorical eligibility, repeal the availability of the standard utility allowance, or eliminate waivers for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents.

¹ Map of the Meal Gap 2017: Overall Food Insecurity in North Carolina by County in 2015, *Feeding America*, http://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/2015/MMG_AllCounties_CDs_MMG_2015_2/NC_AllCounties_CDs_MMG_2015.pdf; Map of the Meal Gap 2017: Child Food Insecurity in North Carolina by County in 2015, *Feeding America*, http://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/2015/MMG_AllCounties_CDs_CFI_2015_2/NC_AllCounties_CDs_CFI_2015.pdf;

² November 2017, State Level Participation & Benefits, *USDA Food and Nutrition Service*, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

Additionally, the Initiative supports continued investments in the **SNAP Employment and Training Program**, as well as meaningful job-training and skills-building programs. These programs help SNAP recipients secure occupations that provide them with a livable wage and allow for self-sufficiency.

The Hunger Initiative also strongly supports essential Farm Bill programs like the **Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program, Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and the Healthy Food Financing Initiative**. These programs work to provide evidence-based nutrition education and obesity prevention interventions, and serve low access areas with fresh and healthy food. We request reauthorization and robust funding for each program.

We respectfully request that these issues, which directly affect North Carolina's 12th District and every community across this country, receive your favorable consideration as you proceed with drafting this critical legislation.

Sincerely,



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

Member of Congress

North Carolina, 12th District

The Adams Hunger Initiative

100 Gardens

The Bulb

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council

Family Agriculture Resource Management Services (F.A.R.M.S.)

Friendship Gardens

Friendship Trays

Johnson C. Smith University Sustainability Village

Loaves & Fishes

Roots In the Community (R.I.C.'s) Market Foundation

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina

West Boulevard Neighborhood Coalition

CC: The Honorable Glenn Thompson, Chair, Subcommittee on Nutrition

The Honorable James McGovern, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Nutrition

The Honorable Pat Roberts, Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry