



July 11, 2013

Dear Representative:

AARP strongly opposes HR 2642, The Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management (FARRM) Act of 2013, and urges you to vote against it. FARRM retains the provisions of the House Farm Bill, HR 1947, with all of its June 2013 floor amendments, but repeals the 1949 rules governing the farm provisions of the law, and removes the nutrition programs entirely from the bill. Removal of the nutrition title of the Farm Bill represents an abandonment of the nation's commitment to ensuring essential nutrition access for the many U.S. households that face a constant struggle against hunger and food insecurity daily as well as emergency food assistance in times of economic and natural crises or disasters. Along with helping low-income people eat healthier, more nutritious food, the nutrition programs also benefit the economy. For example, every \$5 in new Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits generates \$9 – nearly twice as much – in total community spending.

The recent economic recession is testimony to the importance of the Farm Bill nutrition programs in providing food assistance for families that would have otherwise gone without food. Indeed, the major criticism of the SNAP has been that the program has been too successful in responding to the increased need for assistance in difficult economic times. Despite having reduced error rates and fraud to levels that are the envy of every other major federal program, the House of Representatives is now proposing to drop its commitment to ensuring that food insecure households will have access to food. AARP does not oppose addressing the outdated rules that manage food production, but not at the expense of ignoring the plight of hungry families that disproportionately include children, seniors and persons with disabilities.

Hungry children, seniors and families cannot and should not have to wait on the economic and political sidelines for assurance of access to an effective nutrition safety net. A weakened economy and higher prices for food and energy in recent months have made the situation acute for all concerned. HR 2642 is not an answer. AARP strongly urges you to vote against this bill.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or have your staff contact Larry White, on our Government Affairs staff at 202-434-3750.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joyce A. Rogers'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joyce A. Rogers
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs