

Advocacy Update 1.29.19



NTFB VOICE Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

Federal Government Reopens

The President and Congressional Leaders came to a compromise passing a Continuing Resolution (an extension of funding) to reopen the Government until February 15th. During this time they need to create a spending bill that will re-open the government for the rest of the year.

If that does not occur, the government will shut down again.

We are committed to helping all those in need, including those impacted by the 35-day government shutdown. For the federal employee clients seen at our distributions and by our partner agencies, this is the first time that many have asked for nutrition assistance for themselves and their families. Our team and network have been working hard to navigate them through this process. We will continue to support them, as well as all those in need, through our partner agencies and community partners during the next three weeks and beyond.

SNAP During the Shutdown

Collin Peterson, the House Agriculture Chairman, was shocked to learn that the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food & Nutrition Service (FNS) staff, were not allowed to work during the government shutdown. The FNS agency implements SNAP. Because of the necessity of SNAP enrollment and the issuance/continuation of benefits of those who need it, he will be looking into ways for the USDA to correct this, in the event of another shutdown. The furloughed FNS workers returned yesterday to monumental amounts of work that will be difficult to catch up on in the next few weeks.

Cold Weather

Food security is impacted from all aspects, including weather. Bitter cold weather caused by polar vortexes in the US threaten livestock and agriculture producers. Winter wheat and the

upcoming planting season for corn are most worrisome to farmers. On the flip side, the vortex will also result in mild temperatures and rain for Brazil, the number one exporter of soybeans.

86TH State Legislature

More and more bills are getting filed and we are keeping a close watch on those that impact food security. To take a look at the ones we are following please visit the [advocacy microsite here](#). This list will grow as session moves forward. After reviewing the bills and examining their impact to food security, we will weigh in on them by issuing statements or testimony to our elected officials. If a listed bill impacts you and your work directly, I would love to hear your thoughts. Examining bills from all possible angles helps create an accurate analysis.

Advocacy Days

We are so excited to talk with our elected officials in both Austin, Texas at our State Capitol on February 19th, and in Washington, DC on Capitol Hill on February 26th. Make sure you tune into our @NTFBVoice Twitter account to keep up-to-date on our advocacy posts and follow along with us on our advocacy days.

MLK Day of Service

Congressman Colin Allread and his wife Aly Eber visited North Texas Food Bank on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Congressman, Aly, and their expectant baby packed backpacks for the Food 4 Kids program. Additionally, before the warehouse shift, the Congressman spent the morning assisting the direct distribution to federal employees at Dallas Love Field Airport. We are grateful for his support and we were happy to showcase how charity and government work together to fight hunger.



Questions or Comments? Talk to me! Really!

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