

## Advocacy Update 02.20.2020



### NTFB VOICE Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

---

#### In Brief -

- Senator Cornyn co-authors a bill to grant money for school nutrition
- The Census is 40 days away
- How to hide the empire of the Greater United States

---

#### **Amid newly proposed school meal changes, a new bill appears**

Senator John Cornyn and Cory Booker have [introduced a bill](#) that would set up a grant pilot program to increase Food & Nutrition Education in schools that have high rates of childhood obesity and have >40% free-reduced lunch rates.

The Act provides grant funding to local educational agencies for projects that (1) hire fulltime food educators to carry out programs in schools that have the goal of improving student health and nutrition and (2) that fund school gardens or other evidence-based interventions relating to student health and nutrition to create hands-on learning opportunities for students.

This grant program is aimed to help kids deepen their relationship with food by increasing nutrition education exposure while at school. It's important to note that this proposal wants to fund a multitude of approaches in different areas around the country for best-practices and proof-of-concept models.

So, I ask, **who do you know that is doing good in this space?** Sure, many schools put in a school gardens or take kids on nature walks - but I'd love to know more about schools that are tracking nutrition outcomes or improved biometrics of their students based on intervention strategies. Tell me more if you know of some success stories.

As you may remember the administration is proposing, through the rule making process, to change school meal standards and allowances. You can find out more here and we encourage you to leave a comment about the changes!

[Go here to learn more and submit a comment. Comments close March 23rd](#)

All y'all...please leave your personal thoughts!

## **The NTFB Census Campaign is in full swing!**



With funds from Feeding America & Feeding Texas, and support from the Cities of Plano & Dallas Complete Count Committees, the North Texas Food Bank has hit the ground running with 2020 Census outreach and engagement.

Did you know that in the 2010 Census, almost 1 million children were not counted? This week our fabulous child programs team staged City of Plano Census outreach cards in our PISD Food 4 Kids boxes.

Additionally, our Partner Agency team selected 10 agencies, located in Hard to Count areas, to distribute Census SWAG and educational material to their communities. We appreciate our partners supporting this effort!

There's a lot more to come so stay tuned. Please remember to remind your own family members and work team members to soon fill out the Census themselves. We are about 3 weeks away from the start of the official count!

## Who branded the "United States of America?"

I got a lot of feedback on the Bananas podcast. For those of you that listened, that was a lot to take in right?

Here, I will offer you another Podcast.

Have you ever wondered why sometimes it's United States, or America, or Columbia, or United States of America, and we also have territories? The US went through quite the identity crisis and branding controversy, and Teddy Roosevelt had a lot to prove.

Listen to this Podcast from the same NPR show about how the US got its name and why it's not really that accurate either.

### **Becoming America**

[Spotify](#)

[Apple Podcasts](#)

[WebListen](#)

This 33-minute episode was pretty interesting. If you get a chance to listen, let me know what you think?

---

Questions or Comments?

The US is technically an empire?

Valerie Stone Hawthorne, PhD

Government Relations Director

North Texas Food Bank

Direct: 832.851.0303

[policy@ntfb.org](mailto:policy@ntfb.org)



Don't want these updates any longer? Email [policy@ntfb.org](mailto:policy@ntfb.org) and I'll remove you quickly but remorsefully...

Apologies if you received this twice, we are working out some kinks for the next round!