

Advocacy Update 03.16.2020



NTFB VOICE Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

In Brief -

- North Texas Food Bank is open and running
- Census is here
- Coronavirus relief bill stalled in the House

NTFB is working hard to feed those in need during CoViD-19

We are here.

Please visit the page link below to keep up to date on all our operations.

This page is regularly updated so you can have the most accurate information.

<https://ntfb.org/the-north-texas-food-banks-response-to-covid-19/>

Though it seems insignificant right now, fill out your 2020 Census

The 2020 Census is live!

If there has ever been a way to single-handedly make a quick difference for current situations, it's by filling out your Census form.

Remember, Census data is used by health care providers, health insurance companies, government agencies, and beneficiaries. They need accurate information to make decisions regarding the products and services they provide and utilize. An inaccurate measure of the U.S. population and its characteristics could deprive the health care sector of vital resources needed to ensure it is meeting each community's needs.

The Census is live and you can fill it out online. If you don't have your code, that's ok. You can just enter your home address!

It took me only **5:00:36 minutes** to fill out my form.

[Please go HERE to fill yours out and email me if you beat my time.](#)

The House blocks legislation to provide relief from CoViD-19

If one member stands in opposition, the House can't send the bill to the Senate without bringing the entire House back from their districts to Washington for a vote. The Senate is in session this week, but schedules have been fluid because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Texas Congressman Louie Gohmert is stalling the House-passed Coronavirus Relief Bill that needs to be sent to the Senate for a vote. The Congressman feels that the bill was not given the normal amount of time to debate it on the House floor.

You can reach him here:
(202) 225-3035 at his DC office or
his Tyler office here: (903) 561-6349
if you have a few thoughts you'd like to share.

This bill will bring many forms of relief including food and flexibility to hunger-relief organizations.

Below are some talking points and we urge you to let your members of Congress know how important this legislation is:

- For millions of people who are a paycheck away from food insecurity, the prospect of lost wages, either due to a pandemic quarantine or to a temporary economic impact due to the pandemic, increases the likelihood they, too, will need public or private nutrition assistance.
- Food banks across the country are already supporting local responses to the pandemic health concerns but need Congressional support to make sure communities have what they need.
- Food banks are already worried about the ability of our network to provide enough food for those impacted by COVID-19 while continuing to meet the needs of America's 37 million food insecure individuals.
- It is critical that Congress swiftly pass a bill that provides our emergency feeding network with the food and flexibility we need to be able to meet the increased hunger in our communities. These flexibilities – such as not providing meals to children and seniors

in adult care centers in group settings – are vital for our network to operate in accordance with advice from public health professionals.

- Critical flexibilities are needed in the federal nutrition programs like school meals and SNAP and provide necessary changes for the programs to operate in accordance with advice from public health professionals, which is critical crucial as school closures increase.
- We strongly urge Congress to swiftly pass and the President to sign a bill that increases food and flexibility for food banks across the country to ensure we're able to feed our communities struggling with hunger during this pandemic.

This event is taking a lot of mental and emotional load. I'm thinking of all of you all.

Questions or Comments?

What's on your Netflix queue?

Valerie Stone Hawthorne, PhD

Government Relations Director

North Texas Food Bank

Direct: 832.851.0303

policy@ntfb.org



Don't want these updates any longer? Email policy@ntfb.org and I'll remove you quickly but remorsefully...

Apologies if you received this twice, the kinds are stubborn!