

## NTFB Advocacy Update 8.17.2020



---

### In Brief

- A New Federal Stimulus Package is Delayed
  - A Letter from the President Inside Food Boxes
  - DCHS Food Summit Registration Opens Today
  - Ag Dorks: Learn About the Chicken Industry
- 

### Congress is at Recess

...and we do not have a fourth stimulus bill

After the CARES act expired the last week of July, many who in the emergency food network began to see an increase in demand. Both the Senate and the House have put forth bills (HEALS & HEROES, respectively), however these two bills are miles apart from an agreement.

A unified bill must go to the President's desk for a signature but until September 8th, Congress is in August recess. The likelihood of both chambers coming together in agreement looks more difficult each day.

### [From Forbes FAQ](#)

*While it's possible that Congress could finalize a stimulus bill before September 8, it's unlikely. If there is a stimulus deal, expect it to be after September 8 at the earliest. That said, members of the Congress have been told they would have at least 24 hours to return to Washington to vote on any stimulus package. (To cast a vote, members of Congress must vote in person).*

The August recess is a tradition for Congress, but its roots were built on lack of air conditioning.

August, being a traditionally swampy and hot month, provided no relief to Members of Congress and their staff, so they elected to go back home during the month. In the 1970, with more modern air conditioning, Congress felt that working year round without a break was difficult, so it mandated a summer break in the [Legislative Reorganization Act](#).

Except now, Congress is having a bit of a PR nightmare after opting to take this break, with no new stimulus package, during the current crisis.

If you are able to talk to your Member of Congress during the August Recess please use this talking point:

*Charities, business, and government need to work hand-in-hand during this difficult period. We hope that Congress will make sure to increase the maximum SNAP benefits by 15 percent before they leave on their summer break. This will help food banks and pantries that are seeing increases in demand. Increasing SNAP will help promote economic stimulus during this economic downturn.*

## F2FFB Letters from the President

The Administration seeks to include [a letter from the President](#) in its Farmers to Families Food Boxes (F2FFB) distributed under the CFAP program. These boxes are being issued at Food Banks, Pantries, and charitable organizations across the country.

Some officials are concerned that this letter could constitute improper political activity. The letter is being billed as an additional measure to provide COVID-19 safe practices, but the opening paragraph could appear self-serving for an official currently up for re-election. Currently the USDA is trying to determine if the letter will be a requirement for private contractors and distributors to participate in the program, or will be optional.

From the letter:

*... "As President, safeguarding the health and well-being of our citizens is one of my highest priorities. As part of our response to the coronavirus, I prioritized sending nutritious food from our farmers to families in need throughout America. We are partnering with local organizations, farms, and ranches to ensure that you receive locally-sourced fresh fruits and vegetables as well as dairy and meat products. Over the last four weeks, we have delivered 50 million Farmers to Families Food Boxes to American families, and we will continue to serve those most in need during this challenging time." ...*

## Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions Summit is Open

[Register here today](#) for the first in a four part summit hosted by the Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions.

This first session is titled "What is Food Justice, Why it Matters, and How Do We Create It?"

featuring speaker Malik Yakini, Director, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network  
It's free and not something you want to miss.

## For Your Chicken Education

Today I learned that chickens are naturally cannibals. [Learn that and so much more about the chicken industry](#) in this lunchtime reading.

"During the second world war, however, red meat was rationed, and a national campaign encouraged the consumption of poultry and fish to save "meat" (beef, pork and lamb) for "the army and our allies"."

Understanding our agricultural history makes us all better advocates!..but perhaps weird conversationalists.

**Want Action?:** [Sign up to volunteer with NTFB](#)

---

### Questions or Comments?

The egg totally came first

Valerie Stone Hawthorne, PhD

Director, Government Relations

Interim Director, Community Partner Relations

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...