

## Advocacy Update 11.8.2019



# NTFB VOICE Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

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### In Brief

- Greetings from DC! Advocacy works!
- Government Shutdown Warning
- Meet Sister Najah Bazy, RN who is changing client choice pantries

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### Nationally

**Hill visits during House Recess show an understanding on how important the emergency food network is to our community**



This week I visited the offices of our North Texas delegation here in Washington, DC. *Advocacy Pro Tip: Visiting offices during recess (when our members of Congress are back in their home districts) is a great time to build relationships with staff members. Office staff that are charged with working on nutrition and poverty issues have more time during recess to sit down and discuss issues in-depth.*

During our discussions I learned that the Child Nutrition Re-Authorization will likely not happen this year due to a turbulent political climate. This is unfortunate news and those who have spent time building up for this process are also disappointed to miss this opportunity to improve nutrition for our children.

There is good news though. First, our DC offices were all familiar and champions of our food bank and partners. Their knowledge of what and how we do it is vastly different now, than it was two years ago. Additionally, the importance of SNAP in their districts was understood. Your advocacy is working!

Second, the importance of USDA foods into the food eco-system has been highlighted since the influx of food through the trade mitigation process. New ways and practices to get TEFAP/USDA foods out to communities is being thoughtfully considered through the use of waivers and community eligibility.

The Senate recently passed their Agriculture Appropriations bill that included \$79.6M for TEFAP storage and distribution costs (for our USDA foods) and \$245M for CSFP (or our senior PAN box program). This is good news!

## **Government Shutdown in 2 Weeks**

### **Top of mind in DC is getting spending bills passed by November 21**

From the DC team: Funding for the federal government expires on November 21, which means unless Congress passes and the president signs into law a Continuing Resolution or Appropriations bills, all branches of the federal government would shut down on November 22. Currently, none of the 12 annual Appropriations bills have been enacted, meaning a shutdown would affect the entire federal government, unlike the partial government shutdown we experienced in December and January.

The current political climate in Washington and the heightened sensitivity surrounding ongoing impeachment proceedings make it especially difficult to predict the outcome of negotiations to keep the government open beyond November 21.

Though there is no crystal ball to tell us for certain that this will happen, keeping this possibility in mind is important in the next coming weeks. During the last government shut-down we all learned how many of our community members are only one pay-check away from hunger.

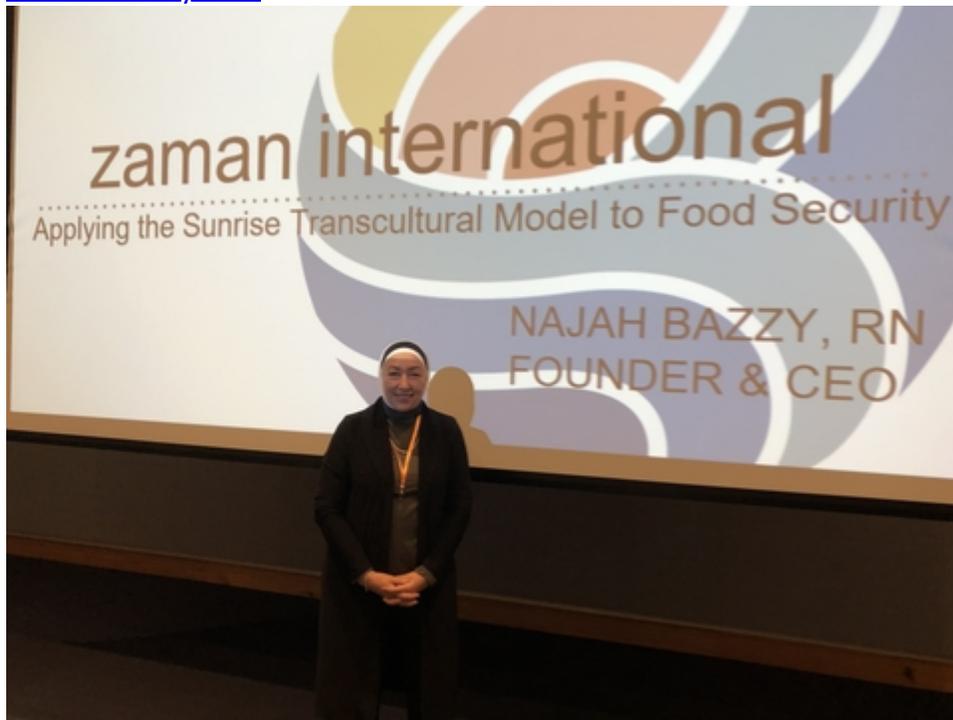
## **Client Choice Food Pantries...**

...are more than just allowing people to choose their own food. It's about the dignity and consideration of the whole experience. Sister Najah Bazy, RN, founder and CEO of Zaman International, discussed the Culture Care Model in setting up food pantries in the United States. This model is traditionally used for nursing practice but is easily overlaid on top of the pantry experience.

In addition to advocating for methods to solve hunger, we can't forget to advocate for those who experience hunger.

How are those served greeted, treated, and valued? How can we insure that people who receive services, feel respected, safe and thought of? She has been featured as a CNN Heroes for her focus on the client experience.

[Read her story here.](#)



I hope you all are enjoying the cooler weather and please let me know if you'd like additional information on some DC findings.

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Questions or Comments?

[Have you re-examined your thoughts on racial equity towards federal nutrition programs?](#)

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