



NTFB VOICE Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

Advocacy Update 11.30.2018

Farm Bill May Become Law by the End of the Year

Exciting news from the Capitol. In the spirit of compromise the nutrition title of the Farm Bill, which contains the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), now aligns with the Senate's version of the bill. This rolls back the House version that attempted to increase work requirements and mandated states to run expensive employment & training programs for SNAP recipients.

This new compromise has angered many conservative Republicans who have threatened to vote against the bill, however, House Agriculture Chairman Mike Conaway urges the critics to look at the complete bill package that will do good. For a great example of why state-run work requirement and employment education & training programs aren't working in practical life, see an article here. [Washington Post – The Work Requirements of Wisconsin](#)

Charitable Giving & Standard Deductions

Some charities are preparing for a decrease in giving at the end of 2018. [The Wall Street Journal reports](#) that due to the increased standard deduction allowance in the new Tax Code, it is estimated that giving has dropped 4.3%. Interestingly however, the value of donations given to some charities has increased 2.6%

Charities that have the majority of their donors that give within the \$1000 dollar and under range, such as food banks and churches, are expected to see a decrease of giving due to the increased standard deduction, while charities that have smaller numbers of high-dollar donors, such as the arts and universities are unlikely to see any affects.

The number of Americans who will benefit by taking the standard deduction has decreased from 36 Million to 15 Million nationwide. Economists caution on trying to draw too many conclusions at the end of the 2018 as many of the tax law affects will not be felt until the end of 2019, as more Americans begin to realize the difference and changes to the code.

Tax Law Change

Texas Congressman Kevin Brady, Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee, has introduced legislation that would repeal a 21 percent tax on some non-profit organizations' employee fringe benefits. The proposal is set in a larger proposal that seeks to correct many errors that occurred in the tax overhaul earlier this year.

For for-profit entities, lawmakers simply axed that tax deduction. Nonprofits were not so simple, since they generally don't pay federal income tax. So to create parity, lawmakers created the new 21 percent tax that nonprofits must pay on certain transportation-related employee benefits. [Reports the Dallas Morning News](#)

Trade Wars

By the end of 2018 it is estimated that US Agriculture Imports will have suffered \$2 Billion dollars in loses due to a decrease in exports to countries that the United States is currently negotiating trade deals with.

Additionally the Canada Dairy Industry has [strongly told Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau](#) not to sign the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) which would grant the US oversight of the Canadian Dairy Industry's decisions. Meanwhile, due to the USDA trade mitigation relief packages, food banks are seeing a welcome increase in fluid milk delivery that is needed by partner agencies. NTFB will be seeing at least 41 truck loads of fluid milk in bonus buy items.

Questions or Comments?

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