

**Conference Talking Points:  
Farm Bill Nutrition Title  
1/4/07**

1. Overall, the House nutrition title is better because its improvements are permanent, while the Senate title takes the unprecedented step of making all its improvements temporary! All improvements in conference must be permanent, to avoid cutting needy people off of nutrition benefits in 2012, or battling to prevent that outcome in tight budget times.
2. The House bill will provide more benefits to more low-income people:
  - The *Standard deduction* increase is higher (\$145/month rather than \$140/month in the Senate), so does more to raise the **\$1 per meal** average food stamp benefit level.
  - *TEFAP* is increased and indexed for inflation (not indexed in Senate), to provide more food to food banks and they people we serve.
  - The *Minimum benefit* boost from \$10/month to \$18/month will happen sooner (FY08 rather than 09 in the Senate), primarily benefitting elderly and other single households.
3. The Senate bill is better in a few areas:
  - Primarily, the *Asset/Savings cap* is increased from \$2000 to \$3500 before indexing (House indexes only), to allow families to receive food aid and still save.
  - Plus, there are some important *no-cost fixes* that the House bill doesn't have: reducing paperwork for elderly and disabled; simplifying the complicated rules governing the three-month time limit on unemployed, childless workers; and expanding transitional food stamp benefits for families moving from welfare to work.
4. Both bills make welcome changes for families, by eliminating the cap on the *child and dependent care* deduction and by no longer counting toward the asset cap tax-preferred *retirement and education accounts*.
5. Finally, the most important point is to get the Farm Bill done! Another temporary extension and delay does real harm to families who will receive less food stamps, because of eroding benefits, and less TEFAP, because of flat funding and rising costs.

**California Additional Benefits: Senate vs. House**

	<u>Standard Ded.</u>		<u>Depend. Care</u>		<u>Min. Benefit</u>		<u>TEFAP</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	S	H	S	H	S	H	S	H	S	H
<b>PEOPLE</b> (in 2012, in 000s)	850	1053	4	4	17	17	--	--	<b>866</b>	<b>1068</b>
<b>DOLLARS</b> (FY 2008-12, in \$ millions)	\$106	\$164	\$3.2	\$4	\$4.4	\$5	\$74.3	\$82	<b>\$187</b>	<b>\$254</b>

For more information, go to [www.cafoodbanks.org](http://www.cafoodbanks.org)