



FOOD RESEARCH AND ACTION CENTER

Press Release

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Food Research and Action Center Calls for Passage of Farm Bill "Hungry People Should Not Have to Wait Any Longer," Says FRAC President

Washington, D.C. – May 14, 2008 – Jim Weill, president of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), called today for Congress to pass the Farm Bill, which includes significant improvements in nutrition programs.

The Farm Bill being voted on this week includes \$10.361 billion in new funding to improve food stamps and other essential nutrition programs.

"The Farm Bill's nutrition title makes vital and long-overdue improvements to the Food Stamp Program," said Weill. "These changes will help the tens of millions of people who are struggling against hunger and trying to stretch limited budgets to buy healthy food."

Critical food stamp benefit changes will:

- Increase the \$10 minimum monthly benefit (unchanged for 30 years) to \$14, and index it for inflation;
- Increase and index the standard deduction for households of three or fewer;
- Remove the cap on the deductible amount of child care expenses in eligible households;
- Index the food stamp household asset limits (\$2,000; \$3,000 for households with elderly or disabled), which have gone unchanged for decades; and
- Allow more families to save without penalty by excluding education savings and tax-preferred retirement accounts from food stamp asset limits.

The bill also increases TEFAP funding and thereby strengthens the nation's emergency food network's ability to serve those in special circumstances.

Congress is scheduled to vote this week on the Farm Bill. President Bush has vowed to veto the bill, despite the gains for hungry Americans. FRAC is working with anti-hunger groups around the country for a veto-proof majority vote in both Houses.

"Hungry people should not have to wait any longer for these improvements," said Weill.

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The **Food Research and Action Center** (www.frac.org) is the leading national organization working for more effective public and private policies to eradicate domestic hunger and undernutrition.