



## POLICY ALERT

Center for Public Policy Priorities

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### Farm Bill to be Marked Up Tomorrow: What You Can Do Today!

Starting tomorrow, the House Agriculture Committee will begin mark up on the 2007 Farm Bill. One of the most important issues in this year's Farm Bill is the future of the Food Stamp Program, which 2.3 million Texans rely on every day. The Food Stamp Program helps low-income working families, seniors, and persons with disabilities make ends meet during periods of unemployment or economic downturns.

Unfortunately, because of cuts made 10 years ago, the Food Stamp Program's buying power has diminished every year. The bill to be considered tomorrow includes a \$20 billion "reserve fund" to undo these cuts and increase investment in other areas of the Farm Bill, but the financing needed to make these changes in the FY 2008 Budget has not yet been identified.

*A straight reauthorization of the Farm Bill—with no new money for the Food Stamp Program—is essentially a cut to the program. It would allow the significant erosion of the Food Stamps Program to continue, leaving millions of needy Texans unable to afford an adequate diet.*

Call your congressperson today and urge him/her to support Chairman Peterson's "mark" and make greater investments in the Food Stamp Program. **You can reach your Congressperson by calling 1-800-965-4298. Find your legislator at <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/>.**

**Also, mark your calendar for a free special presentation on this life-saving program by CPPP Senior Policy Analyst Celia Hagert:**

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Congregational Church of Austin

408 West 23rd Street, Austin, TX

To RSVP, e-mail Lesley Ramsey at [ramsey@cppp.org](mailto:ramsey@cppp.org).

For more information about why the Farm Bill matters for Texas, and breakdowns of Food Stamp use by county, visit <http://www.cppp.org/research.php?aid=671>. View the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities' video, "Making America Stronger: U.S. Food Stamp Program," at <http://www.cbpp.org/foodstamp-video.htm>.

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