



Center for Public Policy Priorities

900 Lydia Street, Austin, Texas 78702

PH: 512.320.0222 FAX: 512.320.0227 www.cppp.org

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 6, 2005

CONTACT: Lynsey Kluever
512-320-0222, X112 or kluever@cppp.org

Hunger Awareness Day Comes at a Vulnerable Time for Texas

Austin, TX—Tomorrow, June 7, is National Hunger Awareness Day, a day designed to increase awareness of the need to protect America's nutrition programs. Hunger Awareness Day is particularly timely this year, given that funding to Food Stamps and other nutrition programs is in jeopardy. Food Stamps are particularly important in Texas, given limited funding for food and other social services at the state level.

On April 28, Congress adopted a budget resolution that recommends cutting funding for food programs by \$3 billion. Every day in Texas, 2.4 million low-income people depend on food stamps to help supplement their basic food needs. But if the budget cuts are enacted, Texas' Food Stamp program could be cut by hundreds of millions of dollars over the next five years. Thousands more Texas children and families could go hungry.

"Budget cuts would be bitter news for the state with the second highest percentage of families at risk for hunger to swallow," said Celia Hagert, Policy Analyst at the Center for Public Policy Priorities, an organization that monitors food and nutrition policy.

Congress has until September 16 to decide on cuts to the food program.

###

The Center for Public Policy Priorities is a nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank committed to improving conditions for low- and moderate-income Texans.