



April 12, 2002

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No. 157

## MORE SUPPORT NEEDED FOR NUTRITION FUNDING IN FARM BILL

### FIRST THINGS FIRST:

Thank you all so much for signing on to CPPP's letter in support of Food Stamp improvements in this year's Farm Bill. The word from Washington is that our letter and Texas support for the Farm Bill's nutrition title played a major role in getting significant funding set aside for nutrition program improvements.

### HERE'S WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW:

Before the Easter recess in March, House and Senate conferees agreed to \$6.4 billion over 10 years for the nutrition title of the Farm Bill. When they started meeting again earlier this week to decide which specific provisions to fund, the debate on legal immigrant benefit restorations really heated up. Consequently, these restorations are in jeopardy.

### DEBATE OVER LEGAL IMMIGRANT RESTORATIONS:

When the Senate passed its version of the Farm Bill in March, they included a comprehensive provision to restore benefits to 1) children and the disabled; 2) legal immigrants with 16 quarters of work history (down from the current 40-quarter requirement); and 3) legal immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for 5 years. **The 5-year residency provision is one that was proposed and is supported by the Bush Administration.**

In this week's debate, when it became apparent that House Republicans were opposed to legal immigrant benefit restorations, Senate conferees offered to scale back the restorations to just include the 5-year residency provision (the one supported by the President).

House conferees rejected the Senate compromise and offered a counter proposal authored by Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) that would have provided eligibility for fewer legal immigrants and at a cost of approximately \$2 billion less than the \$2.4 billion contained in the Senate-passed Farm Bill. Under the Goodlatte amendment, **the approximately \$2 billion dollars in savings would be transferred to non-nutrition titles in the Farm Bill.** This \$2 billion is approximately one-third of total spending agreed to earlier by Conferees for the nutrition title.

Senate conferees voted to reject the House proposal, with many commenting that it did not assist sufficient numbers of people and that it would add unwarranted complexity and unworkable administrative procedures to the bill. All Senate conferees (except Senator Jesse Helms, R-NC) opposed the House proposal.

So, that's where we are. The legal immigrant restorations are in serious jeopardy, unless Congress and Farm Bill conferees hear from you today!!

### WHAT YOU CAN DO: CALL YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS TODAY!

If you live in Representative Combest or Stenholm's district (conference committee members and House Ag Committee leaders), call them with the following messages. Be sure to **thank Representative Stenholm for his strong and vocal support for a strong nutrition title.** Urge Members of Congress not on the conference committee to weigh in with conferees with these messages as well.

1) Support a strong nutrition title and the **broadest possible legal immigrant restorations.** Remind

members that the Bush Administration has stated its strong support for the restoration of benefits to legal immigrants who have been in the U.S. for at least 5 years. Object to proposals that would require states to make complicated determinations about an individual's immigration status before the date of benefit application. Ask House Republicans Conferees (Rep. Combest) to agree to the Senate's legal immigrant benefit proposal.

2) Maintain the \$6.4 billion in new ten-year funding for the nutrition title, including to support amelioration of the harsh time limits on jobless, childless adults (another provision that is in jeopardy).

3) Legal immigrants pay taxes, too. They fall on hard times, too, just as native-born Americans do. In addition to increased hunger among this population as a result of the Food Stamp restrictions, citizen kids of immigrant parents suffer, too, when mom or dad's benefits are cut. Further, a recent survey by the CPPP of emergency services providers found that benefit restrictions on immigrants have strained the resources of private charities, who must devote more of their limited resources to serving immigrants who can't get government services. Here are two major findings from this survey:

--79% of providers surveyed said that demand for their services by immigrant clients increased over the last 5 years.

--72% said their immigrant clients need more of their direct services than U.S. citizen clients because they are denied access to other government programs and benefits.

Please contact me with any questions. Here is contact info for Members of Congress:

Representative Charlie Stenholm  
D.C.: (202) 225-6605  
Stamford: (915) 773-3623  
Abilene: (915) 673-7221  
San Angelo: (915) 655-7994

Representative Larry Combest  
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U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 224-3121  
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U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3121  
[http:// www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!!

Conference Committee Members are: Democratic Senators Harkin (IA), Daschle (SD), Leahy (VT), and Conrad (ND); Republican Senators Lugar (IN), Helms (NC) and Cochran (MS); Republican Representatives Combest (TX), Goodlatte (VA), Boehner (OH), Pombo (CA), Everett (AL), Lucas (OK), Chambliss (GA), and Jerry Moran (KS); and Democratic Representatives Stenholm (TX), Clayton (NC), Condit (CA), Peterson (MN), Dooley (CA), and Holden (PA). House Education and the Workforce Committee Members Castle (R-DE), Osborne (R-NE) and Kildee (D-MI) will join deliberations for child nutrition provisions.

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