



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA) SUPPORTS A FARM BILL THAT PROMOTES A ROBUST AND RESILIENT FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN AND PROVIDE GOOD NUTRITION THROUGH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS.

Many of our nation's food and farm policies as embodied in the Farm Bill impact people and communities from rural America to developing countries. Programs and policies that curb hunger and malnutrition, support vibrant agricultural economies in rural communities, and promote the sustainable use of natural resources must be prioritized.

Together, we urge Congress to take the opportunity presented by the reauthorization of the Farm Bill to reduce hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world and encourage sustainable stewardship of our resources.

A central question at the core of Christian identity is, "How do we love our neighbor?" Christ, when asked what is the greatest commandment, states: " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself' " (Matthew 22:37-39). Advocacy for policies like the Farm Bill provides a means to express that love by shaping policy that will contribute to the well-being of God's people and creation.

Christ taught us in the Lord's Prayer to pray for our daily bread. Martin Luther's expansive understanding of daily bread includes not only what nourishes our bodies, but also the natural resources, labor and the economy, including the food supply chain. The food supply chain system involves the production and consumption of food that reaches from planting seeds to selling food here and abroad.

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with more than 3.5 million members in more than 9,200 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

- » **PROTECT THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) AND STRENGTHEN PROGRAMS THAT REDUCE HUNGER.**
- » **PROTECT INTERNATIONAL FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**
- » **PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN SAFETY NETS FOR FARMERS.**
- » **PROMOTE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.**
- » **HONOR TREATIES AND LAND CLAIMS BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.**
- » **STRENGTHEN FUNDING FOR RESEARCH.**



PROTECT THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) AND STRENGTHEN PROGRAMS THAT REDUCE HUNGER AND IMPROVE NUTRITION IN THE UNITED STATES AND OPPOSE EFFORTS TO CUT FUNDING.

- » We oppose structural change to SNAP through block grants to states.
- » The current structure of SNAP allows access to supplemental food to expand in economic downturns and retract when the economy improves. Turning SNAP into a block grant to states removes this flexibility and over time inflation eats away at the value of SNAP dollars.

PROTECT THE CORE FOCUS AND EFFECTIVE ELEMENTS OF EXISTING INTERNATIONAL FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

- » Emergency food aid keeps people alive through natural disasters, conflict and food security crises. Nonemergency development programs address the underlying sources of chronic hunger through multiyear investments in nutrition, agricultural productivity, livelihoods and diversification of household incomes.
- » Increase the flexibility of international food assistance programs to ensure that the right tool is available to provide the most appropriate response in every situation. Effective tools include cash transfers, food vouchers, and local and regional procurement, alongside provisions of U.S. commodities.

PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN SAFETY NETS FOR FARMERS THAT PROMOTE INVESTMENTS; INSURANCE AND LOAN PROGRAMS; ASSURANCE OF FAIR COMPENSATION; AND POLICIES THAT SHIELD RURAL COMMUNITIES FROM POVERTY AND THE IMPACTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS.

PROMOTE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STEWARDSHIP; AND IMPROVE LAND MANAGEMENT.

- » The conservation programs included in the Farm Bill are critical to building the foundations of our food systems for a future that is grounded in strong and sustainable practices.

ENACT POLICIES THAT HONOR TREATIES AND LAND CLAIMS BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, SUPPORT FARMERS AND ALL FOOD-CHAIN WORKERS.

STRENGTHEN FUNDING FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INCENTIVES PROGRAMS.

- » Assure innovation and creativity to provide for food safety, security and waste reduction; promote smart technology; support forestry programs; assure access to clean water and air; provide broadband access; and create renewable forms of energy.

