



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: David Lee, Executive Director
608-960-4511; dalee@feedingwi.org

Feeding Wisconsin Statement on House Passage of the 2018 Farm Bill

Attributed to David Lee, Executive Director, Feeding Wisconsin

May 18, 2018 – Madison, WI “Today, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected the 2018 Farm Bill by a vote of 198-213. This vote presents an opportunity for the House to revisit the proposed cuts to federal nutrition assistance, and we urge Members of Congress to work together on a bipartisan basis on a Farm Bill that fights hunger and strengthens our rural communities.

“Food banks and food pantries Wisconsin see the struggles that hard-working families, seniors, and children face in local communities when they come up a bit short every month. Our work to reduce hunger relies on a partnership with strong federal nutrition programs. For every meal provided by the charitable food system, SNAP provides 12.

“The cuts that would have been enacted by H.R. 2 would have increased the risk of hunger for hundreds of thousands of people living in Wisconsin and created a gap that local charities would not have been able to fill.

“While we have long maintained that a good paying job is the best hunger fighting tool and support fostering self-sufficiency through the SNAP program, the additional requirements imposed by the House bill go too far. Rather than placing Americans on a path to a better life, they would erect impossible hurdles and make no allowance for increased financial burdens, such as child care or transportation, let alone the challenges older Americans face in finding employment.

“As work on the bill continues in the House and Senate, we encourage leaders in both chambers to approach this vital piece of legislation in a bipartisan manner and focus on proven, data-driven policies that strengthen SNAP to keep it accountable, responsive and effective at accomplishing its core mission: providing low-income Americans with the nutrition benefits they need to work toward a better life.”

For more information about how Feeding Wisconsin helps its food banks, partners and stakeholders fight hunger, improve health and strengthen communities, visit www.FeedingWI.org.

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Feeding Wisconsin is the statewide association of the six regional Feeding America food banks that provide emergency food, technical assistance, and other resources to a network of over 1,000 local food pantries in every county of the state. The Feeding

Wisconsin network of food banks and food pantries provides over 55 million meals every year to nearly 600,000 people. Together, we are leading the way Forward toward a healthy and hunger free Wisconsin.

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