



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

77th Annual Meeting

of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of

The Council of State Governments

July 9 – 12, 2023

Resolution on the U.S. Farm Bill and Food Security

- WHEREAS,** food insecurity affects individuals and families in communities across the Midwest; and
- WHEREAS,** though rates of food insecurity have fallen in recent years, many households are “food insecure” in this region: 9.4 percent in Illinois; 9.7 percent in Indiana; 7.0 percent in Iowa; 10.2 percent in Kansas; 11.4 percent in Michigan; 7.4 percent in Minnesota; 10.6 percent in Nebraska; 7.7 percent in North Dakota; 10.8 percent in Ohio; 8.7 percent in South Dakota; and 9.9 percent in Wisconsin, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal farm bill is a centerpiece of policies to improve food security and reduce hunger in the United States, including but not limited to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); and
- WHEREAS,** under the last two farm bills reauthorized by the U.S. Congress, the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program was created and expanded; and
- WHEREAS,** the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program has led to new state programs and partnerships such as Double Up Food Bucks in Michigan and Market Bucks in Minnesota to increase low-income households’ abilities to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, to improve the health of families, and to expand economic opportunities for farmers; and
- WHEREAS,** the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of having a robust local and regional food infrastructure system in place to support local farmers and ensure food security for Midwestern states and their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** since the COVID-19 pandemic, additional federal funds have been appropriated to help states strengthen local and regional food infrastructure systems and supply chains; such as investments in cold-storage facilities, refrigerated trucks, meat and poultry processing facilities, increased distribution and storage capacity, and more; now therefore be it;

Adopted this 12th day of July, 2023 at the 77th MLC Annual Meeting in Detroit, Michigan

- RESOLVED,** that the Midwestern Legislative Conference supports continued investments in the farm bill's nutrition and food assistance programs that reduce rates of food insecurity, strengthen food systems and support long-term health outcomes; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC urges the next congressionally authorized farm bill to continue an expanded investment in the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program in order to improve market opportunities for local farmers as well as low-income households' access to fresh fruits and vegetables; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC urges the next congressionally authorized farm bill to include flexible funding opportunities for states to strengthen local and regional food infrastructure and production systems (cold-storage facilities, refrigerated trucks, processing facilities, distribution and storage capacity, etc.); and be it further;
- RESOLVED,** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to members of the U.S. Congress and other appropriate federal officials.

Adopted this 12th day of July, 2023 at the 77th MLC Annual Meeting in Detroit, Michigan

The Council of State Governments
701 E 22nd Street, Suite 110, Lombard, Illinois 60148