

Testimony of Congressman Jonathan L. Jackson (IL-01)

**House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies**

Member Day, March 26, 2026

Dear Chairman Harris, Ranking Member Bishop, and Members of the
Subcommittee:

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of robust funding for our government's most effective anti-hunger programs. In the wake of disastrous changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), I am thankful for the opportunity to tell you why these programs matter to my constituents and to families in need across the country.

The appropriations made by this subcommittee have names and faces attached to their provisions. The 73,000 households in my district who rely on SNAP benefits to meet their nutritional needs every month are relying on this subcommittee to hold up your end of the bargain. The Illinois Soybean farmers - whose input costs have skyrocketed due to the President's war in Iran are relying on this subcommittee to take the steps necessary to fund the farm safety net that will ensure their farm survives this year's growing season. The

funding we have the privilege to allocate will reverberate across urban and rural districts alike. I urge you to give serious thought to how these programs are funded and to give consideration to the following priorities.

Almost 300,000 households make up my district in Illinois. Over 73,000 households in my district receive SNAP benefits. Almost 40 percent of these households have a child in them, and almost 45 percent of those children have some sort of disability. These families and individuals may not know where their next meal is coming from. To them, the SNAP program is a vital lifeline that is needed to sustain them during a period of hardship. On behalf of these families, I urge the subcommittee to fully fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as it did in fiscal year 2026. If it is not fully funded, the thousands of families in my community who rely on it will go hungry. I urge this committee to once again fully fund SNAP programs at mandatory levels so that families in my community, and across the country, have their nutrition needs met.

I would further encourage this subcommittee to provide \$1.5 billion in funding for Food for Peace Title II grants. The Food for Peace Program has become one

of our country's most effective diplomatic tools, and a significant portion of the funding provided by this program supports American farmers. Funding the Title II grant program at \$1.5 billion dollars will provide the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service the necessary resources to deliver humanitarian emergency and developmental assistance to communities across the globe impacted by natural disaster, conflict, and chronic food insecurity.

Finally, The FY27 Agriculture appropriations bill must fully fund the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). While insecurity continues to rise in my community and across the country, this subcommittee has refused to fully fund the TEFAP program in recent years. This shortfall has negatively impacted food banks throughout my district who rely on TEFAP for their operational needs. On behalf of the volunteers and recipients of food assistance from local food banks in my community, I urge this committee to fully fund TEFAP.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that the appropriations allocated in this bill carry a greater moral responsibility than most others enacted each fiscal year. The most vulnerable among us rely on the funds you provide to meet the most basic needs. I urge you to look beyond the politics of the present and work to

craft a bill that allocates funding to the most morally righteous programs found within our government. I thank the subcommittee once again for this opportunity and wish you all the best in carrying out your work.