

**CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE (TX-18)**

**STATEMENT BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
FOOD AND DRUG, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

**MEMBER DAY HEARING ON  
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FY2020  
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019  
2362-A RAYBURN  
2:30 P.M.**

*Chairman Bishop, Ranking Member Fortenberry and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee:*

- As a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary Subcommittee and on Homeland Security, let me offer my appreciation and thanks to Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Fortenberry for the difficult work and choices that must be made to produce a truly bipartisan Agriculture spending bill, and for their commitment to producing a bill that fairly reflects the interests and priorities of the American people.
- Mr. Chairman, I understand that my entire statement will be made part of the record so I will keep my remarks brief.
- In the few minutes allotted I wish to highlight the food security and rural development programs which warrant the Committee's continuing attention and support.

**FOOD SECURITY**

**I support \$85 billion for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.**

I support the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other programs that reduce hunger and help families meet their needs. SNAP is the cornerstone of the Nation's nutrition assistance safety net, touching the lives of 47

million Americans, the majority of whom are children, the elderly, or people with disabilities.

**I support \$6.5 billion for Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**

WIC offers nutrition, education, and referral services to low-income pregnant and postpartum women, their infants, and children up to age 5.

**I support \$329 million for Emergency Food Assistance Program**

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) provides nutritious, American-grown commodities at no cost to low-income Americans in need of short-term hunger relief through organizations like food banks and pantries.

**I Support \$55 million for USDA Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (SEBTC)**

Created in 2011, the SEBTC pilot program provides food assistance to eligible low-income children through an EBT card. The initial success can be seen in Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Washington, Cherokee Nation, and Chickasaw Nation, where SEBTC has successfully improved food security and nutritional access for low-income children.

**I Support \$35 million for grants under Section 105 of the Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010**

This funding will help schools reduce hunger among low-income students and boost education and health outcomes. These funds will enable schools to choose the best options and practices that they believe will work to increase the number of children who start the day with a healthy breakfast.

**I support \$22 million for Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.**

This program awards grants to states, territories, and federally-recognized Indian tribal governments to provide low-income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for eligible foods at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture programs.

**I support \$240 million for Commodity Supplemental Food Program**

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program provides 619,000 nutritious food packages each month in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and two Indian Tribal Organizations.

**I support \$100 million for TEFAP Storage and Distribution**

TEFAP Storage and Distribution funding will help food banks and emergency feeding agencies with rising costs of storing, transporting, and distributing foods to needy.

**I support \$36 million for Pollinator Focuses Research**

The significant decline in pollinator populations, most notably that of commercial honey bees, is a national concern. Pollinators are vital to our nation's economy and ecosystem, contributing nearly \$15 billion to the nation's economy and supporting one out of every three bites of food we eat.

**I Support \$62 million for the Evan Allens Program**

The Evan-Allen program support the training of both undergraduate and graduate students in the food and agricultural sciences and 51.6% of all degrees awarded to African Americans in agriculture. Research has helped increase the nutritional values of crops, investigated causes of obesity, developed new energy systems, and increased food safety.

**I support \$35 million for Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)**

The HFFI is a public-private partnership that combats America's obesity epidemic by providing access to affordable, healthy, fresh food options. It also provides loan and grant financing to attract grocery stores and other fresh food retailers to underserved urban, suburban, and rural areas, and renovate and expand existing stores so they can provide the healthy foods communities want and need.

**ANIMAL PROTECTION**

**I support \$6.5 million for National Veterinary Medical Services Act**

I request \$6.5 million to address the critical maldistribution of veterinarians practicing in rural and inner-city areas, as well as in government positions at FSIS

and APHIS, by repaying veterinary student debt for those who choose to practice in these underserved areas, as identified by the Secretary of Agriculture.

**I support \$705 million for Horse Protection Act (HPA) Enforcement**

This funding will remedy serious shortfalls in Animal Care Division account and enforce existing law to stop soring of show horses by providing for inspectors, training, security (to address threats of violence against inspectors), and advanced detection equipment.

**I support \$28.7 million for the Animal Welfare Act Enforcement.**

There is an urgent need to adequately fund the Animal Care division to improve its inspections of approximately 10,399 sites, including commercial breeding facilities, laboratories, zoos, circuses, and airlines, to ensure compliance with AWA standards.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**I support \$350 million for Commodity Futures Trading Commission.**

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank) expanded the CFTC's regulatory and oversight authority to cover approximately 90 percent of the U.S. derivatives market, trillions of dollars of trading formerly done in the dark. Fully funding this agency is crucial to ensure that the CFTC can implement Dodd-Frank's derivatives reforms and protect consumers from spikes in commodity prices caused by Wall Street speculators.

**I support \$40 million for Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU)**

The 2008 Farm Bill included a new federal designation, Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACUs), for HSIs offering degree programs in agriculture and related areas. USDA's Title VII – Hispanic-Serving Institutions Grants Program offers HSIs the ability to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs. HSIs play a crucial role in addressing this

education gap, enrolling 57 percent of Hispanic college students and 18 percent of all students in non-profit postsecondary institutions.

**I support \$16.9 million for the USDA Circuit rider program**

The USDA circuit rider program provides the primary support for small communities to operate safe and clean drinking water supplies, and helps to ensure compliance with current water regulations. It is one of the most successful private-public partnerships that the USDA operates with appropriated funds to provide much needed technical expertise and training to rural communities.

**CONCLUSION**

Mr. Chairman, I thank you and the Ranking Member for your leadership and for extending me this opportunity to share my major priorities with the Subcommittee.