

Editor Eleanor Goldberg: Heard some news you want us to check out? Let me know: eleanor.goldberg@patch.com

Like Confirm

Get the Patch Newsletter



Ask the Man
in the Hat



Government, Volunteers in the News

Federal Food Program Cuts Worry Local Groups

Democrats criticize House agricultural funding bill, while Republicans defend the measure while stating that it will continue to help the needy.

By Tom Auchterlonie | [Email the author](#) | June 21, 2011 [Print](#)

23 Comments



0



You recommend this. · [Admin](#)
[Page](#) · [Insights](#) · [Error](#)

[View full size](#)



Tell Your Neighbors About
Patch

Last week's vote in the U.S. House of Representatives on an agricultural funding bill has attracted concern for local elected officials and charities.

The bill, [which passed the House 217-203](#), includes about \$7 billion in cuts altogether, according to the House Appropriations Committee's statement on the legislation. It is cuts to several programs, however, that have drawn controversy.

Rep. Nita Lowey (D-Harrison), visited Millwood on Monday with community service group leaders at the Food Bank for Westchester to protest the bill, which includes \$650 million in cuts to the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program that gives federal grant money to states to assist in health care referrals, supplemental food and nutrition education, according to the program's description. She also stated the bill also includes \$38 million in cuts to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) that provides food to low-income individuals, particularly seniors, and a \$51 million cut to the The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), a program that provides support to food banks in the way of more food and storage assistance.

"These cuts will mean fewer senior citizens, pregnant women, infants, and children will be able to access the nutritious food they need to remain healthy," Lowey said in statement."

While Lowey stated she supports working on the Federal debt—the intent of the bill, according to Republicans, is to help save money—she said, "But to balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable—women, children, seniors—is unconscionable."

Lowey was joined by Democratic Westchester County Legislators John Nonna, Judy Myers and MaryJane Shimsky, who echoed her sentiments.

Nonna said there is a "tunnel vision" at the federal, state and county level regarding cuts to important.

It is one "that doesn't look at the consequences of cutting programs that keep people alive," he said.

Leaders of charities in attendance supported the words from elected officials.

"These cuts could have a disastrous impact on the ability of food banks and food pantries to provide wholesome, nutritious food to people who are most vulnerable, like senior citizens, pregnant women, infants and children," said Christina Rohatynskyj, the Food Bank's executive director, in a statement.

Officials from organizations located in Yonkers, New Rochelle and Harrison were present, as was an official from the Katonah-based Community Center of Northern Westchester.

"I see this as a security issue as well," Rohatynskyj said during the talk.

The cuts, it was noted by people present, also come at a time when demand for such services is rising.

Congressional Republicans, however, argue that the cuts in the agricultural bill are necessary for fiscal reasons and will not have a negative impact on the needy.

"This bill answers the call from Americans to reduce government spending while still providing for critical programs that keep American agriculture competitive in a global economy. The funding in this bill will help our rural communities to thrive, provide daily nutrition to children and families across the country, and keep our food and drug supply safe," said Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY), the House Appropriations Committee Chairman, in a statement after the bill's passage.

"Despite some claims, the funding levels included in the House passed bill ensure there will be enough money in WIC to guarantee that all eligible recipients receive their benefits," wrote Nathaniel Sillin, communications director for Rep. Nan Hayworth (R-Bedford). "The House passed bill also addresses a key issue that opponents of the measure fail to recognize – excessive administrative costs."

Sillin added that administrative costs for WIC are a financial problem.

Interested in a follow-up to this article?



You recommend this. · Admin Page · Insights · Error



Comments (23)

jo

3:18pm on Tuesday, June 21, 2011

hey nita.. every worry about the overburden tax payer.. who has to sell their homes in Westchester.the highest tax county in the USA, ever got us on your mind..

Log in to reply

Greg Tart

3:42pm on Tuesday, June 21, 2011

What is it with Democrats and "non profits"- I am sure the Food Bank has laudable aims, but their single largest "expense" is free food donated by the government, and salaries and fundraising total almost 10% of their revenues. Maybe Nita needs to spend less time getting money for " non profits" like PBS, Planned Parenthood, NPR and more time creating programs maintained by the government and accountable to the government to help the poor. And

Now Gillibrand wants to include another 20 million for "non profits"- hmm. I agree with Jo above

[Log in to reply](#)

jo

3:55pm on Tuesday, June 21, 2011

thanks greg.. I am beyond disgusted with politicians whose claim to fame is to chastise the tax payer for not doing enough.. hell my dad worked 3 jobs.. no gov cheese in my house.. I work hard to make ends meet and feel the tax payer is always on the short end of the stick.. hey Nita. .are you cutting coupons like me to save 30 cents..???????????? just asking

[Log in to reply](#)

jeff meyer

7:30pm on Tuesday, June 21, 2011

I am a homeowner and I too pay high taxes to live in Westchester County. I am raising a family, I am middle/working class and I know these times are difficult. Having said that I commend Rep. Lowey for standing up against these cuts that will serve to hurt the poor and the most vulnerable in our society. I hope that our other two federal branches of government halts this attack against those who can least afford it. BTW, if that means my own taxes need to be raised to support and maintain such vital programs then so be it. Jeff Meyer Tuckahoe

[Log in to reply](#)

Ross Revira

7:35am on Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Hey Jeff how much of your time and money have you donated to the local food bank? The tag line not hurting "the most vulnerable in our society " is getting old. Maybe if we stop wasting tax dollars companies will have money to expand and hire employees which will reduce the need for food banks.

joe

12:37am on Wednesday, June 22, 2011

It's not vital Jeff...we are the highest taxed county in the entire country. Has Nita ever said 'no' to any programs (taxes) That's her modus operandi:.....It's all for the____(fill in the blank; i.e; children, poor, homeless, starving, blind, musically handicapped, vegetarians, bald, singles,)...we are out of money and Nita wants to raise taxes. She is clueless, and we are more clueless for re-electing her.

[Log in to reply](#)

jeff meyer

12:03pm on Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Not vital to you Joe. Perhaps you should be thankful for that. Jeff Meyer

jo

7:43am on Wednesday, June 22, 2011

news reporting today that Nita is the richest member of congress in the Hud Valley over 67 million,,yup just another limo lib .. of course with that money she can afford the taxes of Westchester.. and the constant give away of the tax payer money.. she feels no pain.. I am again beyond disgusted with her.. she walks not in my shoes.. she represents me not..just more ideologue that really zings it to the middle class..time to exit stage left. Nita..

[Log in to reply](#)

jeff meyer

8:06am on Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ross, You can ask my friends or anyone who knows me that question and they will give you the answer. Jeff Meyer Tuckahoe

[Log in to reply](#)

Ross Revira

8:22am on Wednesday, June 22, 2011

I guess you don't.

jeff meyer

9:05am on Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ross, do you read what you write before you press send. What does "I guess you don't" actually mean? Were you asking me a question? As far as my work at food banks or charitable contributions that is a matter I keep between me and my Maker. Since I have no idea who you are, why would you be interested in my charitable work or contributions? If you disagree with me regarding Rep. Lowey's statement then fine. However, If you really have a desire to inquire about my personal life and my activities you could always reach me at 914 500 7180. Jeff Meyer Tuckahoe, NY

[Log in to reply](#)

jo

12:09pm on Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Hey Jeff.. point of interest.. Tuckahoe is my home town.. my dad worked three jobs for us to get by..never ever did the food pantry thing.. no such thing.. but his hard work got us through..not putting folks down who need it..but there is a lot of abuse in money give always.. just look at medicare..Cuomo tells us billions are lost to fraud each year.. better oversight would render less loss and more money to work with..

[Log in to reply](#)

jeff meyer

3:35pm on Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Hey Joe, I have the same exact story as you. I was blessed to have parents that loved me and my 3 brothers and I was fortunate to never be in want. I just disagree with your comment that such services as food pantries are not vital. Maybe they aren't for you and me, but for millions of citizens and non citizens they are. Your point regarding areas of fraud is obvious and correct. Though how you leap from food pantries to medicare (not medicaid) confuses me a bit. Jeff Meyer

jeff meyer

3:38pm on Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Sorry, I meant Jo. JM

jo

3:42pm on Wednesday, June 22, 2011

JEFF.. no. I did not say they were not vital..I am disgusted with all the waste in gov programs.. giving you an example of the waste as reported on Medicare..think of what could be done if the programs were run efficiently... gov is too big..the waste is incredible.. this is what happens when gov tries to be all to all folks..it does not work...the more money it is fed..the higher taxes go.. I want accountability..

jeff meyer

4:09pm on Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Sorry Jo. I confused what you and JOE were saying. Your point is well taken. JM

[Log in to reply](#)

Greg Tart

4:14pm on Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Don't be upset Jo- We know what you meant. A 10% proposed cut is made to cut WIC for food assistance; immediately Democrats in a ballet of orchestrated outrage label it as cutting aid to the poor, shoving grandma into a microwave, or steeping on the American Flag. Most Americans don't mind helping the disadvantaged - but the Democrats assist on funneling money thru intermediaries which limits accountability, like non profits. At the same time these programs have to help causes that rich liberals like Lowey love- organic food, breast feeding.

[Log in to reply](#)

jo

6:57am on Thursday, June 23, 2011

greg.. there is so much truth in what you say..and add this one.. many of the programs the dems get funded created positons that the dems fill with dem supporters.. it is a never ending cycle of graft and greed.. wink..wink..nod..nod.. I do this for you..you get this for me.. yes .again I will scream I am beyond disgusted and outraged... we the middle guy is being used over and over... my cry now after watching the Dems for the past 8 years.. is Dump the Dems all of Them.. then Start with all the rest..

JD

9:05am on Thursday, June 23, 2011

I got an idea. I need my lawn mowed and my bushes cut. How about we send some disadvantaged people up here to my home and after my grass is cut and my bushes are cut I will feed them. Nita guive me my tax money back I'll spend it the right way.

[Log in to reply](#)



Aidan

9:31am on Thursday, June 23, 2011

Bingo.

jo

9:12am on Thursday, June 23, 2011

Nita is a very wealthy elitist.. making laws and pushing regulations that rarely have a negative impact on her personally..her wealth shields her from such hardships..but what she pushes throw impacts the middle class big time.. Westchester county has the highest tax bill in the nation.. how long has she been representing us and we still have this "honor" or more to the truth "horror" bestowed upon us.. Basta.. Basta.. enough we have had enough.. instead of moaning about a 10% cut in those funds..how about championing a 10% cut in our taxes..

[Log in to reply](#)

jo

9:13am on Thursday, June 23, 2011

sorry about the typos.. I am just so irate.. :(

[Log in to reply](#)

jeff meyer

10:29am on Thursday, June 23, 2011

JD: If you are serious about your point and not just being rhetorical or sarcastic, call me. I know of male homeless shelters that would do your landscaping for a donation. As far as a rebate on your taxes, that out of my hands. Jeff Meyer 914 500 7180

[Log in to reply](#)

Leave a comment



Advertise

Advertise on Patch and reach potential customers in your backyard and beyond. Click here for more information.

[Learn more »](#)

Volunteer

If you want to help local causes, or your cause needs local help, your next click should be right here.

[Learn more »](#)

Contribute

- [Send us news tips](#)
- [Put an event on the calendar](#)
- [Announce something to everyone](#)

Patch Info

- [About Us](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)

Get in Touch

- [Help](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Patch Blog](#)

Patch Initiatives

- [PatchU](#)
- [Patch.org](#)

Goodies

- [Newsletters](#)
- [Widgets](#)



Copyright © 2011 Patch. All Rights Reserved.