



NEWS RELEASE

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Center for Public Policy Priorities

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The “Food Stamp Challenge” – Could You Live on \$1 Per Meal?

Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Capital Area Food Bank of Texas and Center for Public Policy Priorities Shine Light on Hunger with Challenge to Live on Food Stamp Budget for One Week.

Austin, Texas – Just how hard is it to afford a healthy diet on Food Stamps? Through a challenge from Congressman Lloyd Doggett, CAFB and CPPP, you can find out May 15 - May 21 by eating and drinking only what \$21 will buy, which equals the average Food Stamp benefit for a week in Texas.

Nationally, U.S. Representatives James McGovern (D-MA) and Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) have posed the same challenge to all U.S. House members and citizens across the U.S. The Food Stamp Challenge is part of a push to increase the value of the Food Stamp benefit as part of the 2007 Farm Bill, which Congress will begin debating at the end of this month.

“There are many in our community who rely on these benefits to make ends meet,” said Congressman Lloyd Doggett. “Without this assistance, families must choose between paying their electricity bill, addressing health care needs, or buying food. Unfortunately, these families have faced 10 years of indifference from previous Congressional leadership. With a new Congress, there is an opportunity to address issues of food insecurity and help those who need it most.”

“This week-long challenge is primarily an effort in solidarity,” said Michael Guerra, Capital Area Food Bank Chief Operating Officer. “The intent is not to sensationalize the hunger challenges that individuals face but to offer an opportunity for the larger community to mark a week in solidarity and communion with them – a chance to be one with them at the larger community table. We also hope, through this effort, to shine a light on the meager amount of federal support families receive to supplement their monthly food budgets.”

To sign up for the challenge, visit www.austinfoodbank.org. You’ll find tips and advice from the Food Bank’s Registered Dietitian on how to stretch your food budget and eat healthfully during the Challenge, and resources for emergency food pantries and soup kitchens, should you need supplemental food during the Challenge. For more information about the Farm Bill and Food Stamps, visit www.cppp.org.

About Capital Area Food Bank of Texas:

The mission of the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas is to nourish hungry people and lead the community in ending hunger. In its 26th year of service, the Food Bank currently provides food and grocery products to 370 Partner Agencies in 21 Central Texas counties. In 2006, CAFB distributed more than 16 million pounds of food. For more information visit www.austinfoodbank.org or call 512/282-2111.

About Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP):

For more than twenty years, the Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) has been a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) research organization committed to improving public policies and private practices to better the economic and social conditions of low- and moderate-income Texans.

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