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**Food Bank Council of Michigan Applauds Wide, Bipartisan Support for
Senate Farm Bill, Continued Protection for SNAP**

Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow Led Efforts to Successful Bill

LANSING, Mich. – The Food Bank Council of Michigan (FBCM) today, reacting to Thursday's broad, bipartisan passage of a farm bill in the U.S. Senate, released the following statement. The Senate bill, which passed 86-11, continues existing levels of funding for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) that helps provide food for millions of the nation's most vulnerable citizens. It also does not include additional work requirements for SNAP recipients included in the House version of the Farm Bill.

"We want to thank Senator Debbie Stabenow for her leadership on this bill, which provides food for millions of the nation's most vulnerable citizens, including children, seniors, veterans and people with disabilities," said Phillip Knight, FBCM executive director.

"I commend Senators Stabenow and Gary Peters for rejecting an amendment that would have taken away food assistance from the families who rely on SNAP and imposed burdensome requirements on SNAP participants and our state. As the House and Senate now turn to negotiating a final version of the farm bill in conference, we urge Senators Stabenow and Peters to continue standing up for our families by working with his/her colleagues to ensure that the final version also protects SNAP.

"The best outcome for our state is a strong, bipartisan farm bill that protects SNAP without imposing harsh work requirements that would leave many people — including those temporarily between jobs — without access to SNAP benefits. The Senate farm bill meets these criteria, and it is now up to all lawmakers to ensure that the conference bill does the same so our friends and neighbors don't go hungry."

The Senate Farm Bill largely continues existing funding for SNAP, farm subsidies, conservation, rural development and farm commodity programs that are set to expire Sept. 30.