

# AAFB ADVOCACY UPDATE

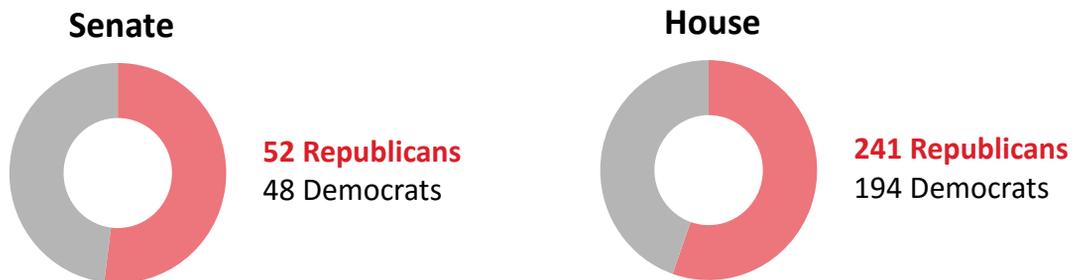
January 13, 2017

AAFB

# UPDATE FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

## New Congress Sworn In

The 115<sup>th</sup> Congress was sworn-in on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Here are the numbers:



## Block Grants: Bad for Arizona

Some leaders in Congress have indicated they plan to “block grant” long-standing and vital programs like food stamps and school meals.

So, what are block grants? Block grants would unravel effective, time-tested programs like the food stamp and school meals programs. Instead, these programs would be turned into lump sums of federal money that states could apply for. Here’s the usual sell: Anti-hunger programs are wasteful and ineffective. Why don’t we just hand the money over to the states, so could end hunger on the cheap?

But here’s the problem: block-grant money is capped, so if a plant closes, or a recession or natural disaster hits, state lawmakers will have to choose between more Arizonans going hungry or driving up state debt. [You can learn more about block grants from our friends at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities here.](#)

We’re already pushing back against these cuts: [watch AAFB’s Angie Rodgers on ABC15 here](#) and [read about it in the Scottsdale Independent.](#)

## New Congress Plans to End School Nutrition Standards

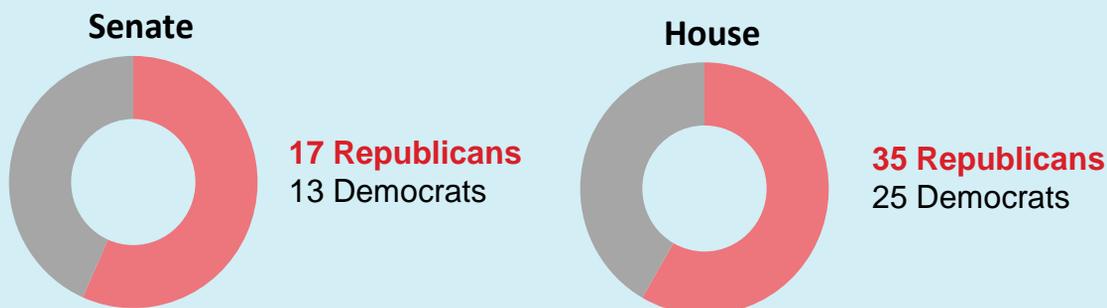
The House Freedom Caucus, a conservative faction of Republicans in the House, has issued a [23-page list identifying 200 rules and regulations it wants to see gutted](#) in a Donald Trump administration, and nutrition is a key target.

Among the items identified: the FDA’s update to the Nutrition Facts panel and updated nutrition standards for school meals, both priorities championed by first lady Michelle Obama.

# UPDATE FROM THE STATE CAPITOL

## New State Legislature Sworn In

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Arizona Legislature will take their seats on Monday, January 9. Here are the numbers:



## 2017 Anti-Hunger Playbook

Following the election, nearly 1 in every 3 members of the Arizona State Legislature is new. This presents us a fantastic and rare opportunity to educate lawmakers on hunger in Arizona and what steps they can take to create a healthy, hunger-free Arizona.

That's why we created the Anti-Hunger Playbook. The playbook includes facts about the economic, educational, and health effects of hunger and describes our three of our policy priorities for the year: ending the finger imaging requirement for SNAP, doing away with the SNAP drug felon ban, and securing \$1 million for food banks in Arizona to distribute more healthy food to families in need.

[Download your copy of the Anti-Hunger Playbook here.](#)

## Who's in charge?

### Senate Leadership

- **President:** Steve Yarbrough
- **Majority Leader:** Kimberly Yee
- **Majority Whip:** Gail Griffin
- **Minority Leader:** Katie Hobbs

### House Leadership

- **Speaker:** JD Mesnard
- **Majority Leader:** John Allen
- **Majority Whip:** Kelly Townsend
- **Minority Leader:** Rebecca Rios