

AAFB ADVOCACY UPDATE

February 9, 2017

The logo consists of a teal square containing the text 'AAFB' in white, with the second 'A' highlighted in orange.

AAFB

UPDATE FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Johnson Amendment and Food Banks



At the National Prayer Breakfast, President Trump vowed to "get rid of and totally destroy the Johnson Amendment," which regulates what tax-exempt organizations can do in the political arena. Under the 1954 legislation, tax-exempt nonprofits are absolutely prohibited from getting involved in any political campaign for or against a candidate. Ending the Johnson Amendment would open the door for food banks to become partisan organizations, something AAFB staunchly opposes. We know hunger doesn't discriminate on the basis of party and we will continue working with all elected officials to create a healthy, hunger-free Arizona. [More from NPR here.](#)

Potential White House Executive Order on Public Benefits for Non-Citizens

There is [a rumored executive order](#) that could have a significant impact on participation in benefits programs by non-citizens. Legal immigrants can currently access some public benefits in some circumstances. But the federal government can bar someone from coming to the US if there's any evidence he or she will become a "public charge," or a person primarily dependent on government for subsistence.

Currently, the federal government looks at use of cash benefits (like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) when it's making "public charge" decisions, but not in-kind benefits like SNAP or the National School Lunch Program. This executive action would ban any immigrant from coming to the US if they're likely to get any means-tested public benefit, including SNAP, WIC, and NSLP.

Additionally, people who use any of those benefits and are in the US on visas would be subject to deportation. And the order would even require the person who sponsored an immigrant into the US to reimburse the federal government for any benefits the immigrant used. [More from Vox here.](#)

Tom O'Halleran

While there are no Arizonans in the Senate Agriculture Committee, there is one Arizonan on the House Agriculture Committee: newly-elected Democratic Congressman Tom O'Halleran.

O'Halleran formerly served as a Republican in the Arizona State Legislature. Prior to that, O'Halleran served with the Chicago Police Department from 1966 to 1979 as a homicide detective. He then became a member of the Chicago Board of Trade, operating his own small business.

He lives in unincorporated Yavapai County with his wife Pat. They have been married for over 46 years and have three children and three grandchildren.

UPDATE FROM THE STATE CAPITOL

HB 2091 Passes the Arizona House of Representatives

By a vote of 40 AYES to 18 NAYS, HB 2091, which would eliminate the SNAP finger imaging requirement, passed the House of Representatives on Monday, February 6. The finger imaging program was intended to prevent duplicate applications for SNAP, but as technology has progressed, the program has become obsolete. In 2015, hundreds of thousands of applicants were screened through the program but it only found seven duplicate entries. The program costs the Arizona General Fund \$400,000 every year.

The bill will now head to the Arizona Senate.



What You Need To Know About HB 2372

During the State of the State, Governor Ducey proposed extending TANF (cash welfare) to 24 months. This is the bill that would do that. However, there are a few other provisions. They include: allowing agencies to waive fees for an initial job license for low-income people, allowing people convicted of certain drug felonies access to SNAP if they meet certain conditions, banning the purchase of lottery tickets with an EBT card, and capping TANF cash assistance withdrawals at \$30 per day.

While we support many of these provisions, others, like the \$30 cap are indefensible. We're working hard to get bad provisions out of the bill.

On Feb. 2, HB 2372 passed the House Health Committee unanimously and on Feb. 8, it passed the House Appropriations Committee. The bill will head to a vote by the full House of Representatives.

Steve Yarbrough

We thought we'd tell you a little bit about the President of the Arizona Senate, Steve Yarbrough.

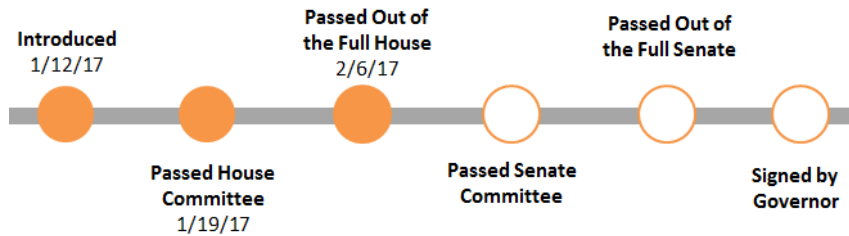
Mr. Yarbrough has lived in Arizona since 1963, graduated from Phoenix Union High School in 1965, earned his B.S. in Business Administration (finance) from ASU in 1968 with high distinction, and graduated magna cum laude with his Juris Doctor from the ASU College of Law in 1971.

Sen. Yarbrough has been married to his wife Linda since 1968. She taught high school choral music for thirty years. They have three adult sons, all married, seven grandsons, and one granddaughter.

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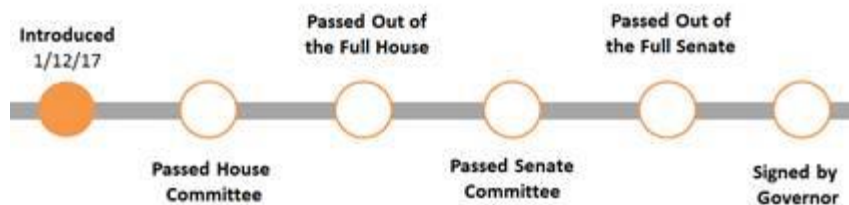
HB 2091

- **Summary:** Eliminates the finger imaging requirement for SNAP and TANF applications
- **AAFB Position:** **Support**
- **AAFB Supports Because:** The program is redundant, costly, and burdensome.
- **Status:**



HB 2298

- **Summary:** Would direct DES to contract with a vendor to create an eligibility verification system for public benefits. Cost associated: \$15 million in first year, \$7m annually thereafter
- **AAFB Position:** **Oppose**
- **AAFB Opposes Because:** This bill is pricey and pointless. Such a system already exists.
- **Status:**



HB 2372

- **Summary:** Would make various changes to public benefits programs including: allowing agencies to waive fees for an initial job license to a low-income person; allows a family to continue to receive TANF for up to 24 months under certain conditions; amends the SNAP drug felon ban; bans the purchase of lottery tickets with an EBT card; caps TANF cash assistance withdrawals at \$30 per day.
- **AAFB Position:** **Neutral**
- **AAFB is Neutral Because:** Although this bill has many provisions we support, there are also other provisions that we cannot defend (limiting TANF cash withdrawals to \$30 per day). We are working to ensure that amendments are added to rectify harmful provisions.
- **Status:**

