



The Young Farmer Success Act



Bringing young people back to the farm and ranch must be a national priority. Innovative programs are needed to incentivize agricultural careers.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, farmers over age 65 now outnumber farmers under age 35 by more than 6 to 1, and the average age of farmers in the U.S. is over 57 years old. This widening gap reveals a crisis of attrition in agriculture with farmers retiring without a new producer coming into the field.

That is why **Congressman Glenn “GT” Thompson** and **Congressman Joe Courtney**, along with **Congresswoman Monica De La Cruz** and **Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski**, reintroduced the bipartisan *Young Farmer Success Act*.

The Young Farmer Success Act would incentivize young Americans to enter agriculture professions by expanding the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program to young farmers.

In 2007, President George W. Bush signed the law that created the PSLF program. This popular program provides debt forgiveness to those in certain sectors of public service, such as teachers and firefighters, who have completed 120 on-time, qualifying payments during full-time public service employment but still carry a debt load.

If this bill were to become law, farmers – just like other public servants – would see the balance of their student loans forgiven after making 10 years of income-based payments. This simple policy expansion will encourage young people who attend college for agriculture to use those skills as agricultural producers after earning their degree. Farming is an asset rich, cash poor profession, and this bill will help alleviate some of the high startup costs facing young farmers.

Farmers provide food and fiber for our country and the world. Food security is national security, and it is critically important that we invest now in future generations of farmers to ensure we remain the breadbasket of the world.

Endorsements:



The Connecticut Farm Bureau Association



The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau



The Illinois Farm Bureau



The International Fresh Produce Association



The National Milk Producers Federation



The National Corn Growers Association



The National Young Farmers Coalition



The National Farmers Union



Farm Aid

