

From: Elizabeth O'Gilvie <liz@gardeningthecommunity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 11:10 PM
To: richard.neal@mail.house.gov <richard.neal@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Gloria Ramon <gramon@tsne.org>; Geoff Lamont <glamont@tsne.org>; kelly@accomplis.org
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Subject: Urgent- Opposition to H.R. 9721 as itn is currently written

[Caution: External Message]

Dear Representative Neal.

I hope that this email finds you well and that you are finding small moments to enjoy the summer.

I live in Springfield's Mason Square neighborhood and help to lead two food system-centered nonprofit organizations based in Springfield, <https://www.gardeningthecommunity.org> and the <https://www.springfieldfoodpolicycouncil.org>. You might remember Gardening the Community's (GTC) and the Springfield Food Policy Council's (SFPC) 2024 visit with youth and small farmers at your DC office.

Several of those young people have either matriculated to College or are rising High School Seniors. All still speak of how attentive you and your staff were. We continue to be grateful for your support around food access and equity in the Federal Farm Bill. I am writing tonight because we need your help! GTC is fiscally sponsored by Third Sector New England, and the SFPC is fiscally sponsored by The Accomplis Collective. Their fiscal sponsorship enables each organization to focus on the work of increasing access to healthy food through policy, systems and environmental change while engaging youth adults, elders and several institutional partners and stakeholders in this work. GTC served as a pilot site for the wildly successful Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) which provides an additional monthly produce benefit to Massachusetts SNAP recipients. You have probably heard that HIP reached a milestone of \$100 million this year! All of that revenue went directly to Massachusetts farmers. The SFPC is known for helping to craft that Massachusetts policy as well as the Statewide Universal Free school meals. None of this or our achievements around engaging, educating and supporting youth and their families to improve their health conditions by learning about growing, cooking and eating healthy food would be possible for a small grassroots organization without fiscal sponsorship.

I am deeply concerned that H.R. 9721 may cause our donors and funders and fiscal sponsors to withdraw their support if they decide that supporting a fiscally sponsored organization is too risky. GTC and the SFPC will not survive without their respective support. These organizations and the support and advancements they provide to residents are invaluable. Like yours, our commitment to improving access to healthy food and eradicating the food-related life shortening diseases which plague our city runs deep. My work is driven by the Catholic Catechism of my childhood, something we share.

H.R. 9721, as it is written, places GTC and the SFPC, along with many other Massachusetts nonprofits as well as our fiscal sponsors in a truly precarious position. This legislation requires more thought and input from nonprofit legal experts, fiscal sponsors, other nonprofits, and stakeholders. We respectfully ask that you oppose H.R. 9721 as it is currently written. Please ask the Ways and Means Committee to pause consideration until the impacted parties can share their concerns and additional research conducted.

I welcome calls from you or your staff, if you have any questions.

Thank you very much,
liz

