



New York Farm Bureau

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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 4892-A (Senator Hinchey) / Assembly Bill 5781-A (Assemblywoman Cruz)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW, IN RELATION TO
THE NOURISH NEW YORK PROGRAM**

Date: 5/19/2021

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization, would like to express its support for this legislation. This bill would create the Nourish NY program permanently in the Agriculture and Markets law.

Through Nourish NY, food banks have distributed over 17 million pounds of food, which has supported over 4,152 New York farms. This program is a win for both New Yorkers who are food insecure and for giving farmers a market for their goods. The program was started because of the drastic affects of the pandemic, but the success of the program has proved that there will still be a need for this program in the future.

New York has some of the most generous farmers in the nation, often ranking in the top two states for food donations. While farmers will continue to donate food, it is important to remember that farmers have employees, taxes, and other business expenses that need to be paid. Making the Nourish NY program permanent will continue the support of New York's farmers and ensure that food insecure communities receive New York produced food.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support of this legislation.