

# OUTREACH ACTION SHEET [\(Word version\)](#)

## Protect SNAP in the next Farm Bill

Everyone deserves to live healthier lives and have access to nutritious foods. An integral tool to ensure that all Americans have access to basic nutrition is the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**.

SNAP currently serves around 40 million people each month. Families with children, older Americans, and persons with disabilities account for nearly 90 percent of SNAP recipients. SNAP reduces poverty, improves community health, and bolsters local economies.

SNAP is reauthorized every five years in the Farm Bill. House and Senate leaders have released plans for a new Farm Bill. The Senate proposal reflects the priorities needed to reduce hunger in America; the House version does not.

In particular, the Senate protects the 2018 bipartisan improvements to the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). The TFP is used to calculate the amount of SNAP benefits a family needs to sustain a frugal but healthy diet. In 2021, the TFP was updated to reflect current nutrition science and food costs. It resulted in the first TFP-based increase in SNAP benefits in almost 50 years. The House proposal would undo this improvement, resulting in a \$30 billion cut in SNAP benefits over the next decade (see chart). This cut impacts every person receiving SNAP and will increase hunger in America.

On a positive note, both proposals appear to lift the lifetime ban on SNAP benefits for those convicted of a drug offense. This is welcomed, long-overdue change.

RESULTS strongly urges Congress to protect and strengthen SNAP in new Farm Bill. They should preserve the 2018 changes to the TFP, expand SNAP access to those susceptible to hunger but not currently eligible, reduce onerous work reporting requirements, and expand food choice so SNAP recipients can purchase hot, prepared meals at food retailers.

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### All SNAP Participants Would Face Benefit Cut Under House Agriculture Committee Chair Thompson's Thrifty Food Plan Proposal

This proposal would reportedly cut SNAP by roughly \$30 billion over the next decade by restricting future updates to the Thrifty Food Plan to only account for inflation, ignoring other factors like changing dietary guidance that impact the cost of a healthy diet. Groups affected over 2027-2033 would include:

 **Children:** \$18 billion of the cut would affect households with children, which in a typical month would include nearly 17 million children.

 **Preschool-age children:** \$9 billion of the cut would affect households with young children (under age 5), which in a typical month would include about 5 million young children.

 **Older adults:** \$5 billion of the cut would affect households with older adults, which in a typical month would include more than 6 million individuals aged 60 or older.

 **People with disabilities:** \$6 billion of the cut would affect households with people with disabilities, including more than 4 million such disabled individuals in a typical month.

 **Working families:** \$11 billion of the cut would affect households with earnings.

Source: CBPP analysis of Chair's proposed cut, Congressional Budget Office's May 2023 baseline (with CBPP adjustments to account for actual inflation figures for the June 2023 TFP), Department of Agriculture fiscal year 2020 pre-pandemic SNAP household characteristics data, and Department of Agriculture fiscal year 2023 SNAP administrative data. Demographic groups are not mutually exclusive.

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## Tell member of Congress to protect SNAP in the Farm Bill

Write a letter to your representatives and senators today urging them to tell Agriculture Committee leaders to protect SNAP from reckless cuts and policies in Farm Bill negotiations. Use the talking points below as a guide.

1. Dear Senator or Representative \_\_\_\_\_,
2. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a constituent of yours from \_\_\_\_\_ and a RESULTS volunteer.
3. I am writing to urge you to support of SNAP, the last line of defense against hunger in the United States. In 2022, SNAP helped 3.7 million people lift themselves from poverty.
4. Most SNAP recipients who are able to work, do work. Of the approximately 40 million people receiving SNAP each month, nearly 90 percent are families with children, older Americans, and persons with disabilities.
5. SNAP benefits are extremely frugal, averaging less than \$7 per day per person. Yet the House Farm Bill proposal makes things worse by cutting benefits by \$30 billion over the next decade.
6. Congress should reject any Farm Bill that increases hunger in America.
7. Will you please speak to House and Senate leadership, including Agriculture Committee leaders, and tell them you will not support a Farm Bill that cuts SNAP. Instead, they should:
  - Protect the 2018 bipartisan improvements to the Thrifty Food Plan
  - End the lifetime SNAP ban for those with drug convictions
  - End onerous work reporting requirements
  - Expand grocery food choice to include hot foods
8. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

### Tips for your letters

- For questions, contact RESULTS staff at [grassroots@results.org](mailto:grassroots@results.org).
- Find your members of Congress at: <https://results.org/volunteers/legislator-lookup>
- You can hand-write or type letters. Mail them or deliver them in lobby meetings.
- If you get a response, please let RESULTS staff know what they said.