

Congressional Lobby Request (April 2024)

Protect SNAP: A lifeline for Americans

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 nearly 40 million people each month. Families with children, older Americans, and persons with disabilities account for over 80 percent of SNAP recipients. SNAP reduces poverty, improves community health, and bolster local economies. As the need for food programs grows, Congress must protect and expand SNAP.

In the new Farm Bill, RESULTS urges you to protect and strengthen SNAP by expanding access to the program and increasing benefit amounts. RESULTS also urges you to oppose any changes to SNAP that would restrict eligibility and individual food choice, or decrease benefits.

Please speak to House Agriculture Chair Thompson and Ranking Member Scott / Senate Agriculture Chair Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman and urge them to support these policies for SNAP in the next Farm Bill:

Increase benefit amounts: The average daily SNAP benefit received is about \$7 per day. While benefits have slightly increased in recent years, they still fall short of what's needed to sustain a basic, nutritious diet. Congress should increase benefit amounts and reject changes to how benefits are calculated that would reduce current or future benefits.

Remove harmful work requirements: Work requirements stop many from receiving critical nutrition benefits. This includes parents, older Americans, formerly incarcerated persons, and many other low-income Americans. Congress must remove harmful work requirements for those who need SNAP the most.

Protect food choice options: Many communities lack access to nutritious, fresh foods (food deserts). Restricting foods SNAP recipients can buy leads to increases in hunger. Current restrictions, e.g., hot meal purchases, limit choice. Congress must provide more access to healthier foods for SNAP recipients, which would reduce food insecurity and lower health care costs.

Reduce the disruption of benefits: SNAP has a "benefit cliff", which abruptly cuts off benefits once income hits a certain level. This disincentivizes work and puts individuals and families at risk of hunger. Congress must strengthen the benefit phase-out to eliminate this cliff.