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.

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 (or a little over $2 a meal). While benefits have slightly increased in recent years, they still fall short of providing families the resources to sustain a basic, nutritious diet.

- **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, like hot meal purchases, limits recipients' choices. Congress must provide more access to healthier foods for SNAP recipients. Access to these healthier foods, lowers other health-related costs, i.e., medical care. It also decreases food insecurity for low-income individuals.

- **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.

RESULTS urges you to support SNAP reauthorization in the Farm Bill by expanding access and increasing benefit amounts. RESULTS also urges you to oppose any changes to the bill that would restrict eligibility or individual food choice.