Congress, don’t take away food from struggling families

By [YOUR NAME]

Congress is now considering a bill that would *take away* food from people struggling to find work. Is this what we’ve come to, only a few months after Congress passed huge tax cuts for the wealthy?

Unfortunately, the answer is yes. The proposed House Farm Bill will cause one million households to lose all or part of their SNAP (formerly food stamps) benefits over the next 10 years. At the same time, it will institute severe new requirements for adults who are struggling to find work and make the “cliff effect” worse, effectively penalizing families for earning just a little bit more.

SNAP helps more than *40 million people* in this country put food on the table. Taking away food won’t cause jobs to magically appear. But it will cause hunger – and make finding and keeping a job even harder. The fact is, most able-bodied adults on SNAP *already work* and a full two-thirds of recipients are children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Here in [your state], SNAP reached [number] residents, or [percentage] of the total population last year. It even *boosted* the economy, pumping about [$] into [your state]. [FACT SHEETS WITH LOCAL INFO FOUND [HERE](https://www.cbpp.org/research/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets)]

[If you have personal experience or other insights to share, do it here]

There is simply no reason to make harmful changes to a program that helps millions of people buy groceries and feed their families*.* Furthermore, the relatively meager amount of money set aside for job training is not additional funding – it’s being paid for by cutting food assistance.

Here is what I want to know: why can’t families have food to eat *and* job training opportunities? If there’s enough money for massive tax cuts, surely we can invest in robust training programs without taking away food from those who need it most.

I want every human being to succeed and reach their full potential. But this Farm Bill doesn’t give anyone that chance. It will punish low-income people and just make finding a job even harder. I hope I can count on [your member(s) of Congress] to vote against it. Instead, let’s work together to expand and strengthen effective programs and talk about what else we can do to make sure that more people here in [your state] can get back on their feet.