

Protect SNAP in the Farm Bill Reauthorization



.....

As Congress moves forward in reauthorizing the Farm Bill (H.R. 2), we urge you to protect and strengthen SNAP – do not cut its funding, or make structural changes to the program that would negatively impact eligibility and participation.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- ▶ SNAP is our nation’s largest anti-hunger program and it provides crucial nutrition to families with children, promotes health and wellness, and prepares students to learn.
- ▶ SNAP reaches key vulnerable populations — **78 percent of SNAP households include a child, an elderly person, or a person with disabilities**; 84 percent of all SNAP benefits go to such households.
- ▶ **SNAP lifted 3.6 million Americans out of poverty in 2016**, according to the Census Bureau’s Supplemental Poverty Measure.
- ▶ Children living in households that receive SNAP benefits are eligible to receive free school meals.

H.R. 2 Undermines Food Security

- ▶ H.R. 2 undermines this important link between SNAP and school meals in the 28 states that have chosen a broad based categorical eligibility option under current SNAP rules. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), this \$5 billion cut over 10 years **could impact as many as 265,000 students nationwide**. It will result in working families losing much needed food benefits and that **more children go hungry at home as well as at school**.
- ▶ Direct Certification for SNAP also provides the foundation for the Community Eligibility Provision, a hugely successful option that allows over **20,000 high poverty schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to their students**.
- ▶ The bill further imposes aggressive new work requirements, which are unnecessary, unworkable and likely to do more harm than good.

Protect SNAP

- ▶ In 2016, approximately 28.3 million adults (11.5 percent of all adults) and **12.9 million children (17.5 percent of all children) lived in food-insecure households**.
- ▶ Educators know that hungry children struggle to learn. Hunger impacts brain development and information processing, and can cause difficulty with academic achievement.
- ▶ Even as our economy continues to strengthen, many individuals and families with children continue to experience food insecurity. Now is not the time to cut SNAP or reduce eligibility; reauthorization of the Farm Bill is an opportunity to strengthen the program and invest in children’s health and well-being.