

Protecting SNAP: Lobby Visit Talking Points

It is important to communicate how cuts to SNAP would specifically impact your state. [Click here to read the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities fact sheet about SNAP in your state!](#)

We urge all lawmakers to reject any cuts to SNAP – including additional work-reporting requirements – and protect this program that helps our communities put food on the table and our children grow up healthy.

No matter what we look like, where we live, or how much money is in our wallets, we all deserve to eat nutritious food. But even with the SNAP program we have today, **47 million** people in the U.S. still face food insecurity, including **9.4 million children**. These numbers are inexcusable and immoral.

Grounded in Gospel teaching, we believe that all people have the right to the basic essentials we need to live—and food is the most basic of all. People of faith and all people of goodwill agree that **no child or family should go hungry**, especially in the richest nation in the world.

As a country, we have the resources to make sure that none of us has to worry about getting enough nutritious food to eat. SNAP is a critical tool for feeding our communities.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is our nation's most important tool for preventing hunger for families and children.

- **42 million people in the United States rely on SNAP to eat.**
- In our state, _____ (#) of our neighbors rely on SNAP to help feed themselves and their families.

And, SNAP does more than put food on the table.

- **SNAP helps the economy.** Studies demonstrate that every \$1 in SNAP benefits creates more than \$1.50 in economic activity.
- **SNAP is a lifeline for our rural communities.**
 - Rural areas have the highest proportions of SNAP participants.
 - Farmers and food workers need the economic stability that SNAP provides, especially in hard times.
- **SNAP improves our nation's health, education, and economic self-sufficiency.**
 - SNAP participants have fewer hospitalizations, lower health care costs, and a reduced need for other forms of public assistance.
 - Children with SNAP benefits are at lower risk for developmental problems, child abuse, and neglect, and have better educational achievement outcomes.

Yet, the House budget reconciliation bill cuts SNAP by \$300 billion...

- **Forcing states to cut back or end food assistance.** States will be expected to make up for federal funding cuts by either limiting eligibility, making it harder to enroll, or taking away food assistance altogether.

- *This would be the first time in the modern history of SNAP that the federal government fails to ensure that children in every state have food assistance.*

- **Creating even more red tape with more work-reporting requirements,** threatening food assistance for nearly 11 million people, including 4 million children and more than 500,000 adults who are 65 or older or have a disability.

Work-reporting requirements will worsen hunger for people including:

- A grandmother who cares for her grandkids so their mom can work full-time;
 - Individuals with severe health problems struggling with endless delays in their disability applications; and
 - Gig workers with unstable employment opportunities.

See state and congressional district data on work-reporting requirements [here](#).

- **Preventing food assistance from keeping up with rising costs.** By restricting future updates to the Thrifty Food Plan (the basis for SNAP benefits), the bill would cut future food assistance for all 40 million participants, including 1 in 5 children in the U.S., and make SNAP benefits increasingly inadequate to afford a healthy diet over time.

These cuts make no sense because:

- **SNAP is already limited to our neighbors with the greatest need.** 92% of SNAP benefits go to households at or below the poverty line.
- **SNAP benefits only cover a subsistence diet.** Even though food inflation has skyrocketed and still rises, the average SNAP benefit is just \$6.20/day per person.
- **SNAP already has strict eligibility rules, including work-reporting requirements.**

Any cuts to SNAP will be devastating for our communities.

- Our local soup kitchens and food banks are already overwhelmed.
- Cutting SNAP will result in higher costs for health care, education, and social services.
- **Cutting SNAP will increase poverty and instability in our country and worsen food insecurity for our families and communities.**

Tell your Members of Congress:

SNAP keeps food on the table and strengthens our economy.

Don't be the vote that takes food from our families!

Food for families or tax handouts for billionaires—whose side are you on?