



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

CHAIRMAN GT THOMPSON

**The One Big Beautiful Bill Act contains the most significant reforms made to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the history of the program.** The Committee's reforms ensure SNAP works the way Congress intended it to, by reinforcing work, restoring program integrity, and instituting long-overdue accountability incentives to control costs and end administrative overreach.

## NEED FOR SNAP REFORM:

- Though intended to **supplement** the food budget for low-income individuals, SNAP has [ballooned](#) in cost. Since 2019, SNAP rolls have increased by 17 percent, from 36 million to 42 million, meanwhile the overall cost of the program has grown by 83 percent, **ballooning from \$60 billion to \$110 billion annually.**
- States, who administer the program, collectively make over **\$10 billion per year in erroneous payments**, both overpayments and underpayments, to participants in the SNAP program. The national average [error rate](#) of 11 percent has nearly doubled since 2019.
- **Only 28 percent** of able-bodied adults without dependents on SNAP have **earned income from work.** USDA and states have intentionally limited enforcement of the SNAP work requirement for ABAWDs through waivers, **leaving 40 percent of these work-ready individuals today under a waiver of the ABAWD work requirement**, remaining on the SNAP rolls long after the three-month time limit.
- Because the SNAP benefit, unlike other entitlement programs, is 100 percent funded by the Federal government, **there is minimal incentive for states to control costs, enhance efficiencies, and improve outcomes for recipients.**

## KEY REFORMS TO SAVE TAXPAYERS NEARLY \$200 BILLION:

- **Introduces a Modest, Incentive-Based State Benefit Share**  
Aligns SNAP with other state-administered entitlement programs by requiring states with high payment error rates to shoulder a modest share of the benefit costs, incentivizing states to administer SNAP more efficiently and effectively.
- **Restrains Future Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) Updates**  
Prevents future administrations from unilaterally increasing SNAP benefits beyond inflation, correcting the Biden Administration's [illegal](#) overreach.

- **Expands the Work Requirement for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs)**  
Increases the age limit from 54 to 64 and limits exemptions to caregivers of children under 14, updating the program to reflect the modern economy.
- **Closes Loopholes in Work Requirement Waivers**  
Narrows eligibility for waivers from the work requirement to areas with high unemployment, reasserting Congressional intent.
- **Stops A New Internet Utility Loophole**  
Reverses a last-minute Biden-era rule that allows internet costs to inflate SNAP benefits through excessive utility deductions, preventing another Biden Administration effort to increase SNAP benefits without Congress.
- **Ends the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Utility Shell Game**  
Prevents states from intentionally gaming the system with nominal energy payments to households to artificially increase SNAP benefits, closing a longstanding loophole in the law.
- **Controls Runaway State Administrative Costs**  
Decreases the uncapped Federal share of state administrative expenses to run SNAP from 50 percent to 25 percent, controlling costs that have skyrocketed post COVID and encouraging states to serve SNAP participants in a more efficient manner.
- **Eliminates an Ineffective and Duplicative SNAP Nutrition Education Program (SNAP-Ed)**  
Ends a program that has yielded no meaningful [change](#) in the nutrition or obesity of SNAP participants, eliminating \$500 million in annual wasted spending.
- **Restricts SNAP Eligibility for Illegal Aliens**  
Requires that to be eligible for SNAP, an individual must be a U.S. citizen, national, lawful permanent resident (including Iraqi and Afghan SIVs), Cuban and Haitian entrant, or an individual lawfully living in the United States as a result of a Compact of Free Association, ending taxpayer funded subsidies for mass migration.

#### **CONSERVATIVE PRIORITIES:**

- Reinforces Article I authority by stopping the executive branch and states from manipulating SNAP eligibility and benefit calculations to inflate the rolls without Congressional approval.
- Restores bipartisan work expectations for able-bodied adults.
- Incentivizes states to administer the SNAP program more efficiently and effectively, prioritizing limited resources for those who truly need the benefit.

#### **CHARGE AND RESPONSE:**

**CLAIM:** "This is a \$200B cut to SNAP benefits."

**RESPONSE:** These savings come from ensuring SNAP operates the way Congress intended (and reinforced in numerous bipartisan Farm Bills) and closing loopholes exploited by

states and the executive branch over decades that have resulted in exploding costs and harm to those who truly need the benefit.

**CLAIM:** "Most SNAP participants already work. These changes to the work requirement are unnecessary."

**RESPONSE:** Only 28% of able-bodied adults without dependents on SNAP have earned income according to the USDA. Democrats cite flawed survey estimates to distract from the real problem: too many who can work, aren't doing so.

**CLAIM:** "Work requirements are cruel."

**RESPONSE:** A bipartisan [majority](#) of the American people support work requirements. Asking someone to work, volunteer, or participate in job training for 20 hours a week in exchange for taxpayer funded nutrition support is not cruel. There is dignity in work, and SNAP should be a hand up, not a handout. States already receive generous funding to help individuals meet work requirements, including for training programs, childcare, housing, and transportation.

**CLAIM:** "Cuts to SNAP will decimate local economies. "

**RESPONSE:** Only Democrats would argue that we need to keep people in poverty to generate economic activity. The real economic engine is moving people into jobs, off benefits, and onto the ladder of opportunity. American families and communities thrive when people can provide for themselves without government assistance.

**CLAIM:** "Some kids will go hungry in school because of this bill."

**RESPONSE:** The Democrats are conflating cruelty with integrity. If a parent chooses not to work, volunteer, or participate in job training for 20 hours a week, nothing in this bill prevents them from filling out an application for their children to receive free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch at school. Requiring parents to document their needs, not automatically giving kids free meals, is important to maintain the integrity of federal nutrition programs.

**CLAIM:** "States will not be able to pay their share of the SNAP benefit and will be forced to kick people off the program."

**RESPONSE:** It is nothing more than hypothetical fearmongering to claim that states will not be able to pay for modest share of a *supplemental* nutrition assistance program. States are already paying anywhere from 25 to 50 percent of the cost of Medicaid benefits in their states. States are fully capable of paying for SNAP, and every single state has achieved an error rate below 6% in the last 10 years. The time has come to impose clear incentives for states to improve their service to SNAP participants and control costs, and the only way for that to occur is for them to have some level of skin in the game on benefit expenditures.

**CLAIM:** "Parents or caretakers will not be able to meet the work requirement, and their kids will go hungry."

**RESPONSE:** Parents of children under the age of 14, or parents who are pregnant, disabled, taking care of disabled child or aging parent, in school at least half time, or participating in an alcohol or drug treatment program are EXEMPT from the work requirements. The work requirement can be met by volunteering, working, or training for 20 hours a week. A parent or caretaker could satisfy the work requirement entirely online through SNAP Employment and Training programs or any other federal, state, or local job training program. To address issues such as lack of childcare or transportation during the summer, states can grant temporary exemptions at their discretion from the work requirement.

**CLAIM:** “Kids will go hungry if this bill becomes law.”

**RESPONSE:** States are fully capable of funding a modest share of SNAP benefits in their state for those who are eligible. Parents and caretakers not otherwise exempt from the work requirements are also fully capable of working, volunteering, or training 20 hours a week to receive benefits. Work requirements connect families to the support and opportunities they need to become self-sufficient, and states have the resources and wrap around services available to engage these individuals. And, as its name implies, SNAP is a supplemental nutrition assistance program. Congress never intended for SNAP to support low-income households’ entire nutritional needs. SNAP-eligible households are also eligible for free and reduced price breakfast and lunch at school, the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Child and Adult Food Care Program (meals at after school care), summer EBT benefits to purchase food when school is out (Summer EBT), and food banks and pantries funded through the federal Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

**CLAIM:** “This bill takes SNAP benefits away from veterans.”

**RESPONSE:** Under the OBBBA, states will once again be required to engage veterans who receive SNAP in work, volunteering, or job training for 20 hours/week. This was the status quo from 1996-2023 before Democrats demanded we deny veterans a chance at the opportunity and upward mobility that work and career and technical education can provide in the Fiscal Responsibility Act negotiations. Veterans who are over the age of 64, mentally or physically disabled, taking care of a dependent under the age of 14, taking care of a disabled child or aging parent, participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program, in school at least half time, or participating in a job training program at least half time will see no change in their status, as they are exempt from the work requirement.