



THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

TOPLINE MESSAGES

- Republicans are focused on incremental steps to improve our economy and the livelihood of those participating in it.
- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has been anti-work for decades, made worse under President Obama, particularly his Administration's expansive interpretation of law related to state waivers. By holding USDA accountable to publicly sharing the requests and data related to these waivers of the work requirement, and USDA's subsequent approval, the American people will now see the lengths states go to keep people sidelined.
- SNAP is just as much about nutrition security as it is about financial security, and this bill moves us in the direction of making certain our work-capable adults have access to employment, career and technical training, and simply put, opportunity.

THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

- As we've seen many times in the past, CBO is basing their score on weak information that doesn't reflect how SNAP really works.
- It is virtually impossible for 78,000 people to gain benefits in an average month unless they are already eligible under current law. Simply put, **these are not new beneficiaries.**
- CBO states "several groups would be newly exempt from work requirements"—even when nearly all the populations listed in the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) were already covered under the existing state-level exemptions and waivers.
- CBO also claims the reduction in exemptions from 12% to 8% is negligible, which in CBO terms means close to zero. In 2018, a reduction in exemptions from 15% to 12% was estimated to be \$310M over 10 years. These are directly contradictory.
- Finally, the entire justification for the \$2.1 billion cost is a citation from an internal CBO study that is not peer reviewed, published last year. This study concludes "tightening work requirements would reduce federal spending."

SUMMARY OF SNAP PROVISIONS

SECTION 311

- The age of able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDS) has been shifted from 18-49 to 18-54, with new exceptions for homeless individuals, veterans, and youth aging out of foster care.

SECTION 312

- Effective 2024, State-level exemptions are reduced from 12% to 8%. Additionally, USDA long interpreted the law to allow States to carryover these exemptions; the FRA ends that interpretation, effective 2024.

SECTION 313

- This is identical language to that seen in the Limit, Save, Grow Act, which modifies the declaration of SNAP policy to include financial security.

SECTION 314

- Effective 30 days after enactment, USDA must make available all State requests for ABAWD waivers, and the Department's subsequent approvals of them. For reference, these have never been public, and will show the lengths States go to in order to waive individuals from the work requirement.