

Messaging Guidance: Republican Giveaway to the Rich Funded by Largest Food Assistance Cut in History

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The Republicans' budget decimates food assistance and abandons most farm bill policy. 42 million Americans risk having their food assistance taken away, or reduced, due to the broader, sweeping changes within the bill as they relate to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In total, the changes in the Senate's bill would **slash SNAP by nearly \$200 billion**, or 20 percent, including shifting \$65 billion¹ in costs to states and counties, an unfunded mandate that will force them to cut food assistance, raise taxes or gut state and local services. States that cannot come up with the increase in costs could be forced to pull out of the program altogether.

Despite robbing SNAP to give \$68 billion to a handful of farm programs, most of the farm bill is ignored entirely. Raiding the farm bill's Nutrition Title to pay for non-nutrition programs would be enough to jeopardize any farm bill and is a blatant disregard of the traditional bipartisan farm bill process and coalition that has been key to passing every farm bill.

Key Messages

H.R. 1 Slashes SNAP Benefits: Republicans' budget bill **cuts SNAP benefits for all 42 million Americans** depending on SNAP to put food on their tables, including: **16 million** children, **8 million** seniors (aged 60+), **4 million** people with disabilities (below 60), and **1.2 million** veterans. It also slashes **\$1 billion** from Summer EBT, which provides food assistance to children in low-income families over the summer and **\$1 billion** from Puerto Rico's Nutrition Assistance Program.

H.R. 1 Takes Food Away from Millions of Americans: The bill's expanded SNAP paperwork requirements puts **5 million people**, including about 800,000 children and more than 500,000 adults aged 65 or older and adults with disabilities, at risk of losing some or all of their SNAP benefits if it becomes law.

H.R. 1 Takes Benefits Away from Veterans, Homeless People, and Former Foster Youth: CBO estimates that under H.R. 1, roughly **270,000** veterans, homeless, and former foster youth (up to age 24) will lose their food assistance each month.

H.R.1 Forces Counties to Raise Local Taxes or Cut Services: In **9 states** that use counties to administer SNAP, counties' costs are projected to jump by more than **\$850 million** per year. In some states, counties could see their expenses rise by **\$250 million** per year.

H.R.1 Could Force States to Drop out of SNAP Entirely: The Republicans' reconciliation bill shifts **\$65 billion**¹ in benefit and administrative costs to states and counties, which could result in states

¹ CBO score for Sec. 10105 and 10106 as of 6/26/25. Does not account for the option for states with high error rates to delay the benefit cost shift.

being forced to pull out of the program altogether due to increased costs. Governors, county commissioners, SNAP administrators, and CBO have all warned that there is no alternative if states and counties cannot meet the amount demanded.

H.R. 1 Rewards States with High Error Rates: For months, all we've heard is that this bill is meant to "root out" waste, fraud and abuse. Republicans have disingenuously pointed to SNAP payment error rates as the problem, mischaracterizing them as a measurement of "fraud," when it is actually a measurement of states' payment calculation accuracy. They have said they wanted to "crack down on the worst offenders." Yet, on Tuesday, they did a 180 and decided to **give only states with the highest error rates the ability to opt-out of the new SNAP benefit cost shift**. Now, Republicans are punishing states that are making more progress, while rewarding those making the least. Clearly, this was never about "waste, fraud and abuse." This is about using any means possible to cut food assistance programs to give tax breaks to the richest Americans and the largest corporations.

H.R. 1 Breaks Up the Long-standing Farm Bill Coalition, Jeopardizing a Farm Bill: With costs up, prices down, and the threat of a trade war seemingly always looming, now more than ever our family farmers, ranchers and producers need the certainty that a five-year, 12-title farm bill provides. If Republicans decimate SNAP, a farm bill program, the coalition that has been essential to the successful passage of bipartisan farm bills will be forever undermined, making it tougher to pass not just a farm bill this year but all future farm bills.

H.R. 1 Reduces Demand for Food, Cutting into Farm Revenue: These massive SNAP cuts not only jeopardize a farm bill being passed this year, adding further instability to farm country, they will also result in a **\$25 billion drop in farm revenue** at a time when every dollar counts.

H.R. 1 Disproportionately Hits Rural Communities: SNAP cuts will hit rural America hardest. SNAP's economic impact is particularly strong in rural communities (**16 percent**) and small towns (**15 percent**), where people participate at higher rates than in urban areas (**13 percent**), and where SNAP dollars provide even **higher returns to the local economy**.

H.R. 1 Harms Rural Grocers: **27,000** retailers in largely rural counties have the highest risk of being harmed by SNAP cuts, due to the program's significant economic impact in rural communities. SNAP is responsible for **249,700** grocery industry jobs annually, with direct wages totaling **\$10.3 billion**.

H.R. 1 Hurts the Food Economy: Cuts to SNAP have significant negative impacts on the farmers who grow the food, manufacturers that package it, truckers who distribute it and stores and small businesses in our communities that sell it. In 2024, SNAP created nearly **139,000** new jobs in supporting industries, including agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and municipal services, with direct wages totaling **\$9.8 billion**. More than **\$20 billion** in direct wages derived from the **388,700** grocery and supporting industry jobs supported by SNAP result in over **\$4.5 billion** in state and federal tax revenue per year.