

April 9, 2025

**To:** Interested Democratic Offices

**From:** Democratic Staff, House Agriculture Committee

**Subject:** The Republican Plan to Cut Billions from SNAP Hurts Families and Farmers

## Overview

The House Republicans' budget resolution (H.Con.Res.14) included instructions to the House Committee on Agriculture to cut programs in its jurisdiction by a minimum of \$230 billion. It is nearly impossible to achieve this target without cutting SNAP, our nation's most efficient and effective anti-poverty tool and a critical part of the Farm Bill. Several proposals on how to cut SNAP have been suggested by Republicans; what each has in common is that they will take food off the tables of families in need and have painful ramifications that will be felt across the food supply chain and farm country.

## Who Will Be Hurt by SNAP Cuts?

- More than 42 million Americans participate in SNAP each month.
- 80 percent of SNAP households include a child, senior (aged 60+) or disabled person.
- 16.9 million (40 percent) SNAP participants are children.
- 7.8 million (18 percent) SNAP participants are seniors (aged 60+).
- 4.5 million (11 percent) SNAP participants are people with disabilities (below 60).

Find SNAP participation by congressional district [here](#) (USDA) and [here](#) (Food Research & Action Council (FRAC)).

## How Does Cutting SNAP Impact Farm Country?

- **Jeopardizes the Farm Bill** – Right now, farmers, ranchers and producers need the certainty that a farm bill provides. Massive cuts to SNAP jeopardize a farm bill being passed this year adding further instability to farm country.
- **Eliminates \$30 billion in Farm Revenue** – Farmers receive nearly [a quarter of every dollar](#) spent on food at home and SNAP participants [cut their food purchases by roughly half](#) for every dollar that they lose in benefits. That means that cutting SNAP by \$230 billion would take away \$30 billion in revenue from farmers and ranchers, causing additional harm to an already struggling farm economy.
- **Impacts Rural Communities Hardest** – Cuts would hit rural America hardest. SNAP's economic impact is particularly strong in [rural communities and small towns](#), where people [participate at higher rates than in urban areas](#), and where SNAP dollars provide even [higher returns to the local economy](#).

## How Does Cutting SNAP Harm the Economy?

Cuts to SNAP would 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:

- **SNAP dollars Stimulate the Economy** – Every \$1.00 in SNAP benefits generates an additional \$1.50 in economic activity.
- **SNAP Creates Jobs** – In 2020 alone, SNAP [created nearly 45,000 new jobs](#) in supporting industries, including agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and municipal services.
- **Supports Critical Industries** – SNAP also [supported 200,000 grocery industry jobs](#) in 2020, with wages totaling more than \$6.7 billion.

## How House Republicans Plan to Cut SNAP

### Cut Benefits and Increase the Cost of Food for Every SNAP Participant

Republicans have proposed [immediately cutting SNAP benefits by 23 percent](#) by rolling back a 2021 update to the [Thrifty Food Plan](#) (the basis of SNAP benefit amounts) and by preventing future updates from increasing benefits. The 2021 Thrifty Food Plan adjusted SNAP benefits for the first time in nearly 60 years to account for changes in dietary guidance and the latest data on food prices, food composition, and consumption patterns.

A full rollback of the Thrifty Food Plan would immediately **slash benefits and increase food costs** for a typical SNAP household of four **by \$175 a month, or \$2,085 a year** (rising to \$3,100 a year by 2034).

State-by-State estimates of the proposed SNAP benefit cuts can be found [here](#).

### Mandate State Cost-Share for SNAP Benefits

The Federal government covers 100 percent of SNAP benefits while costs for the administration of the program are split 50-50 with States. States have never been required to pay for SNAP benefits, but Republicans are proposing to require them to do so on top of the existing administrative cost share. Creating a new unfunded mandate requiring States to pay for a portion of benefits would force States to cut SNAP benefits, severely restrict program eligibility, or both.

States are not in a financial position to absorb significant increases in costs. In fiscal year 2024, tax revenue fell in 40 States, and [many are already projecting budget shortfalls](#). States with [lower incomes and higher poverty rates](#), like Louisiana, Mississippi and Kentucky, would be disproportionately impacted.

Find State-by-State estimates of SNAP benefit cost-share burden [here](#).

## Take Food Away from People via New, Expanded Work Reporting Requirements

House Republicans have also suggested expanding SNAP's existing, harsh work reporting requirements. SNAP's time-limit on benefits prevents individuals considered "able-bodied adults without dependents" from receiving SNAP more than three months every three years unless they can find work. The vast majority of people subject to the time limit [have a high school education or less](#), [have incomes below 50 percent of the Federal poverty line](#) and face entrenched barriers to work, like homelessness,<sup>1</sup> underlying mental or physical disabilities or lack of access to transportation.

Republican proposals to add new, extended work requirements include raising the age for those subject to SNAP's time-limit to 65, restricting or eliminating States' ability to use discretionary exemptions and waivers when jobs are scarce and imposing the time-limit on families with children. Achieving \$230 billion in cuts by increasing eligibility restrictions would require taking food away from [9 million Americans](#).

Find State-by-State estimates of how many SNAP participants could lose eligibility [here](#).

## "Crack Down" on "Waste, Fraud and Abuse"

SNAP takes fraud – or intentional violations – very seriously and imposes harsh penalties or disqualification on retailers or recipients who commit them. Criminal charges are also a possibility in large scale cases. These types of violations are rare, and do not add up to enough to pay for the \$230 billion in cuts that Republicans have prescribed, even if you could prevent them all. Still, Republicans claim the program is rife with "waste, fraud and abuse" as an excuse to add even more red tape to SNAP, generating "savings" by making it too difficult for people to participate in the program.

## Sample Talking Points

### Impacts on Farm Country

- Democrats support getting a farm bill passed this year that provides desperately needed certainty to farmers, ranchers, and producers in every corner of the country. By making these historic cuts to SNAP, Republicans are putting the farm bill in jeopardy and showing family farmers that tax breaks for billionaires come before certainty for farm country.
- Cutting SNAP by \$230 billion would take away \$30 billion in revenue from farmers and ranchers, causing additional harm to an already struggling farm economy.
- If Republicans decimate these farm bill programs, passing a new bipartisan farm bill that enhances the farm safety net and invests in rural communities gets harder.

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<sup>1</sup> The implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, which included an exemption for homeless individuals, may impact the number of homeless individuals impacted by the time-limit for years FY2024-FY2030.

## Impacts on the Economy and Costs

- Democrats support getting a farm bill passed this year that provides desperately needed certainty to family farmers and protects SNAP which creates jobs and is an economic driver returning \$1.50 to our communities for every \$1.00 invested. By supporting these cuts to SNAP, the GOP are jeopardizing the farm bill, choosing tax breaks for billionaires over economic support for communities across our country.
- If Republicans are successful at slashing benefits by rolling back the 2021 Thrifty Food Plan reevaluation, costs for a typical SNAP household of four will increase by \$2,085 a year (rising to \$3,100 a year by 2034).
- SNAP dollars stimulate the economy. Every \$1.00 invested in SNAP generates \$1.50 in economic activity. Making these cuts would hurt the farmers who grow the food, manufacturers who package it, truckers who distribute it, and the small businesses in our communities that sell it.
- In 2020 alone, SNAP supported 200,000 grocery industry jobs, with wages totaling more than \$6.7 billion, and helped create nearly 45,000 jobs in supporting industries including agriculture, manufacturing, transportation and municipal services.

## Impacts on Nutrition

- Democrats support getting a farm bill passed this year that provides desperately needed certainty to family farmers and protects SNAP so that some of the most vulnerable in our communities, seniors, children, and the disabled, can continue to put food on the table. In supporting these cuts, Republicans are jeopardizing the farm bill and putting tax cuts for billionaires ahead of the children, seniors, and veterans having affordable food.
- Decimating Farm Bill nutrition programs to extend tax cuts for billionaires would hurt economic growth and farm income and take food out of the mouths of hungry children.
- 1 in 8 Americans, including 17 million children, 8 million seniors, and 4.5 million people with disabilities, rely on SNAP to put food on the table. Slashing these programs and making groceries less affordable at a time when food, housing, and other costs remain high is unacceptable.
- Each month, 1.2 million veterans depend on SNAP to put food on their tables and could face higher food costs because of these cuts.
- Cutting farm bill nutrition programs does not make life affordable for everyday people. Instead of cutting SNAP to pay for handouts to billionaires, Republicans should prioritize helping working people and rural economies.

## Resources

- Hart Research polling shows that [SNAP cuts are unpopular](#), even among a majority of Trump voters.
- [District-level SNAP participation data](#) from USDA (118<sup>th</sup> congressional districts).
- [District-level SNAP participation data](#) from FRAC analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey for 2023 (118<sup>th</sup> congressional districts).
- [District-level data for SNAP and Medicaid participants](#) from the Budget Committee.
- [State-by-State estimates of SNAP benefit cuts](#) by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
- [State-by-State estimates of the benefit cost-share burden](#) by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
- [State-by-State estimates of the number of children impacted](#) by SNAP cuts by the Century Foundation.
- [Analysis showing that rural States face the deepest cuts](#) by the Century Foundation.