



May 22, 2023

The Honorable Barbra Lee  
2470 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Lee,

On behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal policy and budget decisions, we are writing to express our support for the Improving Access to Nutrition Act (H.R.1510).

9 million children across the United States experience food insecurity. Access to proper nutrition during childhood directly influences health and well-being throughout a child's life. Food insecurity is specifically associated with poorer physical and mental health, lower school performance, and diminished psycho-social functioning. Congress must ensure our children are kept fed and well-nourished so that the negative impacts of food insecurity will not be felt for years to come.

For children in poverty, SNAP offers a critical lifeline. We strongly support your proposal to increase enrollment and access by alleviating ineffective and burdensome time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents. Children often depend on pooled resources (including SNAP benefits) from extended family members who do not claim them as dependents. Legislative changes that eliminate ABAWD time limits would also help youth aging out of foster care and unaccompanied homeless youth over the age of 18, who already experience high rates of unemployment and poverty and face barriers in accessing public assistance programs. Eliminating these time limits allows children to access the nutrition they need without forcing their parents to navigate burdensome layers of bureaucracy.

We commend you for your work to eliminate arduous barriers that keep food off of children's tables. We look forward to working with you to make sure that all children have adequate access to SNAP and receive the nutrition they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

Bruce Lesley  
President