

TELL CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE RESTORING FOOD SECURITY FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND FARMERS ACT OF 2025



Roughly 4-in-10 participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are children — which makes the way lawmakers tossed it around like a political football during the government shutdown all the more disturbing. The Administration turned the program on and off like a light switch as the lives and budgets of 42 million people — including 16 million kids — hung in the balance. This chaos came on the heels of the steepest funding cuts in the program's history: A nearly \$200 billion gutting to be enacted over the next decade under the so-called One Big Beautiful Bill, passed as H.R. 1. But now, in a potential turnaround, new legislation may prevent these harmful cuts from taking place.

The 43-day government shutdown made families and kids unsure at any given moment whether they'd have the support they rely on to put food on the table, forcing them to choose between **food or diapers**. The tumult hit food banks, where an estimated **one-third of patrons are children**, straining them to fill the gaps. And it hit state agencies that are responsible for handling SNAP, making it impossible for them to accurately administer the program.

Food banks are not built to replace SNAP. They are built to supplement it. One food bank meal **equals roughly nine meals** provided by SNAP. Yet the shutdown forced them to try anyway — a burden that states, local communities, and charitable networks are ill-equipped to bear. As it became clear that benefits would be interrupted, food banks were catapulted into **"emergency response mode."** With benefits paused, staff at one pantry in Pennsylvania reported demand unlike anything seen **"even at the peak of the pandemic"**. The situation for state SNAP administrators was equally chaotic.

The combination of legal uncertainty, administrative burden, and operational risk makes clear that if states cannot manage a brief interruption from the federal government, they are surely not prepared to absorb the cost shift scheduled under H.R. 1.

Though the immediate SNAP crisis has now passed, all of it is a preview for what is coming, unless Congress charts a different path. Starting next year, H.R. 1 will require states to start paying a larger share of SNAP benefit costs for the first time in the program's history. To put it simply: no state is in a position to absorb these cost shifts. States could be forced to narrow eligibility so that fewer children and families qualify or to make benefits less supportive of children. Under the law, if states can't fully pay the amount owed, they could be forced to drop out of SNAP entirely, terminating benefits for everyone eligible in the state. To make matters worse: if a child loses access to SNAP because of these policy changes, they will also lose their seamless access to free school meals.

TELL CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE RESTORING FOOD SECURITY FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND FARMERS ACT OF 2025



As these cuts from H.R. 1 begin to take effect— with participants, food banks, and state governments still reeling from the shutdown chaos — it's worth remembering the human impact of these intentional policy choices: hungry, poorly nourished children. For millions of kids, SNAP goes beyond nutrition. **It provides critical support for their health, education, and overall well-being.**

For more than 50 years, SNAP has received bipartisan support as a federal response to the hunger crisis across the United States. Without action to reverse H.R. 1's harmful cost shifts, we risk becoming a country where some kids receive nutrition assistance and others do not, simply based on where they live.

Fortunately, lawmakers introduced legislation recently in both the House and Senate that would repeal H.R.1's devastating cuts to SNAP and reverse the state cost shift that will cripple the SNAP program. The Restoring Food Security for American Families and Farmers Act (**H.R. 6088** and **S. 3281**) would ensure that the 16 million children who rely on SNAP would continue to benefit from its critical role in helping them grow and reach their full potential.

Take Action Now

1. Please write to your **U.S. Representative** and urge them to cosponsor **H.R. 6088, The Restoring Food Security for American Families and Farmers Act.**
2. Please write to **both your senators** and ask them to cosponsor the Senate version of the bill: **S. 3281, The Restoring Food Security for American Families and Farmers Act.**
3. Let them know that you want Congress to restore the cuts to SNAP made in H.R. 1 and to reverse the costs the bill will shift to states starting next year.
4. Pull from the text above to make your case.
5. Tell them that you support SNAP because the program keeps kids fed, improves their health and academic outcomes, and stabilizes their lives at home.
6. If your member of Congress has **already cosponsored** H.R. 6088 or **already cosponsored S. 3281**, please write to thank them instead.