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CONTACT: D'Anelle Desire
Director of Communications
Tennessee Justice Center
ddesire@tnjustice.org

Clock is Ticking for Congress to Support SNAP to Relieve TN and Families

Nashville, TN, August 10, 2026 – [New USDA data](#) confirms that Tennessee, along with 35 other states, will soon face massive new costs to operate SNAP, otherwise known as food stamps. The Tennessee Justice Center urges the Senate to include a two-year delay to the cost shift in the Farm Bill upon their return from August recess. Otherwise, Tennessee faces a significant financial burden while families struggle to put food on the table. All states deserve the same opportunity to prepare.

Starting October 1, 2027, most states will be required to pay a portion of SNAP benefit costs for the first time depending on their "payment error rate" from fiscal year 2025 or 2026. The state's error rate measures the extent to which states gave families too much or too little in SNAP dollars, largely due to unintentional mistakes from the state's agency. This unfair timeline gives Tennessee very little time to reduce errors before being on the line to pay for them.

"Without a delay, Tennessee will have to appropriate at least \$170 million dollars in this upcoming budget cycle to ensure food gets into the hands of vulnerable Tennesseans," said Anna Grace Dastugue, Director of Nutrition Policy at the Tennessee Justice Center. "We need Congress to extend the same delay to Tennessee that has been granted to other states. It is only fair to give all states the same runway."

While [reports by Feeding America](#) show an increase in food insecurity among children, nearly 347,000 in Tennessee alone, the state has seen over a 10% drop in SNAP enrollment

since the passage of HR 1. The execution of HR 1 is causing a hunger crisis in our state, and the harm to Tennessee families will only deepen if Congress does not act.

While Tennessee Senators are back in the state, let them know what SNAP means to your community and encourage them to use the Farm Bill to mitigate the harm and delay the cost shift. Visit www.tnjustice.org/joinus to take action!

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About Tennessee Justice Center / www.tnjustice.org

For over 30 years, the Tennessee Justice Center has been standing with vulnerable Tennessee families and helping them access basic necessities of life. Since opening our doors in 1996, TJC has used lawsuits, legislation and coalition building to overcome injustice, winning \$8 billion in health care and hundreds of millions in financial and nutrition assistance for Tennesseans. Aside from lawsuits, TJC helps assist seniors and other individuals with TennCare, SNAP and other public benefit programs.