

Summary

Proposals included in the House version of Farm Bill (HR 2) will undercut the highly effective, efficient Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which helps 1 in 6 Tennesseans put food on the table, keeps 116,000 Tennessee children out of poverty, and pumps \$1.7 billion into our state economy.

The sweeping, aggressive changes to SNAP proposed in HR 2 will take food assistance away from thousands of Tennesseans when they need it most, increasing hunger and hardship for parents, older adults, low-wage workers, and unemployed workers. The proposed legislation, rather than giving low-wage and unemployed people the tools they need to achieve economic self-sufficiency, cuts SNAP benefits by nearly \$19 billion. It diverts much of that money to a risky new scheme of ineffective work programs and unforgiving penalties that would take food assistance away from those who don't prove every month that they work enough hours or qualify for an exemption. Provisions in HR 2 would also limit Tennessee's flexibility to administer the program while requiring substantial increases in state bureaucracy and red tape. In short, **the proposal undermines the broader goal we all have of creating a Tennessee where all people can succeed.**

Time Limits: What You Need To Know

1) SNAP already has time limits for people aged 18-49 who are not raising minor children and are working fewer than 20 hours per week. They can receive food help for just 3 months out of every 3 years.

2) Time limits take food away from low-wage/unemployed workers: Since several counties (previously exempt from time limits due to waivers) had time limits go into effect this year, over 40,000 Tennesseans have been cut off from vital food assistance.

House Farm Bill Proposal (HR 2):

Expands Time Limits - which hurts



Older adults up to age 59



Parents of children >6



Shift Workers with no control over schedule



Unemployed Workers

Imposes harsher penalties and time limits



Increases min. working hours from 20 to 25 hours



x 1 - 3 years
Participants working fewer than 20 hours risk losing benefits for 1 year the first time and 3 years the second time.

Restricts states' flexibility administering SNAP



State must "track" low-wage workers with inconsistent work hours



State must intervene in workers' & employers' lives to collect paystubs, timesheets and other documents

Increases state bureaucracy and red tape



Reduces the state's flexibility to waive SNAP time limits in areas with high unemployment

46/80

80 counties qualify for waivers under the current law but only 46 counties would qualify under the proposed law.

Senate Farm Bill Proposal (HR 2):



Proposes no major changes to SNAP eligibility rules; no new time limits



Presents bipartisan solutions, honoring a 85-year tradition.



Protects state flexibility in program administration



Invests in SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) programs



Increases the certification period for disabled households and seniors with fixed-incomes

SNAP & FARM BILL 2018

Here's what you can do

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES!



Senator Alexander
Phone: (202) 224-4944
Email: <https://bit.ly/2k4YejF>



Senator Corker
Phone: (202) 224-3344
Email: <https://bit.ly/2rFsJk1>



House Representative
Phone: (202) 225-3121
Email: <https://bit.ly/2rFsJk1>

Here's why

The House passed HR 2 on June 21. Regardless of HR 2's passage, both Senate and House farm bills must be conferenced and reconciled by the September 30 deadline. Now, before the short congressional recess in August, is the best time to reach out to your Members and take a stand against harmful proposals that will fuel hunger and poverty in Tennessee.

Here's what you could say

Senators: We thank you for working with Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich) to ensure a strong bipartisan Farm Bill that protects SNAP. We urge you to stand strong and reject harmful cuts to SNAP proposed in the House bill HR 2.

House Members: We urge you to work with Senate Agriculture Committee leadership to pass a Farm Bill that protects SNAP from harmful cuts and changes, like expanding time limits on parents with young children.

Both: SNAP is important for our state, helping 1 in 6 Tennesseans buy groceries and put food on the table. This is an opportunity to work on a bipartisan basis to strengthen SNAP and to make meaningful investments in job training and education programs that would provide low-wage workers in our state the opportunity to move up the economic ladder.

You're in Good Company

Join TJC, United Ways of Tennessee, Tennessee Association of Farmer's Markets, Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast TN, Mid-South Food Bank, Nashville Food Project, Memphis Food Policy

Other Opportunities



Sign on to our Defend SNAP/Farm Bill petition
<https://bit.ly/2K0UWLR>



Submit a letter to the editor or op-ed (we provide templates)



Sign up for Nutrition updates: <https://bit.ly/2yznuqm>