

August 14, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, Chairman Thompson, and Ranking Member Scott,

As organizations dedicated to promoting gender justice and working to ensure all women, LGBTQI+ people, and their families can live their lives with dignity, we write to urge lawmakers to use the Farm Bill to strengthen and expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and to make investments that advance family economic security and health.

SNAP is our nation's bedrock nutrition and anti-hunger program, helping millions of women, LGBTQI+ people, and their families around the country to put food on the table and promoting health by supporting families in affording a nutritious diet. [Recent data on participation](#) show that women, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, and people with disabilities were more likely to participate in SNAP:

- From October 2019 to February 2020, women were more than six in 10 (63 percent) of adult SNAP recipients.
- About one in three (33.0 percent) non-elderly adult SNAP recipients was a woman of color in 2020.
- From June 2020 through September 2020, over six in 10 (64 percent) of SNAP households with children were headed by a single adult, 92 percent of which were headed by women.
- In 2020, 29 percent of LGBTQ women and 28 percent of nonbinary/genderqueer individuals reported that they, their partner, or their children received SNAP benefits in the past year.
- In 2015, SNAP served over 11 million people with disabilities.

The program not only promotes better nutrition and reduces food insecurity, it also frees up money for those struggling to make ends meet to spend on other necessary costs like medical care and housing. Research shows that SNAP leads to improved health outcomes for families, as well as improved education, economic security, and other positive outcomes for children who grow up in families with low incomes. In [2022](#), SNAP moved about 2.8 million people out of poverty, including nearly 1.2 million women (316,000 of whom are Black, 293,000 of whom are Latina, 46,000 of whom are Asian, and 500,000 of whom are white, non-Hispanic).

And yet, existing restrictions, like time limits, prevent too many people from accessing SNAP's life-saving benefits.<sup>1</sup> **Congress must rollback existing time limits and, at a minimum, reject any attempt to expand these already harmful restrictions.** The [majority](#) of adult SNAP recipients who can work, do work and [research](#) has shown that time limits do not increase employment or have a positive impact on the economy. And time limits punish those who face barriers to seeking employment, including those who struggle to find work in an economy without enough jobs with full-time hours and living wages. A

---

<sup>1</sup> Calling the SNAP time limits "work requirements" is a misnomer, as a person's willingness to work or conduct an active job search does not suffice to protect them against being cut off from SNAP.

proposed expansion of time limits to caregivers with children six and older will fall hardest on women who are more likely to be caregivers and to be underemployed in low-wage jobs.

In addition, Congress should take the opportunity in the Farm Bill to eliminate other arbitrary restrictions on SNAP such as:

- time limits that impose additional barriers on college students;
- limits on using SNAP to purchase hot food at the grocery store;
- barriers for immigrants with authorized statuses;
- barriers for people convicted of a drug felony and are trying reenter society; and
- the block grant restriction for SNAP in U.S. territories.

At the same time, Congress must protect the updates to make the Thrifty Food Plan calculation more accurate for the 21st century. USDA undertook this update based on instructions from the 2018 Farm Bill.

In addition to protecting and strengthening SNAP, the Farm Bill represents an opportunity to advance family economic security through improving access to child care and improving public health. Over half of families live in a child care desert, without a sufficient supply of child care, but for rural families, the supply crisis is even worse, with nearly 3 in 5 rural communities considered a child care desert. In a 2022 survey from Save the Children, 55 percent of rural voters said that availability of child care has declined since the pandemic. The Farm bill should prioritize child care in US Department of Agriculture rural development programs as laid out in the bipartisan [Expanding Childcare in Rural America \(ECRA\) Act](#).

In addition to the child care crisis, the maternal health crisis also disproportionately affects women in rural America. [According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#), in 2021, maternal deaths increased 40 percent from the previous year. Women in rural and underserved communities face additional risks and challenges, such as a lack of access to coordinated care, that lead to higher rates of maternal mortality and other severe health complications. We support increasing Community Facilities program funding to rural hospitals specifically for maternal health and maternal telehealth services. We must meet these important needs for women by providing robust support for rural health care systems through the Farm Bill.

In conclusion, the Farm Bill is an opportunity to close equity gaps and invest in women, LGBTQ+ people, and their families by protecting and strengthening SNAP, improving access to child care, and increasing funding for rural hospitals. We urge you to prioritize these policies in the upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization.

Sincerely,

National Women's Law Center, MomsRising, and Food Research & Action Center

## **National Organizations**

A Better Balance

Alliance to End Hunger

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Federation of Teachers

American Muslim Health Professionals

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Bread for the World

Care in Action

Caring Across Generations

Center for Advancement of Public Policy

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for Science in the Public Interest

CenterLink: The Community of LGBTQ Centers

Children's Defense Fund

Children's HealthWatch

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Coalition on Human Needs

Color of Change

Community Change Action

Conduit Government Relations

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

Color Of Change

DemCast USA

Educare Learning Network

Equal Rights Advocates

Equality Federation

Esperanza United

Family Values @ Work Action

Feminist Majority Foundation

First Focus Campaign for Children

FORGE, Inc.

Futures Without Violence

Hunger Free America

Indivisible Metro East

Institute for Women's Policy Research

Jewish Women International

Justice and Joy National Collaborative

Justice for Migrant Women

Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice

League of Women Voters of the United States  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
MEANS Database  
Minority Veterans of America  
Movement Advancement Project  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Action Network  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National LGBTQ Task Force  
National Network to End Domestic Violence  
National Organization for Women  
National Organization of API Ending Sexual Violence  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
National Women's Health Network  
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Oxfam America  
People Power United  
Physicians for Reproductive Health  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Positive Women's Network-USA  
Prosperity Now  
Reproductive Health Impact  
ROC United  
RuralOrganizing.org Education Fund  
Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA)  
Start Early  
Student Basic Needs Coalition  
Supermajority  
Tahirih Justice Center  
The Arc of the United States  
The Fenway Institute  
The Hope Center at Temple University

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
The National Domestic Violence Hotline  
Trans Empowerment Project  
UnidosUS  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries  
URGE: Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity  
USOW  
We Said Enough  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Young Invincibles  
YWCA USA

### **State/Local Organizations**

#### Alabama

AIDS Alabama  
Feeding Alabama

#### Alaska

Alaska Farmers Market Association  
Alaska Federation of Natives  
Alaska Food Policy Council

#### Arizona

William E. Morris Institute for Justice

#### Arkansas

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families  
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance

#### California

Alameda County Community Food Bank  
CA LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network  
California Association of Food Banks  
Crazy Quilt Solutions  
Equality California  
Food for People  
Food Share of Ventura County  
GLIDE  
GRACE/End Child Poverty California  
Indivisible Marin

Indivisible Sacramento  
Indivisible Sonoma County  
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank  
National Council of Jewish Women CA  
Northridge Indivisible  
Nourish California  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County (CA)  
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley  
The Gubbio Project  
The Resource Connection Food Bank  
Valley Oak Children's Services, Inc.  
Venice Resistance

#### Colorado

Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger  
Hunger Free Colorado  
NCJW CO section

#### Connecticut

End Hunger Connecticut!

#### Delaware

Food Bank of Delaware

#### District of Columbia

D.C. Hunger Solutions  
The Restaurant Opportunities Center DC (ROC DC)

#### Florida

Audubon Park Church  
Buddy System MIA  
Feeding NE Florida  
Florida Impact  
Florida Policy Institute  
Jacksonville Urban League

#### Georgia

Atlanta Community Food Bank

Georgia Budget and Policy Institute  
National Council of Jewish Women Atlanta Section  
NCJW Georgia

Hawaii

Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!  
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Idaho

Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force

Illinois

AAUW Naperville  
Illinois National Organization for Women  
Indivisible Metro East  
National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore section  
National Council of Jewish Women South Cook Section  
Women Employed

Indiana

Feeding Indiana's Hungry  
IFDW (Indiana Federation of Democratic Women) Women's Caucus  
Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute  
Indiana National Organization for Women  
Indiana Justice Project  
Indy Hunger Network  
MADVoters  
Monroe County National Organization for Women  
Women4Change Indiana

Iowa

Common Good Iowa  
Iowa Citizen Action Network  
Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity

Kansas

Kansas Action for Children

Kentucky

Kentucky Equal Justice Center  
Kentucky Food Action Network  
Lexington Pride Center

Louisiana

The Restaurant Opportunities Center of New Orleans (ROC NOLA)

Maryland

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

National Council of Jewish Women, SPA Maryland

RESULTS DC/MD

Massachusetts

Coalition for Social Justice Education Fund

Greater Boston Legal Services

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Maine

Full Plates Full Potential

Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine

Maine Women's Lobby

Preble Street Maine Hunger Initiative and Food Justice Coalition

Michigan

Levi Teitel

Michigan League for Public Policy

National Council of Jewish Women, Michigan

Minnesota

OutFront Minnesota

Hunger Solutions Minnesota

Missouri

Empower Missouri

National Council of Jewish Women - St. Louis

Montana

Montana Food Bank Network

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed

OutNebraska

Nevada



Food Bank of Northern Nevada

New Hampshire

NH Hunger Solutions

New Jersey

Advocates for Children of NJ

Community Food Bank of NJ

New Jersey Citizen Action

New Mexico

New Mexico Voices for Children

New York

Food Bank of Central New York

Foodlink

Hunger Solutions New York

North Carolina

Benevolence Farm

Bread Riot

Community Partners Across the South

CFSA

Feast Down East, Inc

Food Justice Planning Initiative

North Carolina Justice Center

The Help Center NC

Ohio

National Council of Jewish Women Cleveland Section (OH)

Ohio Association of Foodbanks

Oklahoma

Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

Oregon

Oregon Food Bank

Pennsylvania

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Just Harvest

Kids First Consulting, LLC  
National Council of Jewish Women, Pennsylvania  
National Council of Jewish Women-Greater Philadelphia Section (PA)  
Philabundance  
Share Food Program  
The Restaurant Opportunities Center of Pennsylvania (ROC PA)  
Women's Law Project

Rhode Island

URI Feinstein Hunger Center

South Carolina

FoodShare South Carolina  
Latino Communications CDC  
Lowcountry Food Bank  
Lowcountry Street Grocery  
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center  
Women's Rights and Empowerment Network

Tennessee

Family Voices of Tennessee  
NAMI Davidson County  
Nashville Launch Pad  
Patchwork  
Tennessee Justice Center

Texas

Every Texan  
Feeding Texas  
National Council of Jewish Women Greater Dallas Section  
National Council of Jewish Women, Texas

Utah

Utahns Against Hunger

Vermont

Hunger Free Vermont  
Vermont Foodbank

Virginia

Birth in Color RVA  
Virginia Fresh Match

Virginia Hunger Solutions a project of Virginia Poverty Law Center

Washington

Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition

Economic Opportunity Institute

NCJW Washington State

Northwest Harvest

St. Michael's Pantry

University District Food Bank

Washington Low Income Housing Alliance (WLIHA)

Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP

West Virginia

West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy

Wisconsin

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin