

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 4, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, are deeply concerned about provisions that would reduce access to SNAP in both the House and Senate reconciliation bills, including the Senate Agriculture reconciliation language that eliminates the bipartisan agreement to exclude young people exiting foster care, veterans, and those experiencing homelessness from the work requirement for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

As you know, under current law ABAWDs cannot receive SNAP benefits for more than 3 months within a 3-year period unless they meet the ABAWD work requirement or are exempt. The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 added important new exceptions to those requirements intended to help individuals experiencing homelessness, veterans, and young adults who are leaving foster care (at age 18 or a higher age if the State offers extended foster care) receive and maintain SNAP benefits.

This was a recognition that SNAP can be a vital lifeline for these especially vulnerable populations. For young people in foster care transitioning to adulthood and/or experiencing homelessness who already face numerous barriers, access to food assistance helps provide a level of stability that allows these young adults to thrive.

As you are aware, language put together by the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee would use reconciliation to strike these vital exemptions for foster youth, veterans, and the unhoused. Again, this is only a few years after Congress agreed on a bipartisan basis to establish these exemptions recognizing the vulnerability and challenges that these groups already face and to which adding more paperwork requirements would only do more harm. This Senate proposal potentially places these vulnerable populations at an increased risk for experiencing increased food insecurity.

For young people leaving foster care or experiencing homelessness, work requirements create obstacles that can be particularly difficult to overcome due to their lack of family and social support. These requirements can hinder their ability to navigate life as independent adults and find stability through housing and employment. Additionally, an estimated one-in-nine working-age veterans experience food insecurity, which compounds the challenges many veterans face in securing well-paying jobs and affordable housing. Veterans who are women, have a disability, or are unemployed already face particularly high rates of food insecurity.

Eliminating this exemption – which is already scheduled to lapse in 2030– will only create additional hardship for these groups, including young people who already have limited supports and resources and who frequently have no close family members or supportive adults that can assist them.

Therefore, we respectfully urge you to oppose the Senate language to eliminate existing exemptions to support young people leaving foster care, veterans, and those experiencing homelessness from the SNAP work requirements.

Sincerely,



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



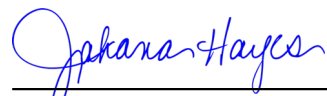
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



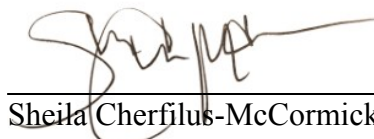
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



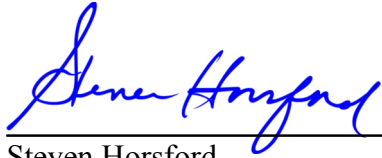
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
Nevada's Fourth
Congressional District