



Join Women United leaders today and raise your voice to fight hunger

United Way of Greater Stark County's Women United are fighting for an end to hunger by supporting the Senate's bipartisan SNAP provisions that protect and improve SNAP. Today is Women United Advocacy Day on SNAP.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) is the nation's largest anti-hunger program. *In Stark County, over 43,000 low income residents rely on SNAP for timely, targeted and temporary support to purchase food. That's more than one out of every ten community members.* SNAP is a mandatorily funded program (anyone who qualifies is entitled to receive SNAP) and the program is authorized through the Farm Bill, which is set to expire September 30, 2018. Congress has started the reauthorization process for the Farm Bill, at which time lawmakers can restructure SNAP program guidelines and administration. We need to ensure that any changes to SNAP improve the program and do not take food away from children, working people, and people struggling to make ends meet.

On June 28th, the Senate passed its bipartisan Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (commonly known as the Senate Farm Bill) in a 86-11 vote. The Senate Farm Bill maintains eligibility for SNAP and makes sensible, incremental changes that support work by improving the SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) program.

Some key points about the Senate bill:

- Maintains current law for eligibility
- *Maintains existing work requirements and time limits* (ex. all must register to work, adults age 18-49 without disabilities who aren't taking care of children have three months to find work and meet requirements before being ineligible for SNAP);
- Supports work by improving the SNAP E&T Program:
 - Better aligns state SNAP E&T programs to meet state and local workforce needs by requiring state agencies to consult with state workforce development boards or local employers.
 - Ensures SNAP E&T is better equipped to help workers develop skills by requiring state SNAP E&T programs that only provide job search support to have at least one additional employment and training component.
 - Incorporates learnings from the 2014 SNAP E&T pilot to make effective employment and training components from the pilots part of the training programs.
 - Provides \$185 million in funding for additional pilot programs that will help inform promising practices for SNAP E&T programs that support workers over age 50, formerly incarcerated individuals or individuals recovering from substance abuse.
- Commonsense measures to improve program integrity. (Note: error rates are extremely low in SNAP – 96% of benefits are correctly administered). For example:
 - Establishes an interstate data system for data-matching to prevent the issuance of SNAP to the same person in multiple states.
 - Creates pilot projects for testing methods to verify earned income at certification and recertification.

To date the House Farm Bill (H.R. 2) has been partisan, and includes deep cuts to SNAP due to harsher time limits for people looking for jobs and changes in eligibility. The first attempt at passage for H.R. 2 failed, largely due to internal politics and the second vote on the House Farm Bill narrowly passed 213-211 on June 21st.

Some key points about the House bill:

- Creates harsher time limits for more people who are seeking work
 - Current law requires all SNAP participants to register to work and enables adults age 18-49 without disabilities who aren't taking care of children to have three months to find work/ meet requirements before being ineligible for SNAP.
 - The House proposal shrinks the amount of time people have to find a job or meet requirements to only one month or else they lose SNAP for a year. A second misstep on meeting the monthly work hours would result in being banned from SNAP for 3 years.
 - Parents with school-age children and adults who are 50-59 years old would be newly subject to these requirements and time limits, in addition to able-bodied adults without dependents who are currently subject to time limits.
 - Eliminates state flexibility and efficiency by taking away the current option for broad based categorical eligibility
 - Broad based categorical eligibility is a popular option that lets states increase administrative efficiencies and reduce unnecessary red tape when determining who qualifies for SNAP. Forty-two states, with leadership from both sides of the aisle, have taken this option.
 - States would lose the flexibility to adjust income cutoffs and asset limits to prevent families from abruptly losing SNAP when they earn or save slightly more.
- Expands the SNAP Employment & Training Program ten-fold (though still underfunding the program given the dramatic expansion of those requiring services)
 - Increases investment from \$90 Million to \$1 Billion per year
 - Expands activities that satisfy the work requirement to include subsidized employment, apprenticeship and unpaid/volunteer work.
 - While this expansion recognizes the importance of offering employment and training services to support SNAP workers, SNAP E&T does not yet have a strong evidence base regarding its efficacy.
 - Further, nonpartisan CBO analysis finds that this expansion would not meet the needs of the expanded number of SNAP participants who would need services through the new work requirements – by 2028, only 80% of SNAP participants in need of job training support would have a spot in SNAP E&T.
- The nonpartisan CBO estimates that nearly 2 million Americans would lose access to SNAP, or experience a cut to SNAP, with the policy changes the House proposes.



Take action with women across the country:

Step 1: Call Representative Bob Gibbs' office: **202-225-6265** or email at <https://unitedway.co/2HL1poI> in support of the Senate's bipartisan provisions to all members of Congress.

Step 2: Join the Photo Awareness Campaign. Simply print the photo **available HERE**, snap a selfie or group photo with it then post it on your favorite social media platform using hashtags #WomenUnited #ProtectSNAP #FarmBill18

Deliver this message via phone call or email:

Intro "Hello. My name is _____. I live in _____, OH. (optional) I am with _____."

"Ask" options

- *I am calling to ask Representative Bob Gibbs to ensure SNAP is protected by adopting the Senate's bipartisan, common-sense Farm Bill in the Farm Bill Conference Committee.*
- *I am calling to ask Representative Bob Gibbs to work across party lines to ensure that the conference agreement on the farm bill adopts the Senate's approach to SNAP.*

"Why" options

- *Without having to worry about how to put food on the table, people can focus on getting and keeping a job that supports their family.*
- *SNAP supports work. It helps fill the gaps for workers with low wages and unsteady hours and helps workers weather tough periods in between jobs.*
- *SNAP has long been one of our nation's most powerful and effective poverty-reduction programs.*
- *SNAP's impact on children can last a lifetime. Research shows that adults who received food stamps as young children are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to suffer long-term health problems.*

Thank you

SNAPSHOT

85,155 Ohioans receive OWF Cash Assistance: less than 1% of the population (0.74%).

3,229 Stark County residents Cash Assistance: less than 1% of the population (0.86%).

- On average they receive \$197 per person each month.
- 86% of recipients are children.
- 98% live in single parent households.

SNAP FOOD ASSISTANCE

43,686 Stark County residents receive SNAP Food Assistance: 12% of the population.

- On average, they receive \$119 per person each month.