

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2025

An open letter to the public:

The Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans are planning to give another round of tax handouts to the ultra-wealthy and corporations paid for by gutting the food assistance that helps American families pay for groceries at a time when they are struggling to afford food, health care, housing, and other household basic needs. If enacted, cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will have severe consequences for millions of veterans, seniors, children, and hard-working farmers.

We write to make our position on this legislation perfectly clear: **Congress should not give tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans by taking away food assistance from millions of Americans.**

Earlier this year, both the House and the Senate passed budget bills that pave the way for deep cuts to SNAP. The House budget bill would require at least \$230 billion in cuts. The Senate bill sets a floor of \$1 billion in cuts with nothing to prevent it from going as high as the House bill. This would be a more than 20 percent cut to a program that helps millions of struggling families afford groceries.

SNAP supports 42 million Americans, including nearly 8 million seniors, 16 million children, 4 million people with disabilities, and 1.2 million veterans, in putting food on their tables each month. Cuts of this magnitude—or anything close to it—would be devastating to American families in every state. SNAP benefits currently average only \$6.20 per person per day. At a time when people across the country are struggling with the high cost of groceries, a cut of this magnitude could result in an immediate increase in food costs, dropping the annual, per person SNAP benefit by over \$500 per year per person.¹

Congressional Republicans might claim that their plan is to merely require states to pay for a portion of food benefits for the first time.² In truth, such an unprecedented cost shift could force states to cut benefits, severely restrict program eligibility, or both. If combined with a similar Medicaid cost shift, these unfunded mandates could decimate state budgets and cut healthcare and food assistance for millions of Americans.

Taking away SNAP would also hurt the farmers who grow our food, the manufacturers that package it, truckers who distribute it, and small businesses in our communities that sell it. Each SNAP dollar stimulates the economy: every \$1.00 in food assistance provided by the program in a weak economy generates an additional \$1.50 in economic activity.³ Because adequate nutrition

¹ Bergh, Katie, “Millions of Low-Income Households Would Lose Food Aid Under Proposed House Republican SNAP Cuts,” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, February 2025.

² Whitley, Skye, “House GOP Budget Plan Tees Up Food Assistance Debate: Farm Brief,” Bloomberg Government, February 2025.

³ USDA Economic Research Service, *Quantifying the Impact of SNAP benefits on the US Economy and Jobs*, July 2019.

is so important for children's health and development, the long-term return on investment is even greater: every \$1.00 invested in SNAP for children returns \$62 in value.⁴ In 2020 alone, SNAP supported 200,000 grocery industry jobs and created nearly 45,000 new jobs in supporting industries, including agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and municipal services.⁵

Republicans are writing the most consequential tax and budget legislation in decades entirely behind closed doors. That's because Trump and Congressional Republicans must hide the ugly truth—their legislation feeds corporate and wealthy individuals' greed by taking food assistance away for tens of millions of Americans. You, your family, and your neighbors deserve far better.

Democrats are fighting to protect American's ability to feed their families from Republican cuts.

Join us and keep up the fight.

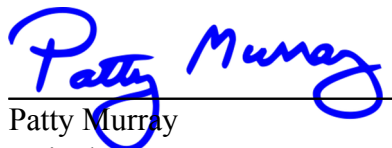
Sincerely,



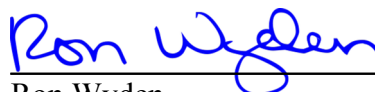
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United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator

⁴ Bailey, Martha, *et al*, "Is the Social Safety Net a Long-Term Investment? Large-Scale Evidence from the Food Stamps Program, *The Review of Economic Studies*, Volume 91, Issue 3, May 2024, Pages 1291–1330, <https://doi.org/10.1093/restud/rdad063>.

⁵ The National Grocers Association, "Economic Impact Study Sales Impact Analysis and SNAP Impact Study," June 2021.



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United States Senator



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United States Senator



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United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
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Ranking Member,
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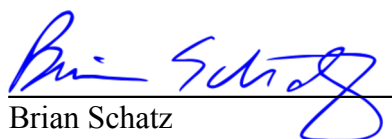
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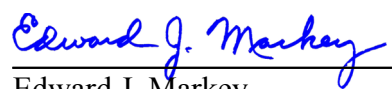
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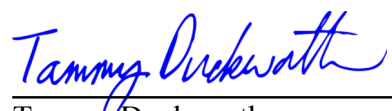
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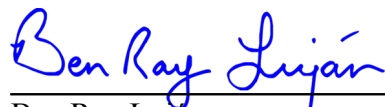
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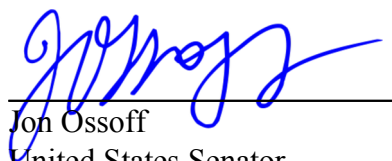
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House Speaker, Mike Johnson
House Democratic Leader, Hakeem Jefferies