



The Honorable John Fetterman
United States Senator
142 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dave McCormick
United States Senator
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

June 26, 2025

Dear Senators Fetterman and McCormick:

As the Senate considers a budget reconciliation bill, we are writing in strong support of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps more than 2 million Pennsylvanians keep food on the table and live healthy lives. As leaders in the Pennsylvania anti-hunger community, we know that Pennsylvanians, and our economy, are stronger when families facing food insecurity can access nutritious meals through SNAP.

SNAP promotes health and stability for children and seniors in Pennsylvania. SNAP lifted 109,000 kids in Pennsylvania out of poverty from 2015 to 2019. Children who receive SNAP do better in school, are more likely to graduate, have better lifelong health outcomes, and are less likely to live in poverty as an adult. Seniors who receive SNAP are less likely to skip needed medication and see lower average healthcare costs.

SNAP boosts Pennsylvania's economy with significant return on investment. Each dollar in SNAP benefits generates \$1.54 in economic activity. According to the [National Grocers Association](#), SNAP supported more than 19,000 jobs, contributed \$958 million in wages, and generated over \$2.6 billion in economic activity across Pennsylvania in 2024 alone. The program is a good investment that strengthens local economies – particularly in rural areas – by supporting family-owned grocery stores, farmers' markets and food retailers. When families can spend SNAP benefits at local grocery stores and markets, that money stays in the community.

The changes to SNAP in the reconciliation bill would cut benefits, strain the Commonwealth's budget, and create more red tape:

- Structural changes like cost-shifting to states will create a devastating state budget shortfall. According to the [Pennsylvania Independent Fiscal Office](#), at a cost share of 15%, Pennsylvania would be expected to pay \$680 million annually to maintain current SNAP benefits – plus another \$130 million in additional administrative costs. If Pennsylvania

cannot afford to pay for its share of SNAP benefit costs, the state would be forced to remove thousands of people from the program, slash benefits, or a combination of those two approaches, a devastating consequence for Pennsylvanians already struggling to get by. Further, in the event of an economic downturn or recession, SNAP would be limited by state budget constraints and no longer have the flexibility to support increased need.

- SNAP already has significant work requirements. Studies demonstrate that work requirements are not effective at increasing employment but rather create red tape that causes eligible people to lose access to nutritious meals. Expanding requirements to include parents of children ages 14-17, older adults, veterans, youth aging out of foster care, and people experiencing homelessness will reduce access to nutrition for hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians, including children and seniors. Additionally, limiting geographic waivers to areas with more than 10% unemployment would take away food assistance from people looking for work, even though it takes most workers more than 15 weeks to find a job.
- SNAP's immigrant eligibility rules have always been restrictive: undocumented immigrants and many immigrants with legal status are not eligible. Proposed restrictions will cause 30,000 Pennsylvanians with lawful status – primarily refugees and asylees, including from Ukraine – to lose food assistance.
- In 2021, the USDA updated the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) to keep up with the minimal cost of a healthy, realistic diet. That update increased the average benefit from \$4 per day to just \$6.20 per day. Limiting the ability of USDA to implement future updates would make the program less responsive to changes in the food system and reduce the real purchasing power of recipients over time – hurting recipients and food retailers.

SNAP cuts will leave Pennsylvanians hungry. The charitable food system cannot compensate for cuts: for every meal that food banks provide, SNAP provides nine. Under the policy proposals included in the reconciliation bill, every SNAP recipient in Pennsylvania will be at risk of losing some or all of their benefits. While food banks, pantries, and the rest of the charitable feeding system are doing everything they can to meet rising demand, federal nutrition programs provide an unmatched scale and efficiency so people can access the food they need.

SNAP is essential to the health of over 2 million Pennsylvanians and to the Commonwealth's economy. We ask you to reject any harmful proposals that would weaken SNAP and ensure all eligible Pennsylvanians maintain access to this important public health and nutrition program.

Sincerely,

The 202 undersigned members and supporters of the Pennsylvania Hunger Action Coalition and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:

Abundant Philly
Action Wellness
Adams County Farmers Market
Adams County Food Policy Council
Adams County Office for Aging, Inc
Agape
Align for Growth, LLC
Alleghenies Unlimited Care Providers
Allegheny Valley Association of Churches
Allies for Health + Wellbeing
Alpine Meadows, LLC
American Academy of Pediatrics,
Pennsylvania Chapter
Annunciation Food Cupboard
Auberle
Autism Sharing and Parenting
Baldwin Community UMC
Beechwood Orchards
Bellevue Farmers Market
Bethel Community Church of Pottstown
Bethel Presbyterian Church
Bethlehem Farmers' Market
Boyertown Area Multi-Service, Inc.
Bridge to the Mountains
Brothers of Strawberry Mansion
Brown Chapel AME Church
Bucks-Mont Collaborative
Cambodian Association of Greater
Philadelphia (CAGP)
Caring Communities For AIDS
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and
Interests of Elders (CARIE)
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank
CHAPS
Chester County Food Bank
Chester Eastside Inc.
Church Housing Corp.
City of Pittsburgh Farmers' Market
Civically, Inc.

Community Action Agency of Delaware
County
Community Center at Visitation
Community Justice Project
Community Kitchen Pittsburgh
Community Legal Services
Community Services Group
Cumberland County Food System Alliance
Daily Bread Community Food Pantry
Dauphin County, Office of Autism &
Developmental Disabilities Programs
Depaul USA
Donora Towers
East End Food Co-op
Eastern PA Bleeding Disorders Foundation
Easton Farmers' Market
Eat Your Yard
Emmanuel E.C. Church Food Cupboard
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Ephrata Area Social Services
Erie APAA
Erie County Department of Health
Erie Food Policy Advisory Council
Ezekiel Baptist Food Connection
Faith assembly of God
Families Matter Food Pantry
Family Health Council of Central PA, Inc.
Fat Hawk Farm
Feast For Friends
Feast of Justice
Feeding Pennsylvania
Fishes and Loaves Cooperative Ministries
Fitzmaurice Community Services
Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian
Church
Food For Families
Foundation for Health Equity
Fred's Footsteps
Freedom Development Corporation
Garden of Health Food Bank

Germantown SDA Church
Gleaner's Food Bank
Grace Presbyterian Church Food Bank
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Grow Pittsburgh
Growing Roots Partners
Hatfield Church of the Brethren Food Pantry
Haws Avenue Food Pantry
Healthy Food Centers
Healthy Start, Inc.
HELP: MLP
Helping All Victims in Need (HAVIN)
Helping Hands for the Hungry
Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank
HIAS Pennsylvania
Holy Angels Parish Food Pantry
Hunger-Free Pennsylvania
Huntingdon County Local Food Association
Independent Council on Aging - Erie
County, PA
Indiana County Community Action
Program, Inc
It Takes A Village To Feed One Child
Jenkintown Food Cupboard
Jewish Family and Community Services of
Pittsburgh
Jubilee Kitchen
Just Harvest
Kingsley Association Family Support Center
Kitchen of Love
Lansdale Farmers' Market
Latino Community Center
Libertae, Inc.
Lifewerks
Lion of Judah Enterprises
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in
Pennsylvania
Lutheran Settlement House
Manna on Main Street
Maternity Care Coalition

Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard
Meadow Lands Food Pantry
Memorial Church of God in Christ
Mercer County Food Bank
Mi Salud Wellness Center
Mitzvah Food Program
Mizpah SDA Church
Mon Valley Youth and Teen Donora Food
Pantry
MontCo Anti-Hunger Network
Montgomery County Community Action
Development Commission
Montgomery County Community College
Mooncrest Neighborhood Programs
Mount Airy Neighborhood Association
Murphy's Giving Market
Narberth Community Food Bank
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
Nationalities Service Center
Network Nation
Network of Hope
New Ken Downtown Partnership, LLC
North Hills Community Outreach
Nutritional Development Services of the
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
PA School-Based Health Alliance
Partnership for Better Health PA
Patrician Society
Pax Lorianna
Pennsylvania Cancel Lunch Debt Coalition
Pennsylvania Counseling Services, Inc.
Pennsylvania Health Access Network
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Philabundance
Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral
Philadelphia Participatory Research
Collective
Pine Run United Methodist Church
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council

Pittsburghers for Public Transit
Plant-Based Pittsburgh
Pleasant Ridge Manor
Power Packs Project
Presbyterian Sr. Care
Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox
Church
Project Outreach, Inc.
Puentes de Salud
Quakertown Food Pantry
Ridley Park Food Pantry
Rolling Harvest Food Rescue
Saint Andrew Lutheran Church
Saucon Valley Farmers Market
Second Harvest Food Bank of LV & NE PA
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest
Pennsylvania
Share Food Program
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network
South Hills Interfaith Movement
South Park Meals on Wheels
South Side Area Community Food Bank
St. Basil Support Ministry
St. Benedict Food Pantry
St. George Food pantry
St. Paul AME
St. Paul CME Church Food Pantry
St. Paul's Outreach
St. Vincent DePaul Society
Stewartstown Food Pantry

The Arc of Indiana County
The Brashear Association, Inc.
The Breathing Room Foundation
The Food Trust
The MushRoom
The Nest Food Pantry, Haverford College
The Open Link
The Word In Action Int Ministries Inc
True Ease App for Medicaid
United Way of Pennsylvania
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Upper Merion Area Community Cupboard
Upper Susquehanna Synod
Urban League of Greater Philadelphia
VNA Community Services, Inc.
Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission
Weinberg Northeast Regional Foodbank
West Chester Food Cupboard
West Chester Growers Market
West Philadelphia SDA Church
Westmoreland Food Bank
William Way LGBT Center
Willow Grove SDA Food Pantry
Women Against Abuse
Woolbank Conservancy
Worm Return LLC
Wrightstown Farmers Market
Young Black Motivated Kings and Queens
YWCA Titusville