

As of 5 pm, September 28, 2010

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As organizations deeply concerned about poverty in America and about bolstering the economic security, health and well-being of America's struggling families, we urge you to pass a strong and robustly-funded child nutrition reauthorization bill that improves low-income children's access to nutritious food and does so without cutting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps). The recent Census Bureau report that 43.6 million Americans were living in poverty in 2009 but that the number would be 3.6 million lower if the SNAP benefits were counted as income is just the latest exclamation point on the need to strengthen—not weaken—the nation's nutrition safety net for children and adults.

We support House passage of a child nutrition bill which makes sound investments in child nutrition programs to reduce childhood hunger and obesity by improving program access and enhancing the quality of meals and snacks that children receive. These investments are particularly important to provide access for the millions of children in families with low incomes. The House bill must not use SNAP cuts to pay for child nutrition improvements.

We are deeply disturbed that the child nutrition bill passed by the Senate (S. 3307) would reduce SNAP. Rolling back to 2013 the SNAP benefit increases enacted in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will cost every SNAP recipient an estimated \$59 per month for a household of four.

The cut would affect those most vulnerable in our nation. Currently more than 41 million Americans rely on SNAP benefits monthly to put food on the table. Most SNAP recipients are children or seniors. And their households have very low incomes. In 2008, 87 percent of SNAP households had incomes at or below the poverty level; nearly 41 percent had incomes at or below half of the poverty line.

Our nation can do and must do better. We urge you to find the right funds to pay for a good child nutrition bill in the House.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO

American Association of Classified School Employees (AACSE)

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

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

Americans for Democratic Action

Center for Community Change

Center on Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Children's Defense Fund

Coalition on Human Needs

Communications Workers of America (CWA)
Community Action Partnership
Congressional Hunger Center
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Half in Ten Campaign
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
National Education Association (NEA)
National Employment Law Project
National Women's Law Center
Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism

RESULTS

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
United Auto Workers International Union (UAW)
United Food & Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)