

September 20, 2010

Dear Representative:

As organizations that work to promote the economic security of low-income women and their families, we urge you to pass the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act (H.R. 5504), which would maintain and improve important child nutrition programs without making further cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Women as well as children bear the brunt of cuts to SNAP. In fiscal year 2008 (the last year for which data is available), **67% of adult SNAP participants (both elderly and nonelderly) were women**, most of whom had incomes at or below the federal poverty line. In addition, **nearly 58% of all SNAP households with children were headed by a single woman**, with an average gross monthly income of only \$749. Even with the boost in SNAP benefits that was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), current SNAP benefits average less than \$4.50 per person per day. A decrease in SNAP funding leaves these women with even more limited resources to prepare nutritious meals for their preschool age children (who represent a third of all children receiving SNAP benefits), older children outside of school hours, and themselves.

We are deeply concerned about the impact of the \$11.9 billion cut in SNAP benefits that Congress passed just last month on the approximately 14 million adult women and 20 million children who now depend on these benefits because of the increase in need during this recession. It is in some ways even more outrageous that the Senate would approve, as part of the "Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act," an additional \$2.2 billion cut to critical SNAP benefits – a cut that is likely to increase the risk of hunger and obesity for children, parents, the elderly, and others who rely on nutrition assistance outside of schools. The Senate bill would eliminate the ARRA boost to monthly SNAP benefits beginning in November 2013, while unemployment and need are expected to remain high for years to come.

We urge the House of Representatives to move quickly to pass the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act and to stop the raid on SNAP benefits.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women

The Annie Appleseed Project

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Coalition of Labor Union Women

Feminist Majority

Legal Momentum

National Council of Jewish Women

National Council of Women's Organization

National Organization for Women

National Partnership for Women and Families

National Women's Law Center

MomsRising

Wider Opportunities for Women