

## Memorial Day Recess Talking Points

### House

On May 18, the House rejected the House Farm Bill, H.R. 2, [198-213](#). H.R. 2 would take food out of the refrigerators and off the kitchen tables of more than 2 million people participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), cause 265,000 children to lose their free school meals, and set up an unproven workforce bureaucracy that would [burden states and participants alike](#). Low-income seniors, persons with disabilities, veterans, unemployed and underemployed adults, and working families with children already are struggling to purchase adequate diets throughout the month on low wages and modest SNAP benefits. Cutting SNAP eligibility and reducing benefits will increase hardship and food insecurity and depress purchasing power that drives local economic activity across America.

As amended on the House floor, H.R. 2 got even worse: it further restricts states' ability to waive the arbitrary SNAP time limit on people who do not prove sufficient regular weekly work hours, including in areas with insufficient jobs; opens SNAP eligibility decisions up to for-profit private contractors to make; imposes a lifetime ban on certain convicted felons who are making new starts after serving their sentences; and requires the USDA to review the current school meal nutrition standards regulations with an eye to rolling back the existing standards.

### **Urge Representatives to vote “no” on H.R.2 when the bill comes up for a second vote (on or around June 22.)**

*Thank Democrats, who unanimously voted “No” on H.R. 2 in support of SNAP, and moderate Republicans who voted against the bill. For moderate Republicans who voted for H.R. 2, let them know that H.R. 2 would harm their constituents and educate them about how the bill got even worse in the amendment process.*

### Senate

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is important to millions of low-income households in all areas [across the country, with participation even higher in rural areas and small towns](#). SNAP helps put food on the tables for low-income seniors, persons with disabilities, veterans, underemployed and unemployed adults, and families with children. SNAP alleviates food insecurity, lifts households out of poverty, improves the health of participants, and boosts local economies.

Urge Senators to protect and strengthen SNAP — no SNAP cuts or structural changes. Ask them to be sure the 2018 Farm Bill does not take food off kitchen tables and worsen hunger. Urge Senators to speak out about the importance of SNAP **now** while Senate Agriculture Committee leaders are still negotiating the provisions of their proposed Senate Farm Bill and throughout the 2018 Farm Bill debate.

*While [Senate Agriculture Committee members](#) are particularly important, **every Senator matters**. What they say publicly and in internal caucus discussions can help shape the Farm Bill's provisions and make the difference on whether a bill protects SNAP or proposes cuts to it.*