Template inviting delegation to sign on to **Improving Access to Nutrition Act (****H.R. 1510)**

Date

Salutation: Dear Representative(s) [you may choose to address each member or all at once],

[your organization] urges you to cosponsor and support the Improving Access to Nutrition Act (H.R. 1510) introduced by Representatives Barbara Lee and Alma Adams. HR 1510 would end the three-month time limit on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for certain unemployed and underemployed adults who do not document sufficient hours of work each month.

The current law time limit enacted in 1996 applies to Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents aged 18 to 50 (“ABAWDs”). This vulnerable population affects individuals of many circumstances, including veterans, youth aging out of foster care, individuals reentering the workforce after incarceration, and chronically unhoused individuals. Some adults who fall subject to the time limit have underlying mental and physical health problems that are difficult to document. Moreover, while many of the people subject to the time limits have connections to the labor market, they either cannot find jobs or get too few hours of work in the jobs they do have.

The SNAP time limits are harsh and arbitrary, fail to address labor market issues and exacerbate racial inequities. Research indicates the time limits do not lead to a meaningful increase in employment but do reduce SNAP participation. Given SNAP’s effectiveness in improving economic stability, food security, health, and well-being, time limiting SNAP benefits is counterproductive. [[1]](#footnote-22697)

SNAP time limits were suspended for the duration of the COVID-19 HHS Public Health Emergency Declaration (PHE), which is expected to expire on May 11, 2023. By permanently suspending time limits, H.R. 1510 will improve food security and equity and better allow SNAP to meet future needs, especially during periods of disruption.

We urge you to join Representatives Lee and Adams as cosponsors of HR 1510 and support its enactment.

Sincerely,

[your organization]

1. <https://frac.org/research/resource-library/snap-public-health-role-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-improving-health-well%e2%80%90being-americans>

   <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/104451/the-impact-of-snap-able-bodied-adults-without-dependents-abawd-time-limit-reinstatement-in-nin_0.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-22697)