



May 13, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition, and Forestry  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition, and Forestry  
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
400 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
2052 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, Chairman Thompson, and Ranking Member Craig,

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Financial Security and Poverty Task Force write to express our grave concern with proposals under consideration for inclusion in budget reconciliation that would cut funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

People with disabilities are significantly more likely to face food insecurity than people without disabilities. By increasing access to adequate, nutritious food, SNAP plays a key role in reducing hunger for people with disabilities and helping them to maximize their health and participate in their communities. More than ten percent of all SNAP beneficiaries have a qualifying disability, and half of all households that receive SNAP include people with disabilities and older adults.<sup>1</sup> SNAP also assists the families of children with disabilities, as well as millions of other low-income people who have disabilities but are not considered to be disabled under SNAP's rules, which use an extremely strict definition of disability.<sup>2</sup>

SNAP benefits have served as an important lifeline as the price of food has skyrocketed in recent years. From 2020 to 2024, the all-food Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 23.6 percent.<sup>3</sup> But inflation is not the only factor that influences the cost of a healthy diet. Beyond inflation, people with disabilities face additional food affordability challenges because many have allergies, food sensitivities, or other health conditions that require a specialized diet and higher grocery bills. People with disabilities also often experience significantly higher costs for other basic needs like medications, specialized therapies, adaptive equipment, accessible housing, and transportation.<sup>4</sup> SNAP helps people with disabilities stretch their budgets by offsetting the cost of groceries, freeing up limited income for other essentials.

Proposals that are being considered for the budget reconciliation bill would cut SNAP benefits, kick millions of beneficiaries off the program, and reduce the amount of time that SNAP supports caregivers and older adults who recently lost a job.<sup>5</sup> People with disabilities would be disproportionately impacted by proposals to expand the number of people impacted by ‘time limits,’ which cut benefits after 3 months if a beneficiary has a reduced or irregular work schedule due to their health condition, caregiving responsibilities, or changes to their employer’s staffing needs. Even if exemptions are included for people with disabilities, in practice, many disabled people will still be cut off due to the administrative hurdles of meeting such exemptions.<sup>6</sup>

The proposal to freeze the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), even if nutrition guidelines or other factors change the cost of an adequate diet, would erode benefits over time and would harm people with disabilities that require a higher-cost diet to manage their health conditions. Making states pick up the tab for these cuts would squeeze state budgets and force them to choose between slashing funding for food assistance, healthcare, or education to make up the difference.<sup>7</sup> This will result in critical services facing budget cuts, including many programs that people with disabilities rely on to live healthy and independent lives, like Medicaid.

During times of economic uncertainty, we need SNAP more than ever. Any cuts to SNAP funding would make it even harder for people with disabilities and their families to access the food they need to live healthy lives. We urge you to reject proposals for any cuts to SNAP, and to work on a bipartisan basis to strengthen and protect this critical program.

Sincerely,

Access Ready Inc.  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Disability Belongs  
Epilepsy Foundation of America  
Food Research & Action Center  
Justice in Aging  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Consumer Law Center  
National Disability Institute  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National PLAN Alliance (NPA)  
TDIforAccess  
The Arc of the United States  
United Spinal Association

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<sup>1</sup> USDA, “Characteristics of SNAP Households: Fiscal Year 2023,” April 2025, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/research/snap/characteristics-fy23>.

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- <sup>2</sup> Patrick Drake and Alice Burns, “Working-Age Adults with Disabilities Living in the Community,” KFF, January 2024, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/working-age-adults-with-disabilities-living-in-the-community/>; Steven Carlson, Brynne Keith-Jennings, and Raheem Chaudhry, “SNAP Provides Needed Food Assistance to Millions of People with Disabilities,” June 2017, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/snap-provides-needed-food-assistance-to-millions-of-people-with-disabilities>; USDA, SNAP Special Rules for the Elderly or Disabled, February 2025, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligibility/elderly-disabled-special-rules>.
- <sup>3</sup> Victoria Davidenko and Megan Sweitzer, “U.S. food prices rose by 23.6 percent from 2020 to 2024,” February 2025, USDA, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/food-prices-and-spending>.
- <sup>4</sup> Studies indicate that individuals with disabilities require, on average, 28% more income to achieve the same standard of living as those without disabilities. National Disability Institute, “The Extra Costs of Living with a Disability in the U.S. — Resetting the Policy Table,” October 2020, <https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/extra-costs-living-with-disability-brief.pdf>.
- <sup>5</sup> House Committee on Agriculture, “Restoring Accountability and Prioritizing Work,” May 2025, <https://agriculture.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=7902>.
- <sup>6</sup> Erin Brantley, Drishti Pillai, and Leighton Ku, “Association of Work Requirements With Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation by Race/Ethnicity and Disability Status, 2013-2017,” JAMA Network Open, Vol. 3, No. 6, June 2020, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2767673>.
- <sup>7</sup> FRAC, “2025 Budget Reconciliation: Oppose Cuts to the Federal Food and Nutrition Programs,” May 2025, <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/Budget-Reconciliation-AHPC-Leave-Behind-2025.pdf>; Meredith Lee Hill, “House Republicans plan major SNAP food aid overhaul in Trump megabill,” May 6, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2025/05/06/congress/house-republicans-snap-food-aid-00330620>.