

June 24, 2010

Dear Senator:

Seeking ways to pay for the pending American Jobs, Closing Tax Loopholes and Preventing Outsourcing Act (H.R. 4213) (“extenders bill”), Senate leaders have included a proposal to cut \$9.526 billion from future SNAP/Food Stamp benefits. We strongly urge Senators to fix the extenders package by dropping any cuts to SNAP/Food Stamps.

The SNAP/Food Stamp cuts, effective June 1, 2014, would eliminate the boost in benefits that Congress included in the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The proposal would roll back SNAP/Food Stamp investments promised to hungry people in the ARRA.

The proposed SNAP/Food Stamp cuts would return millions of families to the situation where their SNAP/Food Stamp benefits typically run out in the third or early in the fourth week of the month. It would increase hunger just when the President’s 2015 end-childhood-hunger deadline is coming, and it would increase obesity by making it even harder for struggling families to purchase healthy food.

The “extenders” bill provides important support to continue extended Unemployment Insurance and enhanced Medicaid matching funds to the states, but it is unacceptable to pay for such benefits by raiding desperately needed SNAP/Food Stamp dollars.

Now is not the time to roll back the fight against hunger. We urge Congress and the Administration to fix the extenders package so that vital Medicaid and Unemployment benefits can pass without harming SNAP/Food Stamp beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

Alliance to End Hunger
Association of Nutrition Services Agencies (ANSA)
Bread for the World
Catholic Charities USA
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Food Security Coalition
Congressional Hunger Center
End Hunger Network
The Episcopal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Feeding America
First Focus Campaign for Children
Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Half in Ten Campaign
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
National Council of Jewish Women
National Farm to School Network
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
RESULTS
Share Our Strength

Sojourners

The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society

Union for Reform Judaism

WHY Hunger