

Take Action: Protect SNAP Benefits



THE PROBLEM (WHY?)

Senate Bill 318 will be voted on by the Missouri Senate in the next weeks. This bill will place new work requirements on families who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (Food Stamps). It has harsh punishments, including cutting individuals completely from the program. So many people are struggling with job loss or are working fewer hours during this pandemic. We should be strengthening this program and helping families survive. This bill will make life more difficult for many families and will harm children in the process.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Email your Senator today. Use the link to find out who this is.

Go to:

<https://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/Default.aspx>

HOW? Follow these quick steps:

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1 FIND YOUR SENATOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Click on this to go to a list of the Senators. <https://www.senate.mo.gov/senators-listing/> Then click on your Senator's name. This will take you to their web page. Click on the red "Email the Senator" choice on the right side of the page.

2 TELL YOUR STORY

Think about your own experiences or those you know who are struggling to feed their families and/or to find work. What is it like to not have sufficient food? If a family's food budget goes down, how does this affect available food for the entire family? We need to help the Senators understand how important SNAP benefits are to stressed families.

3 DRAFT YOUR EMAIL -- here's an example:

I am your constituent and am writing to ask you to vote NO on Senate Bill 138. This bill makes changes to the SNAP program that could greatly harm families and children. Especially during the pandemic, families are struggling to get the food they need. Many have lost jobs or have had their hours cut. Punishing people for being unemployed by taking food away is not helpful. (Add personal information here if you are able.) Missouri doesn't have staff who can help people find work, or even to track who is following the rules. People will be wrongly punished. Also, when the food budget goes down, everyone eats less, including children and adults with disabilities in the house. They should not be punished for the actions of their guardians. Can I count on you to vote NO on Senate Bill 138? I look forward to your response. Thank you.