

# Policy Update

In 2018, SNAP faces threats at both the Federal and State Levels.

We need your help to fight these threats. What you need to know:

1. Context: Importance of SNAP
2. What the Threats Are
3. Action items

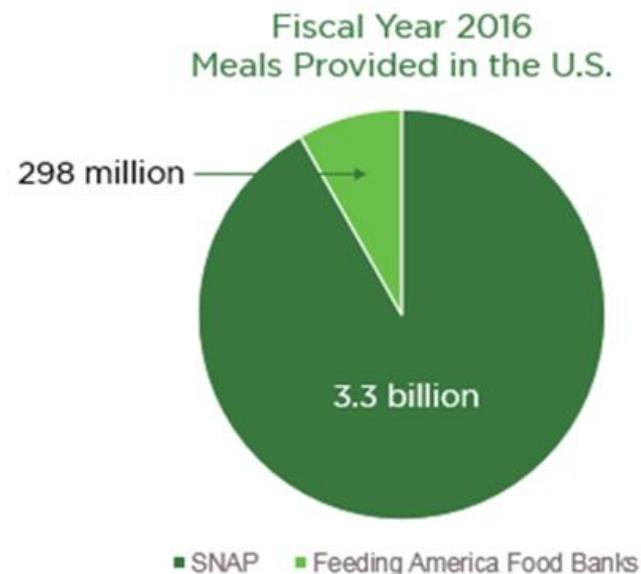
*Kathy Fisher*  
*Policy Director*  
[www.hungercoalition.org](http://www.hungercoalition.org)



# SNAP Directly Responds to Hunger

- SNAP helps **over 486,000 Philadelphians** put food on the table *(DHS data, Dec. 2017)*
- SNAP provides nearly **\$64 million per month** for those struggling with hunger to purchase food *(DHS data, Dec. 2017)*
- Over **2,100 Philadelphia retailers** accept SNAP
- Each dollar of SNAP generates an estimated \$1.70 economic activity, which equates to over **\$108 million per month to the city's economy**

Charities cannot make up for SNAP cuts.



SNAP provides over 10x as many meals as Feeding America's network of food banks across the country.

# Threats to SNAP at the Federal Level

Dec. 2017 Tax Bill ---> Deficit Increase --> Pressure to Cut Spending  
SNAP cuts could come in Farm Bill, “welfare reform,” or other legislation later in the year. Possible damaging changes include:

- Creating additional work requirements and/or eliminating geographic waivers for current work rules
- Changing the structure of SNAP (such as through “Block” or “Opportunity” grants)
- Ending ACA/drastring changes to Medicaid (higher health costs = less \$ for food)



# “ABAWDs”

*Able-bodied Adults without dependent children*

To be eligible for SNAP, able-bodied adults (age 18-49) with no dependent children must meet work requirements, unless they live in an area waived due to high unemployment. If they do not meet the work requirement, their access to SNAP is time-limited to 3 months over a 3 year period.

## PENNSYLVANIA



# ABAWDs loss of SNAP = Devastating

- In our region, the ABAWDs rule already applies in Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery counties
- Statewide, nearly 20,000 persons lost benefits from June, 2016- March, 2017, approximately 3,200 in SEPA
- In Philadelphia county, there are more than 40,000 persons who are considered ABAWDs
- Even if the vast majority are able to:
  - Qualify for exemptions – OR –
  - Meet work requirements
- Thousands would still lose SNAP benefits



# No SNAP Cuts Message

Help us deliver a NO SNAP CUTS message to our Congressional Representatives!

Find your elected officials at:

<https://hungercoalition.salsalabs.org/findyourlegislator>

Call your Rep. and say:

*“I urge Congressman \_\_\_\_\_ to stand up for those who get enough to eat because of SNAP. I urge him to oppose any legislation that cuts SNAP benefits and limits who is eligible for food assistance.”*

Also, sign our “No SNAP Cuts” petition at:

[www.hungercoalition.org/advocacy](http://www.hungercoalition.org/advocacy)

# Threats to SNAP at the State Level

On Jan. 2, House Republicans held a press conference announcing their intent to pursue a package of 20 pieces of “welfare reform” legislation in 2018. Bills relating to SNAP that have been introduced so far include:

## **HB 1659** – which would:

- Impose a statewide 3-month time limit on SNAP for ABAWDs, by preventing the Governor from seeking geographic waivers
- Require *parents, except single parents of children under age 12*, to participate in work activities and prove that they are doing so
- Would not include Job Search as a work activity

## **HB 1559** which would:

- Require mothers (custodial parents) to pursue child support against the children’s father (non-custodial parents) as a condition of receiving SNAP
- Jeopardize many families existing informal child support arrangements
- Increase court cases – and costs, which would be borne 100% by Pennsylvania taxpayers.

# Additional bad bills

## **HB 1788** would

- Limit Pennsylvanians to 48 months on TANF cash assistance (unlike the current 60 months)
- Eliminate extensions to the time limit now available for hardship reasons

## **HB 1988** would

- Create a pilot program in Luzerne County, whereby TANF moms would work 40 hours a week for an employer but only be paid for 20 hours a week (but get to keep their TANF benefits)

Based on the initial announcement, more bad bills will be coming.

Sign up for our e-alerts at:

[\*http://www.hungercoalition.org/advocacy\*](http://www.hungercoalition.org/advocacy)