

May 24, 2019

The Honorable Barbara Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
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Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Congresswoman Lee,

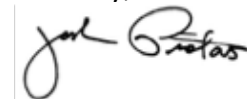
On behalf of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, I am writing to endorse the Improving Access to Nutrition Act (H.R. 2809) which aims to lift harsh time limits that exist for certain participants of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

We all know that SNAP is the cornerstone of our nation's nutrition safety net, and that the majority of SNAP recipients who can work do work. Under current law, childless unemployed and underemployed adults age 18-50 are restricted to only 90 days of SNAP benefits in three years unless they can prove that they are working or participating in an employment and training program for 20 hours per week. These restrictions hurt people who work inconsistent hours, lack access to transportation, live in areas where the economy has been slow to recover, or are unable to access employment and training programs. We are particularly concerned that the time limits impact America's veterans who often face unique challenges in securing full-time work, and may require more than three months to secure stable and sustainable employment.

As you said, "putting up a cruel barrier to food access does not help anyone secure stable employment—it only makes them hungrier." We are therefore proud to support H.R. 2809, which is consistent with our Jewish values that compel us to honor the dignity of every person, especially those who are struggling. No matter a person's circumstance, no one deserves to be hungry.

We look forward to working with you to advance this bill in the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,



Josh Protas
Vice President of Public Policy

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* Titles for identification purposes only
^o Past Chair