

Questions for Elected Officials and Those Running for Office

Spring 2018

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's most important anti-hunger program and a major pillar of our country's safety net. I believe that imposing harsher work requirements on people in need of SNAP benefits would do nothing to actually get people back to work. All it would do is prevent millions of Americans struggling to get by—including veterans, people in rural communities, and young adults who have aged out of the foster care system. What do you see as the impact of limiting access to SNAP for people who can't find work or access training opportunities in their community? What other ideas do you have to support people in finding meaningful and sustainable jobs (i.e. job training, child care, etc.)?
- As my congressional representative, I want to make sure you know that there already are work requirements in SNAP. As you may be aware, the vast majority of SNAP recipients are children, seniors, and people without disabilities who cannot work. Do you believe that hunger is the best motivator for self-improvement? Is government-imposed hunger—forcing people off needed benefits without adequate training or opportunities—an appropriate function of the federal government? Do you really believe that kicking someone off SNAP will help them find a job?
- SNAP is primarily a nutrition assistance program and not a workforce development program. Millions of Americans rely on SNAP to put food on the table every day. Across all faith traditions, there is a fundamental value of taking care of the most vulnerable among us. In what ways do you see that SNAP could be improved? What will you do to strengthen—and not weaken—SNAP?
- SNAP helps so many members of our community. In what ways have you engaged different sectors in shaping your views on SNAP? Have you met with local SNAP application offices, food pantries, SNAP participants, business leaders, and faith leaders? Who have you worked with across the aisle to discuss and work on these issues?
- Why was the House Farm Bill introduced in such a partisan fashion, despite decades of bipartisanship in the House and Senate Agriculture Committees around the Farm Bill and SNAP?
- What is the justification in the House Farm Bill for proposing harsher work requirements for SNAP without waiting for evidence-based results from the SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) programs called for in the 2014 Farm Bill?