

# Improving Access to Nutrition Act (H.R. 1510, S. 2435)

**I**mproving Access to Nutrition Act (H.R. 1510, S. 2435), sponsored by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Sen. Peter Welch (D-VT), would end the three-month time limit on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for certain unemployed and underemployed adults who do not document sufficient hours of work each month.

Since it was enacted in 1996, the SNAP eligibility time limit restricts many working-age adults without dependents to receive only three months of benefits in a three-year period unless they document sufficient hours of work.<sup>1</sup> This harsh policy has taken food off the tables of many struggling adults. In addition, time limits on SNAP eligibility exacerbate racial inequities<sup>2</sup> and are counterproductive,<sup>3</sup> especially considering SNAP's effectiveness<sup>4</sup> in improving economic stability, food security, health, and well-being. In addition, research indicates the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limit does not lead to a meaningful increase in employment, but does substantially reduce SNAP participation.<sup>5,6</sup>

## Who Are ABAWDs

This vulnerable population includes individuals in various circumstances: veterans, youth aging out of foster care, individuals reentering the workforce after incarceration,



and the chronically unhoused. Some adults who fall subject to the time limit have underlying mental and physical health problems that are difficult to document. Moreover, while many of the people subject to the time limits have connections to the labor market, they either cannot find jobs or get too few hours of work in the jobs they do have.

## What You Can Do

Join the Food Research & Action Center in urging Congress and the Biden administration to enact the Improving Access to Nutrition Act. Furthermore, ask additional Members of Congress to add their names to the list of bill sponsors. Please look at the table on Page 2 for your state and see which of your Members have yet to sign on.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/work-requirements>

<sup>2</sup> <https://lawyerscommittee.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Draft-SNAP-Amicus-Brief-Clean.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.georgetownpoverty.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Unworkable-Unwise-Executive-Summary-20190219.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://frac.org/research/resource-library/snap-public-health-role-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-improving-health-well-being-americans>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/84467/err-235.pdf?v=42942>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/104451/the-impact-of-snap-able-bodied-adults-without-dependents-abawd-time-limit-reinstatement-in-nin\\_0.pdf](https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/104451/the-impact-of-snap-able-bodied-adults-without-dependents-abawd-time-limit-reinstatement-in-nin_0.pdf)

## Current Cosponsors

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