

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **San Diego Hunger Coalition and the Hunger Advocacy Network Oppose the Cuts and Changes to SNAP Included in the House of Representative's Draft of the Farm Bill**

*San Diegans are encouraged to raise awareness by living on the average daily food stamp budget.*

SAN DIEGO, April 13, 2018 – The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (known as CalFresh locally, and formerly known as food stamps) **that serves more than 260,000 residents of San Diego County is being targeted for devastating structural changes that will increase hunger and poverty in our region.** The federal Farm Bill, which houses the SNAP program, is scheduled to be reauthorized this year. The House of Representative's Agriculture Committee released their [first draft of the Farm Bill](#) yesterday which disregards evidenced based policymaking in favor of unfounded and aggressive work requirements as well as other restrictions that will harm low-income people and families teetering on the edge of stability.

Proposed changes to SNAP in the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee's version of the bill include creating harsher rules for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs), who **like many others turn to CalFresh/SNAP when jobs are lost, hours are cut, or wages don't cover basic living expenses.** The proposal would place an additional burden on states to develop new bureaucracies to develop and implement employment and training programs on an extremely limited budget of \$300 per participant. The proposal also expands work requirements to CalFresh/SNAP beneficiaries between ages 18 and 59 who aren't disabled or raising a child under age six.

Additionally, the House's version of the Farm Bill also proposes to eliminate what is known as "categorical eligibility" for the majority of CalFresh/SNAP households with gross incomes modestly above 130 percent of the federal poverty line, regardless of how high the household's child care or housing costs may be and whether such costs leave them with disposable income below the poverty line. Categorical eligibility is currently used by 40 states, including California, to adjust income cutoffs and asset limits so that **low-wage working families don't abruptly lose their CalFresh/SNAP benefits when they earn slightly more.**

"The San Diego Hunger Coalition and Hunger Advocacy Network are deeply disappointed with the proposed changes to the SNAP program included in the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee's draft of the Farm Bill. The current average CalFresh benefit per person is \$4.10 per day. This amount already isn't enough. These changes will be devastating to our region's most vulnerable populations, many of whom are working hard but falling short due to low wages and San Diego County's high cost of living. CalFresh/SNAP helps people cover the basic need of putting food on the table so they can get back on their feet more quickly," said San Diego Hunger Coalition Executive Director Anahid Brakke.

To help raise awareness and show our representatives in Congress how much CalFresh/SNAP means to San Diego County, the San Diego Hunger Coalition and Hunger Advocacy Network are encouraging people to walk in the shoes of someone on CalFresh/SNAP by taking their **2018 #CalFreshChallenge from May 7 - 11.** Register for the #CalFreshChallenge at [SDhunger.org/CFC](http://SDhunger.org/CFC).

Each year, the San Diego Hunger Coalition encourages people who don't have to worry about having enough food to **try living on the average CalFresh benefit per person of \$4.10 for one day on May 7th or \$20.50 for all five days from May 7-11.** The #CalFreshChallenge is a way to raise awareness about the benefit of the program, advocate for hunger relief policies with elected officials, and raise money for the San Diego Hunger Coalition's CalFresh Task Force to help connect more eligible people in need to the program.

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**About San Diego Hunger Coalition:**

*San Diego Hunger Coalition leads coordinated action to end hunger in San Diego County supported by research, education and advocacy. San Diego Hunger Coalition's vision is that everyone in San Diego County has enough food for an active, healthy life. To learn more, visit the San Diego Hunger Coalition online at [www.sdhunger.org](http://www.sdhunger.org), or on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).*

**About the Hunger Advocacy Network**

*The Hunger Advocacy Network (HAN) is a collaborative of 21 health, housing, and human service agencies that work to educate legislators and the public about hunger in San Diego County and identifies opportunities to take action and demonstrate broad-based organizational support for state and federal policies that protect food security. To learn more, visit [sdhunger.org/hunger-policy#HAN](http://sdhunger.org/hunger-policy#HAN).*

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