



## Farm Bill Cuts to SNAP Will Increase College Hunger

April 30, 2018

[House Resolution 2, The 2018 Farm Bill](#), released by Chairman of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture, K. Michael Conaway (R-TX) at the beginning of April and passed out of the House Committee on Agriculture on April 18<sup>th</sup>, would make significant changes to the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) and increase hunger across the country.

Among those who would be harmed are low-income college students, whose [experience with hunger has been well documented](#). [California has been leading the way to address college student hunger](#) and this progress is owed, in great part, to the leadership and activism of college students themselves.

H.R. 2 cuts over \$20 billion in 10 years by making changes to SNAP, including the following:

- \$5 billion SNAP food benefits are cut by eliminating the broad-based categorical eligibility option that has allowed California to adjust our [CalFresh](#) asset tests and screen-in families with gross incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). In our high-cost-of-living state, where a minimum wage is much higher than the national, this change would be disastrous.
- \$5.3 billion SNAP food benefits are cut by eliminating the “heat & eat” option which allows states to streamline verification of energy cost deductions. This H.R. 2 provision would protect elderly people from the cut, but not people who are co-housed, are disabled or have children.
- \$9.2 billion SNAP food benefits are cut by expanding work requirements to more out-of-work or underemployed adults. H.R. 2 would shorten the period of time an out-of-work American has to comply with work requirements from three months to one month and would remove protections for areas with high unemployment rates. It would also remove an exemption to the SNAP college student ban for unemployed parents with young, school-age children.

While the Farm Bill makes significant changes to eligibility and applies new work requirements, it fails to adopt the provisions of [H.R. 1276 \(Rep. Adams, Alma S. \[D-NC-12\]\)](#), which increases benefit levels on SNAP, [H.R. 3875 \(Lawson, FL-5\)](#), which would specifically exempt additional categories of low-income students from the SNAP college student ban, or [HR 3557 \(Rep. Costa, Jim \[D-CA-16\]\)](#), which would support more employment and training, including at college campuses. These proposals have strong support across the country, but especially in California.

To oppose H.R. 2, individuals can send letters to their members of congress thanks to MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger at: <https://tinyurl.com/MAZON-Stop-HR2FarmBill-SNAPCut>. Organizations can sign on to oppose H.R. 2 at: <https://tinyurl.com/CA-Oppose-HR2-FarmBill>

*For more information about Western Center's anti-hunger priorities*, please see our website at [www.wclp.org](http://www.wclp.org), or contact: Jessica Bartholow at [jbartholow@wclp.org](mailto:jbartholow@wclp.org) or 916-282-5119.