

February 16, 2023

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20515

Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, Chairman Thompson, and Ranking Member Scott:

We write today to respectfully urge your support for a fix to current law that is preventing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients from pursuing valuable job training through SNAP’s Employment and Training (E&T) program. We appreciate your commitment to bipartisanship in current Farm Bill reauthorization discussions, which we are confident will also apply to addressing this unintended issue that has its roots in an expansion of the program in the 2018 Farm Bill.

The bipartisan 2018 Farm Bill strengthened E&T by allowing paid training opportunities and apprenticeships recognizing the effectiveness of transitional jobs and other types of work-based learning that improve job outcomes for populations with high barriers to employment. This change in law enables participants to gain evidence-based work experience and training that helps them find permanent gainful employment and transition away from SNAP benefits. Unfortunately, the E&T “income” participants receive as authorized by this change is being counted toward the determination of SNAP eligibility. As a result, working people in a SNAP Employment & Training program are being kicked off SNAP because they’ve received income from the SNAP E&T program itself. Further, since the SNAP E&T program is exclusive to SNAP enrollees, losing SNAP eligibility means participants can no longer continue in the E&T program and may lose access to the job training program as well.

Certainly Congress did not intend for participation in the SNAP E&T program expansion to negatively affect enrollees’ eligibility for their basic SNAP benefits or ongoing participation in a job training program that ultimately leads to self-sufficiency. To solve this challenge, we respectfully urge your support for excluding income derived from a public workforce training program from SNAP income calculations. There is also precedent for excluding other categories of income from SNAP calculations such as loans with deferred payments (excluding student loans), infrequent/irregular income, or money received from nonrecurring lump-sum payments such as income tax refunds.

As detailed during a bipartisan January 19th Congressional Listening Session on the Farm Bill hosted by Chairman Thompson, excluding “income” earned in a short-term SNAP E&T program or public workforce program from determining SNAP eligibility is a straightforward fix that will have a

major impact for SNAP enrollees success in job training and transitioning to permanent employment. It will also pave a smoother path for SNAP recipients to ultimately transition out of the program – a benefit to both the recipient and the American taxpayer.

We thank you and members of your committees for their previous bipartisan support for expanding the SNAP E&T program to quality job-training programs. We hope that same commitment will extend to addressing this unintended consequence and appreciate your and other Members' ongoing interest in fixing this issue in the next Farm Bill. Thank you for your consideration of this matter and please do not hesitate to contact us at cpheiffer@ceoworks.org should you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

<i>America Forward</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>American Public Human Services Association (APHSA)</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition</i>	<i>Seattle, WA</i>
<i>Appetite For Change</i>	<i>Minneapolis, MN</i>
<i>Arizona Center for Economic Progress</i>	<i>Phoenix, AZ</i>
<i>Arizona Food Bank Network</i>	<i>Phoenix, AZ</i>
<i>Bayaud Enterprises</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>Bridgeways</i>	<i>Everett, WA</i>
<i>Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>
<i>Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>Center for Living and Learning</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>Center on Education and Labor at New America</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>Chrysalis</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>Church World Service</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>Coalfield Development</i>	<i>Huntington, WV</i>
<i>College and Community Fellowship</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>
<i>Colorado Equitable Economic Mobility Initiative</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>Columbia Industries</i>	<i>Kennewick, WA</i>
<i>Community Financial Resources</i>	<i>Oakland, CA</i>
<i>Community Health Councils (CHC)</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>Community Kitchen Pittsburgh</i>	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
<i>Conservation Corps of Long Beach</i>	<i>Long Beach, CA</i>

<i>Covenant House California</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>Downtown Women's Center</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>Drug Policy Alliance</i>	<i>New York</i>
<i>Farestart</i>	<i>Seattle, WA</i>
<i>Food Lifeline</i>	<i>Seattle, WA</i>
<i>Foodlink, Inc.</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>
<i>FPWA (Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies)</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>
<i>Futures Without Violence</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>GRACE/End Child Poverty California</i>	<i>Pasadena, CA</i>
<i>Goodwill of Silicon Valley</i>	<i>San Jose, CA</i>
<i>Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland & East Central Ohio</i>	<i>Cleveland, OH</i>
<i>Greater Boston Foodbank</i>	<i>Boston, MA</i>
<i>Greater Hartford Legal Aid</i>	<i>Hartford, CT</i>
<i>GreenLight Fund Atlanta</i>	<i>Atlanta, GA</i>
<i>Heartland Alliance</i>	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
<i>Homeward Bound of Marin</i>	<i>Novato, CA</i>
<i>Hunger Free Oklahoma</i>	<i>Oklahoma</i>
<i>Hunger-Free Oregon</i>	<i>Portland, OR</i>
<i>Indy Hunger Network</i>	<i>Indianapolis, IN</i>
<i>Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>JVS SoCal</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>Juma Ventures</i>	<i>San Francisco, CA</i>
<i>Keys2Work</i>	<i>Indianapolis, IN</i>
<i>LA Conservation Corps</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>Landforce</i>	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
<i>Legal Action Center/National H.I.R.E Network</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>
<i>Los Angeles Regional Food Bank</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>Mass Law Reform Institute</i>	<i>Boston, MA</i>
<i>MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>Merrimack Valley Food Bank</i>	<i>Lowell, MA</i>
<i>Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration</i>	<i>Lansing, MI</i>

<i>Michigan League for Public Policy</i>	<i>Lansing, MI</i>
<i>Mile High WorkShop</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>Montana Food Bank Network</i>	<i>Missoula, MT</i>
<i>National Alliance of Trauma Recovery Centers</i>	<i>San Francisco, CA</i>
<i>National Coalition for the Homeless</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>National Skills Coalition</i>	<i>Washington,DC</i>
<i>Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>New Earth Organization</i>	<i>Culver City, CA</i>
<i>New Moms</i>	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
<i>New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals</i>	<i>Albany, NY</i>
<i>Northern Valley Industries</i>	<i>Wausau, WI</i>
<i>Orion Industries</i>	<i>Auburn, WA</i>
<i>Osborne Association</i>	<i>Bronx, NY</i>
<i>Per Scholas</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>
<i>Pioneer Human Services</i>	<i>Seattle, WA</i>
<i>Project Bread</i>	<i>East Boston, MA</i>
<i>Project Real Life Y.O.T.C.</i>	<i>Riverdale, GA</i>
<i>Project Return</i>	<i>Nashville, TN</i>
<i>RecycleForce</i>	<i>Indianapolis, IN</i>
<i>REDF</i>	<i>San Francisco, CA</i>
<i>Repowered (fka Tech Dump/Tech Discounts)</i>	<i>St Paul, MN</i>
<i>RESULTS</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>Results for America</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>Safer Foundation</i>	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
<i>San Jose Conservation Corps</i>	<i>San Jose, CA</i>
<i>Second Chance Center Colorado</i>	<i>Aurora, CO</i>
<i>Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC</i>	<i>Winston-Salem, NC</i>
<i>Second Harvet of Silicon Valley</i>	<i>San Jose, CA</i>
<i>Stop the Drug War</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts</i>	<i>Hatfield, MA</i>

<i>The Fortune Society</i>	<i>Long Island City, NY</i>
<i>The Idaho Foodbank</i>	<i>Meridian, ID</i>
<i>The Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>The Prison Scholar Fund</i>	<i>Seattle, WA</i>
<i>Trade Institute of Pittsburgh</i>	<i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
<i>Treatment Communities of America</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>
<i>Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Education Program, Inc</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
<i>Universal Income Project</i>	<i>Oakland, CA</i>
<i>Uplift Northwest</i>	<i>Seattle, WA</i>
<i>Urban Corps of San Diego County</i>	<i>San Diego, CA</i>
<i>UTEC Inc</i>	<i>Lowell, MA</i>
<i>Valeo Vocation</i>	<i>Tacoma, WA</i>
<i>Weld Seattle</i>	<i>Seattle, WA</i>
<i>Wildfire</i>	<i>Phoenix, AZ</i>
<i>William E. Morris Institute for Justice</i>	<i>Phoenix, AZ</i>
<i>Women's Bean Project</i>	<i>Denver, CO</i>
<i>Worcester County Food Bank</i>	<i>Shrewsbury, MA</i>