

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 127 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, MARKOSEK, PROBST, HILL-EVANS, MADDEN, HARKINS, DELLOSO, SANCHEZ, CURRY, SAMUELSON, GUENST, BURGOS, GIRAL, FREEMAN, CERRATO, KINKEAD, DEASY, KENYATTA, PARKER, CIRESI, OTTEN, D. WILLIAMS, HOWARD AND GREEN, MAY 24, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 24, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to raise income limits  
2 for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and either  
3 extend or make permanent Emergency Allotments.

4 WHEREAS, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
5 is a federally funded, state-administered program in which  
6 eligible participants receive an Electronic Benefits Transfer  
7 card which they can use to directly purchase food for their  
8 household; and

9 WHEREAS, Nearly 1 million Pennsylvania households, or about  
10 1.8 million Pennsylvanians, use SNAP; and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately two-thirds of SNAP beneficiaries  
12 nationwide are families with children, and approximately one-  
13 third are households with older adults or people with  
14 disabilities; and

15 WHEREAS, SNAP helps families bridge temporary periods of  
16 unemployment and economic hardship; and

17 WHEREAS, SNAP has led to a decrease of as much as 30% in food

1 insecurity nationwide; and

2 WHEREAS, SNAP supports the economy and the agriculture sector  
3 as it allows people with low incomes to spend more money on  
4 food; and

5 WHEREAS, Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, SNAP was responsible  
6 for keeping nearly 8 million Americans above the poverty line,  
7 3.6 million of whom were children; and

8 WHEREAS, SNAP benefits are determined in part by calculating  
9 a recipient's total income; and

10 WHEREAS, Social Security payments are included as part of  
11 income for determining SNAP benefits; and

12 WHEREAS, Social Security payments are tied to cost-of-living  
13 increases as calculated by the Department of Labor's Consumer  
14 Price Index; and

15 WHEREAS, Due to rising inflation over the past two years,  
16 Social Security payments are rising by an average of \$140 per  
17 month in 2023; and

18 WHEREAS, For the many SNAP participants on Social Security,  
19 this means their monthly incomes are rising, which will lead to  
20 an average decrease of \$40 per month in SNAP benefits; and

21 WHEREAS, For other SNAP participants, it means they will lose  
22 access to the program altogether; and

23 WHEREAS, Robust expansions of SNAP at the start of the COVID-  
24 19 pandemic and maintained over the course of several years  
25 helped prevent massive increases in nationwide food insecurity;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, This expansion was called Emergency Allotments and  
28 increased SNAP payments from once to twice a month; and

29 WHEREAS, Congress ended funding for Emergency Allotments in  
30 December 2022; and

1       WHEREAS, Funding for Emergency Allotments was originally  
2 supposed to end when the Federal COVID-19 Public Health  
3 Emergency Declaration ended; and

4       WHEREAS, The ending of Emergency Allotments starting March  
5 2023 will contribute to between a \$100 to \$175 decrease in  
6 monthly benefits for SNAP households; and

7       WHEREAS, The stoppage of this vital lifeline comes at a time  
8 when Pennsylvanians are still struggling with the effects of the  
9 COVID-19 pandemic and economic uncertainty; and

10       WHEREAS, It is vitally important that vulnerable  
11 Pennsylvanians do not go hungry; and

12       WHEREAS, The United States Congress has the power to prevent  
13 a national tragedy of millions of hungry Americans, including  
14 right here in this Commonwealth, by raising the income limits  
15 for SNAP and continuing Emergency Allotments; therefore be it

16       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Congress  
17 of the United States to raise the income limits for the  
18 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and either extend or  
19 make permanent the Emergency Allotments.