

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1510

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to repeal the particular work requirement that disqualifies able-bodied adults for eligibility to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2023

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. MENG, Ms. TITUS, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. CHU, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CASAR, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CORREA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. BONAMICI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to repeal the particular work requirement that disqualifies able-bodied adults for eligibility to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Improving Access to
3 Nutrition Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) 35 million people, including over 10 million
7 children, suffered from hunger even before the
8 COVID–19 pandemic.

9 (2) Analyses show that 50 million people, in-
10 cluding 17 million children, could go hungry due to
11 the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic.

12 (3) As of December 2020, food insecurity
13 among White households with children was 24.2 per-
14 cent, while 38.6 percent of Latinx and 40.6 percent
15 of African-American households with children suf-
16 fered from food insecurity.

17 (4) Black and Hispanic children were twice as
18 likely to live in households without enough to eat as
19 White children, entering this crisis at dispropor-
20 tionate risk of going hungry.

21 (5) Adults who identify as American Indian,
22 Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, or
23 as multiracial, were twice as likely as White adults
24 to report that their household did not get enough to
25 eat. While official national data for Native American
26 households is lacking, previous research in Wash-

1 ington State showed food insecurity among Native
2 households was 2.5 times higher than in White
3 households.

4 (6) The COVID–19 pandemic has deepened
5 longstanding racial disparities and food insecurity.

6 (7) SNAP is the Nation’s first line of defense
7 against hunger and is especially vital for vulnerable
8 populations. More than 85 percent of all SNAP ben-
9 efits go to households with children, seniors, and
10 persons with disabilities.

11 (8) SNAP helps restore access to healthy food,
12 improves overall health, and reduces poverty. SNAP
13 participation is also associated with educational ad-
14 vancement of children in poverty and improvements
15 in math and reading scores.

16 (9) SNAP has a proven record of effectiveness
17 in promoting food security and health as well as in
18 providing economic stimulus. Each \$1 in SNAP ben-
19 efits during a downturn generates between \$1.50
20 and \$1.80 in economic activity.

21 (10) Studies have also demonstrated that work
22 requirements do not reduce poverty.

23 (11) About 6.1 million individuals are subject to
24 SNAP work requirements and are at risk of losing
25 critical food assistance if they cannot comply.

1 (12) Some live in households with school-aged
2 children where benefit reductions or terminations
3 could jeopardize children’s health, development, and
4 future success.

5 (13) Children in poverty also often depend on
6 pooled resources (including SNAP benefits) from ex-
7 tended family members who do not claim them as
8 dependents.

9 (14) Studies show that health impediments are
10 a primary cause of why many SNAP recipients are
11 unable to meet a work requirement.

12 (15) Work requirements also cause an increase
13 in the administrative bureaucracy, which some stud-
14 ies have shown, cause a significant reduction in
15 SNAP participation.

16 (16) Studies show that Black Americans are
17 particularly vulnerable and are most likely to face
18 recent unemployment and work requirements would
19 disproportionately prevent Black people from having
20 access to this important benefit.

21 (17) Families experiencing homelessness are
22 most likely to leave programs like SNAP when there
23 is a work requirement, thereby increasing their vul-
24 nerability.

1 (18) COVID–19 has made people more vulner-
2 able. A work requirement would serve to only further
3 burden those most at risk during the COVID–19
4 pandemic.

5 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS.**

6 (a) WORK REQUIREMENT.—Section 6 of the Food
7 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015) is amended—
8 (1) in subsections (d)(4)(B)(ii)(I)(bb),
9 (d)(4)(N)(iii)(I)(bb), (d)(4)(N)(iv)(II), and
10 (d)(4)(N)(v)(IV) by striking “or subsection (o)”, and
11 (2) by striking subsection (o).

12 (b) ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS FOR STATES THAT
13 ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES.—Sec-
14 tion 16(h)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
15 U.S.C. 2025(h)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph
16 (E).

17 (c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

18 (1) Section 7(i)(1) of the Food and Nutrition
19 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(i)(1)) is amended by
20 striking “section 6(o)(2) of this Act or”.

21 (2) Section 16(h) of the Food and Nutrition
22 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)) is amended—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)—

24 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (I) by striking “that—” and all
2 that follows through “(I)”, and

3 (II) by striking “; and” and all
4 that follows through “6(o)”, and

5 (ii) in subparagraph
6 (F)(ii)(III)(ee)(AA) by striking “, individ-
7 uals subject to the requirements under sec-
8 tion 6(o)”, and

9 (B) in paragraph (5)(C)—

10 (i) in clause (ii) by inserting “and” at
11 the end, and

12 (ii) in clause (iii) by striking “; and”
13 and all that follows through “appropriate”.

14 **SEC. 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

15 (a) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.—Section
16 51(d)(8)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26
17 U.S.C. 51(d)(8)(A)(ii)) is amended—

18 (1) by striking “family—” and all that follows
19 through “(I)” and inserting “family”, and

20 (2) by striking “, or” and all that follows
21 through “of 2008”.

22 (b) WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY
23 ACT.—The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
24 (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 103(a)(2) by striking subpara-
2 graph (D), and

3 (2) in section 121(b)(2)(B) by striking clause
4 (iv).

5 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.**

6 (a) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Except as provided in sub-
7 section (b), this Act and the amendments made by this
8 Act shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment
9 of this Act.

10 (b) **APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.**—

11 (1) The amendments made by section 2 shall
12 not apply with respect to an allotment issued under
13 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011
14 et seq.) before the effective date of this Act.

15 (2) The amendments made by section 3(a) shall
16 not apply to individuals hired before the expiration
17 of the 90-day period that begins on the effective
18 date of this Act.

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