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Submitter Info

Comment: When I read about these proposed changes to the SNAP program, I was both shocked and saddened. This first step into "saving taxpayers money" is a misnomer. First of all, while taxpayers may see a small, immediate benefit, the long term effects of disqualifying so many current recipients of SNAP will be to everyone's detriment. Let me explain what I mean: when the working poor (over 80% of SNAP recipients work) no longer have access to food, they are placed in an even more difficult position. It becomes a matter of priorities - food or medicine, food or electricity, or even food or rent. Faced with such a choice, families are more likely to be sick, unable to work, or even homeless, which in turn creates a bigger problem. It is also important to see recipients as the human beings they are, with hopes, fears, and love. I taught at an at-risk high school for a time, and the students there could tell you all about poverty. Many of my students told me that without the free school lunch program, they would go hungry during the day. The teachers and I would buy boxes of granola bars and send them home with the hungriest ones. The thought that your are considering cutting student lunches breaks my heart for those children. Lastly, I wanted to briefly mention my own case. When my health failed, I could no longer work full time, so now I am an adjunct professor, working from home. Now, I find myself needing assistance from SNAP. I can eat less, but my students, whose bodies are still growing, cannot. I ask you to reconsider your actions. *

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