

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 643 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY KENYATTA, BURGOS, MADDEN, SCHLOSSBERG, FREEMAN, KOSIEROWSKI, RAVENSTAHL, KINSEY, ULLMAN, ISAACSON, CIRESI, YOUNGBLOOD, CALTAGIRONE, McCLINTON, HILL-EVANS, DEASY, FRANKEL, HOWARD, SCHWEYER, SANCHEZ, JOHNSON-HARRELL, STURLA, DONATUCCI, SHUSTERMAN, KIM, PASHINSKI, VITALI, KORTZ, DELLOSO, INNAMORATO, ZABEL, WILLIAMS, HOHENSTEIN AND KIRKLAND, DECEMBER 17, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, DECEMBER 17, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning the Trump Administration's proposed changes to
 2 eligibility requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition
 3 Assistance Program (SNAP).

4 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture has
 5 released a proposal entitled "Revision of Categorical
 6 Eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 7 (SNAP)"; and

8 WHEREAS, The proposal would restrict states from allowing
 9 participants who receive minimal Temporary Assistance for Needy
 10 Families program benefits to be automatically eligible to
 11 participate in SNAP; and

12 WHEREAS, The proposed restriction would leave many American
 13 families with insufficient funds to purchase food and further
 14 prevent school children from receiving free lunches; and

15 WHEREAS, Approximately 265,000 children who currently qualify
 16 for free lunches under the program nationwide would become

1 disqualified pending the enactment of the proposal; and

2 WHEREAS, The proposal's attempt to close a "loophole" that
3 helps families with fluctuating incomes, who perpetually
4 struggle to buy food, is counterintuitive and detrimental to the
5 core objective of safety net programs; and

6 WHEREAS, Low-income individuals often struggle with a
7 plethora of barriers in finding work; and

8 WHEREAS, Stricter work requirements and the elimination of
9 food accessibility does not aid low-income individuals in
10 finding employment; and

11 WHEREAS, The current system allows families to work extra
12 shifts without risking the loss of their benefits, which
13 encourages individuals to improve their work ethic without
14 fearing penalization; and

15 WHEREAS, Moving forward with this proposal would quash
16 benefits for elderly people and individuals with disabilities;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a high number of elderly
19 residents who rely on food-assistance programs such as SNAP, and
20 without these benefits our elderly and disabled populations
21 would suffer greatly; and

22 WHEREAS, It is an unfortunate reality that individuals with
23 disabilities are more likely to live in poverty and experience
24 hardships and food insecurity; and

25 WHEREAS, SNAP improves health care outcomes for seniors and
26 disabled individuals, stimulates the economy and supports jobs;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, It is the duty of public servants to care and
29 provide for disenfranchised populations and make the health and
30 welfare of Pennsylvanians a top priority; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives condemn the Trump
2 Administration's proposed changes to eligibility requirements
3 for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives demonstrate its
6 vehement opposition to the proposal which will harm thousands of
7 Pennsylvanians.