

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY BRIEF

FOOD ACCESS

What is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and why does it matter?

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the first line of defense against hunger in NH. It helps over 76 thousand people in New Hampshire put food on the table.¹
- SNAP supports working families. Between 2019–2023, an average of 77% of SNAP households in NH included someone who was working.
- In 2025, SNAP brought over **\$154 million dollars** into New Hampshire. These dollars go directly to 1,063 local grocers, convenience stores, and farmers' markets, supporting local jobs and food producers. Every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates between \$1.50 and \$1.80 in local economic activity.²
- SNAP streamlines access to programs like free/reduced school meals for students and referral to the Women, Infant Children (WIC) Program.³

SNAP is under threat in the New Hampshire legislature.

- **SB 615 + HB 1797** would cut 6,000 children and 9,000 adults from SNAP and cause thousands of our neighbors to lose access to essential food. The bills would sharply increase costs for the state, cause unnecessary stigma, and could cause retailers to stop accepting SNAP entirely.
- **HB 1773** would restrict what food people can buy with their SNAP cards, and not improve their health. This bill would cause unnecessary stigma, hurt our local economies and businesses, and waste taxpayer dollars.

Threats to SNAP, *con't.*

These bills:

- **... restrict who qualifies for SNAP.** When the state pulls back SNAP eligibility, hunger does not disappear—it is pushed onto schools, food pantries, hospitals, and municipal budgets.
- **... ignore the real drivers of poor diets:** insufficient income for healthy food and lack of proximity to full-service grocery stores. Diets of SNAP participants mirror the diets of other low-income families – the problem is not the SNAP card, it's structural poverty.
- **... would be incredibly expensive** – both for the state, and for our local grocers. It would cause local grocers to no longer accept SNAP, which would hurt local economies and cause food deserts.

LEGISLATION

SUPPORT:

- Keeping SNAP Funded
 - SB 603
 - HB 1750
- School Meals for Kids
 - SB 517
 - HB 1574
- Summer EBT
 - HB 1727

OPPOSE:

- Attacks on SNAP/SNAP Restrictions
 - SB 615
 - HB 1797
 - HB 1773

1. U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2024). *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*.

2. Urban Institute, *The Potential Impacts of Restricted SNAP Purchases* (2017).

3. USDA Food and Nutrition Service, *Informational Analysis of the Potential Impacts on Participants in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program* (2019).

FOOD ACCESS

Speak up for policy & legislation that protects SNAP

Make Your Voice Heard!

Sign In: Support or Oppose

Signing in to support or oppose legislation is a key way for legislators to understand what the public thinks about a bill.

Call (or email) your Representatives

Contacting your representatives directly is one of the most effective ways to make your voice heard. Calls are much more effective than email, but please reach out however you can!

Advocate or Testify

Your story matters – and telling it makes a difference.

Scan the QR code below to learn more and take action.



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