

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 213

Reps. Hope, Peterson, Manoogian and Bolden offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the President and the United States
2 Department of Agriculture to repeal the new work requirements for
3 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

4 Whereas, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),
5 formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, provides nutrition
6 benefits to low-income families to supplement their food budgets.
7 In Fiscal Year 2019, the program served nearly 34.5 million people
8 across the nation, including almost 1.2 million Michigan residents;
9 and

10 Whereas, Under federal law, able-bodied adults without
11 dependents, people between the ages of 18 and 49 who are childless
12 and not disabled, can only receive SNAP benefits for 3 months in a



1 36-month period unless they meet certain work requirements; and

2 Whereas, New federal rules issued by the United States
 3 Department of Agriculture (USDA) will change SNAP work requirements
 4 for able-bodied adults without dependents (84 FR 66782). Previously,
 5 states could request to waive the time limit in areas with an
 6 unemployment rate over 10 percent or areas lacking in sufficient
 7 jobs, and states had a limited number of discretionary exemptions
 8 that could be rolled over each year. The new rules limit states'
 9 abilities to waive the time limit and apply stricter standards for
 10 what qualifies as an area lacking in sufficient jobs. It also puts
 11 a cap on the annual carryover of state discretionary exemptions;
 12 and

13 Whereas, The USDA's Regulatory Impact Analysis estimates that
 14 688,000 SNAP participants will lose their benefits under the new
 15 rules. Nearly 80,000 Michigan residents may become ineligible to
 16 participate in SNAP; and

17 Whereas, The people most impacted by the rule change are among
 18 the most vulnerable SNAP participants. It is estimated that 97
 19 percent of individuals impacted live in poverty compared to 80
 20 percent of all SNAP participants. Nearly 90 percent of the people
 21 impacted have household incomes at or below 50 percent of the
 22 federal poverty level, which is equivalent to only \$12,875 for a
 23 family of four; and

24 Whereas, The rule change will be detrimental to the low-income
 25 families who rely on SNAP to meet their most basic needs and will
 26 create additional barriers to self-sufficiency for individuals in
 27 areas already lacking sufficient jobs; now, therefore, be it

28 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
 29 President of the United States and the United States Department of



1 Agriculture to repeal the new work requirements for the
2 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; and be it further
3 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
4 President of the United States, the United States Secretary of
5 Agriculture, and the Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition,
6 and Consumer Services.
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