

**Issue #37, September 24, 2018**

**Proposed Public Charge Rule**

[Proposed Public Charge Rule Would Undercut Efforts to Address Food Insecurity and Poverty](#) —

FRAC, September 23, 2018

FRAC strongly opposes the proposed public charge rule announced by the Trump Administration. The rule would greatly undercut efforts to address food insecurity and poverty by making it harder for immigrant families to access a range of nutrition, health, and human services programs that are essential to our nation's health and well-being. Under the proposed rule, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), our nation's first-line of defense against hunger, is included as a public benefit that could trigger a public charge determination.

[Immigrants may be denied green cards if they've received benefits](#) — Politico, September 22, 2018

A proposed rule from the Department of Homeland Security would deny "lawful permanent residency" if immigrants have received certain government benefits, or if the government anticipates they may do so in the future; the benefits include SNAP. "The whole rule is so short-sighted and mean-spirited because we know these nutrition programs are not only incredible sources of nutrition, they improve health and well-being" that "help children learn," said Alexandra Ashbrook, director of special projects at FRAC. "They help people be productive workers."

**Farm Bill and SNAP Cuts**

[SNAP program critical to people with disabilities](#) — Atlanta Journal-Constitution, September 21, 2018

As the Farm Bill is being debated on Capitol Hill, "Congress should focus on supporting policies that end hunger and lift people out of poverty in Georgia and across the country," write Kyle Wade, president and CEO of the Atlanta Community Food Bank, and Eric E. Jacobson, executive

director of the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities. The House version of the bill proposes SNAP cuts, and the program is vital to people with disabilities. In an average month in 2015, 1 in 5 SNAP households — 4.5 million across the country — included an adult with a disability, according to FRAC. In Georgia in 2016, 169,000 SNAP households included people with disabilities.

[America's Hungriest and Poorest States Need Sustained Federal Support To Escape Cycles of Poverty and Hunger](#) — Bristol Herald Courier, September 18, 2018

An analysis of Census Bureau data by the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) shows the top 10 hungriest states and the top 10 poorest states in America — with seven states appearing in both lists. “Congress must protect SNAP from harmful cuts or changes that could force American families off the program, especially in New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, and West Virginia, where the hunger and poverty rates are consistently near 20 percent,” said Amelia Kegan, legislative director for domestic policy at FCNL.

[War on Poverty far from over for black, Hispanic children](#) — NorthJersey.com, September 19, 2018

Two months ago the White House declared the War on Poverty “largely over and a success,” and while the Census Bureau recently reported a decrease in poverty, the same data also showed that poverty remains a problem. Child Trends reports that in 2017, nearly 1 in 3 black infants and toddlers and more than 1 in 4 Hispanic infants and toddlers lived in poverty. One in 9 white, non-Hispanic infants and toddlers, however, live in poverty. Should SNAP and other assistance programs be cut, as proposals now suggest, Hispanic children could be hardest hit by the change, notes this editorial.

[Indiana Food Programs Speak Up About Farm Bill. Now in Play](#) — 103.9 Sunny FM, September 17, 2018

While the House Farm Bill proposes additional SNAP requirements, the Senate version of the bill does not contain these provisions. “[A]bout half of the individuals that are enrolled in SNAP are children or seniors or someone with a disability,” said Emily Weikert Bryant, executive director of Feeding Indiana’s Hungry. “Requiring additional hoops and red tape will result in many people being kicked off the program.”

[Urge your legislators to approve the Senate’s version of the farm bill](#) — Inforum, September 14,

2018

“We urge people of faith across the state to raise their voices to speak up in support of actions and policies that provide food for the hungry and for ending the conditions that allow hunger to persist,” write the co-chairs of the Eastern North Dakota Synod/ELCA Hunger and Justice Committee in this letter to the editor. The authors urge the House and Senate to adopt the Senate’s version of the Farm Bill, “which protects and strengthens SNAP.” In North Dakota, 28,700 households lack adequate food at times during the year.

[Support needed to prevent families from going hungry](#) — Recordnet, September 15, 2018

According to FRAC, the nation’s food hardship rate increased from 15.1 percent in 2016 to 15.7 percent in 2017, after several years of improvement. The Farm Bill passed by the House earlier this summer would cut off many in our community from SNAP, including children, writes Curtis Smith, pastor at Calvary First Assembly of God church in Stockton, California, in this op-ed. “I am grateful for the support from Rep. Jerry McNerney, (D-Stockton), and we hope we can count on the support of Rep. Jeff Denham, (R-Turlock). Their leadership in supporting this final farm bill will protect CalFresh and prevent our families from going hungry,” Smith concludes.

[I know WV kids depend on SNAP; I was one](#) — Charleston Gazette-Mail, September 20, 2018

SNAP benefits help 40,000 West Virginians (19 percent of the state's population) afford food, and for Teresa Blake-Allen, a schoolteacher at South Harrison Middle School, the program greatly helped her as a child. It enabled her mother to feed her family while walking to school to earn her GED and walking to her job cleaning houses. The Senate version of the Farm Bill leaves SNAP intact, writes Blake-Allen in this op-ed, and the state's two senators voted for the bill. "Sens. Capito and Manchin have kept the best interests of West Virginia’s families and farmers, as well as my students, in mind when it comes to SNAP," concludes Blake-Allen. "I hope the rest of Congress will do the same."

[Denying food to former prisoners a step backward](#) — Tulsa World, September 16, 2018

The House Farm Bill contains a provision that would deny SNAP benefits for people who have completed sentences for certain violent crimes; current rules deny SNAP to those who violate their parole or terms of their release. The provision could affect more than 100,000 people leaving prisons each year. “As the House-Senate conference committee prepares to iron out a final farm bill ... [t]hey need to strike this punitive provision in the interests of community,

family, public safety and common humanity,” write Alex Busansky, founder of Impact Justice, and Gary Maynard, former director of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, in this op-ed.

[Farm bill harmful for SNAP](#) — Daily Bulldog, September 12, 2018

With many SNAP recipients living in rural counties, Maine’s 2nd Congressional District would see increased hunger and food insecurity if the Senate accepts the provisions in the House Farm Bill, writes Steve Bien in this letter to the editor. While 18 percent of Maine residents receive SNAP, 25 percent receive benefits in the 2nd District’s rural counties. “This support is critical in Maine, which ranks behind only Alabama and Louisiana in the number of people without adequate access to food.” The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that 1 million people would lose benefits under the House bill.

[SNAP a vital resource for our foster care youth](#) — Bozeman Daily Chronicle, September 14, 2018

Youth in foster care “age out” of the system at 18, while society expects them to survive with limited state and federal support; most youth in this country are unable to support themselves financially when they reach that age. “SNAP currently supports many of the foster youth we work with and has proven to impede the risk of hunger as a youth turns 18,” writes Jeremy Alcoke, youth development coordinator for the Human Resource Development Council in Bozeman, Montana, in this op-ed. Yet many of these youth find it difficult to find a job, and are faced with time restrictions on SNAP benefits.

## **Breakfast in the Classroom**

[Gallia Local District joins ‘Breakfast in the Classroom’](#) — Gallipolis Daily Tribune, September 20, 2018

Gallia County Local Schools in Ohio received a grant, funded by the Walmart Foundation, to offer “Breakfast in the Classroom,” through a joint initiative that includes FRAC. Nearly all students in the school district are qualified to receive free or reduced-price school meals, but only one-fourth were participating in school breakfast. Since starting Breakfast in the Classroom, data showed 65 percent of students were participating.

## **From FRAC Chat**

[What’s the State of Childhood Obesity?](#) — FRAC Chat, September 21, 2018

September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, which provides an excellent opportunity to take a closer look at the latest research on children’s obesity rates, consequences,

causes, and solutions. According to a report released earlier this month by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 18.5 percent of U.S. children and adolescents are obese and another 16.6 percent are overweight.

### **About Us**

FRAC is the leading national nonprofit organization working to eradicate poverty-related hunger and undernutrition in the United States. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

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