



202-408-1080
center@cbpp.org
www.cbpp.org

CBPP STATEMENT

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Contact:
Regan Lachapelle, 202-
408-1080,
lachapelle@cbpp.org

Statement of Robert Greenstein on the Passage of the House Republican Leadership's Harsh SNAP Bill That Would Cut Food Assistance to Millions of Poor Americans

The House's passage today of the Republican leadership's bill to cut SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) by almost \$40 billion over the next decade marks a new low for an already dysfunctional Congress. It would increase hunger and hardship all across our country.

By cutting food assistance for at least 3.8 million low-income people in the coming year — including some of the very poorest Americans, many children and senior citizens, and even veterans — this cruel, if not heartless, legislation could jeopardize a vital stepping stone to many families who are still struggling to find work or who depend on low-wage jobs. As the nation slowly climbs out of the deepest recession in decades — with 22 million people still unemployed or underemployed — millions of families rely on SNAP to help feed their children.

SNAP recipients already are preparing for an across-the-board cut in their SNAP benefits beginning in November that will reduce their modest benefits to less than \$1.40 per person per meal.

For decades, policymakers have shared a bipartisan commitment to reducing hunger and hardship. This legislation turns its back on that commitment. Senators should firmly reject these harsh cuts and send the President a bill that does not take food off the table of many of our most vulnerable fellow Americans.

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