United States Congress

WASHINGTON, DC

Streamlining the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SSNAP) Act

Senator John Thune and Congressman Marlin Stutzman

Section 1: Limit Categorical Eligibility to Cash Assistance

- Instead of automatically qualifying for SNAP because of eligibility for a wide range of other low-income benefits (i.e. TANF, SSI), this section limits categorical eligibility to just cash assistance from these programs and narrows eligibility to those households that are more legitimately in need of assistance.
- SAVINGS: $11 billion/10 years

Section 2: Clarifying Reenrollment Requirements for SNAP

- Strengthens applicant reenrollment requirements to ensure timely and accurate income and asset reporting.

Section 3: Eliminate the Automatic Trigger between SNAP and LIHEAP

- Closes the loophole that was allowing states to send small $1 and $5 LIHEAP checks to SNAP participants in order to trigger higher SNAP benefit payments.
- SAVINGS: $13.4 billion /10 years

Section 4: Eliminate the SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Program

- Defunds and eliminates the underutilized and duplicative SNAP Employment and Training Program.
- There are 47 other federal E&T programs and in 2011 only 5 percent of SNAP beneficiaries participated in the SNAP E&T Program.
- SAVINGS: $3.5 billion/10 years

Section 5: Limit Unemployment ABAWD Waivers

- Limits the Able-bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) work requirement waiver to areas with an unemployment level of 10 percent or above.
- Current waiver language is too broad which results in a much higher number of ~~and allows for high~~ work requirement waiver issuances than are needed.

Section 6: Database for Cross-Compliance

- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to develop or utilize an existing centralized database to ensure that individuals cannot enroll to receive the same benefits in more than one state.

Section 7: Improve the Enforcement of SNAP – Quality Control

- Reforms quality control measures to apply when states are sanctioned for three consecutive years of improper payments.
- Under current law, after two consecutive years of improper payments USDA assigns a liability amount that a state must pay. However, USDA can require the state to simply pay as much as 50% back into its own SNAP program.
- This section would require states, after the third consecutive year, to pay the full penalty amount with no options for reinvestment.

Section 8: Eliminate State Performance Bonuses

- Stops providing states with a performance bonus for reducing their program error rates. States should not need a "gold start" in order to implement programs efficiently and as intended.
- SAVINGS: $480 million/10 years

Section 9: Reform the Nutrition Education and Obesity Program

- Replace current indexed block grants with a per-capita payment of $5 per enrolled household, indexed for inflation.
- SAVINGS: At least $2.1 billion /10 years