



Fact Sheet:

Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Ensuring nourishing meals for needy children

The Senate passed a bipartisan child nutrition reauthorization bill, “Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010” (S. 3307), which will now go to the House for consideration. The bill, while improving child nutrition programs, did so by making cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) – which is the baseline source of nutrition for most families in Michigan.

What is in the Senate Reauthorization Bill?

The Senate bill includes several positive improvements in the child nutrition programs such as:

- requiring that all food sold in schools be subject to established nutritional standards
- expands the Afterschool Meal Program to all 50 states
- phases in direct certification of foster children and those in the Medicaid programs for school meals

However, the bill passed by the full Senate, (estimated to cost \$4.5 billion over 10 years), will do far more harm than good by taking away SNAP benefits from the neediest people.

- The Senate financed the bill by cutting \$2.2 billion in SNAP (food stamp) funding (nearly half of whom are children) in future years.
- It will take away food resources for children and families by cutting family’s SNAP (food assistance) benefits.

Why is the House version a better alternative?

More recently, the House released its version of child nutrition reauthorization - “Improving Nutrition for America’s Children’s Act of 2010”

(H.R. 5504). This bill takes a much larger step toward increasing access for many of the nation’s children from families with low incomes.

H.R. 5504 builds upon the Senate bill by:

- offering direct certification of eligibility for school meals for foster care and children in Medicaid (phased in),
- encourages expansions in the School Breakfast Program,
- provides protections for discrimination or segregation of children eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and
- addresses the quality of meals served in schools.

Although the House Bill does not yet contain offsets (cuts in funding) that actually fund the legislation (estimated at 4.5 billion over 10 years), it is a more robust piece of legislation and will make a substantial difference for Michigan’s children.

How can the House resolve the difference with the Senate?

The House has three main alternatives:

- 1) replace the SNAP benefit savings with another source of revenue,
- 2) remove the SNAP benefit savings and, if no other offsets can be found, scale back the child nutrition bill, or
- 3) adopt the Senate bill as-is.

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The Senate bill is **NOT** an acceptable child nutrition bill for the House to approve. The House should reject a nutrition bill that takes away SNAP resources for nutritious family meals in order to improve school meals. Moving resources from one nutrition program to pay for improvements on another program does not improve the overall well-being of Michigan's children. SNAP cuts are a special problem in the summer months, because only a small percentage of Michigan children receive federally subsidized summer meals.

It is well documented that when children have access to adequate, nutritious food throughout the day and throughout the year, they enjoy better overall health, physical development, and educational outcomes. Children are best able to grow and succeed when they have access to nutritious meals at both school and at home. **Any investment in child nutrition programs should not be paid for and undermined by cuts in a family's SNAP benefits.**

The House bill is a better version of Child Nutrition Reauthorization. It builds upon the Senate bill and makes more headway towards increasing access and participation. Michigan's Congressional delegation should explore alternatives to funding it (other than the SNAP cuts proposed by the Senate).

Federally funded meal programs are a lifeline for Michigan's children and families. Food programs support thousands of households that lack a regular source of income, face exhausted unemployment compensation, and live without adequate health care. Both SNAP and Child Nutrition Programs should be funded so that Michigan's children have access to nutritious and adequate meals throughout the day, and all year around.

Nutrition Programs that Feed Michigan's Children

What programs will be reauthorized?

The Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act includes child and adult feeding programs that reach infants,

toddlers, school-aged children and older youth. The reauthorization includes all federal school meal and child nutrition programs, as well as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program and others. These programs, along with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) are a critical part of our nation's safety net and provide vital resources in the fight to end child hunger. A robust reauthorization of federal nutrition programs would strengthen the existing food delivery system by reaching millions of children across age and setting.

How many people receive help?

In Michigan, the need for food assistance is growing as demonstrated by the huge increase in families using the SNAP Program as a way of keeping food on the table in the wake of a job loss or a cut in pay. Even more children are likely to be eligible for school meals as families exhaust their unemployment benefits.

- **School Lunch** - During 2008-2009 school year, there were 546,164 students in Michigan that received free and reduced priced lunches through the national school lunch program.
- **School Breakfast** - 232,163 Michigan students received free and reduced priced breakfasts through the school breakfast program.
- **Summer Meals** - In (summer 2009), only 14 out of 100 children who received school meals in Michigan also received help from the summer food program. Fewer children in rural areas have access to feeding sites. The remainder must depend on SNAP and whatever other income, if any, the family has.
- **SNAP** - In June 2010 there were 1,822,418 recipients of SNAP/Food Assistance Benefits statewide (1 in 5 people) - 776,998 were children.

How many children in your county receive food assistance?

County	Total Recipients	Child Recipients
Entire State	1,844,919	785,453
Alcona	1,748	607
Alger	1,227	466
Allegan	16,394	7,614
Alpena	6,116	2,179
Antrim	3,656	1,534
Arenac	3,527	1,328
Baraga	1,357	538
Barry	8,447	3,548
Bay	20,107	8,101
Benzie	2,566	1,062
Berrien	31,486	14,450
Branch	8,329	3,630
Calhoun	32,471	13,250
Cass	9,995	4,463
Charlevoix	3,772	1,611
Cheboygan	5,147	2,005
Chippewa	5,970	2,298
Clare	8,202	3,041
Clinton	6,904	2,667
Crawford	2,850	1,075
Delta	6,389	2,389
Dickinson	3,606	1,380
Eaton	13,503	5,711
Emmet	4,719	1,847
Genesee	109,940	47,197
Gladwin	5,334	2,017
Gogebic	3,098	1,073
Gr. Traverse	12,337	4,728
Gratiot	7,477	3,202
Hillsdale	8,410	3,612
Houghton	5,361	1,815
Huron	5,008	2,006
Ingham	55,562	20,596
Ionia	10,223	4,380
Iosco	6,037	2,174
Iron	1,933	701
Isabella	14,172	3,743
Jackson	30,201	13,013
Kalamazoo	47,107	18,008
Kalkaska	3,911	1,581
Kent	106,076	48,299

County	Total Recipients	Child Recipients
Keweenaw	281	103
Lake	3,177	1,097
Lapeer	12,787	5,729
Leelanau	1,766	802
Lenawee	16,613	7,343
Livingston	14,243	5,960
Luce	1,076	390
Mackinac	1,449	521
Macomb	123,553	52,467
Manistee	4,430	1,685
Marquette	9,642	3,155
Mason	5,696	2,300
Mecosta	9,577	3,161
Menominee	3,796	1,515
Midland	11,249	4,329
Missaukee	2,722	1,142
Monroe	20,155	8,780
Montcalm	13,075	5,404
Montmorency	2,099	725
Muskegon	45,790	19,096
Newaygo	10,763	4,521
Oakland	126,036	51,986
Oceana	6,510	3,180
Ogemaw	5,459	2,029
Ontonagon	1,049	329
Osceola	5,086	2,083
Oscoda	2,028	703
Otsego	4,961	1,957
Ottawa	28,293	12,489
Presque Isle	1,785	617
Roscommon	6,009	2,084
Saginaw	46,996	20,352
St. Clair	30,360	12,364
St. Joseph	12,500	5,713
Sanilac	8,824	3,609
Schoolcraft	1,356	485
Shiawassee	12,836	5,333
Tuscola	10,145	4,382
Van Buren	16,665	7,872
Washtenaw	39,224	14,953
Wayne	515,740	234,411
Wexford	7,897	3,096