



NEWS RELEASE

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For more information, contact:
Chris Sanders at (334) 832-9060

910,000 Alabamians to See Cut in Food Assistance Beginning Today

SNAP Cuts Affect More Than 47 Million People Nationwide, Including 22 Million Children

More than 900,000 Alabamians – nearly one in five – will see their food assistance benefits cut beginning today when a temporary boost to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) expires. All of the more than 47 million Americans, including 22 million children, who receive benefits under SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, will see their food assistance reduced.

The cuts mark the end of a modest boost to SNAP benefits, enacted in the Recovery Act, designed to help strengthen the economy and ease hardship. For a family of three in Alabama, the cuts mean a reduction of \$29 each month. Families' benefits this month now will average less than \$1.40 per person per meal.

“This temporary increase in SNAP benefits has provided an important stepping stone for 214,000 Alabama families with children during the deep economic recession and long recovery,” ACPP executive director Kimble Forrister said. “It helped them keep food on the table as they seek to get themselves back on their feet. It also helped 144,000 Alabama households with elderly or disabled people weather the recession.”

In addition to helping feed hungry families, SNAP is one of the most effective ways to stimulate a struggling economy, Forrister said. Every \$1 increase in SNAP benefits in a distressed economy creates about \$1.70 in economic activity, studies show. As the temporary SNAP increase ends, Alabama will lose \$98 million in the next 11 months. Of that amount, \$71 million would have gone to 423,000 children and their families.

“SNAP has been a powerful tool to keep families out of poverty during the long recession and recovery, and for most of the 910,000 Alabamians still on SNAP, it doesn't feel like the recession has ended,” Forrister said. “To adjust for this week's cuts, many struggling families in Alabama will literally have to tighten their belts.”

The U.S. House recently voted for an additional \$40 billion in SNAP cuts that would come on top of the cuts taking effect today. If enacted, the House-approved plan could deny SNAP benefits to 74,000 Alabamians and nearly 4 million people nationwide, according to estimates by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. U.S. Reps. Martha Roby, R-Ala., and Mike Rogers, R-Ala., are among the members of the House-Senate conference committee working out the final version of the farm bill.

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Arise Citizens' Policy Project is a nonprofit statewide citizens' organization comprising 145 congregations and organizations that promote public policies to improve the lives of low-income Alabamians.