



FRAC's Priorities for the Current Budget Reconciliation Bill, S. Con. Res. 5

FRAC urges Congress to pass a bold reconciliation package necessary to lift the country out of the devastating economic and health crisis that has been inflicted by COVID-19. FRAC supports a \$1.9 trillion package that will supply desperately needed relief that is commensurate to the harms that the entire nation is grappling with, and that includes key interventions that will help ensure tens of millions of people who are struggling with hunger get the nutrition they need.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is the nation's most important direct defense against hunger. This critical program improves nutrition, health, and well-being while helping families use mainstream systems of commercial food outlets that stimulate the economy. The reconciliation bill would strengthen SNAP's ability to respond to the economic devastation and unprecedented levels of hunger caused by COVID-19. Among the provisions, the bill

- extends the 15 percent boost to SNAP benefits through September 30, 2021;
- provides extra administrative funds to keep SNAP benefits flowing to households in need; and
- supplies additional funding for SNAP online purchasing and technology improvements.

Child Nutrition Programs and School Meals Programs

The child nutrition programs and school meals programs help improve children's health and well-being while offering some relief for families with stretched resources. The reconciliation bill would significantly alleviate food hardship for children and families as the health and economic fallout of COVID-19 continues to unfold. By proposing to allocate more than \$300 billion in targeted assistance, the bill

- increases the value of fruit and vegetable benefits through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) during a four-month period, and invests in outreach to improve access and participation;
- raises the eligibility age of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) so that young adults who have not attained their 25th birthday are eligible to receive up to three healthy meals at emergency homeless shelters, which makes youth-serving shelters eligible for CACFP; and
- issues Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program benefits during the summer to school-age children, and allows for the program to be extended through the end of the COVID-19 health crisis.

Additional Anti-Hunger Programs

The reconciliation bill would also

- increase program funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP);
- increase funding for nutrition assistance to the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa; and
- provide additional funding to support nutrition programs for older adults and Native American communities under the Older Americans Act.

FRAC urges Congress to pass the current reconciliation bill — and to not stop there. Comprehensive legislation is needed to address the root causes of hunger, including systemic racism, inadequate wages, limited job opportunities, and a lack of affordable housing. FRAC is committed to working with Congress on bold policy solutions to help create a healthier, more prosperous, and equitable society where all people and communities can thrive.