

Dear

I am a member of Oakland County Food Policy Council (OCFPC). Our vision is that Oakland County will have a fair, sustainable, and culturally friendly food system that encourages healthy eating for all.

There are over 140,000 people in Oakland County currently experiencing food insecurity, a 28% increase from 2021 ([Map the Meal Gap, accessed July 2024](#)) and SNAP is a proven strategy to help alleviate food insecurity. As Farm Bill discussions occur, we want you to be aware of the impact SNAP has on Oakland County residents. Currently, over 40,500 households participate in SNAP (ACS 1- year estimates, 2022) providing economic input for close to 900 businesses in Oakland County.

For the first time since 1970s, the 2018 Farm Bill included language to modernize SNAP benefits. The first re-evaluation occurred in 2021, and had a positive impact on household budgets, increasing average benefits from \$4.80 per person per day to \$6.40 per person per day. These updates ensure benefits aligned with current USDA Dietary Recommendations and modern food practices. Current Farm Bill drafts in both the Senate and House propose to cut the SNAP re-evaluations that were included in the 2018 Farm Bill. The Congressional Budget Office estimates this could result in a loss of \$970 Million to Michigan households and businesses ([CBO estimates shared by CBPP, 2024](#)).

Other benefits of SNAP participation include:

- Reducing healthcare costs
- Improving outcomes for pregnant women
- Lifts families out of poverty, especially during economic downturns ([Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2018](#))

Please take a moment to review our attached one-pager for additional information. To learn more about Oakland County Food Policy Council, visit oakgov.com/echo.

Sincerely,

Member, Oakland County Food Policy Council