



POLICY ALERT

An Urgent Update on Issues that Affect You

Center for Public Policy Priorities

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CALL TO ACTION

TELL CONGRESS TO OPPOSE CUTS TO THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Background

Congress is considering making \$3 billion in cuts to the Food Stamp Program and other federal food programs over the next five years. These cuts would be achieved through policy changes that would restrict access to Food Stamps, either across the board or for certain populations, such as immigrants or working families. The Agriculture Committees in charge of food programs are expected to make recommendations to Congress for achieving these cuts by September 16, 2005.

Cuts to the Food Stamp Program could leave hundreds of thousands of low-income Texans without the help they need to feed their families. In 2004, more than 2.3 million Texans relied on Food Stamps to make ends meet, which poured over \$2.2 billion in federal Food Stamp revenue to the Texas economy. CPPP estimates that five million Texans are actually eligible for Food Stamps, which means that millions of low-income Texans may be eligible for food assistance but not getting it. It also means we are leaving billions of our tax dollars in Washington that could be used to support low-income families and bolster the Texas economy. CPPP estimates that if Texas reached just 60 percent of the eligible population, it would bring an additional \$900 million in federal revenue to the Texas economy.

For Food Stamp information tailored to your area, click on www.cppp.org/.... Our web site has Food Stamp enrollment and benefits data by county, for the Border region, and by Texas food bank service area. We also provide estimates of the federal funds Texas could draw down if the Food Stamp Program reached more eligible families.

Action Needed

Help us protect the Food Stamp Program by urging Congress to keep any cuts as close to zero as possible and to protect the program against damaging structural changes.

Please sign yourself or your organization onto a national letter that is circulating in support of the Food Stamp Program. The letter is posted on the Food Research and Action Center's web site at:

http://www.frac.org/Legislative/Budget_06/Alerts/07.07.05.html.

If your organization has not yet signed the letter, you can do so by emailing Iris Chavez at ichavez@frac.org or sending a fax to 202-986-2525, with your organization name, address, and authorizing contact information. We also ask for your assistance in getting the letter out to a larger network; please pass the letter along to your networks and help protect the Food Stamp Program from drastic cuts.