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Quote of the Week

"SNAP operated like it was supposed to during the recession. It expanded to meet the needs of the millions who lost their jobs, of middle-class families who never imagined they'd need food assistance in the first place. And now, as our economy improves, fewer people need the assistance. But we're not there yet."

[Rep. Jim McGovern](#) (D-MA), April 20, 2016



Child Nutrition Reauthorization

[FRAC Strongly Opposes House Education & Workforce Committee's Majority Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill](#) - FRAC, April 22, 2016

"The child nutrition programs have a long-standing tradition of bipartisanship that has surrounded them for decades. The House bill moves away from that history and the universal recognition that these programs work – and work exceedingly well – to ensure healthy outcomes and greater educational attainment for our nation's children," said Jim Weill, FRAC president, in a statement. "Countless children would no longer be able to access the nutritious meals they need for their health and learning, and the meals children could still obtain would be less healthy."



SNAP Cuts

[Food Stamp Use Is Falling, and the GOP Wants to Cut It Even More](#) – The Fiscal Times, April 14, 2016

USDA data shows that 3.1 million fewer Americans received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in January 2016 than in January 2013. However, the House Budget Committee is proposing cutting SNAP spending and converting the program into block grants. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities recently stated that there is no justification for House Republicans to seek massive reductions in SNAP spending, and notes that the program has worked as it is supposed to, expanding during times of economic hardship and decreasing in participation as the economy improves.



[One Million Americans Struggling to Find Work Should Not Be Cut Off From Food Assistance](#)

– [McGovern.house.gov](#), April 20, 2016

Reinstated SNAP time limits for adults working less than 20 hours a week mean that up to a million SNAP recipients could lose benefits. However, "[m]any areas of the country haven't fully recovered from the recession," said Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) in a recent speech on the House floor. For many individuals, "there are no open jobs and worker training slots are all full." McGovern noted that SNAP worked as it was supposed to during the recession, and "as our economy improves, fewer people need the assistance. But we're not there yet."



[Christie and N.J. lawmakers agree some unemployed residents may get food stamps](#) – NJ.com, April 18, 2016

Although New Jersey Governor Chris Christie vetoed a bill to extend the SNAP time limit waiver for unemployed adults without children, he acknowledges that there may be people who lose SNAP benefits in the state and are unable to find work. An amended bill removing the work requirement in cities with high unemployment rates will go to the governor for.

"The governor's compromise on this issue is a step in the right direction, but there is still no

assurance that struggling New Jerseyans who make every effort to find work will not lose their SNAP benefits," said Raymond Castro of New Jersey Policy Perspective.



[Give Drug Felons Food Stamps, Many States Now Say](#) – WRAL, April 18, 2016

Georgia may end its lifetime ban on drug offenders receiving SNAP benefits, which would leave eight states still enforcing the lifetime provision. Nebraska is considering lifting their ban, a holdover of President Bill Clinton's welfare reform, in the interest of reducing the state's prison population by helping those released avoid committing crimes. SNAP benefits "really gave me the opportunity to not have to worry about how I was going to eat," while looking for a job, said Destenie Commuso of Lincoln, Nebraska, who was arrested in 2006 on drug charges, but avoided a felony conviction by participating in a drug court program.



Community Eligibility Provision

[School nutrition program growing](#) – Tullahoma News, April 17, 2016

Tennessee's Tullahoma City Schools began offering free meals to all elementary school students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) at the start of the 2014–2015 school year. This year, the school district is projecting to serve 87,700 additional breakfasts and 30,000 more lunches than the year before, and participation in school breakfast increased 55 percent over the previous year. Since beginning participation in CEP, the food service department budget has seen its budget grow, as federal reimbursements have increased.



[New Jersey sees lags in new school breakfast payment option](#) – GMNews.com, April 14, 2016

According to FRAC, only 35 percent of eligible New Jersey schools are taking advantage of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which increases the number of children receiving free school meals, and helps schools reduce paperwork. CEP allows high-poverty schools to provide free meals to all children without requiring individual applications. FRAC reports that some states doubled or nearly doubled the number of districts utilizing CEP in the 2015–2016 school year.



CACFP

[FRAC Applauds New USDA Rules for Healthier Meals and Snacks in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) - FRAC, April 22, 2016

"By offering meals consistent with the U.S. Dietary Guidelines, child care and afterschool programs will provide millions of low-income children better access to much-needed fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and lower-fat dairy foods," said Jim Weill, FRAC president, in a statement. "This is an important step in addressing the nutritional shortfalls in our nation's children's diets and helping to tackle the nation's obesity problem."



Healthy Food Access

[Editorial: The bathroom scale is a fibber](#) – Eastern Arizona Courier, April 20, 2016

According to FRAC, low-income Americans are at risk for obesity due to food insecurity – they lack access to stores stocking healthy foods, and must rely on convenience stores and buy cheaper foods with less nutritional value. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that obesity was responsible in 2008 for an estimated \$147 billion in medical costs in the U.S.

