



League of United Latin American Citizens

September 19, 2013

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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20075

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's preeminent defender of the civil rights of the Latino community, I urge you to oppose H.R. 3102, the *Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act of 2013*. This legislation recklessly threatens the well-being of children, elderly, and disabled Americans, who make up nearly 2/3 of the beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). It is also a radical and irresponsible departure from the House's traditional approach to nutrition and agricultural reauthorization process.

As written, H.R. 3102 would cut critical funding for programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP) by ten times the amount that was passed in the Senate bill. This translates to a cut of over \$39 billion which would result in the loss of nutrition assistance for over 2 million Americans, the vast majority of them, children, elderly, and/or disabled. The bill also eliminates school lunch eligibility for about 210,000 children and cuts food aid for 170,000 unemployed veterans. The interaction between SNAP and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will also be negatively impacted. The CBO estimates that benefits for an estimated 850,000 households will be reduced.

We are deeply troubled by language in the bill that would force the termination of basic food assistance to people who cannot find a job, and cannot find a placement in job training programs which are often over-subscribed. Many American households who receive nutrition assistance are underemployed due to layoffs caused by the recession. Removing this safety net while families recover from the recent economic downturn with only serve to stifle the recovery of our economy.

Our organization continues to believe that the House must reconsider its current approach to this year's reauthorization of critical agriculture and nutrition programs and pass a comprehensive version of the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013 that includes reauthorization language for both agriculture and nutrition programs similar to the legislation approved by the U.S. Senate. For these reasons, LULAC urges you to oppose H.R. 3102 and ensure that critical and basic food assistance is not terminated for countless of struggling Americans. Additionally, we are recommending that this vote be included in the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda's scorecard.

Please do not hesitate to contact Luis Torres, LULAC's Director of Education Policy, at 202-833-6130 or ltorres@lulac.org should you have any questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President