

June 20, 2025

Honorable John Thune  
Senate Majority Leader  
Washington, DC, 20150

Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
Washington, DC, 20150

Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Washington, D.C., 20150

Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Washington, D.C., 20150

Senate Majority Leader Thune, Senate Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Boozman, and Ranking Member Klobuchar –

As organizations that work with young adults experiencing homelessness and/or young people who have spent time in foster care, the 171 undersigned organizations are deeply concerned with the provision in the Senate Agriculture reconciliation text that eliminates the bipartisan agreement to exclude young people exiting foster care, homeless individuals, and veterans from the work requirement for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Each of these populations has unique considerations, and each exemption should be maintained.

On June 3, 2023, the [Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023](#) (FRA) was signed into law, adding new exceptions to the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) time limit which are intended to help individuals experiencing homelessness, young adults who are leaving foster care and veterans receive and maintain SNAP benefits. ABAWDs cannot receive SNAP benefits for more than 3 months within a 3-year period unless they meet the ABAWD work requirement or are exempt; the FRA adds a new exception to the ABAWD time-limit for homeless individuals and young adults, age 18 to 24 years who are in foster care at the time they turn 18 (or higher age if the State offers extended foster care to a higher age), and veterans.

As you know, SNAP can be a vital lifeline and support for young people as they transition to adulthood, especially for young people leaving foster care or experiencing homelessness. Accessing and maintaining eligibility for SNAP helps provide a level of stability that allows these young adults to thrive. Eliminating this exemption will create additional hardship for young people who already have limited supports and resources and who frequently have no close family members or supportive adults that can assist them.

For young people leaving foster care or experiencing homelessness, work requirements create obstacles that can be particularly difficult to overcome due to their lack of family and social support. These requirements can hinder their ability to navigate life as independent adults and find stability through housing and employment.

Furthermore, veterans often live with health conditions that make it difficult or impossible to find or maintain meaningful work. This barrier to employment is even worse for those living in rural areas with limited job opportunities. Veterans must not be punished with hunger because they struggle to meet SNAP's onerous work reporting requirements.

The undersigned organizations urge you, the leaders of the Senate and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, to oppose the elimination of the bipartisan agreement to exempt young people leaving foster care or who are experiencing homelessness and veterans from the SNAP work requirements. Our work is guided by the principle that an individual's wellbeing should be the paramount consideration when making policy decisions; eliminating this provision will cause harm to some of the most vulnerable young people and adults in our nation, populations that have shared histories of trauma, deep poverty, and lack of support.

Signed,

### **National Organizations**

Adopt America Network  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Conference of Cantors  
Association of Children's Residential & Community Services (ACRC)  
Autistic People of Color Fund  
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network  
Avodah  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Trust Fund Alliance  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS  
Cornell Consulting  
Covenant House International  
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption  
Drug Policy Alliance  
Empower & Advocate Consulting Services  
Family Centered Treatment Foundation  
Family Centered Treatment Foundation  
Family Promise  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Food Research & Action Center  
Foster America  
Foster Care Alumni of America  
Foster Care Training Today  
FosterClub  
Fostering Academic Achievement Nationwide (FAAN)

Futures Without Violence  
Futures Without Violence  
Generations United  
Healthy Teen Network  
iFoster Inc.  
Jewish Labor Committee  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
National Association of Counsel for Children  
National Association of County Human Services Administrators  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Center on Adoption and Permanency  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Employment Law Project  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
National Runaway Safeline  
National Network for Youth  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies  
Nexus Family Healing  
Olive Crest  
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)  
RESULTS  
SchoolHouse Connection  
The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
The Institute for Human Services  
Unicorn Solutions LLC  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Voice for Adoption  
Youth Law Center Youth Villages

### **State and Local Organizations**

A Greater Hope  
Action Together NEPA  
Adoption Rhode Island  
Akin  
Alliance for Children's Rights  
Arizona Center for Economic Progress  
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families (AACF)  
AspireMN  
Bes & Bastet-Leland Jackson Foundation Inc.  
Bill Wilson Center

Boys & Girls Aid  
California Alliance of Child and Family Services  
CASA for Children  
CASA of Harford County, Inc.  
Catalyst MT  
Change Inc.  
Children Now  
Children's Action Alliance  
Children's Aid  
Children's Home Society of Virginia  
Children's Law Center of California  
Children's League of Massachusetts  
CloverNOLA  
COFCCA  
Community Connect Care LLC  
Connect With A Wish  
Connecticut Voices for Children  
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Jersey, Inc.  
Department of Children, Youth, and Families (RI)  
Devereux  
Dr. Daphne King  
Family Alternatives  
FamilyForward  
Fernbrook Family Center  
First Place for Youth  
For Our Future Pennsylvania  
Foster Forward  
Fred Finch Youth & Family Services  
Friends of Children, Inc  
Graham Windham  
Greenwich Reform Synagogue  
Health Care for the Homeless (Baltimore)  
Illinois Collaboration on Youth  
Islamic Relief USA  
Jackson Street Youth Services  
Jasper Mountain  
Jewish Family Services of Greensboro  
JFCS East Bay  
Kairos Northwest  
Kentucky Center for Economic Policy  
Keystone Progress Education Fund  
Kindred Resource Network  
Larkin Street Youth Services  
Laura Rice Stein Consulting, LLC

Lawyers For Children  
Maryland Department of Human Services  
Mary's Path  
Maslow Project  
Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center  
Massachusetts Department of Children and Families  
Mental Health Partnerships  
Michigan League for Public Policy  
Minnesota Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson  
Montana Budget & Policy Center  
New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth and Families  
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.  
New Narrative  
NJ Department of Children and Families  
Odeneal Law PLLC  
Omni Integrative Wellness, Inc.  
Options Counseling and Family Services  
Oregon Alliance  
Oregon Community Programs  
Parent Trust for Washington Children  
Parrott Creek Child & Family Services  
Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services  
Prevent Child Abuse Arizona  
Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia  
PSU, LLC  
Public Counsel  
Refill Jackson Initiative  
Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families  
SF LGBT Center  
SHIELDS for Families  
Standup for Kids Hampton Roads  
Stanford Sierra Youth & Families  
Sycamores  
Team for West Virginia Children  
Temple Bnai Israel (Willimantic)  
Temple B'nai Israel of Kalamazoo  
Temple Judea of Laguna Hills  
Texas Alliance for Youth Success  
The Friends of Foster Care  
The Home for Little Wanderers  
The Next Door Inc  
The Village Family Service Center  
Therapeutic Services Agency  
Tikvat Israel

Treehouse  
Turning Points for Children  
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, Child Welfare Education and Research Programs  
University of Pittsburgh, PA Child Welfare Resource Center  
VALCPA  
Virginia Coalition of Private Provider Associations  
Virginia Home for Boys and Girls  
Voices of the Commonwealth  
WA Association of Children and Families  
Washington State Budget and Policy Center  
West Virginia Child Care Association  
Youable Emotional Health  
Youth In Need  
Youth Progress Association  
Youthnet  
Zioness