



Congressman Marc Veasey

Protecting the Food Security of Each American

Each day, [47 million Americans](#) struggle to put food on their table. Starting November 1, 2013, millions of children, seniors, working parents and others – who rely on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will have to make do with less as cuts to the 2009 Recovery Act kick in, leaving participants with just \$1.40 to spend per meal.

In October 2013, as the House and Senate Farm Bill Conferees met to begin negotiations on a five-year Farm Bill, a group of House Republicans released a [letter](#) urging the Conferees to include the GOP-passed \$40 billion cut to SNAP which would leave tens of millions of Americans hungry. I am hopeful that conferees can put partisanship aside and that we will be able to finish a five-year, comprehensive farm bill this year.

During my first year in Congress, I have fought tirelessly for the more than 3.5 million Texans who depend on SNAP benefits.

- In June 2013, I participated in the [SNAP challenge](#) and lived on a meal budget of \$4.50 a day. This experience showed me firsthand how difficult it is to follow a healthy diet on such a limited budget.
- On [Juneteenth](#) 2013, I rose in opposition to SNAP cuts in the Farm Bill, H.R. 1947 and since then I have spoken on the [house floor](#) a [number of times](#) to urge Congress to work across party lines to produce a FARM Bill that protects SNAP benefits for millions of hungry Americans.
- I voted against the GOP-backed the Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act that cut billions of dollars from SNAP. The U.S. House passed the bill in September 2013, by a partisan vote of 217-210.
- On October 30, 2013, I signed on as a co-sponsor of H.R. 3353, which would extend the 13.6% temporary boost in SNAP benefits from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
- On [November 4, 2013](#), I visited the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) to tour the facility and to discuss hunger and the potential impacts of food assistance programs due to recent food-aid funding cuts.

SNAP cuts: The impact on Americans

- [22 million children](#) – more than one in four of our nation’s children live in households that receive SNAP benefits.
- [9 million seniors and people with disabilities](#).
- [Nearly 1 million veterans](#).
- [Local and state economies](#) – “every dollar of SNAP benefits creates at least \$1.70 in economic activity.”

SNAP cuts: Texas

- According to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, 3.5 million Texas residents receive SNAP benefits. A reduction to these benefits hits households with children, seniors and people with disabilities the hardest.

HR 3353

Amends the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to extend through FY2014 the benefit calculation of 13.6% of the June 2008 value of the thrifty food plan for SNAP as well as the consolidated block grants for Puerto Rico and American Samoa.

SUMMARY

On November 1, 2013 the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's (ARRA) temporary 13.6% boost in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits expired. That translates to a substantial reduction in monthly SNAP benefits for thousands of residents across Texas.

ARRA Legislative Timeline:

- In 2009, Congress passed the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)*, which gave a benefit boost to SNAP recipients, in response to the economic downturn. ARRA increased SNAP maximum monthly benefits by 13.6% beginning in April 2009.
- In November 2010, Congress passed the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, which reauthorized Child Nutrition programs, but accelerated the sunset date of ARRA to October 31, 2013, to offset the cost of the legislation.
- As a result, beginning on November 1, 2013, SNAP benefit levels were based on the cost of the June 2013 TFP (Thrifty Food Plan—cost of family of 4 to purchase and prepare a bare-bones diet at home), which is lower than ARRA levels.

The Future of H.R. 3353

I support Congressman John Conyers bill, H.R. 3353 and urge Republican leadership to bring this bill to the floor so that we may vote to ensure families around the country have access to healthy, nutritious meals each night. Cuts to SNAP are unconscionable and I reject any proposal to cut this vital program.

Please **follow me** on Twitter @RepVeasey, **"like"** my **Facebook** page, and **subscribe** to my YouTube channel for more updates. For more information on SNAP please contact Chris Kelley in my Washington D.C. office.



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