



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 13-1984, **Version:** 2

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

PROTECTION OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

WHEREAS, No resident of Cook County should have to be food-insecure; and

WHEREAS, 860,670, or 1 in 6 residents in Cook County are experiencing food insecurity, meaning they lack access to adequate nutritious food for a healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, 262,240, or just under 1 in 5 children in Cook County are experiencing food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, Food insecurity is experienced in every community area in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Hunger increases health care costs, lowers workers' productivity, harms children's development, and diminishes children's educational performance; and

WHEREAS, Fighting hunger is a public-private partnership; in Cook County, a strong private network exists that has provided 680,000 million people in Cook County with more than 65 million pounds of food in Fiscal Year 2013; however, private charity cannot do it alone and a strong federal hunger relief safety net is required; and

WHEREAS, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the cornerstone to the federal food and nutrition safety net; and

WHEREAS, SNAP is the cornerstone of the nutrition safety net, with 1,016,210 Cook County residents enrolled in the program; just under half of those utilizing the program are children; and

WHEREAS, SNAP provides an important economic stimulus to Cook County's communities, with every dollar in SNAP support spent generating \$1.79 in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, any reduction in funding of or change in policy that seeks to exclude individuals participating in SNAP will increase the number of food-insecure people in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, threats to SNAP, exist in the current effort to reauthorize the Farm Bill; and

WHEREAS, Congress has proposed to cut up to \$39 billion from SNAP in the Farm Bill, which would result in tremendous hardship for Cook County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County seeks to encourage Congress to protect SNAP and support a Farm Bill with a strong Title IV that protects and strengthens federal food and nutrition programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board President and the Board of Commissioners hereby are opposed to cuts in SNAP in the Farm Bill or the federal government's annual budgeting process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the members of the Illinois congressional delegation, the President of the United States, and the United States Secretary of Agriculture.