

BACKGROUND INFO

House Committee on Education and Workforce

Ranking Member Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Republicans Plan to Make America Hungry Again

Republicans plan to take away food from hungry children to pay for tax cuts for their billionaire donors.

According to the latest data, <u>nearly 18 percent</u> (or 6.5 million) of families struggled with food insecurity in 2023. Although school meal programs are some of the most successful tools we have for reducing child hunger, Congressional Republicans still plan to make harmful cuts to them to pay for their tax cuts, which would benefit the wealthy and the well-connected.

Republicans are currently considering:

- Cutting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, which <u>one in five children</u> in the U.S. rely on.
- Jeopardizing free school meals for the <u>15.6 million kids</u> who are eligible for free meals because of their household's participation in SNAP or Medicaid.
- Making it harder for schools to serve free meals in high-need schools that currently provide breakfast and lunch to all students. This means roughly 23.6 million hungry children in nearly 50,000 schools could lose access to free school meals.
- Cutting summer EBT benefits—that support over **20 million kids** and prevent them from going hungry in the summer.
- Creating additional administrative burden jeopardizing schools' participation in school meal programs for over <u>93,000 schools</u> that depend on the school meals programs.
- Making it more difficult for families to access the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). This would limit access to nutritious food and health care for over 350,000 infants and young children.

These proposed cuts are right out of the Project 2025 playbook (see pages 299-303).