

Letters to the Editor

Easy-to-Use Link and Good Examples of Letters Sent By Human Needs Advocates

The first, from the North Carolina affiliate of Voices for America's Children, is timely, brief, persuasive on the importance of food stamps, and holds elected officials accountable. The second, from a RESULTS volunteer in Denver, is also effectively on message and concise. [We urge you to write a letter to your newspaper\(s\)](#). Here's a link provided by RESULTS to make it easy to submit your letter – either use the suggested text provided or, ideally, write your own thoughts:

<http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=6905726&type=ME>

Your main points:

- The House of Representatives is now considering proposals to slash assistance for some of the most vulnerable people in America – medical care for low-income people; poor children being cared for by relatives; struggling families looking for help to collect child support they are owed; food stamps, largely for working families; and more.
- They are making these billions in cuts to pay towards the cost of tax breaks for the wealthy.
- Both the House and Senate should get their priorities straight and reject cuts that harm low-income people. (Your congressional delegation) should vote against such cuts and vote against unfair and unaffordable tax breaks.

Raleigh News and Observer

October 27, 2005

Food stamps' benefits

Nutritious food every day is important for growing children. Yet today the U.S. House Agriculture Committee is to discuss, and is expected to pass, a bill that would literally take food away from North Carolina children and families.

Food stamps really work to help families. The program has never been more effective and efficient: it has the lowest error rate in its history. When Hurricane Katrina struck, food stamps were one of the "first responders" in the area -- getting food assistance to victims on the ground and evacuees to other areas.

Food stamps largely benefit children and their families, particularly families who live in rural areas. That means that cuts could particularly hurt the many rural families who call North Carolina home.

We hope that the five North Carolina representatives who serve on the House Agriculture Committee (Reps. G.K. Butterfield, Bob Etheridge, Virginia Foxx, Robin Hayes and Mike McIntyre) vote against taking food away from families by opposing the food stamp cuts in the reconciliation bill being heard today.

Barbara Bradley
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Denver Post

October 18, 2005

Cuts in programs for lower-income Americans

Congress plans to add to the misery of the increasing number of our country's poorest citizens by cutting \$35 billion from Medicaid, food stamps and other programs for low-income people, and add to the disposable income of its wealthiest by giving them an additional \$70 billion in tax cuts. This is an unconscionable set of priorities.

Even before Hurricane Katrina, new data showed in 2004 that the poverty rate increased to 12.7 percent and 37 million Americans lived in poverty, 4 million more than in 2001, when the economy hit bottom.

Poverty is not caused by people being lazy or stupid; it is a result of bad government policies. Americans must insist on changes from Congress. Our country is rotting from within from being run for the benefit of the wealthiest, and we cannot be strong nor last long unless our government's policies change. Call your representative and senators now!

Martha Karnopp, *Aurora*