

March 13, 2025

**Senator Maria Cantwell**

511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Senator Patty Murray**

154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Congresswoman Suzan DelBene**

2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Congresswoman Emily Randall**

1531 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Congressman Richard Larsen**

2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal**

2346 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez**

1431 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Congresswoman Kimberly Schrier**

1110 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Congressman Daniel Newhouse**

460 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Congressman Adam Smith**

2264 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Congressman Michael Baumgartner**

124 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland**


1724 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Impact of proposed funding reductions to SNAP and Medicaid in Washington state**

Dear Washington State Congressional Delegation:

Thank you for your leadership and service to the residents of Washington state. The Washington Economic Justice Alliance, a state and community partnership to reduce poverty, is writing to express our concerns about the pending congressional budget reconciliation process. As you know, recently Congress voted for budget proposals that would cut billions of dollars from crucial programs that help people meet their most basic needs, including \$230 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and \$880 billion from Medicaid. Congress also proposed major changes to other vital safety net programs like school meals, summer food programs and emergency food assistance. We urge you and your colleagues to protect these programs and the millions of Washingtonians who depend on them.

Weakening these critical services will do irreparable harm to families and individuals in Washington state and across the nation. Supporting the basic needs of our residents is essential for the public health, safety and well-being of our communities, and also has a net positive impact on our economy. SNAP benefits, for example, are typically used within three weeks of receipt and every dollar spent on SNAP generates between \$1.50 and \$1.80 in local economies. Likewise, Medicaid eligibility for children has been found to improve educational outcomes, which along with better health contributes to higher rates of employment and earnings as adults.<sup>1</sup> This, in turn, generates increased tax revenues and reduced spending on public assistance programs.



SNAP provides more than just food assistance. It is a critical support system that promotes food security, economic well-being and better health outcomes by ensuring people have access to sufficient and nutritious foods. Participation in SNAP also provides recipients with pathways to employment and training programs, and direct certification for other benefits like free and reduced-price meals at school.

In Washington's State Fiscal Year 2024:<sup>2</sup>

- An average of 525,044 households or 920,541 recipients (11.5% of the state population) per month accessed SNAP food assistance. Participation by Congressional District ranges from a low of 6.3% (District 07) to a high of 18% (District 04).<sup>3</sup>
- Nearly 22% of SNAP households include a working adult.
- More than 52% of SNAP households include an elderly or disabled person.
- Less than 10% of SNAP households received other types of cash assistance.

The proposed cuts to Medicaid will further compound the impact of the proposed cuts on Washingtonians and potentially shift costs to the state. More than 1.5 million people are covered under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), programs that provide Washingtonians and their families with essential, lifesaving health care. Under the proposed cut, most congressional districts could lose \$2 billion in federal funding over nine years, which states cannot afford to replace.<sup>4</sup>

While no specific changes to SNAP and Medicaid have been decided, the proposed outline and targets under consideration are concerning. The detrimental impact of these proposals on the health and well-being of children and families do not align with Washington's values and its commitment to meaningfully reduce poverty in our state.

Attached, please find a fact sheet with data specific to Washington. Thank you for your time and commitment. We stand ready to assist you in your efforts on behalf of Washington.

Sincerely,  
Washington Economic Justice Alliance

Attachment

**The [Economic Justice Alliance](#) is a collaboration between experts with lived experience, community organizations, state and tribal governments, and legislators to reduce poverty in Washington state.**

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<sup>1</sup> [ASPE DRAFT Medicaid IB 09242024 final](#)

<sup>2</sup> SFY 2024 SNAP data is taken from the Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration SFY 2024 Briefing Book: [Briefing Book SFY 2024 Basic Food](#). Note that Food Assistance figures from this source include both federal SNAP and state funded Food Assistance which is approximately 3% of the total population.

<sup>3</sup> Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, "SNAP Community Characteristics Dashboard Congressional District Explorer", <https://www.fns.usda.gov/data-research/data-visualization/snap-community-characteristics-congressional-district-dashboard>. (last accessed March 2025)

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "S2704: Public Health Insurance Coverage by Type and Selected Characteristics, American Community Survey, 2023: ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables," <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S2704?q=S2704> (last accessed March 2025)