The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) exists to provide nutritious food to low-income Americans who are struggling to make ends meet. Over 42 million people, roughly 1 in 8 Americans, are currently receiving SNAP benefits.[[1]](#footnote-1) However, over 20 percent of all SNAP dollars are used to purchase soda, candy, desserts, and other junk food items, which is projected to total $240 billion over the next decade.[[2]](#footnote-2) One of the key aspects of President Trump’s agenda is to “Make America Healthy Again”, and one of the ways to work toward that goal is to prevent SNAP dollars from being used to purchase unhealthy and ultra-processed junk food items that fuel the rise of chronic disease in the United States. Obesity, and the chronic diseases it causes, costs the United States healthcare system nearly $173 billion every year.[[3]](#footnote-3) Taxpayer-funded SNAP benefits should not continue to fund the growth of chronic disease in the United States.

The Healthy SNAP Act would exclude soda, candy, ice cream, and prepared desserts from SNAP eligibility. The bill would also direct the Secretary of Agriculture to review foods qualified under SNAP every five years to ensure that new and relevant nutrition data is reflected in SNAP food guidelines.

**Supporting Organizations:** Heritage Action

**Bill Specifics**

* Eliminates eligibility for the purchase of soda, candy, ice cream, and prepared desserts with SNAP benefits.
* Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to review SNAP-eligible foods every five years based on nutrition research, nutrients lacking in Americans’ diets, and the health of populations using SNAP.
1. [U.S. Department of Agriculture - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - Key Statistics and Research](https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/key-statistics-and-research#:~:text=The%20Supplemental%20Nutrition%20Assistance%20Program,50%20percent%20had%20earned%20income) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [U.S. Department of Agriculture - Foods Typically Purchased by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Households](https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/ops/SNAPFoodsTypicallyPurchased.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [Center for Disease Control - About Obesity](https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/php/about/index.html%22%20%5Cl%20%22%3A~%3Atext%3DChildren%20with%20obesity%20are%20also%2Calmost%20%24173%20billion%20a%20year) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)