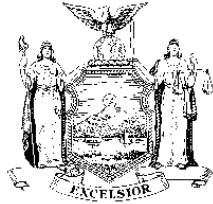
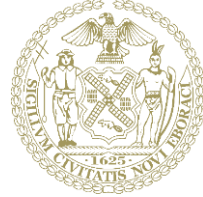




CONGRESS OF THE
UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, DC



THE LEGISLATURE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY, NY



THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK
NEW YORK, NY

December 19, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

Your administration has made historic investments in American families with the acknowledgement that it should be easier for American families to break into the middle class. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a critical poverty reduction program that nourishes millions of Americans in their quest to build stable lives for their families. As elected representatives of New York City and New York State, we encourage you to continue your work by supporting Congresswoman Grace Meng's Hot Foods Act inclusion in the 2024 Farm Bill.

Since its enactment 60 years ago, SNAP has prohibited the purchase of hot foods. While this restriction may have made sense in the 1970s, when most families were cooking their meals at home, it is no longer an accurate reflection of American families' dietary or lifestyle needs. Retailers are also evolving to match Americans' consumer habits, and have expanded their offerings to include more hot and prepared foods.

The bipartisan, bicameral Hot Foods Act of 2023 (H.R. 3519/S. 2258) would remove the prohibition on purchasing hot, ready to eat foods with SNAP benefits. The Hot Foods Act is currently under consideration for inclusion in the 2024 Farm Bill, which Congress only reauthorizes every five years.

The hot foods prohibition means that SNAP customers can purchase cold or frozen items, but if retailers prepare or heat the same food items, they become ineligible for purchase under the program. In practical terms, a parent can purchase a frozen rotisserie chicken and spend over an hour cooking it but cannot purchase a hot rotisserie chicken to eat immediately at home.


More than 42 million Americans rely on federal food benefits. Contrary to popular misconception, 4 out of 5 households in the program have at least one family member working.¹ This makes the

¹ Cui, Jasmine & McCorvey, J.J. "Who receives food benefits? It may not be who you think." NBC News, June 2, 2023. <https://www.nbcnews.com/data-graphics/data-work-requirements-food-benefits-snap-rcna86440>

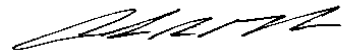
Hot Foods Act all the more critical; as you well know, working parents often do not have time to make food from scratch. Some individuals with disabilities and aging Americans can face greater mobility challenges in cooking meals from scratch and would greatly benefit from being able to purchase a hot meal with their SNAP benefits. The United States should cut unnecessary red tape and allow families to buy hot, prepared foods.

On behalf of the 2.8 million New Yorkers who benefit from SNAP, we ask you to support the Hot Foods Act inclusion in the 2024 Farm Bill. This is our only chance for the next five years to make sure all Americans can support their families with the dignity of a hot meal.

Sincerely,



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Andrew Garbarino
Member of Congress

/s/
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

/s/
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

/s/
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

/s/
Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress

/s/
Pat Ryan
Member of Congress

/s/
Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

/s/
Jamaal T. Bailey
New York State Senate

/s/
Iwen Chu
New York State Senate

/s/
Cordell Cleare
New York State Senate

/s/
Michael Gianaris
New York State Senate

/s/
Andrew Gounardes
New York State Senate

/s/
Brad Hoylman-Sigal
New York State Senate

/s/
Liz Krueger
New York State Senate

/s/
John C. Liu
New York State Senate

/s/
John W. Mannion
New York State Senate

/s/
Shelly B. Mayer
New York State Senator

/s/
Julia Salazar
New York State Senator

/s/
Jose M. Serrano
New York State Senator

/s/
James Skoufis
New York State Senator

/s/
Kevin Thomas
New York State Senator

/s/
Juan Ardila
New York State Assembly

/s/
Sam Berger
New York State Assembly

/s/
William Colton
New York State Assembly

/s/
Michael J. Fitzpatrick
New York State Assembly

/s/
Andrew Hevesi
New York State Assembly

/s/
Donna A. Lupardo
New York State Assembly

/s/
Michael Novakhov
New York State Assembly

/s/
Karines Reyes
New York State Assembly

/s/
Amanda Septimo
New York State Assembly

/s/
Al Stirpe
New York State Assembly

/s/
Adrienne E. Adams
New York City Council

/s/
Tiffany Cabán
New York City Council

/s/
Edward C. Braunstein
New York State Assembly

/s/
Catalina Cruz
New York State Assembly

/s/
Deborah J. Glick
New York State Assembly

/s/
Chantel Jackson
New York State Assembly

/s/
David G. McDonough
New York State Assembly

/s/
Stacey Pheffer Amato
New York State Assembly

/s/
Linda B. Rosenthal
New York State Assembly

/s/
Gina L. Sillitti
New York State Assembly

/s/
Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
New York State Assembly

/s/
Erik Bottcher
New York City Council

/s/
Shahana Hanif
New York City Council

/s/
Kenny Burgos
New York State Assembly

/s/
Harvey Epstein
New York State Assembly

/s/
Jessica González-Rojas
New York State Assembly

/s/
Grace Lee
New York State Assembly

/s/
Karen McMahon
New York State Assembly

/s/
Steven Raga
New York State Assembly

/s/
Rebecca A. Seawright
New York State Assembly

/s/
Doug Smith
New York State Assembly

/s/
Yudelka Tapia
New York State Assembly

/s/
Justin Brannan
New York City Council

/s/
Rita C. Joseph
New York City Council

/s/
Shekar Krishnan
New York City Council

/s/
Christopher Marte
New York City Council

/s/
Julie Menin
New York City Council

/s/
Sandy Nurse
New York City Council

/s/
Keith Powers
New York City Council

/s/
Carlina Rivera
New York City Council

/s/
Lynn Schulman
New York City Council

/s/
Marjorie Velázquez
New York City Council

/s/
Nantasha Williams
New York City Council

/s/
Julie Won
New York City Council

/s/
Kalman Yeger
New York City Council