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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***House Budget Reconciliation Bill would Increase Hunger,  
while Undermining Efforts to Nourish our Community.***

*Statement attributable to Natalie Caples, co-CEO, Central California Food Bank*

**Fresno, CA – May 15, 2025** – Hunger is a policy choice. Last night the House Agriculture Committee advanced legislation that proposes \$300 billion in cuts from programs that will directly impact neighbors in Central California. The legislation includes significant cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), CalFresh in California; a program that provides food benefits to over 47 million eligible Americans, 5.5 million Californians, and 722,400 neighbors in Central California.

SNAP is the most effective and efficient anti-hunger program operated by the federal government and provides nine meals for every one meal provided by food banks. The cuts proposed in this bill will exacerbate hunger in Central Valley communities and put neighbors experiencing food insecurity and our food bank in an impossible position. Central California Food Bank is currently serving over 320,0000 neighbors every month and does not have the additional resources to absorb the significant increase of neighbors requiring emergency food assistance as a result of this action.

This bill fundamentally alters SNAP by shifting the benefits responsibility onto states breaking SNAP's foundation as a federal entitlement program, all at a time where state and local agencies are underfunded and understaffed. For the first time in history, it would require the states to cover up to 25% of the food benefit costs of participants and 75% of the administrative costs, up from 50%.

"These proposed cuts to SNAP are not just numbers on a spreadsheet—they are meals taken off the tables of working families, seniors, and children in places like Fresno County. In a region where food insecurity is already too high, gutting critical assistance is unconscionable. We stand with our partners at Central California Food Bank and call on Congress to reject this dangerous proposal and protect the dignity of all Americans." — *Supervisor Luis Chavez, Fresno County Board of Supervisors, District 3.*

If passed, the impacts of the bill felt by our community would include:

- Significant cuts to program benefits and eligibility as the state and local agencies grapple with the financial burden due to the mandated state cost shift. This structural change

also reduces flexibility in the program which is meant to be responsive during times of economic distress or natural disasters, when the need for SNAP demand increases.

- Older adults, grandparents and parents face punitive time limits to program participation by expanding work requirements, regardless of existing barriers to employment or caregiving responsibility for children. These time limits are proven to cut SNAP participation in eligible populations by half, while being ineffective at improving employment outcomes.
- Local economies including small grocers, rural communities, and small farms would suffer as SNAP spending is eroded in communities that need them. For every \$1 in SNAP benefits spent locally, more than \$1.50 in economic activity/investment is generated.
- Central California neighbors including children, older adults, veterans, and the disabled face the growing threat of food insecurity as SNAP benefit adequacy is eroded through additional mandates on how benefits are calculated and changes as costs of food or inflation increases, and program flexibilities including the ability to utilize allowances in programs like LIHEAP are reduced.

We urge our Representatives to oppose this legislation when it moves to the House floor. These fundamental changes to SNAP are bad for food banks, farmers, local grocers, and ultimately for the communities we serve. Congress should be acting to protect and strengthen SNAP —not cut or weaken—our nation’s most effective anti-hunger program.

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#### **About Central California Food Bank**

Central California Food Bank (CCFB) is the region’s largest nonprofit organization focused solely on ending hunger. CCFB has experienced tremendous growth since its beginning in 1992 and now serves at the center of a vast network of more than 260 member partners, including schools, churches, community kitchens and more to provide nutritious food to our neighbors in need throughout Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Kings, and Kern Counties. Through our comprehensive hunger-relief programs and services, we distribute nearly 60 million pounds of food to families in need each year, serving over 320,000 people each month, including more than 100,000 children across our service area. For more information about what Central California Food Bank is doing to fight hunger, visit [www.ccfoodbank.org](http://www.ccfoodbank.org).