AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 233
(A-18)

Introduced by: Oklahoma

Subject: Support for Reauthorization of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Referred to: Reference Committee B
(R. Dale Blasier, MD, Chair)

Whereas, No one should go hungry; and
Whereas, Job loss, medical or family emergency, or temporary hardship has resulted in food insecurity for 632,030[1] individuals in Oklahoma, of which approximately 214,890[2] are children; and
Whereas, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps alleviate food insecurity for Oklahoma families, children, elderly, and disabled and currently helps put food on the table for over 598,722[3] Oklahomans; and
Whereas, SNAP also has a positive economic impact in Oklahoma: every $1 spent in SNAP benefits puts $1.70 back into Oklahoma’s economy[4] and, in 2016 alone, Oklahoma SNAP retailers redeemed about $866 million[5] in SNAP benefits; and
Whereas, SNAP protects families, stimulates local economies, and supports Oklahoma’s farmers, ranchers, and businesses; and
Whereas, Increasing food insecurity results in increased chronic illness and subsequent higher healthcare costs[6] and leads further leads to worsened health outcomes[7], reduced workforce productivity, and poorer educational outcomes[8]; and
Whereas, According to the United States Department of Agriculture, there is only about 1.3% of waste, fraud, and abuse within the SNAP program, meaning 98.7% of recipients are meaningfully alleviated of food insecurity; and
Whereas, SNAP is a provision of the federal Farm Bill, which is up for reauthorization in 2018; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association actively lobby Congress to preserve and protect the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program through the reauthorization of the 2018 Farm Bill in order for Americans to live healthy and productive lives (Directive to Take Action); and be it further
RESOLVED, That AMA Policy D-150.975, which calls for action to remove sugar-sweetened beverages from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, be reaffirmed (Reaffirm HOD Policy); and be it further
RESOLVED, That AMA Policy H-150.937, which in part aims to replace calorie-rich, nutrient-poor food with nutrient-dense food within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, be reaffirmed. (Reaffirm HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 05/01/18


RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Improvements to Supplemental Nutrition Programs H-150.937
1. Our AMA supports: (a) improvements to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) that are designed to promote adequate nutrient intake and reduce food insecurity and obesity; (b) efforts to decrease the price gap between calorie-dense, nutrition-poor foods and naturally nutrition-dense foods to improve health in economically disadvantaged populations by encouraging the expansion, through increased funds and increased enrollment, of existing programs that seek to improve nutrition and reduce obesity, such as the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program as a part of the Women, Infants, and Children program; and (c) the novel application of the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program to existing programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and apply program models that incentivize the consumption of naturally nutrition-dense foods in wider food distribution venues than solely farmer’s markets as part of the Women, Infants, and Children program.
2. Our AMA will request that the federal government support SNAP initiatives to (a) incentivize healthful foods and disincentivize or eliminate unhealthful foods and (b) harmonize SNAP food offerings with those of WIC.
Citation: Res. 414, A-10; Reaffirmation A-12; Reaffirmation A-13; Appended: CSAPH Rep. 1, I-13; Reaffirmation A-14; Reaffirmation I-14; Reaffirmation A-15; Appended: Res. 407, A-17;

Eligibility of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages for SNAP D-150.975

Our AMA will: (1) publish an educational brief to educate physicians about the effects of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) on obesity and overall health, and encourage them to educate their patients in turn, (2) encourage state health agencies to include educational materials about nutrition and healthy food and beverage choices in routine materials that are currently sent to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients along with the revised eligible foods and beverages guidelines, and (3) work to remove SSBs from SNAP.
Citation: (Res. 238, A-13; Reaffirmation A-14)