

Thank you.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the committee to discuss my priorities as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Nutrition and Foreign Agriculture and share the priorities of my constituents in the Fifth District of Connecticut.

Today, I would like to discuss my legislation, the *Restoring Food Security for American Families and Farmers Act of 2025*.

This legislation would repeal the devastating cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that were included in *H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill*.

I was joined by nearly 200 House Democrats, including House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Angie Craig to introduce this critical legislation. Companion legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Ben Ray Lujan.

The bill also has the support of more than 1,440 organizations nationwide.

SNAP is the most effective anti-hunger program in our country, serving nearly 42 million Americans, including children, seniors, and veterans.

Approximately 360,000 people utilize the program in Connecticut.

Despite serving as a lifeline to keep families fed, we have seen repeated attempts to defund SNAP and keep those in need from accessing benefits.

In July, the Majority advanced *H.R. 1, the one Big Beautiful Bill Act* which included the largest cuts to SNAP in program history.

H.R. 1 rips \$187 billion from nutrition programs and creates administrative barriers designed to make it harder for people to get assistance.

Equally as damaging are the cost share provisions that will force states to cover the costs of benefits for the first time in history.

During the government shutdown we witnessed just how disastrous it will be for states to shore up benefits without support from the federal government.

As the administration illegally withheld contingency reserve dollars to cover SNAP benefits for November, states scrambled to come up with plans to cover partial benefits.

Every state, every congressional district, every community – rural, urban, suburban – were panicked by how they would feed their community.

This is only a microcosm of what may be on the horizon for states if the cost share provisions included in the One Big Beautiful bill go into effect.

My bill would repeal this unfunded mandate to ensure that states do not have to make tough choices about what programs would be lost as a result of federal funding cuts.

My bill will also help to mitigate the negative impact SNAP cuts would have on farmers, ranchers, producers, and the 250,000 grocers authorized to accept SNAP dollars.

In the year 2025, in the United States of America, we have the ability to feed our people.

I strongly urge my colleagues on this committee to reverse course on cuts to SNAP and stop weaponizing hunger.

The time to hold a vote on the *Restoring Food Security for American Families and Farmers Act of 2025* and advance the legislation to the House Floor is now.

Thank you. I yield back.