



SNAP Second Chance Act of 2021
Reps. David Trone (D-MD) and John Katko (R-NY)

Background

Today, many small business owners are denied authorization to become Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) retailers because of their criminal record. Current SNAP regulations prohibit justice-impacted small business owners from redeeming SNAP benefits, which thus creates undue hardships and barriers as they seek to re-enter and remain productive members in their community. These small business owners have turned their lives around by starting businesses to support themselves and their families; we should not continue to punish them after they have clearly demonstrated a willingness to improve their lives.

Current SNAP regulations also exacerbate food insecurity in communities already challenged by increased rates of hunger and food deserts by reducing the number of SNAP-eligible vendors. Thus, expanding SNAP authorization to justice-impacted small business owners will help make a dramatic difference in these areas with limited food retailers.

About the SNAP Second Chance Act

The SNAP Second Chance Act would limit the USDA's authority to deny small businesses seeking to be authorized SNAP program vendors due to a previous criminal conviction. The legislation amends Section 9(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act to provide that the use of "business integrity and reputation" as a disqualifier is limited to convictions of felony financial fraud or deception that occurred within five years of an applicant seeking to be authorized to redeem SNAP benefits.

Endorsed by: Alliance for Safety and Justice, Americans for Prosperity, American Parole and Probation Association, Center for Employment Opportunities, Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice, Dream Corps JUSTICE, Due Process Institute, Gatekeepers, International Community Corrections Association, Health Alliance for Violence Intervention, National Alliance for Trauma Recovery Centers, National Coalition on Shared Safety, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Prison Fellowship, Successful Reentry, R St Institute, Responsible Business Initiative for Justice, and Tzedek Association