



Testimony on SB 3

Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services

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Morning Chairman Charbonneau and committee members.

I'm Amy Carter from the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute formerly known as the Institute for Working Families. We're part of the Community Action network comprised of 22 agencies that provide services to low-income Hoosiers in all your counties.

We're here to speak just to the SNAP provision. In late 2020 – early 2021, we surveyed more than 5800 financial vulnerable Hoosiers for our agencies. We saw that 55% of respondents received SNAP and 17% reported being food insecure. Of those who were food insecure 73% listed the reason why was: couldn't afford to buy more food.

For moderate income families, federal support was able to keep them from falling into poverty and to maintain their financial heading, but for the nearly 30% of Hoosiers who were already not economically self-sufficient, the help has been **vital**, and yet they remain financially vulnerable. All to say, we want people to have access to any expanded SNAP benefits for as long as possible.

Quick reminder that SNAP boosts local economies. Estimates issued by Moody's Analytics and others of the economic growth impact of SNAP during a recession range from \$1.73 to \$1.79 per \$1 of SNAP benefits.

Thank you for removing the deadline on the expanded federal SNAP benefits. We're happy to support that part of SB 3.