



# SB25B-003 – Supporting Access to Healthy Food

Senators Michaelson Jenet & Wallace, Representatives Garcia & K. Stewart

## Background

After the Colorado legislature referred Proposition MM to the ballot, Congress made unprecedented cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), slashing billions from the program that helps families put food on the table. Now, more than 300,000 low-income Colorado families—including children, older adults, and people with disabilities—are at risk of going hungry.

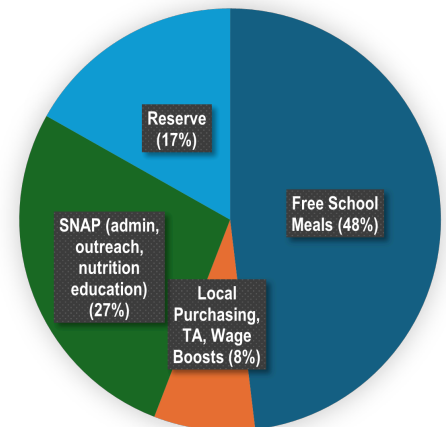
H.R.1, the harmful federal budget bill passed in July, dramatically cut SNAP. As a result, the state of Colorado and counties face at least \$50M/year in new costs to maintain the program starting in FY 2026-2027. Those costs will increase further in future years as benefit cost sharing takes effect in FY 2027-2028. H.R.1 also cuts federal funding for community-based SNAP outreach & application assistance and eliminates SNAP-Ed nutrition education funding (\$6M/year). Without all of these critical components of SNAP, hunger will rise sharply.

## What the Bill Does

**Proposition MM** closes the Healthy School Meals for All (HSMA) funding gap by limiting state income tax deductions for households earning \$300K+. If MM passes it could raise up to \$95 million/year, these new revenues would first ensure that HSMA continues and is fully funded, and then any funds that remain available could support SNAP.

1. **HSMA funding first** – free school meals for public school students, local food purchasing, technical assistance and support for more from-scratch meals, higher wages for frontline school nutrition professionals, and a reserve for long-term stability and to ensure school districts are not left with unreimbursed meal costs.
2. **Remaining funds for SNAP** – state and county program administration, outreach & application assistance, and community-based nutrition education.

Expected Uses of the HSMA Cash Fund in FY26-27



*This chart is based on passage of both Prop LL & MM, CDE estimates of meal and grant costs, OSPB estimates of Prop FF revenue, LCS estimates of Prop MM revenue, and a reserve that is 35% of the cost of meal reimbursements. It is subject to change based on shifts in revenue and cost projections.*

*This bill simply makes SNAP an allowable use of remaining funds; it does not dedicate specific funding levels.*

## Why This Matters

### Healthy School Meals for All

- **No child hungry at school** – For many students, school meals are the most nutritious food they eat
- **Supports Colorado agriculture** – Helps schools buy fresh ingredients from local farmers & ranchers
- **Boosts student success** – Improves focus, engagement, and academic outcomes
- **Saves families money** - Up to \$1300 per child each year

### SNAP

- Helps more than **300,000 Colorado households** afford groceries each month
- Strengthens **local economies**, supports farmers & ranchers
- Improves **academic outcomes** for students
- **Reduces healthcare spending** (\$1 in nutrition education = \$10.64 in health care cost saving)

**By adjusting Proposition MM to also support SNAP, Colorado voters will have the opportunity to:**

- Fully fund **Healthy School Meals for All** so all public school students have access to free, nutritious meals
- Keep **SNAP funded in Colorado** despite devastating federal cuts
- Strengthen Colorado's **local agriculture, child and family health, and economy**

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