

THE  
NEW ENGLAND  
COUNCIL

August 9, 2021

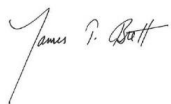
Dear Senators,

On behalf of The New England Council, I write to encourage you to support the Student Food Security Act (S. 1569). The legislation would make permanent the temporary expansion of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to low-income college students, and collect data on food insecurity on college campuses. The legislation would expand eligibility to students who are eligible for work study, have a \$0 Expected Family Contribution, meet the financial eligibility criteria for a maximum Pell Grant (even if they have not filed the FAFSA), or are an independent student whose household is otherwise eligible.

As you know, The New England Council's membership includes colleges and universities throughout the region. A wide array of members in the higher education industry have identified this a concern for continuing to provide adequate care for their communities. The pandemic showed us just how susceptible our students and communities are to food insecurity and how this challenge can impact the success of our education and workforce development. Thankfully, eligibility criteria for SNAP benefits were loosened to include low-income students and reduce barriers to this program during the pandemic. Unfortunately, those provisions are due to expire. The Student Food Security Act would make that eligibility permanent.

Food insecurity is widespread in our communities and, unfortunately, on our campuses. This legislation would not only provide SNAP benefits to address this issue but would also work to address food insecurity going forward by collecting and reporting data on food insecurity on campuses. Colleges and Universities have been instrumental in providing food during the pandemic and have grown programs to ensure food security for their students. It is important that we do not undo this progress and make it harder for students to access food. We encourage you to support the Student Food Security Act and to pass the bill into law as soon as possible. If you or your staff have any question, please feel free to contact me or a member of our staff.

Sincerely,



James T. Brett  
President & CEO

**The New England Council**

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