

# ALEX PADILLA

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## **Opportunity to Address College Hunger Act**

According to a [2018 GAO study](#), roughly two million at-risk college students who were potentially eligible for SNAP benefits did not report receiving benefits. Millions of eligible college students face barriers to enrollment such as the complex application process and a lack of information sharing from their colleges.

Under current SNAP eligibility requirements, a student must meet the established resource and income limits *and* one of several exemptions, including participation in a state or federally financed work-study program. This bill would help raise awareness of SNAP benefits to many students who are already eligible for the program.

### **What the bill would do:**

- Direct institutions of higher education to send a notification to students participating in a state or federally financed work-study program of their potential eligibility for SNAP and the process to obtain more information, confirm eligibility, and access benefits. The notification would be specific to the student's state of residence and would include contact information for the local office where the student can apply for SNAP.
- Require the institution to provide an official document confirming that the recipient is potentially eligible due to their participation in a work-study program.
- Require the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture to provide guidance to states and institutions of higher education on best practices to increase outreach to students who are potentially eligible for SNAP.

Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) has introduced the House companion, which enjoys the support of 71 cosponsors.

**This bill has been endorsed by:** MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Feeding America, National Education Association (NEA), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), California State University, California Community Colleges, Bread for the World, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, Institute for Higher Education Policy, Education Trust, Swipe Out Hunger, First Focus Campaign for Children, and Child and Student Nutrition Alliance.