



**MASW**  
Since 1901

**Missouri Association for Social Welfare**

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***MASW Calls on Senate to Reject Deep Cuts to Food Stamps Passed by U.S. House***

Today the U.S. House of Representatives voted by the slim margin of 217-210 to cut \$40 million from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps). The Missouri Association for Social Welfare (MASW) is deeply disappointed in this action and calls for the U.S. Senate to reject cuts to this essential program.

Jeanette Mott Oxford, executive director of MASW said, “We are sad to observe that Missouri’s House delegation voted six to two in favor of the cuts. Yet one in four Missouri households with children have periods of time when they do not have enough food for their families’ needs according to a new study released just this week. If our Congressional delegation had stood together on this bill, they could have stopped the cuts.”

“More than 915,000 of our neighbors here in Missouri depend on food stamps,” added MASW Hunger Task Force chair Glenn Koenen. “This August alone low-income families in our state spent \$116,657,600 buying food in local grocery stores thanks to food stamps. It is important to note that food stamps are one of the few programs available to help working poor families make ends meet.”

According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, this November every family on food stamps will see their benefits trimmed due to a scheduled reduction in SNAP. That cut will reduce the average Missouri food stamp benefit to about \$1.30 per person per meal. If allowed to stand, the additional reductions endorsed by the House of Representatives will further erode the government’s response to hunger, putting even more stress on food pantries, communities of faith and others feeding the hungry.

MASW’s Hunger Task Force educates policymakers and the public about the issue of hunger, provides information and support for current and potential anti-hunger programs, and advocates for policies that would reduce hunger in Missouri. The task force most recently met on September 18, 2013, in Cape Girardeau and meets next in Springfield, MO. For more information, contact Oxford at [joxford@masw.org](mailto:joxford@masw.org).

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