

A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING:

'Work requirements' would make Maine people hungrier, less healthy, and add hurdles to work

We all need a safe place to call home, good health, and enough nutritious food to find and keep a job.

That's why so-called 'work requirements' in programs that help Mainers meet their basic needs for food, health care, and shelter are so harmful. These rules increase hardships, are expensive and complicated for states to put into practice, and ***there is no evidence that they help people find and keep a good job.***

But as part of their Project 2025 agenda, Donald Trump and his allies in Congress want to insert these unworkable and unhelpful

requirements into essential programs, cutting Mainers trying to make ends meet off the programs so they can give tax breaks to the richest people in America.

The most effective way for people to find work, and to help grow our economy, is to fund education and training programs that build skills for the future, and to make childcare and transportation more affordable for all. We don't need new requirements—which are really cuts to health care, food, or shelter in disguise.

DID YOU KNOW?

Work requirements are difficult and expensive for states to put into practice, and they don't work as advertised. Over and over, studies find that when parents lose TANF (income support) because of work requirements, fewer of these parents were able to get a job to support their families. And the extra cost for states to put work requirements into practice can be up to hundreds of millions of dollars that could be going toward support instead.

Most who can work, do. When they don't, it's usually because of caretaking for kids or another family member, personal health issues, or because they're in school.

TAKE ACTION: URGE YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS NOT TO TAKE AWAY FOOD, HEALTH CARE, OR SHELTER USING SO-CALLED WORK REQUIREMENTS:

Sen. Susan Collins - 202.224.2523
Sen. Angus King - 202.224.5344

Rep. Jared Golden - 202.225.6306
Rep. Chellie Pingree - 202.225.6116

REAL PEOPLE, REAL STORIES

"I was on SNAP while unemployed - it helped a lot! I was able to double my SNAP with credits at the farmer's market and Portland Food Co Op! I am so grateful to those programs it helped a ton! I wish lawmakers...thought more about how the vast majority of people on welfare are simply trying to get by - it's exhausting trying to fit all those pieces together."

- Katelyn, Portland