



Testimony the Senate Family and Children Services Committee
Support for SB 11 – Eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (Bohacek)
Given by Amy Carter, Policy Analyst, Indiana Institute for Working Families
January 11, 2018

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm Amy Carter, a policy analyst with the Indiana Institute for Working Families. We conduct research and promote public policies to help Hoosier families achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency. I'm here to speak in support of SB11.

Based on a 2006 study, we found that those with felony convictions make only \$11,000/year on average. This does not come close to self-sufficiency in Indiana, which for a single adult is, at minimum, \$18,500. If we truly want individuals who have served their time to be reintegrated into society, we need to give them the tools to do it. Allowing Hoosiers with drug felonies to apply for SNAP can move them closer to self-sufficiency.

In addition to the nutrition benefits, those eligible for SNAP are also eligible for SNAP Employment and Training or SNAP E&T, which is designed to help low-income, low-skilled adults have access to targeted employment and training programs to help them reach self-sufficiency. For those with criminal histories, involvement in this program could be the critical moment in their efforts to rejoin the workforce.

Please allow Hoosiers with prior drug felony convictions access to nutrition assistance and the job readiness programs that are part of the benefit. I urge you to vote yes on SB 11. Thank you.