

# More than 80 Hoosier Organizations Oppose SB 1

An open letter to the House Ways & Means members:

Dear Legislators,

Hoosiers want all our families, friends, and neighbors to have food for their table and medical care when needed.

Senate Bill 1 creates unnecessary burdens for families at risk of hunger and in need of health care. At a time when food insecurity is rising for Hoosiers, medical debt burdens many families, and costs for health care are increasing, Senate Bill 1 makes it even harder to access supports by removing flexibility for the state and adding burdens to program applicants — without regard for what Hoosiers and our communities need. The burdensome requirements in Senate Bill 1 will increase paperwork errors and churn throughout Indiana's Medicaid and SNAP system, resulting in more uninsured and hungry Hoosiers, and increasing the instability and costs of our healthcare system for all Hoosiers.

The slew of new administrative requirements proposed in SB 1 will also make SNAP and Medicaid more expensive and complicated for FSSA to run, wasting public dollars to create costly new bureaucracy. This is money that could be used to feed our most vulnerable families and ensure they can see the doctor will instead go toward managing a complex system of repetitious eligibility checks and exemptions, more than doubling FSSA's workload, and likely providing no cost savings to the state.

Senate Bill 1:

- Requires *three months of Medicaid pre-enrollment compliance* before a person is eligible, locking the state into the most stringent federal option outlined in HR 1.
- Mandates *monthly compliance checks* for Medicaid recipients and at least quarterly verifications.
- Requires *medical certification for someone to be determined medically frail*, increasing the barriers to care for individuals with serious chronic health conditions, cancer, and disabilities.
- *Prohibits short-term hardship exemptions* that the state can use under federal law.
- Implements Medicaid work reporting requirements *before the federal requirement*, locking FSSA into compliance whether or not they are ready in time.

- *Leaves out education* as a countable activity toward the 80 hours required for federal compliance, forcing students to choose between their education or healthcare.
- Reduces benefits or makes a household ineligible by *changing the calculation* for families who have someone who isn't SNAP eligible.
- Eliminates a state option used in SNAP to use expanded (broad based) categorical eligibility (BBCE). *This process is currently used in 46 states* and can simplify eligibility for individuals by adjusting gross income limits to smooth out and virtually eliminate the benefit cliff in the SNAP program as families gain more earnings. It also allows states to modify the asset limit to encourage modest savings, which is how Indiana uses this tool. BBCE also reduces the tax burden as it simplifies the process for SNAP administration and lowers 'churn'.

Senate Bill 1 adds administrative costs to the taxpayers' tab and more red tape when we should be working to lower error rates and streamlining programs to reduce what state dollars Indiana must pay from changes in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. These provisions place a significant burden on Medicaid members and FSSA, but fail to address actual fraud and profiteering in the Medicaid system, overwhelmingly perpetuated by businesses, NOT individual members.

Hoosier families need programs like SNAP and Medicaid as a bridge to better nutrition, better health, and a better life.

What we truly need is to find ways to streamline SNAP and Medicaid, not just for recipients, but for Hoosier taxpayers who will soon foot more of the bill. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate on legislation to reduce the cost of the program over time through better design that improves both individual and population health and moves as many people as possible off Medicaid as they use HIP 2.0 as a springboard not only to better health, but to more stable employment and less dependence on all government programs.

We, the undersigned organizations, ask you to oppose Senate Bill 1.

Respectfully,

Feeding Indiana's Hungry

Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute

Statewide Organizations:

American Heart Association

The Arc of Indiana

Blood Cancer United

Citizens Action Coalition of IN  
Exodus Refugee Immigration  
Good Trouble Indiana  
Hoosier Action  
Indiana Afterschool Network  
Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Indiana Community Action Association  
Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers  
Indiana Disability Rights  
Indiana Justice Project  
Indiana Poor People's Campaign  
Indiana School Counselor Association (INSCA)  
Indiana Family to Family  
Indiana Families United for Care  
Immigrant Welcome Center  
IYG  
National Association of Social Workers Indiana Chapter  
No Kid Hungry Indiana  
The Mast Cell Disease Society, Inc.  
Pack Away Hunger  
Prosperity Indiana  
SEIU HCIL  
Regional/Local Organizations & Businesses:  
A Couple Cooks  
A Longer Table  
accessABILITY Center for Independent Living, Inc.  
And Campaign Indy Chapter  
Brightpoint  
Catholic Charities Terre Haute Foodbank  
CHIP Indy  
Church World Service Indianapolis  
Community Action of Southern Indiana  
Community Harvest Food Bank of NE IN, Inc  
Concerned Clergy of Indianapolis  
Dare to Care Food Bank  
Edgewater Health  
El Centro Comunal Latino  
EmployIndy  
Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana  
First Baptist Church North, Indpls

Food Bank of Northern Indiana  
Food Bank of Northwest Indiana  
Food Finders Food Bank  
Freestore Foodbank  
Garnet Group LLC  
Geist Christian Church  
Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana  
Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance (GIMA)  
Guerin Woods & Providence House  
Hoosier Hills Food Bank  
INcompass Healthcare  
Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council  
Indianapolis Urban League  
Indy Hunger Network  
Interfaith Action Network  
JB Real Estate Consultants  
Kate Shepherd Communications, LLC  
Lafayette Urban Ministry  
MADVoters  
Marion County Commission on Youth (MCCOY)  
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard  
NAACP Richmond Indiana Branch #3066  
NWI Food Council  
NWI Interfaith Action Network  
Oaklawn Psychiatric  
Pleasant View Lutheran Church  
Purpose of Life Academy  
Richmond Housing & Health Rights Coalition  
Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana  
Second Helpings  
Social Ministry and Mission Committee of Christ Lutheran Church, Valparaiso  
Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare  
St. Vincent de Paul Indianapolis  
Students for a National Health Program at IUSM  
The AfricaLogical Institute  
The Brave Bakery  
Tri-State Food Bank