June 12, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for SNAP Benefits

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the American Bar Association (ABA) and its over 400,000 members nationwide, I write in strong support of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). As you contemplate potential revisions to H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, we urge you to resist cuts to the program or other restrictions that would deny access to those who are otherwise qualified.

The ABA is concerned that cuts to the SNAP program, or denying access to people who are otherwise qualified, will result in many citizens facing hunger and malnourishment. As of 2016, 41.2 million Americans, including 28.3 million adults and 12.9 million children, live in food-insecure households.

We understand that difficult choices must be made as Congress works to reach balanced federal spending policies. We are concerned, nonetheless, that reductions to SNAP will result in failure to support millions of American families and children in maintaining the basic necessity of adequate food and nutrition. We are also concerned that the proposed cut to SNAP for rehabilitated felons will result in failure to support their successful reentry. Rather than place any further restrictions on access to food, we urge you to promote the human right to adequate food and nutrition for all.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Susman