SNAP Op-Ed – DRAFT

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As a registered dietitian nutritionist and a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, I am deeply concerned about the recent proposed rule that would not only take Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits away from three million people but will also jeopardize access to free school meals for 500,000 children.

SNAP plays a critical role in addressing food insecurity and hunger. In [YOUR STATE], this rule will affect [PERCENTAGE HERE] of SNAP households – that is [NUMBER HERE] households.

The Academy believes that access to enough food for an active, healthy life is a basic human need and fundamental right. Eliminating access to SNAP puts these households at greater risk for food insecurity, which is tied to higher rates of chronic disease, including diabetes and high blood pressure. Children who are food insecure face an increased rate of developmental challenges, anxiety, depression and chronic disease.

On September 23, the Academy submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture administrationalling for the withdrawal of this proposal. I join my fellow registered dietitian nutritionists in urging the policymakers – including [YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS’ NAME HERE] – to tell the administration that the proposed rule is detrimental to the health of members of our community.

[NAME OF AFFILIATE PRESIDENT]

[TITLE]