

The Streamlining Nutrition Paperwork Act

Summary: The Streamlining Nutrition Paperwork Act of 2023 cuts administrative red tape for state agencies while making it easier for people in rural communities to obtain nutrition assistance.

Problem: The telephonic signature requirement means there are two ways for a state agency to receive a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application: over the phone with telephonic signature equipment or in-person. Both of these methods can be cumbersome and an unnecessary barrier for SNAP applicants.

For state agencies to receive an application over the phone, they must have expensive and outdated telephonic recording equipment. This equipment is difficult to maintain and use.

Many states don't have telephonic recording equipment. In these states, SNAP applicants must apply for their benefits in person at a SNAP state office. But many SNAP state offices are in urban communities, which means individuals in rural areas must drive hours to apply for benefits. This is an unnecessary barrier to receiving benefits.

Solution: During the Trump Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture waived the telephonic signature requirement. The Streamlining Nutrition Paperwork Act of 2023 would codify this waiver, saving time SNAP applicants time, and state agencies' administrative expenses associated with maintaining telephonic equipment. The Streamlining Nutrition Paperwork Act removes unnecessary administrative red tape that prevents qualified SNAP applicants from accessing nutrition assistance.