



**Representative Lisa Sobecki  
House District 45**

---

**H.C.R. 17 Testimony  
February 11, 2020**

Good Afternoon. Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the Ohio House Health Committee; thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today on House Concurrent Resolution 17 which urges Congress to expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program eligibility, aka SNAP, to households of workers on strike, along with my joint sponsor Representative Allison Russo.

Throughout 2019, there were several strikes in my district including the nearly 2,000 nurses and support technicians who went on strike from Mercy St. Vincent's Hospital because of low staffing levels, mandatory overtime, and concerns for the safety of their patients in May of 2019. SNAP benefits are allocated as a supplement to someone's earned income. The monetary amount of SNAP benefits someone receives is based on their income only. Here is a scenario to illustrate the process an individual goes through at Jobs and Family Services with a caseworker:

A single parent with two kids (Household of 3) earning \$250 a week in strike pay

- They get paid weekly, so amount is multiplied by 4.3 to get a monthly salary.  
 $\$250 \times 4.3 = \$1,075$  a month
- 130% of the Federal Poverty Level for a household of 3 is \$2,311. If they are below this number, they are eligible to receive up to the max amount of \$509 in SNAP benefits.

When a families goes on strike, their income comes down but the expenses stay the same. Keep in mind, the average rent in Ohio is \$600. Adding in the expenses of gas, utilities, phone service, there is not a lot of money left over for the parent to feed their kids. The SNAP benefits a low-income worker receives helps them when they need it the most. This resolution is simply asking Congress to allow the low income families who otherwise qualify for SNAP benefits to continue to qualify for the SNAP if they go on strike. Now I would like to turn the floor over to Representative Russo to talk about the public health benefits, particularly to children, in regards to SNAP. Afterwards, we would be happy to answer any questions.