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Opinion: SNAP-Ed Cuts Are a Direct Attack on Prevention and Colorado's Health

Last week, Congress passed, and the President signed, a sweeping Budget Reconciliation bill that will have devastating consequences for Colorado's families. In the face of overwhelming opposition from national, state, and local organizations, this bill eliminates SNAP-Ed - Colorado's largest nutrition education program - and makes the deepest cuts to SNAP in decades. These are not changes Coloradans wanted. They are deeply unpopular, harmful, and will set our state back years in the fight against hunger and rising health care costs.

Coloradans Oppose These Harmful Changes

[Polling from Healthier Colorado](#) makes it clear: the people of our state do not support these cuts. Their data shows strong, bipartisan opposition to eliminating programs that help families put healthy food on the table and keep health care affordable. Healthier Colorado has called these changes "harmful for Coloradans and not wanted," echoing the outcry from communities across the state.

SNAP-Ed: A Proven Prevention Tool, Now Gone

SNAP-Ed was more than just a program, it was a lifeline. In the past year alone, SNAP-Ed reached nearly 400,000 Coloradans in 56 of our 64 counties. It delivered hands-on shopping and cooking classes, promoted healthy food choices at food pantries and grocery stores, and provided essential food skills education in low-income communities. These are not abstract benefits; they are tangible, daily supports that help families stretch their food dollars and make healthier choices.

The evidence is clear: for every \$1 spent on SNAP-Ed, up to \$10.64 is saved in health care costs. By teaching nutrition and food budgeting, SNAP-Ed helps prevent chronic diseases,



reduced emergency health care visits, and empowers families to thrive. Cutting this program is not just shortsighted, it's fiscally irresponsible.

Compounding the Crisis: Less Access, Higher Costs

This bill not only guts critical access to health care, but it also slashes the very programs that have been proven to decrease health care costs for low-income households. By eliminating SNAP-Ed, lawmakers have removed our state's best tool to help households focus limited food dollars on healthy options. At the same time, they have made it harder for families to access SNAP benefits at all.

The result? Decreased access to care, increased health care costs, and a reversal of decades of progress in addressing hunger and health in Colorado. Effective October 1, 2025, the one program designed to help SNAP shoppers "do more with less" will be gone, just as families will be forced to do exactly that.

What We've Lost

- **Our state's best tool to help households stretch limited food dollars and focus on healthy options.**
- **A proven investment in prevention:** Every \$1 spent on SNAP-Ed saved up to \$10.64 in health care costs.
- **A program that reached nearly 400,000 Coloradans in 56 counties, providing hands-on education and support.**

The Bigger Picture: A Blow to Prevention, Access, and Community

This is not just about numbers on a budget line. It's about real people- kids, families, seniors, and communities who will feel the impact every day. As the National Farm to School Network put it, these cuts "reverse decades of progress addressing hunger and health," making school meals, food education, and local food access harder for everyone.

Thousands of Coloradans spoke out against these changes. Their voices were ignored. But our work is not over. As we face the consequences of this bill, we must continue to fight for prevention, equity, and the health of every Coloradan.



They can take our funding, but they cannot take our commitment to each other. Now, more than ever, we must stand together to rebuild what we have lost and demand policies that put prevention and people first.

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