



NH Local Welfare Administrator's Association

c/o Cornerstone Association Management
53 Regional Drive, Suite 1
Concord, NH 03301

Towards self-sufficiency...

February 10, 2017

Senator Jeb Bradley, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
New Hampshire General Court
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Testimony for SB 7 relative to eligibility for food stamps.

Dear Honorable Senator Bradley and Members of the Committee,

This letter is written on behalf of the NH Local Welfare Administrators Association (NHLWAA) to express concern in regards to SB 7 – relative to eligibility for food stamps.

The NHLWAA appreciates the need to review eligibility standards for various benefits through the New Hampshire Division of Health and Human Services, specifically the food stamp (SNAP) program. We do have some concerns over the potential impact to constituents in our state, as well as the potential impact on the increased need for municipal assistance if some of the proposed changes are implemented.

Regarding restrictions around waivers for work requirements, NH DHHS was able to get a waiver for some towns with high unemployment rates where folks could not obtain employment within the time frame allowed. The waiver allowed them to continue to provide the necessary food stamp benefits to needy families beyond the normal limit, thus preventing them from going hungry or needing to tap into other local resources, such as municipal welfare or local food banks.

Secondly, the Federal Resource limits. Some constituents who need food stamps benefits may own a second vehicle or a recreational vehicle. This may be counted against eligibility. The fact is, this is not a readily available resource that could be used to purchase food, so if counted may again be preventing a household from accessing necessary resources to obtain food, resulting in a downshift to other local resources.

Additionally, many times the food stamp allotments are not sufficient to meet the needs of the household and clients are often tapping into local resources to supplement those food stamp benefits already. So to make it more difficult to obtain such necessary benefits would create an additional burden on households and municipalities.

Thank you for considering our concerns over the impact limiting this fundamental benefit will have on local assistance.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Murphy, President
NHLWAA
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