

HOW FOOD TARIFFS AND CUTS TO NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS INCREASE HUNGER IN UTAH

FOOD TARIFFS, LIKE OTHER FOOD TAXES, INCREASE INFLATION AND MAKE EVERYTHING MORE EXPENSIVE

This week President Trump imposed 145 percent tariffs on all food and other goods imported from China and 10 percent tariffs on things imported from most other countries. The President has paused other tariffs for 90 days but these tariffs are in effect now and will begin to increase prices for food soon. It appears they will increase the cost of food in our country by about \$55 billion per year-- which is about a two percent increase to total national spending on food. Last year the United States imported \$24.7 billion worth of food from China. A 145 percent tariff on that food would increase the price by \$35.8 billion. The United States imported \$188.3 billion dollars of food from countries other than China in 2024. A ten percent tariff on those goods would increase the cost by \$18.8 billion. Tariffs will especially increase costs for fruits, vegetables, sugars and sweeteners because those are all categories of foods where imports make up more than 30 percent of the food consumed in the United States.

HUNGER IS ALREADY A PROBLEM IN UTAH

Between 2020 and 2024 the cost of food increased by 23.6 percent in the United States. The cost of housing and transportation also increased more than general inflation during those years. This major increase to the cost of living has left more families in Utah unable to make ends meet. This has led to food pantries all over the state serving more people than they have ever served before.

CUTS TO NUTRITION PROGRAMS WILL MAKE HUNGER WORSE

Today Congress passed a budget resolution and officially began the process of passing a giant bill that will increase funding for immigration enforcement and cut taxes by trillions of dollars in ways that will primarily benefit the wealthy. An early draft of the budget resolution included instructions to cut funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") by 20 percent or more. We are glad this language was not included in the bill that passed today but there are definitely people in Congress who want to cut funding for programs that help low income families pay for food. For example, Utah Senator, Mike Lee released a bill last week that would cut federal funding for SNAP by 50 percent. It is cruel to consider massive cuts to nutrition assistance programs at a time when federal food tariffs are taxing families into poverty.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THIS PROBLEM?

Go to the websites for Utahns Against Hunger and Crossroads Urban Center and sign up for our email updates about efforts to oppose policies that cause Utahns to go hungry.

www.uah.org

www.crossroadsurbancenter.org



UTAHNS AGAINST HUNGER



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