CONSPONSOR: the Food Secure Strikers Act of 2023

Protect Striking Workers from Going Hungry!

Become an original cosponsor of the bicameral Food Secure Strikers Act of 2023

Click here for bill text.

Dear Colleague:

Please join Rep. Adams, Rep. Casar, and Sen. Fetterman in supporting the Food Secure Strikers Act of 2023.

As the gap between CEO pay and worker pay continues to widen, workers all across the country are making their voices heard by demanding that they receive fair wages and benefits. In 2022 alone, over 120,000 workers were involved in strikes that resulted in major work stoppages and many more workers held smaller strikes that are not accounted for in these metrics. While union funds can sometimes reduce the financial stress of striking, workers often still face serious financial insecurity when on strike. Some reports suggest that these funds will be even lower post-COVID, making prolonged strikes more challenging. Further, many striking workers are not union members, meaning they have an even smaller safety net, if they have a safety net at all.

From the 1886 May Day strike that led to the 8 hour workday, to the 2019 United Auto Workers strike that secured an \$11,000 bonus for each worker, strikes routinely make workplaces better for the workers. As they become more popular and endure for longer periods of time, more workers risk a loss of income that can lead to food insecurity. However, striking workers and their households are excluded from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and cannot receive SNAP benefits unless they were previously eligible before the strike. The Food Secure Strikers Act of 2023 would allow striking workers and their households to receive SNAP benefits.

The Food Secure Strikers Act would

- repeal the restriction on striking workers from receiving SNAP and affirmatively protect the eligibility of striking workers to receive SNAP
- protect public sector workers who are fired for striking from being "considered to have voluntarily quit" for eligibility purposes
- clarify that any household can receive SNAP benefits regardless of if a member of that household is involved in a strike

ENDORSED BY: CWA, UFCW, Teamsters, and other partners (forthcoming).

To become an original cosponsor, please use this form by COB Friday, July 14.

If you have any questions or would like to be added as a cosponsor, please contact Austin Bryniarski with Rep. Adams at austin.bryniarski@mail.house.gov or Nile Whitmore with Rep. Casar at nile.whitmore@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rep. Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

/s/ Rep. Greg Casar