

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



FIGHTING *for* PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

Increasing Access to SNAP Delivery During COVID-19 Act

As Congress continues to respond to COVID-19, more needs to be done to build the capacity of the food assistance system to assist families impacted by the pandemic. As the pandemic continues, millions of individuals and families have lost access to paychecks and are seeing their households grow more food insecure. At the same time, in order to reinforce guidance that Americans, especially seniors and immunocompromised individuals, continue to stay at home as much as possible, additional steps must be taken to ensure that these individuals are able to access the food they need while remaining at home.

While USDA's efforts to expand the SNAP Online Purchasing Program is one important aspect of efforts to make delivery available for SNAP participants, there is still more that needs to be done to increase options for customers and retailers. In order to strengthen food security, support retailers in expanding their SNAP delivery offerings and enhance the ability of at-risk individuals to stay at home as advised by public health authorities, *the Increasing Access to SNAP Delivery During COVID-19 Act* requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), under declaration of a public health emergency, to do the following:

Promote Alternative Delivery Options for SNAP Participants

- Notify retailers and customers of the existing opportunities through which they can deliver food to SNAP participants, including allowing for the EBT card to be swiped either at the point of home delivery with the use of a mobile device or at the time of pick-up
- Authorize public-private partnerships between USDA, nonprofits and authorized SNAP retailers to support delivery during the emergency

Make Funding Available to Support Retailers in Delivery Expansion

- Provide \$500 million in funding, to be administered by SNAP State Agencies that would be available to reimburse retailers for the costs associated with expanding delivery options for SNAP participants
- Include the following expenses as reimbursable through the fund administered by State Agencies
 - Delivery fees, up to \$10 per order
 - Point-of-sale (POS) mobile devices and technical assistance to utilize POS devices
 - Costs associated with personal protective equipment (PPE) for delivery
- Retailers must provide worker protections and training to be eligible for reimbursements

Require States to Submit a Plan to Expand Delivery options

- Include information regarding how the State will coordinate with retailers and organizations to expand delivery, administer reimbursements and ensure retailers meet eligibility requirements

Provide Public Information and Report to Congress Regarding Funding Utilization

- Ensure state plans as well as approval and denials of reimbursements are made publicly available
- Report to Congress on the steps taken to maximize delivery options for SNAP participants

For More information:

Alyssa Charney: Alyssa_Charney@casey.senate.gov