

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.264

Rep. Lasinski offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the federal government to reconsider and  
2 approve a federal waiver to exclude Federal Pandemic Unemployment  
3 Compensation from counting as income under the Supplemental  
4 Nutrition Assistance Program.

5 Whereas, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
6 is the largest federal food safety net program in the United  
7 States, serving more than 37 million people annually. SNAP ensures  
8 that people across the country have access to food and helps people  
9 buy the food they need for good health; and

10 Whereas, On March 27, 2020, the federal Coronavirus Aid,  
11 Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law  
12 approving Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) in  
13 response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. FPUC provides an additional \$600



1 per week in unemployment compensation from March 29, 2020, through  
2 July 25, 2020, to any worker eligible for state or federal  
3 unemployment compensation; and

4       Whereas, Currently, FPUC is treated as unearned income under  
5 the federal regulations that determine SNAP eligibility. This  
6 leaves more households ineligible for SNAP because eligibility is,  
7 in part, based on meeting certain income thresholds. For example,  
8 the net monthly income for a family of four may not exceed \$2,146.  
9 As a consequence, more households exceed the income eligibility  
10 threshold despite members being unemployed. For households who  
11 remain eligible, treating FPUC as income can decrease the monthly  
12 allotment of SNAP benefits; and

13       Whereas, The state of Michigan submitted a waiver request to  
14 the United States Department of Agriculture to exclude FPUC funding  
15 from the definition of income under SNAP regulations to allow more  
16 Michigan residents to receive benefits during the COVID-19  
17 Pandemic, but the waiver was denied; and

18       Whereas, In Michigan, other assistance programs, such as State  
19 Emergency Relief, Medicaid, and Temporary Assistance for Needy  
20 Families, do not consider FPUC as income for the purposes of  
21 benefit determination. These changes place administrative burden on  
22 staff because the income must be documented manually and  
23 differently than for other assistance programs; and

24       Whereas, The exclusion of this temporary benefit in income  
25 calculations for SNAP eligibility determinations would allow low-  
26 income households to continue receiving SNAP benefits at a time  
27 when finding new employment is nearly impossible. It would help  
28 households that are struggling to meet their basic needs during the  
29 COVID-19 Pandemic; now, therefore, be it



1       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the  
2 federal government to reconsider and approve a federal waiver to  
3 exclude Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation from counting as  
4 income under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; and be  
5 it further

6       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
7 United States Secretary of Agriculture and the Deputy Under  
8 Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.