

February 10, 2023

Ms. Marga Ortiz  
Branch Chief, Retailer and Issuance Policy and Innovation Division  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ms. Ortiz,

I write today in support of Real Food for Kids' (RFFK) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Demonstration Project design and request that you to work with the Virginia Department of Social Services and RFFK to swiftly approve their waiver request. This proposed study in Arlington County, Virginia, would offer a \$0.30 financial incentive for any dollar spent to purchase fruits and vegetables with SNAP benefits, while restricting the incentive if sugar-sweetened beverages are purchased using SNAP benefits.

RFFK's Demonstration Project is carefully designed to advance the next phase of critical research required to inform improvements to SNAP policy necessary to combat food insecurity in our communities. This design overcomes flaws in previous proposals and preserves each SNAP participant's choice to receive a fruit and vegetable incentive with a restriction on the purchase of sugar-sweetened beverages to encourage healthy behaviors. Further, the use of a mobile application to collect receipts of all SNAP purchases allows participants the freedom to shop where they wish.

Our country faces a health crisis stemming from dietary related diseases that disproportionately affect marginalized communities. This study specifically addresses the two factors that reduce those risks – increasing fruit and vegetable consumption and decreasing consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.

I ask that you give this waiver request every appropriate consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator