

Justice, Peace and Life

July 2023



Support the RESTORE Act! End the SNAP benefit ban for people with drug-related felony convictions.

Congress continues to work on the 2023 Farm Bill, which should be voted on later this year. This enormous piece of legislation, re-authorized every five years, funds several nutrition and agriculture programs. The single biggest program in the Farm Bill is SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly called Food Stamps. Lawmakers have started to introduce “marker bills” that address hunger, in hopes the provisions in these bills will be included in the final version of the Farm Bill.

Anti-hunger advocates, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the ecumenical anti-hunger advocacy group Bread for the World, are calling for expansion of SNAP to people currently excluded from the benefit. One group in particular is those recently released from prison. As the USCCB Action Center explains:

*“22 states currently ban those who have felony drug convictions from receiving SNAP benefits. This is despite the fact that research shows that individuals leaving incarceration experience food insecurity at higher rates. **Ask your members of Congress to support the RESTORE Act which eliminates the ban on SNAP benefits for people with drug-related felony convictions.** This ban does nothing to advance public safety and is counterproductive, preventing returning citizens from fully reintegrating into society. Instead of continuing to punish persons who have paid their debt to society and their families, we should offer the necessary tools – including food – to help them lead a more productive life.”*

Speak out for the Earth, Our Common Home

From Interfaith Power & Light:




those that have been disproportionately harmed and that live near fossil fuel facilities. It is the moral responsibility of our nation and our sacred task as people of faith to address the climate crisis.

Tell EPA to enact the strongest possible standards to cut climate pollution from power plants to protect our communities, our Sacred Earth, and our collective future. Click this link: <https://interfaithpowerandlight.salsalabs.org/carbonrulecommentform>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed new federal limits on climate pollution from power plants. This means we will have yet another tool to help address the climate crisis.

While the proposal is significant, we must go even further to tackle the climate crisis, protect our health, and slash pollution that harms our communities — especially

To speak out on the unfair and harmful policy of banning people with felony drug charges from receiving SNAP, click this [link](#).

Extra Bonus: Anti-hunger advocates are also lobbying hard in support of the [Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program](#). Through GusNIP, SNAP recipients access a lot more fresh fruits and vegetables. This is good for their health and for our farmers! 

The “[Opt for Health with SNAP \(OH SNAP\), Close the Fruit and Vegetable Gap Act of 2023](#)” would increase funding for GusNIP and make it a nationwide program.

Call your members of Congress and ask them to support the bill!
Sen. Schumer: (202) 224-6542
Sen. Gillibrand: (202) 224-4451
House switchboard: (202) 224-3121



First Anniversary of the Dobbs Decision:

Proclaiming that Life is a Precious Gift from God

“June 24, 2023, marks the one-year anniversary of the Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, and we have much to celebrate. By the grace of God, the nearly fifty-year reign of national abortion on demand has been put to an end. Roe v. Wade—a seemingly insurmountable blight on our nation—is no more! ...

The work that lies ahead continues to be not just changing laws but also helping to change hearts, with steadfast faith in the power of God to do so. The task before us begins with our knowledge of the truth and our courage to speak it and to live it with compassion. Each of us is called to radical solidarity with women facing an unexpected or challenging pregnancy. That means doing whatever we can to provide them with the care and support they need to welcome their children. I thank the millions of individual Catholics who are already personally living out this Gospel call through parish and community initiatives like Walking with Moms in Need. We must likewise extend a compassionate hand to all who are suffering in the aftermath of participation in abortion. The Church continues to share Christ’s healing and infinite mercy with women and men through diocesan Project Rachel Ministries.

As we each consider how we are uniquely called to build a culture of life, I invite you to join a growing community of Catholics who have subscribed to Respect Life Prayer and Action. When you sign up, you will receive prayers, alerts to contact Congress and government leaders on important legislation, and ways to strengthen a culture of life in your community. You can sign up today at respectlife.org/prayer-and-action. May all people of faith and good will work together to proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence.”

-Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge. Bishop of Arlington, Chairman USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

HOPE AFTER ABORTION
forgiveness healing hope




project rachel
PEACE STARTS HERE
hopeafterabortion.org

888-9-rachel (888-972-2435)
return2peace@rachelroc.org

Walking with Moms in Need is a process through which Catholic parishes and communities "walk in the shoes" of local pregnant and parenting women in need.
www.walkingwithmoms.com/



www.liferoc.org/respectlife/walking-with-moms-in-need-2/

Project Rachel in the Diocese of Rochester has a network of specially trained priests, religious, counselors, and laypersons who accompany anyone struggling in the aftermath of abortion. It could have been recently or several years ago. You may have experienced an abortion yourself or be the partner, parent, grandparent, sibling, other family member, friend. A trained companion is available to guide you on a confidential, nonjudgmental healing process of forgiveness and peace. If you or someone you know needs hope after abortion, **confidential, nonjudgmental** help is available through our dedicated helpline: **888-9RACHEL (888-972-2435)** or return2peace@rachelroc.org.

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