

Supporting Organizations: Council for Responsible Nutrition

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Sponsor: [Rogers \(AL\)](#)

Dear Colleague:

Today, I invite you to become an original cosponsor of the SNAP Vitamin and Mineral Improvement Act of 2017 which I will introduce before the August recess. This act adds an additional healthy option for SNAP participants by removing the prohibition against using benefits to purchase multivitamin-mineral supplements, **while adding no additional costs to the SNAP program.**

Did you know that the dietary patterns of millions of Americans do not comply with the daily intakes of vitamins and minerals recommended by the Food and Drug Administration? Data from the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Scientific Report show that calcium, magnesium, and vitamins A, D, E, and C are nutrients that are consumed below the recommended levels. Iron is also under-consumed by adolescent girls and many women. Infants who do not receive adequate intakes of iron and iodine may suffer from impaired mental and behavioral development. Low-income families and older Americans are at higher risk for inadequate intake of nutrients.

Fortunately, a low-cost daily multivitamin provides shortfall nutrients and has been shown to help Americans safely fill nutrient gaps. However, one barrier exists for low-income families.

SNAP recipients have numerous food choices, but they are currently **not allowed** to use their benefits to purchase multivitamins. This bill would fix that oversight. All dietary supplements are required to meet safety and quality standards established by the Food and Drug Administration, and as such, they should be available to purchase. SNAP users deserve the freedom of choice for healthy options. I urge you to join me in cosponsoring this bill. If you or your staff have any questions about this bill, please have them contact Haley Wilson on my staff at 202-225-xxxx.

Mike Rogers

Member of Congress