

Hello, My name is Linda Edge I reside in Quincy Massachusetts. I am a mother of four adult children, one who is 19 and about to graduate high school. I am a grandmother to four granddaughters. I recently got custody of my granddaughter who is 15.

I am a student at Springfield College in Boston pursuing my BA degree in Human Services. I also participate in a program called One Family Scholars, which is helping me make it through college successfully.

In addition to my studies, I am very involved in the community. I am a volunteer at United South End Settlement where I distribute food to families in need. I am also a volunteer at Urban Edge, where I help people file their tax returns.

I work as a Personal Care Attendant for a relative who has been in the hospital since January. Due to his hospitalization, I have not been able to work, and I am now receiving unemployment.

This past year has been difficult for me to provide a healthy nutritious meal for my family. When I was working, my income was too high to qualify for SNAP. Now that I am unemployed, I have applied for SNAP benefits. My income now still puts me over the income guideline to qualify for SNAP benefits.

It would mean a lot if I did not have to worry about feeding myself or my family. When you have two picky eaters it is difficult to get food they will eat and that is health for them.

I would like the members of congress and policymakers to know that there are families like me who work hard to provide for their family but because our income is over the guidelines that makes us ineligible for SNAP benefits. It would be helpful to increase the SNAP income guideline so that families like mine could qualify for SNAP benefits. I would also like members of Congress to know that people who need help feeding their families are not lazy, they are just fellow human beings who need help.