



## The “Student Loan Deduction Act”

Senator Peter Welch

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### Legislation

This bill would allow SNAP applicants to deduct monthly payments made on student loans from their income when calculating a household’s eligibility for SNAP benefits. The definition of a student loan encompasses both Federal and private student loan programs.

### Background

Deductions play an important role in determining SNAP benefits. They reflect the fact that not all of a household’s income is available for purchasing food; some must be used to meet other needs. According to the [Education Data Initiative](#), 43.6 million U.S. borrowers have federal student loan debt, averaging \$37,718 per borrower, while the average monthly student loan payment is an estimated [\\$503](#). By allowing a new SNAP deduction for student loans, we acknowledge the significant financial strain that student loans can impose on both individuals and families.

By permitting a deduction for these payments, the proposed change seeks to provide a more accurate representation of a household’s available income. Furthermore, this approach aligns with existing practices within SNAP, where various deductions, such as housing and childcare expenses, are already considered in the determination process.

### Endorsing Organizations

The *Student Loan Deduction Act of 2024* is endorsed by Hunger Free Vermont, Food Research and Action Center, and MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger.