

Dems Vow to Battle GOP Over SNAP Cuts

Kathleen McKiernan | December 16, 2016

Bay State Democrats say they'll "fight like hell" to block any future cuts to the nation's food stamp program in what could be a partisan-charged food fight as Republicans eye changes to the anti-hunger program.

"I'm prepared to fight like hell. We can't let this happen," U.S. Rep. James McGovern told the Herald of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which issues food stamps. "SNAP can't be the ATM machine to pay for Republican priorities."

McGovern, a leading SNAP advocate and member of the House Agriculture Committee said in January he will lead efforts to protect SNAP anti-hunger programs such as food stamps, school breakfast and WIC.

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren said in a statement to the Herald, "The Republicans want to change SNAP funding into a block grant for one reason only: to begin cutting the money available to help those who need it most. This is both cruel and short-sighted, and I will strongly oppose this effort."

This week, the Massachusetts SNAP Coalition and 103 other local groups signed an open letter to Bay State leaders



Credit: Nancy Lane

ROUGH: Arthur Alexander, 78, of Dorchester says he's worried about cuts in the SNAP program, which gives him \$130 per month in food stamps.

demanding they reject cuts or structural changes to the nation's federally funded anti-hunger and poverty programs.

The food fight comes as the GOP majority of the House Agriculture Committee released a report earlier this month that recommended potential changes under a Trump administration, including tightening eligibility requirements, new incentives for recipients to buy healthier food and strengthening work requirements.

Arthur Alexander, a 78-year-old Korean War veteran from

Dorchester who receives \$130 per month in SNAP, said he is worried about the prospect of losing it.

"It'll be rough. I'd probably be homeless like a lot of people," he said
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