



Unsurprisingly, the HEROES Act includes a massive expansion of welfare, fulfilling Democrats' mission of using the pandemic as a "tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit [their] vision."

And, while Democrats have finally recognized the need for assistance in rural America, the HEROES Act falls far short of what the President and Secretary Perdue have requested. It is also weighed down with red tape that will only slow the process and make the prospect of aid less certain.

Indefensible food stamp proposals

- SNAP is designed to respond to incidents of recession. Anyone who meets eligibility standards set forth in law can receive SNAP—without any additional action being taken by Congress. Despite this reality, and despite the tremendous flexibility and responsiveness that exists within SNAP, left-leaning advocacy groups pushed the Democrats to include an additional \$10 billion to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.
- If that weren't enough, the HEROES Act also expands SNAP benefits by an additional 15% per household, per month, for a period of at least 15 months.
- The HEROES Act also doubles down on the Democrats' campaign against work, using the pandemic to suspend work requirements for able-bodied adults for at least two years.
- The HEROES Act also permanently rescinds several proposed and final rules related to SNAP administration, unwinding years of effort on the part of the Trump Administration to bring accountability to SNAP.
- Finally, the HEROES Act mandates that USDA further ignore certain payment errors in SNAP, arbitrarily lowering the official improper payment rate published by USDA. SNAP is the only welfare program in the federal government that deploys this egregious practice—and Democrats propose to make it worse.

More red tape for rural America

- The HEROES Act completely ignores the Trump Administration's request for additional funding in the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)—the funding arm of USDA.
- Instead, Democrats propose to fund a variety of new programs while burying USDA in a mountain of new red tape. For example, the HEROES Act mandates the Secretary provide Congress 90 days to review any proposal to take action under the CCC. At that rate, USDA might as well address the check to a bankruptcy court because that is where many farmers and ranchers will be without more timely assistance.
- The bill also gives GAO unprecedented authority to inspect the records and facilities of any private entity that receives assistance and requires that reports of such audits be made public. This is an unwarranted overstep that could have serious ramifications for producers.