



June 11, 2025

Statement by Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty

## **Urgent Need for American Indian/Alaska Native Exemption from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Work Requirements in ‘One Big, Beautiful Bill Act’**

As consideration of the One Big Beautiful Act continues, [the Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty](#), representing more than 35 Tribal organizations, calls upon the U.S. Senate to ensure that Indian Country’s access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is protected by exempting Native people from work requirements and promoting Tribal administration of SNAP.

SNAP is a critical program that ensures millions of low-income families have access to food. In Indian Country, approximately 25 percent of Native people rely on federal food assistance. In some Tribal communities, this reliance is as high as 80 percent. SNAP is also an important mechanism through which the United States delivers on its trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations and Tribal citizens and communities.

As proposed, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act provides no exemption from new work requirements for Native people or Tribal Statistical Areas, impeding access to critical and necessary sources of reliable, healthy foods.

Additionally, we note that Tribal communities have little say in how states decide to administer SNAP, especially in instances where a state declines to fund its portion of the proposed cost-share requirements. Such a decision could cause significant harm to Native people that would otherwise be eligible under the existing program. In its current version, the bill provides no measure to authorize a Tribal Nation, Tribal organization, or consortium of Tribal Nations to assume administration of SNAP to meet the needs of our people, if this takes place.

Native people must be exempt from SNAP work requirements and any reductions in SNAP benefits, which are antithetical to the United States’ trust and treaty obligations. We further urge the Senate’s consideration of a provision that would facilitate the exercise of Tribal self-determination and self-governance in SNAP administration.