The US House of Representatives is expected to debate the 2018 farm bill this week. The bill includes key policy changes to SNAP, including expanded work requirements. In our new analysis, we estimate the number of people both nationally and in each state who receive SNAP and could be affected by the expanded work requirements proposed in the bill. According to 2017 estimates from the US Department of Agriculture, about two-thirds of all SNAP participants are children, seniors, or disabled adults and are not subject to work requirements.

We estimate that in a given month in 2018, 7.9 million working-age adults who receive SNAP would potentially be subject to the proposed work requirements. Some of these adults have children ages 6 and older.

Impact of new work requirements differs by state

The work requirements proposed in the bill would affect people differently in each state. For example, 74 percent of SNAP participants who would be subject to the work requirements in Nevada and Washington are not working enough to meet them, but that share is 46 percent in Hawaii.

Over the course of a year, we estimate 9.8 million SNAP participants would have at least one month when they are subject to but not meeting the work requirements. But 52 percent would meet the requirement in at least one other month during the year. This means that SNAP participants often work enough hours to comply with the work requirements, but they do so intermittently.