

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Madam Secretary,

Right now, millions of Americans are struggling to afford food due to the Administration's ill-conceived trade war. Just this year, we've seen household staples like eggs, coffee, and ground beef hit record high prices.¹ Now more than ever, millions of families across the country depend upon the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to make ends meet. For far too many veterans, seniors, and children, SNAP benefits are the difference between having food or not. Now, due to the government shutdown, they are facing crippling levels of uncertainty about whether they will be able to afford food next month.

A potential lapse in benefits would be felt by Americans of all ages and affect every corner and congressional district in the country. As the largest food assistance program in the United States, SNAP serves 42 million people. That includes 16 million children, 8 million seniors, 4 million people with disabilities,² and 1.2 million veterans.³

That is why we were deeply concerned to see your comments suggesting that SNAP will run out of funding in two weeks and that no SNAP benefits will be issued in November.⁴ USDA's shutdown plan acknowledges that "Congressional intent is evident that SNAP's operations should continue since the program has been provided with multi-year contingency funds..."⁵ USDA still has significant funding available in SNAP's contingency reserve – which Congress provides precisely for this reason – that can be used to fund the bulk of November benefits.

We urge USDA to use these funds for November SNAP benefits and issue clear guidance to states on how to navigate benefit issuance. Additionally, while the contingency reserve will not cover November benefits in full, we urge USDA to use its statutory transfer authority or any other legal authority at its disposal to supplement these dollars and fully fund November benefits.

There are clear steps the administration can and must take immediately to ensure that millions of families across the country can put food on their table in November. Choosing not to ensure

¹ NewsNation, "[Grocery prices are rising as beef, coffee hit record highs](#)," September 2025.

² USDA Food and Nutrition Service, "[Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2023](#)," April 2025.

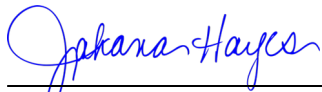
³ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), "[SNAP Helps 1.2 Million Veterans With Low Incomes, Including Thousands in Every State](#)," April 2025.

⁴ New York Times, "[Food Stamp Benefits May Run Out in November, Officials Warn](#)," October 2025.

⁵ USDA, "[U.S. Department of Agriculture Lapse of Funding Plan](#)," September 30, 2025.

SNAP benefits reach those in need this November would be a gross dereliction of your responsibilities to the American people. We appreciate your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



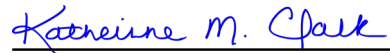
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Nutrition
and Foreign Agriculture



Angie Craig
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on Agriculture



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



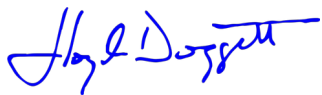
Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



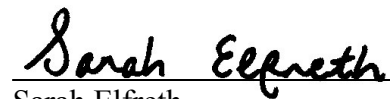
Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



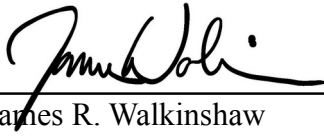
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



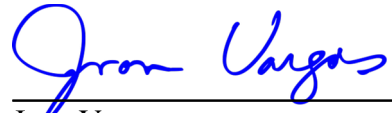
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



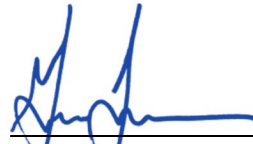
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



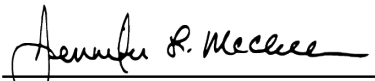
David Scott
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress