

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 22, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Rollins,

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is our nation's largest food assistance program, serving 42 million people, including 16 million children, 8 million seniors, and 4 million people with disabilities. Any halt in SNAP funding will have devastating impacts for program beneficiaries, increasing food insecurity and undermining family budgets. Given the critical importance of SNAP benefits, the USDA must take all steps possible to ensure that families do not go hungry.

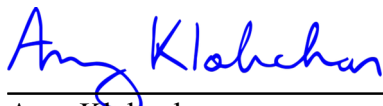
We were deeply disturbed to hear that the USDA has instructed states to stop processing SNAP benefits for November and were surprised by your recent comments that the program will "run out of money in two weeks." In fact, the USDA has several tools available which would enable SNAP benefits to be paid through or close to the end of November. First, the USDA must, at a minimum under the law, use the contingency funding that is available for SNAP, as noted by USDA officials. Second, the USDA has interchange authority under 7 U.S.C. 2257 that permits the transfer of funds from other USDA nutrition programs. In fact, this authority was recently used by the USDA when it transferred money from child nutrition programs to the WIC account to maintain WIC benefits during the shutdown. In the event that more resources are needed than what is available in contingency funding, the USDA should explore all legal means to augment funds to pay the full amount of SNAP benefits in November.

Americans are already struggling with the rising cost of groceries, and they cannot afford a sudden lapse in grocery assistance. We urge you to immediately communicate to states and committees of jurisdiction the USDA's plans to disburse the contingency funding to state agencies and utilize all available legal authorities so that American families can get benefits without interruption. Democrats remain at the table and ready to negotiate reopening the government.

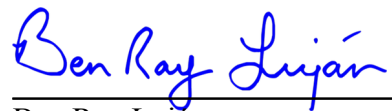
Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



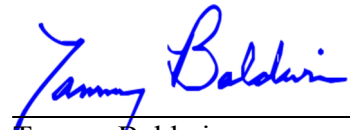
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



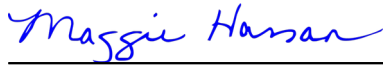
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



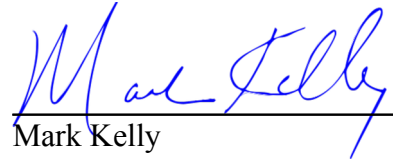
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



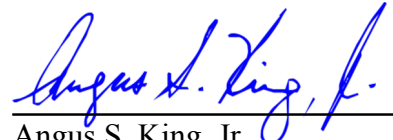
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



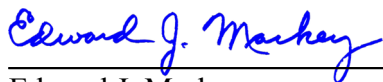
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



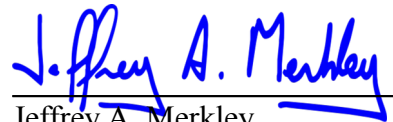
Andy Kim
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



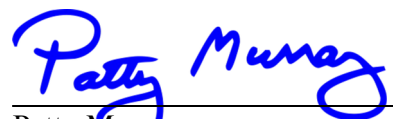
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



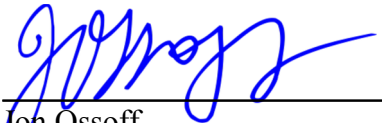
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



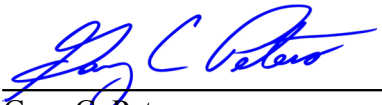
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



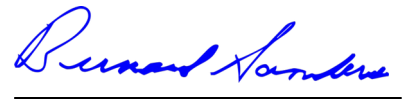
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



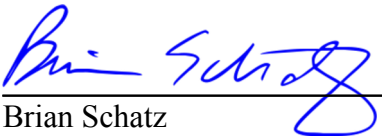
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
U.S. Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



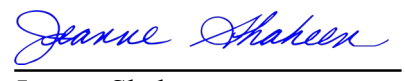
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



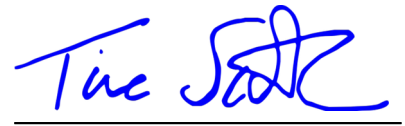
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



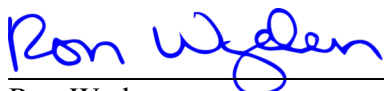
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator