



The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Chairman Boozman, and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

We the undersigned attorneys general write today to urge the Senate to restore Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and eligibility protections in the upcoming Farm Bill and to reject efforts to perpetuate or expand the harmful cuts enacted last year in H.R. 1 and perpetuated by the House version of the Farm Bill.¹

Those cuts – the largest reductions to food assistance in modern history – are forcing families to skip meals, creating new barriers to assistance for working people and seniors, and shifting billions of dollars in costs onto states and local governments. As the Senate considers the Farm Bill passed by the House, it has an opportunity to reverse course and reaffirm a bipartisan commitment that no American should go hungry because they cannot afford food.

Across our states, SNAP provides critical support to millions of children, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, and working families struggling with the high cost of living. Yet the new federal restrictions threaten to push millions of eligible residents off the program or make it significantly more difficult for them to maintain benefits. Expanded work requirements and administrative hurdles do not create jobs or reduce poverty. They simply cause eligible people to

¹ Wisconsin Farmer, "House Sends Five-Year Farm Bill to Senate After Contentious Vote" (May 8, 2026), available at: <https://newsroom.heart.org/news/house-farm-bill-misses-opportunity-to-strengthen-nutrition-security>.

lose assistance because they are unable to navigate increasingly complex bureaucratic requirements.²

H.R. 1 and the House-passed bill also represents a dramatic and unprecedented shift of federal responsibilities onto the states. For decades, SNAP has operated as a federal commitment to ensuring that Americans do not go hungry during times of need. The recent changes abandon that principle by requiring states to shoulder billions of dollars in new costs while imposing substantial new administrative burdens. For many states, these costs will amount to hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars annually, and these shifts are so severe that some states may have to consider withdrawing from SNAP altogether.³ The majority of states will find themselves having to make untenable choices between raising revenues, cutting other essential services, or reducing support for vulnerable residents. At a time when states are already confronting rising health care, housing, and infrastructure costs, Congress should not be balancing the federal budget by transferring its obligations to state taxpayers. The Farm Bill should restore the longstanding federal-state partnership that has made SNAP one of the most successful anti-hunger programs in the nation's history.

State attorneys general have repeatedly taken action to protect residents' access to SNAP and other nutrition assistance programs. Over the past year, our offices have challenged unlawful federal actions that threatened to disrupt food assistance, sought to ensure that eligible families continue receiving benefits authorized by Congress, and conducted outreach to help residents understand and comply with new federal requirements.⁴

Just days ago, a federal court granted a preliminary injunction sought by a coalition of attorneys general and blocked the U.S. Department of Agriculture from withholding billions of dollars in nutrition, agricultural, and related funding unless states complied with unrelated federal policy directives concerning immigration, diversity initiatives, and other matters.⁵ The court's ruling reaffirmed a basic principle: Congress established these programs to fight hunger, support farmers, and strengthen local communities, not as leverage to compel states to adopt unrelated federal policy preferences. While we will continue defending these programs in court, litigation alone cannot prevent the harm caused by policies that make it harder for eligible families to access food assistance or that shift federal obligations onto state taxpayers. Congress must act to restore and strengthen SNAP through the Farm Bill.

The consequences are already visible. Recent economic data show that food insecurity is increasing even as many households continue to struggle with elevated grocery costs and

² Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "SNAP Tracker: People Are Losing Food Assistance as the Republican Megabill Is Implemented" (May 29, 2026), available at: <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/snap-tracker-people-are-losing-food-assistance-as-the-republican-megabill>.

³ See, e.g. U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service, SNAP State Activity Reports; New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, SNAP Program Statistics, available at: <https://otda.ny.gov/resources/reports/SNAP-Congressional-Districts.pdf>

⁴ See, e.g., New York State Office of the Attorney General, "Attorney General James Wins Court Order Protecting SNAP Benefits" (Dec. 15, 2025), available at: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/2025/attorney-general-james-wins-court-order-protecting-snap-benefits>; New York State Office of the Attorney General, "Attorney General James Reminds New Yorkers of SNAP Work Requirements" (Mar. 3, 2026), available at: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/2026/attorney-general-james-reminds-new-yorkers-snap-work-requirements>.

⁵ *Mass. et al. v. U.S.D.A.*, No. 1:26-cv-11396 (D. Mass. June 6, 2026) (granting preliminary injunction blocking USDA from conditioning nutrition and agricultural funding on compliance with unrelated federal policy directives).

economic uncertainty.⁶ National organizations tracking the implementation of the budget bill report that millions of eligible Americans are losing food assistance as new restrictions take effect, with older adults and low-income workers among those most affected.⁷ SNAP participation has gone down significantly in every state, including by 5% or more in 38 states, and by 10% or more in 13 states.⁸ Food banks and anti-hunger organizations across the country are warning that they cannot absorb the increased demand that result from these cuts.⁹

The House-passed Farm Bill fails to meet this moment. Rather than strengthening the nutrition programs that millions of Americans rely upon, it largely preserves policies that will increase hunger and economic hardship.¹⁰ The Senate should take a different approach.

Specifically, we urge the Senate to:

- Restore SNAP benefit levels and funding reduced by recent federal legislation;
- Reverse the “cost-sharing” provisions, or at a minimum, delay them;
- Reverse the expansion of Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) work requirements and related eligibility restrictions;
- Reject proposals that would further reduce benefits, restrict eligibility, or shift federal nutrition assistance costs to states;
- Preserve state flexibility to administer SNAP efficiently and effectively; and
- Strengthen access to nutrition assistance for seniors, children, veterans, and working families facing economic hardship.

For more than fifty years, the Farm Bill has reflected a simple principle: agricultural prosperity and food security go hand in hand. SNAP supports farmers, grocery stores, food producers, and local economies while helping families meet one of their most basic needs. Every SNAP dollar drives economic activity while reducing hunger and making Americans healthier.

Congress should not balance budgets on the backs of families struggling to put food on the table. At a time when Americans continue to face high food costs and growing economic uncertainty, reducing access to nutrition assistance is both economically shortsighted and morally wrong. We urge you to ensure that the Senate Farm Bill restores SNAP protections, reverses recent harmful cuts, and strengthens our nation's commitment to fighting hunger.

Sincerely,

⁶ Federal Reserve Bank of New York, "Food Insecurity Worsens Amid K-Shaped Economic Divide" (May 27, 2026), available at: <https://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2026/05/food-insecurity-and-consumer-pessimism/>.

⁷ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "SNAP Tracker: People Are Losing Food Assistance as the Republican Megabill Is Implemented" (May 29, 2026), available at: <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/snap-tracker-people-are-losing-food-assistance-as-the-republican-megabill> (“SNAP participation is down by more than 3.5 million people, or nearly 9 percent, in USDA data. (It’s down more than 4 million people, or about 10 percent, over the past year.”))

⁸ Id.

⁹ AARP, "AARP Defends Food Aid as Federal SNAP Cuts Take Effect" (Apr. 15, 2026) available at: <https://www.aarp.org/advocacy/against-food-aid-cuts/>.

¹⁰ American Heart Association, "House Farm Bill Misses Opportunity to Strengthen Nutrition Security" (May 2026); Wisconsin Farmer, "House Sends Five-Year Farm Bill to Senate After Contentious Vote" (May 8, 2026), available at: <https://newsroom.heart.org/news/house-farm-bill-misses-opportunity-to-strengthen-nutrition-security>.



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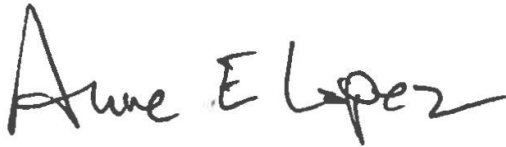
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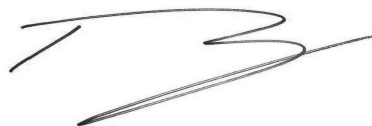
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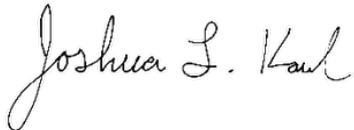
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