

# MAYORS ALLIANCE

TO END CHILDHOOD HUNGER

February 28, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Senate Majority Leader  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
568 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House Minority Leader  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

We are writing as members of the [Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger](#), a nonpartisan coalition representing more than 400 mayors across all 50 states and Washington, DC, from large and medium cities to smaller communities and townships, working in partnership with Share Our Strength's [No Kid Hungry Campaign](#) to ensure that every child has the healthy food they need to thrive. Our offices are on the frontline of responding to challenges in our communities, and as mayors, we need every option available to fight childhood hunger.

**We urge you to protect, strengthen, and fully fund federal food and nutrition programs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and FY 2026 budget appropriations, reconciliation, and continuing resolutions. We strongly urge you to reject efforts to use federal nutrition program cuts to reduce or offset spending.**

**We express our concern for the growing number of children in our country facing food insecurity and hunger if these cuts are enacted. There are increasing pressures on the cost and availability of food, including viral illnesses in animals raised for consumption, a diminished number of agricultural workers, increased food costs, and continuing global conflict. Our cities are on the frontline of responding to challenges in our communities, and as mayors, we need every option available to fight childhood hunger.**

Consider these priorities and funding requests for federal nutrition programs in the coming weeks:

#### The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

**SNAP is one of our nation's most powerful tools to end hunger. It helps 41+ million Americans, including 1 in 5 children, who participate in the program afford nutritious food.**

- Protect and strengthen SNAP through appropriations processes and the Farm Bill.



- Preserve the adequacy of benefits and the ability to select more healthful dietary choices by updating the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) that Congress directed in the 2018 Farm Bill. Do not cut future benefits for all SNAP participants by restricting future updates to the TFP. Such action would cause SNAP benefits to become increasingly inadequate to afford a healthy diet over time.
- Prioritize the dignity and autonomy of people facing hunger and reject efforts to restrict SNAP participants' ability to choose the groceries that work best for their families.
- Do not add additional work requirements for SNAP participants. Most adult SNAP participants are already subject to existing work requirements: general work requirements, stricter work requirements, and time limits for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). SNAP rules already limit ABAWDs ages 18 to 54 to three months of benefits every three years unless they can document that they are in a work or training program for a minimum number of hours per week.

The majority of SNAP participants who can work are working; 84% of SNAP households had at least one person working in the past 12 months. SNAP work requirements limit how long individuals can receive food assistance, add onerous reporting requirements, and impose consequences if they cannot document meeting the requirements.

- Do not eliminate SNAP's Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) options. These options are structured to encourage families to attain financial stability while achieving administrative efficiency. Eliminating BBCE options removes a state's local control over tailoring the program to its unique needs. It will add to the state's administrative burden and create more hardship, especially for families already facing high housing and childcare costs.
- Do not cap SNAP benefits at 6 people per household. This is not a family-friendly proposal, and it unfairly penalizes large, struggling families. It would make it harder for more than 150,000 families to feed their children.

#### Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a short-term intervention program for the high-risk population of pregnant and post-partum women, infants, and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk and live in households with low incomes. **About 6.6 million people participate in WIC monthly, including 4 of 10 infants in the United States.** We urge Congress to:

- Secure full funding for WIC to ensure every eligible family who seeks certification can be served.
- Protect implementation of the final rule updating WIC's food packages, which state and local WIC agencies are currently in the process of implementing.
- Pass the MODERN WIC Act to create permanent virtual service authority. This



would allow participants to complete certification appointments in person at a WIC clinic or via phone or video.

### School Meals

School meals provided through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs support our children's learning to their fullest potential in public and nonprofit private schools. **About 29.6 million students eat lunch at school, and 72 percent of those lunches are for students whose families qualify for free and/or reduced-price meals.** To support children and learning, Congress should:

- Reject proposed harmful changes to the National School Lunch Program's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). CEP is a valuable tool for increasing efficiency and streamlining program administration; it leverages verified data from other means-tested programs. The proposal to limit CEP eligibility would dramatically increase administrative costs for schools nationwide. Proposals circulated by the House Ways and Means Committee could result in more than 24,000 schools serving more than 12 million children no longer being eligible to participate in CEP.
- Reject requiring eligibility verification of all school meals applications rather than a targeted percentage. As verification is a cost borne by schools and covered through meal reimbursements, additional time costs to verify applications by school personnel amount to an unfunded mandate for school districts that will result in schools with less money to spend with American food producers and suppliers and less for preparing nutritious meals for America's children.

In addition to food and nutrition programs, consider how proposed legislation and funding actions support or harm people and programs. We encourage the restoration of an enhanced Child Tax Credit that helps improve family economic stability and mobility.

Thank you for the consideration of our concerns and priorities.

CC:

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

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

The Honorable Glenn G.T. Thompson, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

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The Honorable Angie Craig, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable John Hoeven, Chair  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related  
Agencies Subcommittee Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Ranking Member  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related  
Agencies Subcommittee Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Andy Harris, Chair  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related  
Agencies Subcommittee House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr., Ranking Member  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related  
Agencies Subcommittee House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D., Chair  
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Ranking Member  
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

The Honorable Tim Walberg, Chair  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce

The Honorable Bobby Scott, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Sincerely,



Mayor Paige Cognetti  
Vice-Chair, Mayors Alliance  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

# MAYORS ALLIANCE

TO END CHILDHOOD HUNGER

Mayor Pat Branson  
Kodiak, AK

Mayor Mila Besich  
Superior, AZ

Mayor Becky Daggett  
Flagstaff, AZ

Mayor Mark Freeman  
Mesa, AZ

Mayor Alexis Hermosillo  
El Mirage, AZ

Mayor Regina Romero  
Tucson, AZ

Mayor Melisa Logan  
Blytheville, AR

Mayor Larry Agran  
Irvine, CA

Mayor Alma M. Beltran  
Parlier, CA

Mayor Chelsea Byers  
West Hollywood, CA

Mayor Ulises Cabrera  
Moreno Valley, CA

Mayor Kate Colin  
San Rafael, CA

Mayor Martha Guerrero  
West Sacramento, CA

Mayor Rex Richardson  
Long Beach, CA

Mayor Helen Tran  
San Bernardino, CA

Mayor Aaron Brockett  
Boulder, CO

Mayor Guyleen  
Cagriotta  
City and County of  
Broomfield, CO

Mayor Duane Gurule  
Rocky Ford, CO

Mayor Laura Weinberg  
Golden, CO

Mayor Caroline Simmons  
Stamford, CT

Mayor Joy Cooper  
Hallandale Beach, FL

Mayor Donna Deegan  
Jacksonville, FL

Mayor Alix Desulme  
North Miami, FL

Mayor Keith James  
West Palm Beach, FL

Mayor Ken Welch  
St. Petersburg, FL

Mayor Michael Owens  
Mableton, GA

Mayor LaRhonda W.  
Patrick  
Warner Robins, GA

Mayor Sandra Vincent  
McDonough, GA

Mayor Lauren McLean  
Boise, ID

Mayor Jarom Wagoner  
Caldwell, ID

Mayor Jason Ashmore  
Sesser, IL

Mayor Nathaniel George  
Booker  
Maywood, IL

Supervisor Gail Eisenberg  
New Trier Township, IL

Mayor Angie Nelson  
Deutch  
Michigan City, IN

Mayor Sue Finkam  
Carmel, IN

Mayor Todd Jones  
Elwood, IN

Mayor Kerry Thomson  
Bloomington, IN

Mayor Rick Johnson  
Ottumwa, IA

Mayor Sollie Flora  
Mission, KS

Mayor Michael Poppa  
Roeland Park, KS

Mayor Laura  
White-Brown  
Morehead, KY

Mayor Mark Dion  
Portland, ME

Mayor Katjana  
Ballantyne  
Somerville, MA

# MAYORS ALLIANCE

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Mayor Dominick  
Pangallo  
Salem, MA

Mayor Katrina R. Dodro  
New Carrollton, MD

Mayor Fazlul Kabir  
College Park, MD

Mayor Talisha Searcy  
Takoma Park, MD

Mayor Jeffrey Slavin  
Somerset, MD

Mayor Ethan Baker  
Troy, MI

Mayor Bryan Barnett  
Rochester Hills, MI

Mayor Chris Barnett  
Orion, MI

Mayor Mark A. Behnke  
Battle Creek, MI

Mayor Mykale (Kelly)  
Garrett  
Lathrup Village, MI

Supervisor Anne Marie  
Graham-Hudak  
Canton Township, MI

Mayor Abdullah  
Hammoud  
Dearborn, MI

Mayor Valerie J. Kindle  
Harper Woods, MI

Mayor Raylon Leaks-May  
Ferndale, MI

Mayor Marcus  
Muhammad  
Benton Harbor, MI

Mayor Andy Schor  
Lansing, MI

Mayor Bret Scott  
Pleasant Ridge, MI

Mayor Amáda Márquez  
Simula  
Columbia Heights, MN

Mayor George Flaggs, Jr.  
Vicksburg, MS

Mayor Quordiniah N  
Lockley  
McComb, MS

Mayor Jim Arico  
Bowling Green, MO

Mayor Jackie Soptic  
Trenton, MO

Mayor Leirion Gaylor  
Baird  
Lincoln, NE

Mayor Dave Fried  
Robbinsville, NJ

Mayor Steven M. Fulop  
Jersey City, NJ

Mayor Gina Ragomo Tait  
Palmyra, NJ

Mayor Alan Webber  
Santa Fe, NM

Mayor Eric Adams  
New York City, NY

Mayor Shawyn  
Patterson-Howard  
Mount Vernon, NY

Mayor Jess Anderson  
Chapel Hill, NC

Mayor TJ Cawley  
Morrisville, NC

Mayor Barbara M.  
Foushee  
Carrboro, NC

Mayor Richard Hines  
Winterville, NC

Mayor Cyril Jefferson  
High Point, NC

Mayor Emily Sharpe  
Elon, NC

Mayor Leonardo Willams  
Durham, NC

Mayor Joe Begeny  
Reynoldsburg, OH

Mayor Jack Bradley  
Lorain, OH

Mayor Teri L. Brenkus  
Bellville, OH

Mayor Linda Goodman  
Buckeye Lake Village,  
OH

Mayor Steve Patterson  
Athens, OH

Mayor Lacey Beaty  
Beaverton, OR

# MAYORS ALLIANCE

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Mayor Heidi Lueb  
Tigard, OR

Mayor Matt Tuerk  
Allentown, PA

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Pawtucket, RI

Mayor Maria Rivera  
Central Falls, RI

Mayor Robert Halfacre  
Clemson, SC

Mayor Casey Hancock  
Hartsville, SC

Mayor Daniel  
Rickenmann  
Columbia, SC

Mayor Stefanie Dalton  
Red Bank, TN

Mayor Indya Kincannon  
Knoxville, TN

Mayor Freddie O'Connell  
Nashville, TN

Mayor Keith Wilson  
Portland, OR

Mayor Gary E. Wallace  
Morrisville Borough, PA

Mayor Mark Potts  
Jefferson County, TN

Mayor Sonja A. Brown  
Glenn Heights, TX

Mayor Anderson M.  
Land, Jr.  
Jasper, TX

Mayor Ron Nirenberg  
San Antonio, TX

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Harlingen, TX

Mayor Erin Mendenhall  
Salt Lake City, UT

Mayor Mark Shepherd  
Clearfield, UT

Mayor Jenny Wilson  
Salt Lake County, UT

Mayor Kristine Lott  
Winooski, VT

Mayor Alyia Gaskins  
Alexandria, VA

Mayor Angela Birney  
Redmond, WA

Mayor Cassie Franklin  
Everett, WA

Mayor Bruce Harrell  
Seattle, WA

Mayor Victoria  
Woodards  
Tacoma, WA

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Racine, WI