

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1013

October 25, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

Thank you for your hard work during the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations process. As you work to finalize the Fiscal Year 2022 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill, I urge you to use every tool available to you in support of our federal nutrition programs, including the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service recently released a report that found food insecurity rates in the U.S. remained level from 2019 to 2020, despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1</sup> This incredible finding clearly establishes the success of the COVID-19 relief our committees worked tirelessly to pass over the last year and a half. Despite this good news, we cannot rest easy. The pandemic is still ongoing and, even with rates remaining static, more than 10 percent of Americans – or 13.8 million households – have difficulty affording enough food for their families.<sup>2</sup>

Our nation's food banks and faith-based and charitable organizations went to incredible lengths to meet demand during the pandemic. A recent Charitable Food Assistance Participation Estimate released by Feeding America found that in 2020 at least 60 million people – a 50 percent increase from 2019 – turned to food banks, food pantries, and other private food assistance programs for assistance.<sup>3</sup> This work was made possible by Congress's investments in TEFAP, SNAP, and other anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs. Increased investment in TEFAP will remain vital as increased demand for assistance continues – many food banks and charitable organizations are already reporting a gap between expected funding levels and demand from families.

<sup>1</sup> USDA Economic Research Service, "Household Food Security in United States in 2020," [https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/102076/err-298\\_summary.pdf?v=9398.1](https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/102076/err-298_summary.pdf?v=9398.1)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Feeding America, "Charitable Food Assistance Participation in 2020," <https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/Charitable%20Food%20Assistance%20Participation%20in%202020.pdf>

Additionally, SNAP has been a critical lifeline for more than 40 million Americans during the pandemic. Our nation's largest and most successful anti-hunger program is particularly well suited to address hunger during economic downturns, and it has proven itself again during the pandemic. However, unlike other federal social safety net programs, SNAP is reliant on the annual appropriations process, putting the program – and the millions of Americans it serves – at risk during a shutdown or unexpected increase in participation. Therefore, I strongly support inclusion of the House-passed language providing “such sums” appropriations for the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2022 the final the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to continuing to work together to combat hunger and food insecurity in our great nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Scott". The signature is stylized and fluid, with the first name "David" written in a cursive-like script and the last name "Scott" in a more blocky, capital-letter style.

David Scott  
Member of Congress