Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Andy Harris Chairman Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies 2362-A Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Harris and Ranking Member Bishop:

As you consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to support our nation's most vital food program by including bill language that provides "such sums as necessary" funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This language would protect SNAP benefits in the event of unanticipated increases in participation or a government shutdown.

SNAP is the nation's largest federal program working to fight hunger by providing over 42 million low-income Americans with food assistance each month. Studies have overwhelmingly shown that SNAP benefits reduce food insecurity, alleviate poverty, and boost local economies. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that in a recovering economy, \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.50 in economic activity.

As you know, SNAP is one of the only major entitlement programs at risk of not being able to cover benefits during a government shutdown or if annual funding is inadequate to cover the program's needs for the entire fiscal year. To protect the millions of Americans who rely on this essential anti-hunger program to put food on their tables, we request that the Subcommittee include language providing an appropriation of "such sums as may be necessary" for SNAP for the latter part of the fiscal year, as is done for Medicaid.

To this end, we request the inclusion of the following language to provide such sums as necessary and advance funding for SNAP:

For making, after June 30 of the current fiscal year, benefit payments to individuals, and payments to States or other non-Federal entities, pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), for unanticipated costs incurred for the last three months of the fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary: For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) for the first quarter of fiscal year 2027, such sums as may be necessary to remain available through September 30, 2027.

SNAP offers much needed support to America's most vulnerable populations, and we have a responsibility to ensure Congress can continue to support the millions of low-income families, including young children, seniors, and veterans struggling with food insecurity. We kindly urge the Subcommittee to provide "such sums" language for SNAP in FY26 and appreciate consideration of this request.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

David Scott

Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib

Member of Congress

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Eleanor Holmes Norton Member of Congress

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