January 11, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear President Trump, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to end now the partial government shutdown to ensure that American families do not lose the critical benefits they receive from federal nutrition programs.

Tens of millions of Americans rely on programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the National School Lunch Program, and others to keep food on the table. As the shutdown stretches into another week, benefits from these and other programs are increasingly at risk. A lapse in funding endangers the nutrition and food security of both children and adults, ultimately threatening their longer-term health, development, and wellbeing.

Mr. President, you have stated that the shutdown could last for “months or even years,” but American families can’t wait for even a few days more. It would be unconscionable to let Americans go hungry.

We are relying on you to act swiftly to reopen the government and ensure uninterrupted funding for SNAP, school meals, WIC, and other USDA nutrition programs which are essential to children and families across the nation.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
America’s Promise Alliance
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Child Welfare League of America
Coalition for Community Schools
Early Care and Education Consortium
Families USA
First Focus
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Healthy Schools Campaign
Institute for Educational Leadership
March of Dimes
MomsRising
National Network for Youth
National WIC Association
The Root Cause Coalition
Share Our Strength
Think Healthy Group
Trust for America’s Health
YMCA of the USA
ZERO TO THREE