

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