

STEVEN A. HORSFORD
4TH DISTRICT, NEVADA

CAUCUS LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS



WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
406 CANNON HOB
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-9894

NORTH LAS VEGAS
DISTRICT OFFICE
2250 N LAS VEGAS BLVD,
SUITE 500
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89030
PHONE: (702) 963-9360

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

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

October 30, 2025

Dear Madam Secretary,

Over the past year, grocery prices have steadily climbed. Eggs, ground beef, bread, coffee: these are just a few of the everyday staples that cost more than ever, leaving families across the country in increasingly difficult positions. As we enter the holiday season and the House Republican Conference remains on its taxpayer-funded vacation instead of working in a bipartisan manner to reopen the government, more than 42 million Americans are left wondering whether they will be able to put food on the table come November 2025 as funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is held hostage for political gain.

SNAP is the largest food assistance program in the United States and supports millions of working families, seniors, and people with disabilities. A lapse in benefits would harm one in eight Americans – and in my home state of Nevada, one in six. Such a failure would not only endanger already hungry households but would also send shockwaves through entire communities. Yet, despite having both the clear statutory authority and the available funding to provide relief, your Department has chosen to withhold these critical benefits at the direction of President Trump. I am deeply concerned by your refusal to release the congressionally appropriated funds necessary to sustain SNAP beginning November 01, 2025.

Congress created the contingency fund to ensure SNAP operations could continue during lapses in appropriations. Both the Government Accountability Office and prior shutdown contingency plans affirm that these funds are legally available to pay benefits during a lapse in appropriations. Today, roughly \$6 billion remains in the SNAP contingency fund and the Department retains clear statutory authority to transfer unobligated funds from other nutrition programs to sustain operations for as long as possible. While this may not fully cover November's benefits, the Department retains clear statutory authority to transfer unobligated funds from other nutrition programs to sustain operations .

Failure to act would contradict congressional intent and worsen food insecurity nationwide. In Nevada, for example, food banks are already reporting record demand – up 16 percent in recent months – as families turn to local pantries to fill the gap. These community organizations are already stretched thin by rising costs and reduced federal support after nearly \$200 billion in SNAP funding was cut from under H.R. 1. They cannot possibly absorb the additional burden of millions losing access to SNAP.

The inaction by the Trump-Vance Administration and the Department of Agriculture is neither justified by law nor constrained by resources. The contingency fund exists to prevent this pending crisis. You must immediately use all available authorities to release the necessary funds and ensure uninterrupted SNAP benefits for November 2025. Anything less is a failure – not only of law but of the tax-paying people we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Horsford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Horsford" clearly distinguishable.

Congressman Steven Horsford
4th District, Nevada