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PPC Action Alert

Tell Your Lawmakers to Protect SNAP Benefits.

The federal government shutdown is approaching the one-month mark.

Tomorrow, November 1, funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are expected to run out in many states.

We are reaching out with a time-sensitive advocacy opportunity for you to contact your members of Congress on the urgency of funding SNAP.

SNAP is a children's health program. In fact, SNAP helps to feed about 16 million children - making up about 40% of the program's participants. [Studies](#) show that SNAP participation reduces food insecurity [by as much as 30 percent](#) and is even more effective among children and those facing very low food security.

There are several actions that Congress and the Administration could take to keep SNAP funded. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a contingency fund with more than \$5 billion available to provide SNAP benefits in the case of emergencies and disasters, including government shutdowns. Also, Congress could pass a standalone bill to fund the program in November regardless of the government's operating status.

That's where we need your help. It is critical that lawmakers hear from academic pediatricians about why SNAP is vital to children in your state, and that benefits must be provided in November.

In addition to contacting your lawmakers, if you are hearing from **families who are looking for food assistance resources**, one resource you can point them to is [Feeding America's food bank locator](#). By inputting their ZIP code, they'll see information on nearby food banks.

Contact Your Lawmakers Today

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By Phone: You can call the **U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121** to be connected to your U.S. representative's and senators' offices. Or you can go to [House.gov](https://www.house.gov) and [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov) to find contact information. The contact information for their Washington, DC office is available on their websites.

Talking Points

- Hello. My name is {First and last name} from {City, State}. I am an academic pediatrician specializing in {insert your area of research expertise e.g., pediatric endocrinology, etc.}.
- I am calling today to urge {Senator/Representative's name} to take action to prevent the disruption of SNAP benefits for vulnerable children and families.
- SNAP is the nation's largest child nutrition program, reaching approximately 16 million children.
- Studies show that SNAP participation reduces food insecurity by as much as 30 percent and is even more effective among children and those facing very low food security.
- The program economically supports farmers, grocers, and other food retailers in communities across the US and helps children access nutritious, filling meals that play an essential role in growth and development.
- USDA has announced that SNAP benefits will not be issued for the month of November and that they will not use the existing contingency fund to provide benefits, allowing an unprecedented lapse in the program.
- Any delay or interruption would be devastating to the health and well-being of children.
- I urge {Senator/Representative's name} to take action and ensure the SNAP program is able to continue operating. It is critical that children can continue to receive SNAP benefits.

By Email: You can email your representative through their website. You can find your U.S. representative by going to [House.gov](https://www.house.gov) and using the "Find Your Representative" feature at the top right of the page. To find your U.S. senators, visit [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov) and use the "Find Your Senators" feature at the top left of the page. Email your U.S. representative and senators through the contact form on their websites.

Email text:

Subject: Take Action to Protect SNAP

As an academic pediatrician, I urge you to take action to prevent any disruption in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that SNAP benefits will not be issued for the month of November and that they will not use the existing contingency fund to provide benefits, allowing an unprecedented lapse in the program.

SNAP is a children's health program. It is the nation's largest child nutrition program, reaching over 40 million people, including approximately 16 million children. Studies show that SNAP participation reduces food insecurity by as much as 30 percent and is even more effective among children and those facing very low food security.

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retailers in our state and helps children access nutritious, filling meals that play an essential role in their growth and development. Strong nutrition is key to ensuring children can thrive.

Any delay or interruption in SNAP funding would be devastating to the health and well-being of children. I urge you to take action to ensure SNAP can continue operating. It is critical that children can continue to receive SNAP benefits.

Thank you.

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