

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 23, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Chairman  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Ranking Member  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Roberts, and Ranking Member Stabenow;

As you consider the next COVID supplemental bill, we write to urge you to include the following hot food SNAP eligibility exception in the Senate package, which was included in the HEROES Act:

“During the period beginning 10 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the termination date of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the term “food”, as defined in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 USC 2012), shall be deemed to exclude “hot foods or hot food products ready for immediate consumption other than those authorized pursuant to clauses (3), (4), (5), (7), (8), and (9) of this subsection,” for purposes of such Act, except that such exclusion is limited to retail food stores authorized to accept and redeem supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits as of the date of enactment of this Act.”

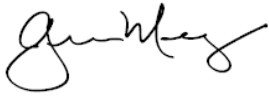
Prior to the COVID-19 public health crisis, 37 million Americans relied on SNAP benefits to buy food each month. Of the more than 37 million SNAP participants, nearly 70 percent are children, elderly, or have disabilities. The importance of this program cannot be understated: SNAP makes it possible for many of our constituents and neighbors to put food on their tables as they work toward financial stability. Unfortunately, in the midst of the crisis, over 17.8 million Americans are unemployed. No doubt, unemployment rates will continue to skyrocket.

Under normal circumstances, SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase hot food; however, allowing flexibility for the duration of the pandemic would ease the burden families face to provide nutritious foods for their families. Further, for essential employees who qualify for SNAP and are risking their lives to maintain their jobs, the ability to purchase hot food will ease the burden of having to cook full meals during this stressful time. These waivers have been requested by governors of both parties across the country.

While food supply chains have become more stable since March, we are still seeing disruptions in the canned goods, meat, cheese, and egg markets. We cannot predict the impact of the next waves of the pandemic or how those who are the hungriest among us will fare.

This is not the time to add additional burdens to those suffering; EBT benefits must meet the needs of the moment. We urge you to include hot food exceptions to SNAP into the next COVID supplemental package.

Sincerely,



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

/s/ Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

/s/ Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

/s/ Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

/s/ Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress

/s/ Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress

/s/ Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

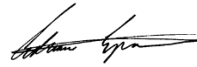
/s/ Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

/s/ C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

/s/ Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

/s/ Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

/s/ Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

/s/ Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

/s/ Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

/s/ Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

/s/ Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

/s/ Ed Case  
Member of Congress

/s/ Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

/s/ Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

/s/ Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

/s/ Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

/s/ James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

/s/ TJ Cox  
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

/s/ William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

/s/ Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

/s/ Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

/s/ David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

/s/ Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

/s/ Sanford Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jerry McNearney  
Member of Congress

/s/ Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

/s/ Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

/s/ Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

/s/ José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony Brindisi  
Member of Congress

/s/ Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress

/s/ Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

/s/ Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress

/s/ Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

/s/ Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

/s/ David Price  
Member of Congress

/s/ Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

/s/ Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

/s/ Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

/s/ David Trone  
Member of Congress

/s/ Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

/s/ Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

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

/s/ Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

/s/ Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

/s/ Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

/s/ Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress