

CITY OF COLUMBIA
SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



March 28, 2025

Dear Congressional Delegation:

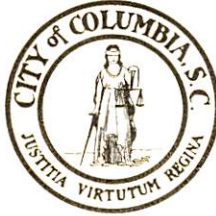
We are writing as South Carolina's members of the Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger, a nonpartisan coalition representing more than 400 mayors across all 50 states and Washington, DC, from large and medium cities to smaller communities and townships, working in partnership with Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign to ensure that every child has the healthy food they need to thrive. Our offices are on the frontline of responding to challenges in our communities, and as mayors, we need every option available to fight childhood hunger.

We urge you to protect, strengthen, and fully fund federal food and nutrition programs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and FY 2026 budget appropriations, reconciliation, and continuing resolutions. We strongly urge you to reject efforts to use federal nutrition program cuts to reduce or offset spending. It is important to review these programs and ensure tax dollars are being used responsibly; however, we encourage you to reject efforts to cut federal nutrition programs entirely to offset spending.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's first line of defense against hunger, helping more than 600,000 people in South Carolina put food on the table. In 2023, SNAP brought the state a monthly average of \$95 million. With 14% of South Carolina households experiencing food insecurity and high food prices, protecting and strengthening SNAP is more critical than ever.

In South Carolina, food insecurity and the SNAP program affect all types of communities: 1 in 5 rural and 1 in 7 small-town households, while 1 in 11 households in metro areas participate in the program.

The SNAP program helps more than 267,000 children in South Carolina and provides them with school meal eligibility. Cuts to SNAP would mean that children in families with low incomes would lose access to school meals. SNAP is also critical support for local businesses, including more than 5,000 South Carolina retailers, which redeemed over \$1.7 billion in 2023. These retailers include grocery stores and farmers' markets, contributing to local taxes that fund services like schools and health care.



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We also express our concern for the growing number of children in our country facing food insecurity and hunger if these cuts are enacted. There are increasing pressures on the cost and availability of food, including viral illnesses in animals raised for consumption, a diminished number of agricultural workers, increased food costs, and continuing global conflict. Our cities are on the frontline of responding to challenges in our communities, and as mayors, we need every option available to fight childhood hunger.

Thank you for considering our concerns and priorities. If you have any questions, please contact the Mayors Alliance's staff lead, Aaron Goldstein, at mayors@strength.org.

Best regards,



Daniel J. Rickenmann

Mayor

Mayor Robert Halfacre
Clemson, South Carolina

Mayor Casey G. Hancock
Hartsville, South Carolina