



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

GINA ORTIZ JONES
MAYOR

December 22, 2025

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott,

I am writing to respectfully ask you to reconsider your decision to line-item veto the \$60 million in funding that would have enabled Texas to participate in the federal Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program. This decision directly impacts the most vulnerable residents of my city and our state, turning away approximately \$450 million in fully federally funded nutritional assistance for Texas children.

It is not too late for Texas to commit to this program for the summer of 2026. A pledge by the end of the year from your office, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House to reimburse the Texas Health and Human Services Commission for administrative costs would allow our state to opt-in.

We proudly tout that at \$2.77 trillion, the Texas economy is eighth largest compared to the nations of the world. And yet, more than 3.75 million Texas children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch during the school year and face a heightened risk of hunger during the summer months. Your veto statement cited uncertainty regarding the future of national food benefit programs, specifically the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). However, I must respectfully echo the findings of state experts and legislators: Summer EBT is not funded through SNAP, and its federal match rates remain stable in current budget proposals.

The consequences of this decision are far-reaching:

- **Health and Development:** Food-insecure children suffer higher rates of illness, developmental delays, anxiety, and depression. As you know well, San Antonio disproportionately contributes to the pipeline of talent into military service. Therefore,

actions such as this that impact our ability to raise smart and healthy kids is in fact a national security issue in the long-term.

- **Local Economic Impact:** By rejecting this funding, Texas forfeits at least \$400 million to \$450 million in federal support intended to bolster working families and our local economies.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** While our San Antonio food banks and faith-based nonprofits work tirelessly, they cannot match the reach of public infrastructure needed to bridge this gap.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and would welcome the opportunity to work together to ensure no child in San Antonio or Texas goes hungry.

Respectfully,



Gina Ortiz Jones