November 19, 2026

Senator Michael Bennet
Senator John Hickenlooper
Representative Diana DeGette
Representative Joe Neguse
Representative Jeff Hurd
Representative Lauren Boebert
Representative Jeff Crank
Representative Jason Crow
Representative Brittany Pettersen
Representative Gabe Evans

Dear Members of Colorado's Congressional Delegation:

As county commissioners, mayors, and members of the Colorado General Assembly, we seek your partnership in protecting the food assistance Colorado families rely on. **We ask you to work with congressional leadership to enact a two-year delay of H.R. 1's benefit cost shift for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for all states before Congress adjourns this year, without further cuts to the program.** Colorado families are already losing food assistance, and our state and counties face mounting demands with fewer federal resources. With our legislative session beginning in January and counties already well into adjusting human services operations in response to H.R.1, we need action now – before we are forced to make further budget and program decisions that will deepen the harm to our communities.

Hunger is an urgent and growing crisis across Colorado. One in three Coloradans worries about affording food, and one in seven Colorado children lives in a household that struggles to afford enough food. Yet since H.R. 1's enactment, more than 40,000 Coloradans have lost SNAP, and more than one-third of them are children. During the first half of 2026, federal SNAP dollars coming into Colorado fell by approximately $8.2 million per month compared with the same period in 2025 – a 6.7 percent decline. Families are losing grocery money, and local economies are losing the spending those benefits support.

Federal decisions about SNAP shape the budget choices we face in Colorado. After two consecutive years of roughly $1 billion in devastating annual budget cuts, Colorado continues to face challenging budget decisions while preparing to assume up to $210 million annually in new SNAP benefit costs. A delay would give us time to prepare for those costs while meeting other urgent needs in the communities we serve.

This past session, our state budget included $36 million to cover nine months of increased state administrative costs resulting from the reduction in federal SNAP administrative funding that took effect this past October. Our next budget must cover a full year of those increased administrative costs, plus new benefit costs beginning in October 2027. These escalating costs do nothing to feed more people or increase benefits. They require Colorado to pay more simply to preserve existing assistance.

At the same time, H.R. 1 introduces complex eligibility and reporting requirements while reducing the federal funding available to administer them. Families face more hurdles to keep their benefits, and county workers must implement more complicated rules with fewer resources. A strong state-federal

partnership is essential to maintaining access to a program that more than 575,000 Coloradans depend on.

Colorado remains committed to improving accuracy through trained staff, reliable technology, and clear guidance. But the fiscal year used to measure the payment error rate (PER) that determines our initial benefit cost share has already ended. Improvements we make now cannot change that payment error rate or eliminate the financial obligation ahead. H.R. 1 gives certain states with the highest payment error rates additional time before the benefit cost shift begins. Colorado and other states facing the October 2027 deadline deserve the same opportunity. A uniform two-year delay would give us time to make needed technology upgrades, strengthen administration, and implement complex federal changes before assuming substantial new benefit costs.

Without that relief, the consequences will reach beyond SNAP. Absorbing this new federal obligation will intensify pressure on an already strained state budget and limit our ability to respond to growing needs across health care, education, disability services, and other essential areas. Although the cost shift begins October 1, 2027, the decisions it forces at the state legislature begin in January, when we convene to develop Colorado's fiscal year 2027–28 budget. **We cannot build a balanced budget on the possibility of congressional relief later in 2027. Securing a delay this December would allow us to make those decisions with certainty and protect the communities we jointly serve.**

We ask you to secure a two-year delay of the SNAP benefit cost shift for all states before Congress adjourns this year. A final bipartisan farm bill could carry that relief. If the farm bill does not move, we welcome your help securing the delay through an appropriations package or another year-end measure. Any agreement should protect families from further cuts to food assistance and avoid shifting additional costs to states and counties in future years.

When the General Assembly convenes in January, we will have to act on the obligations Congress leaves in place. Colorado cannot wait. Our constituents need food assistance they can rely on, and our state and counties need the resources to deliver it.

Thank you for your service and your partnership in ensuring no Coloradan goes hungry.

Respectfully and urgently,

Representative Kyle Brown (HD 12)
Representative-elect Gabriel Cervantes (HD 31)
Representative Chad Clifford (HD 37)
Representative Lorena Garcia (HD 35)
Representative Jamie Jackson (HD 41)
Representative Julie McCluskie (HD 13)
Representative Meghan Lukens (HD 26)
Representative Karen McCormick (HD 11)
Representative Gretchen Rydin (HD 38)
Representative Emily Sirota (HD 9)
Representative Lesley Smith (HD 49)
Representative Katie Stewart (HD 59)
Representative Rebekah Stewart (HD 30)

Representative Tammy Story (HD 25)
Representative Brianna Titone (HD 27)
Representative Kenny Van Nguyen (HD 33)
Representative Jenny Willford (HD 34)
Representative Steven Woodrow (HD 2)
Representative Elizabeth Velasco (HD 57)

Senator Judy Amabile (SD 18)
Senator Matt Ball (SD 31)
Senator Adrienne Benavidez (SD 21)
Senator Jeff Bridges (SD 26)
Senator James Coleman (SD 33)
Senator-elect Monica Duran (SD 22)
Senator Tony Exum (SD 11)
Senator-elect Chela Irlando Garcia (SD 34)
Senator Iman Jodeh (SD 29)
Senator Cathy Kipp (SD 14)
Senator Chris Kolker (SD 16)
Senator Kyle Mullica (SD 24)
Senator Dylan Roberts (SD 8)
Senator Marc Snyder (SD 12)
Senator Katie Wallace (SD 17)
Senator Mike Weissman (SD 28)

Commissioner Laurie Anderson (Broomfield County)
Commissioner David H. Armstrong (Chaffee County)
Commissioner Lynn Baca (Adams County)
Commissioner Troy Bishop (Baca County)
Commissioner Sarah Braun (Broomfield County)
Commissioner Anne Brown (San Miguel County)
Commissioner Todd Cohen (Broomfield County)
Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper (Jefferson County)
Commissioner Karen DeAguero (Adams County)
Commissioner Paloma Delgadillo (Broomfield County)
Commissioner Randal George (Grand County)
Commissioner Galena Gleason (San Miguel County)
Commissioner Heidi Henkel (Broomfield County)
Commissioner Kathy Henson (Adams County)
Commissioner Terry Hofmeister (Phillips County)
Commissioner Sandy Hollingsworth (Gilpin County)
Commissioner Francie Jacober (Pitkin County)
Commissioner Scott K. James (Weld County)
Commissioner Tom Jankovsky (Garfield County)
Commissioner John Kefalas (Larimer County)
Commissioner Andy Kerr (Jefferson County)
Commissioner Wendell A. Koontz (Delta County)
Commissioner Claire Levy (Boulder County)

Commissioner Jean Lim (Broomfield County)
Commissioner Merrit Linke (Grand County)
Commissioner Rebecca Lloyd (Clear Creek County)
Commissioner Gina Lucrezi (Chaffee County)
Commissioner Sonja Macys (Routt County)
Commissioner Ted Mahon (Pitkin County)
Commissioner George Marlin (Clear Creek County)
Commissioner Thomas D. McCracken (Saguache County)
Commissioner Jeanne McQueeney (Eagle County)
Commissioner Julie Duran Mullica (Adams County)
Commissioner Jake Niece (Ouray County)
Commissioner Elizabeth Philbrick (La Plata County)
Commissioner Tamara Pogue (Summit County)
Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton (La Plata County)
Commissioner Greg Poschman (Pitkin County)
Commissioner Laura Puckett Daniels (Gunnison County)
Commissioner Edward Raegner (Grand County)
Commissioner Garold Roberts (Phillips County)
Commissioner Elsa Tharp (Lake County)
Commissioner Julie Twiss (Broomfield County)
Commissioner Angelica Salinas (Routt County)
Commissioner Jim C. Santomaso (Logan County)
Commissioner Matt Scherr (Eagle County)
Skip Schoen (Rio Grande County Administrator)
Commissioner Jody Shadduck-McNally (Larimer County)
Commissioner Liz Smith (Gunnison County)
Commissioner Kristin Stephens (Larimer County)
Commissioner Darrin Tobin (Sedgwick County)
Commissioner Austin Ward (Broomfield County)
Commissioner Brandy Ward (Washington County)
Commissioner Lance Waring (San Miguel County)
Commissioner Nina Waters (Summit County)
Commissioner P.T. Wood (Chaffee County)
Commissioner Rachel Zenginger (Jefferson County)

Mayor Aaron Brockett (Boulder)
Mayor Guyleen Castriotta (Broomfield)
Mayor Steven Douglas (Commerce City)
Mayor Mike Johnston (Denver)
Mayor Chris Leh (Louisville)
Mayor Lauren Simpson (Arvada)
Mayor Wendi Strom (Lakewood)
Mayor Laura Weinberg (Golden)