

TEXAS HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

October 30, 2025

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
1100 Congress Ave
Austin, Texas 78701

Governor Abbott,

We write to you as a coalition of duly elected Members of the Texas House of Representatives requesting you immediately use the authority at your disposal to save millions of Texas families from going hungry until federal funding to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is restored.

As you are aware, the ongoing federal government shutdown has forced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to suspend all SNAP benefits beginning November 1st. This action will immediately strip food assistance from 3.5 million Texans, including 1.7 million children, and remove more than \$617 million in monthly food purchasing power from our state's economy. In fact, for every \$1 spent with SNAP benefits, the Texas economy gets \$1.54 back. This is a vital source of revenue for our small retailers and grocers across the state.

Families who rely on SNAP to feed their children and seniors who depend on it for groceries will have nowhere to turn. Our regional food banks do incredible and critical work, but they have nowhere near the infrastructure nor funding to replace the federal government's food assistance programs.

The USDA has stated plainly that "the well has run dry," and that states may not continue issuing SNAP benefits with the expectation of eventual federal reimbursement. However, states do have the power to take temporary emergency measures, using state funds to prevent hunger and stabilize families while Congress resolves the federal impasse. Governors in Louisiana and Virginia have already taken decisive action to protect their residents during this period of uncertainty. Texas should do the same.

We know there have been reports that USDA is unwilling to provide the infrastructure support to distribute SNAP dollars in states choosing to cover the cost themselves during this time of uncertainty. If this is the case, we urge President Trump to not allow his appointed leaders at USDA to let millions of children go hungry.

We therefore respectfully request that you declare a state of emergency and authorize the temporary use of state funds to maintain SNAP benefits for Texas households until the federal government resumes normal operations.

Texas has long been a leader among states. We also have the advantage of a prosperous economy and robust emergency savings. With the political gridlock in Washington, D.C., this crisis calls for swift, compassionate leadership worthy of our state's values and strength.

Texas families are counting on us. We urge you to act now.

Sincerely,



Rep. Gene Wu
House District 137
Chair, Texas HDC



Rep. Armando Walle
House District 140
Co-Chair, HDC Committee on the Texas Hunger Crisis



Rep. Toni Rose
House District 110
Co-Chair, HDC Committee on the Texas Hunger Crisis



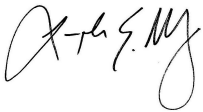
Rep. Mihaela Plesa
House District 70
Vice Chair, Texas HDC



Rep. Ron Reynolds
House District 27
Second Vice Chair, Texas HDC



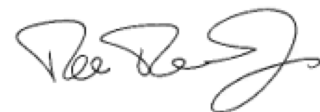
Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins
House District 120
Chair, Texas Legislative Black Caucus



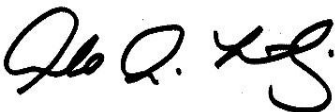
Rep. Joe Moody
House District 78
Speaker Pro Tempore



Rep. Donna Howard
House District 48
Chair, Texas Women's Health Caucus



Rep. Ramon Romero Jr.
House District 90
Chair, Texas Mexican American Legislative Caucus



Rep. Mando Martinez
House District 39



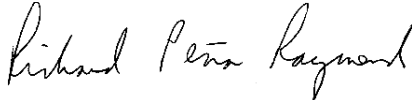
Rep. Rafael Anchia
House District 103



Rep. Ana-María Rodríguez Ramos
House District 102
Chair, Texas Legislative Progressive Caucus



Rep. Sheryl Cole
House District 46



Rep. Richard Peña Raymond
House District 42



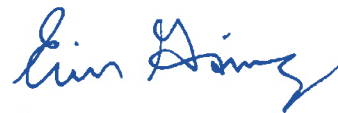
Rep. Diego Bernal
House District 123



Rep. Terry Canales
House District 40



Rep. Aicha Davis
House District 109



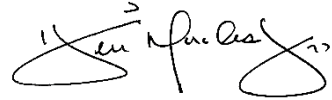
Rep. Erin Gámez
House District 38



Rep. Claudia Ordaz
House District 79



Rep. Cassandra Garcia Hernandez
House District 115



Rep. Eddie Morales Jr.
House District 74



Rep. Terry Meza
House District 105



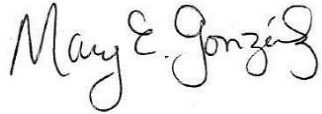
Rep. Rhetta Bowers
House District 113



Rep. Lulu Flores
House District 51



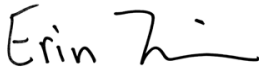
Rep. Jon Rosenthal
House District 135



Rep. Mary González
House District 75



Rep. Chris Turner
House District 101



Rep. Erin Ziener
House District 45



Rep. John Bucy III
House District 136



Rep. Venton Jones
House District 100



Rep. Salman Bhojani
House District 92



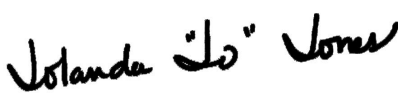
Rep. Alma Allen
House District 131



Rep. Senfronia Thompson
House District 141



Rep. Ana Hernandez
House District 143



Rep. Jolanda Jones
House District 147



Rep. Christina Morales
House District 145



Rep. Liz Campos
House District 119



Rep. Sergio Munoz Jr.
House District 36



Rep. Penny Morales Shaw
House District 148



Rep. Ann Johnson
House District 134



Rep. Jessica González
House District 104



Rep. Charlene Ward Johnson
House District 139



Rep. Suleman Lalani
House District 76



Rep. Vincent Perez
House District 77



Rep. James Talarico
House District 50



Rep. Linda Garcia
House District 107



Rep. Bobby Guerra
House District 41



Rep. Mary Ann Perez
House District 144



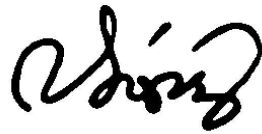
Rep. Nicole Collier
House District 95



Rep. Phillip Cortez
House District 117



Rep. Christian Manuel
House District 22



Rep. Ray Lopez
House District 125



Rep. Vikki Goodwin
House District 47



Rep. Hubert Vo
House District 149



Rep. Oscar Longoria
House District 35



Rep. Lauren Ashley Simmons
House District 146



Rep. Josey Garcia
House District 124