

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 23, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell:

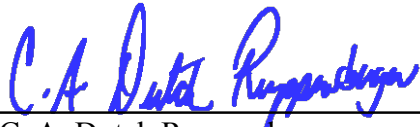
Ahead of the September 30th deadline to sustain federal funding, we urge you to take action in the forthcoming Continuing Resolution to extend the provision included in the bipartisan Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (CAA), which ensures the replacement of stolen Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card benefits with federal funds. This extension will continue to protect the over 41 million law-abiding individuals who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) from being victimized by SNAP benefit theft. We must do more to ensure those who are struggling to put food on the table for themselves and their families are not denied access to these critical funds that are being stolen at record levels through no fault of their own.

While Congress, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and state agencies continue to work to prevent future theft as mandated by the CAA by issuing regulations to permanently strengthen EBT card security, theft of SNAP benefits has grown to become a pervasive crime throughout the country. To date, all 50 states and territories that participate in SNAP have developed implementation plans and have reported instances of SNAP benefit theft related to skimming. The reimbursement authority granted by the bipartisan CAA has resulted in over 125,000 SNAP households having their benefits replaced and being made whole since October 2022 alone, excluding some of the hardest-hit states who have not reported the full impact to FNS. Unfortunately, this critical provision is set to expire on September 30th, and the law-abiding households—who have done absolutely nothing wrong but try to feed their families—will once again be left without their SNAP funds and unable to provide for their families.

The issue is clear: federal SNAP beneficiaries around the country continue to be targeted and benefits are being stolen at record levels. This vital extension will continue to protect victims of SNAP benefit theft—including veterans, families, low-income workers, children, the elderly and the disabled—while Congress continues to work with state agencies, FNS and EBT vendors to improve card security and modernize the SNAP's EBT system. We strongly urge Congress to take immediate action in the upcoming short-term Continuing Resolution to make whole the victims of SNAP benefit theft by extending the 2023 omnibus provision that provides for the replacement of stolen EBT benefits.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



C. A. Dutch Ruppensberger
Member of Congress



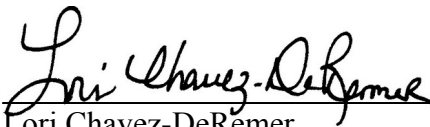
Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Marcus J. Molinaro
Member of Congress



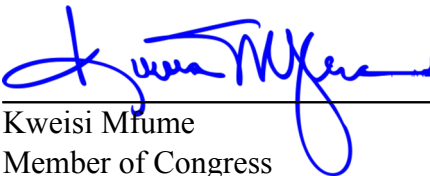
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Member of Congress



Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



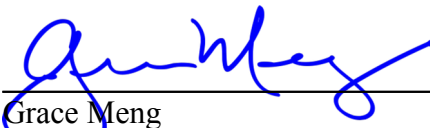
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Agriculture
United States Senate
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The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture
United States Senate
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