

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2025

The Honorable Brian Kemp  
Governor, State of Georgia  
206 Washington Street  
Suite 203, State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Governor Kemp,

We write to follow up on our letter sent to your office on August 8th, 2024, requesting that you commit to participating in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Summer EBT program in 2025 and provide more information about your decision not to participate in the program last year.

We again ask that you take the appropriate steps to submit a Final Plan for Operation and Management (POM) to USDA by February 15, 2025, and that you engage with the Department on any available flexibilities that may be necessary to ensure that families in Georgia can participate this summer.

We share your commitment to ensuring that every child in Georgia is kept safe and healthy. Participating in Summer EBT is a simple, commonsense step that will ensure every child in our state, regardless of where they live or how much money their parents make, has access to the basic necessity of food when they are not in school.

As mentioned in our previous letter, Summer EBT would provide the poorest children and families in our state with a \$40 benefit per eligible child per month, totaling \$120 dollars for the summer when school is out. Of the roughly 2.8 million children who call Georgia home, over 40% of them are eligible for this benefit but cannot participate due to your continued decision to opt out of the program<sup>1</sup>.

To our understanding, your office did not submit an Interim Plan for Operations and Management (iPOM) by August 15th of last year nor the appropriate Notice of Intent (NOI) to participate by January 1st of 2025. Additionally, your office has yet to officially respond to either our request to participate in Summer EBT this year or to provide Georgians with more information on how you came to the decision to not participate, despite the overwhelming need in our state.

This past summer, children in Georgia again went without consistent access to summer meal programs<sup>2</sup>. The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning's summer meal program website opens with a banner that reads, "Too Many of Georgia's Kids Go Hungry."<sup>3</sup> Participating in Summer EBT will help change that.

We look forward to your response.

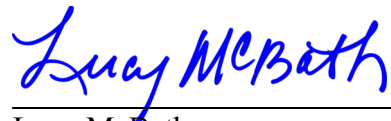
Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> [https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/Summer-EBT-State-Fact-Sheets\\_GA.pdf](https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/Summer-EBT-State-Fact-Sheets_GA.pdf)

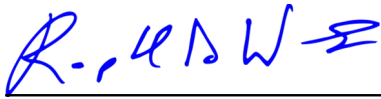
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/politics/2024/12/23/georgia-food-insecurity-among-children/77073490007/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://happyhelpingsga.com/>



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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



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Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



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Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



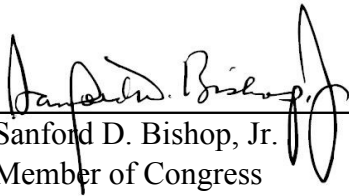
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



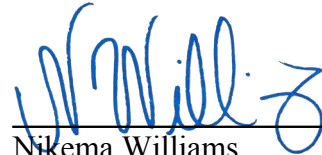
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David Scott  
Member of Congress



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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress