

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 8, 2024

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

Governor Kemp,

We write to you requesting more information about your decision to opt out of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Summer EBT program, also known as SUN Bucks, and encourage you to commit Georgia to participating in Summer of 2025 before the upcoming USDA deadline on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. As of the writing of this letter, your office has yet to make clear whether the State will participate next year. As you know, Summer EBT provides low-income families with school-aged children a \$40 benefit per eligible child per month, totaling a combined \$120 dollars for the summer when school is out of session. There are almost 1.2 million low-income children in Georgia who are automatically eligible for this benefit but cannot participate due to your decision to opt out of the program<sup>1</sup>.

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning claims that children did not have access to a Happy Helpings summer meal site in 59 of our 159 counties last year<sup>2</sup>, and some counties continue to have no summer meal sites at all<sup>3</sup>. Unfortunately, current summer meal programs are not sufficient, and the needs of families in Georgia are not being met.

We hope that you consider submitting Georgia's Interim Plan for Operations and Management (iPOM) no later than Aug. 15, 2024, and the appropriate Notice of Intent (NOI) to participate no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, to USDA for consideration and approval. While it will still be possible for Georgia to participate in Summer EBT if these deadlines are missed, it is recommended that states submit all appropriate materials as soon as possible to ensure that the program is run smoothly.

We share your commitment to ensuring that every child in Georgia has ready access to food throughout the year. Committing to participate in Summer EBT in 2025 is a simple, commonsense step that will ensure that every child in our state, regardless of where they live, has access to food when they need it most. States that refuse to participate in Summer EBT for unsubstantiated reasons are needlessly putting children in jeopardy during the summer months. We look forward to a response to this letter as soon as possible. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this matter.

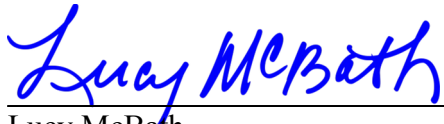
Sincerely,

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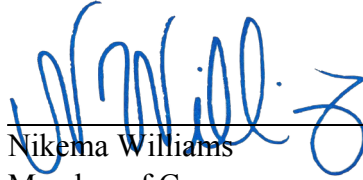
<sup>1</sup> [https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/Summer-EBT-State-Fact-Sheets\\_GA.pdf](https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/Summer-EBT-State-Fact-Sheets_GA.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/CACFPNewsletterFeb2024.pdf>

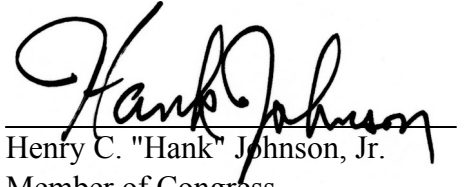
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summer/sitefinder>



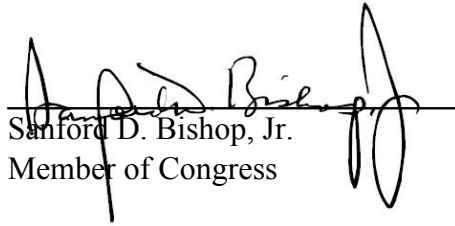
Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



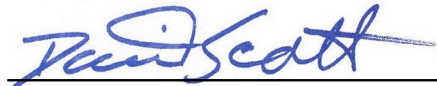
Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



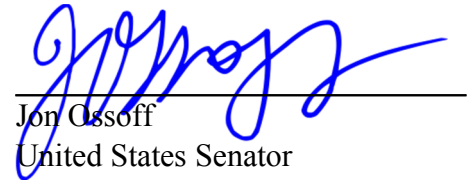
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator