

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2025

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

Governor Kemp,

We write to you again to request your commitment to Georgia's participation in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Summer EBT program.

This month marks the end of the second consecutive year that you have refused to participate in USDA's Summer EBT program despite the overwhelming rates of hunger and food insecurity across our state. Additionally, your office never responded to either of our letters requesting that Georgia participate in Summer EBT in 2025 nor did your office provide families in our state with more information on how you came to the decision to not participate.

As mentioned in previous letters, Summer EBT would provide the poorest children and families with a \$40 benefit per eligible child per month, totaling \$120 dollars for the summer. Of the roughly 2.8 million children in Georgia, over 40% of them are eligible for this benefit but are prevented from participating due to your continued decision to not participate in the program¹.

Committing to participate in Summer EBT is a basic step to ensuring that 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.

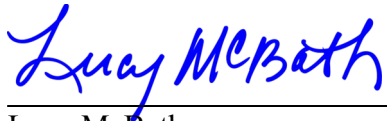
Children in Georgia again went without consistent access to food this summer. A May 2025 newsletter from Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning stated that only 103 of Georgia's 159 counties had a Summer Food Service Program meal site in 2024 and identified 56 counties without a meal site². Participating in Summer EBT will help bridge that gap and ensure that families have an effective resource to rely on while the state continues to make progress on its self-stated goal to expand meal sites to every county².

This matter takes on another level of importance given the impending cuts to Medicaid and SNAP as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Because of these cuts, children will lose access to free and reduced priced school meals³. Families in Georgia also needlessly face increased food insecurity during the summertime due to your refusal to participate in Summer EBT.

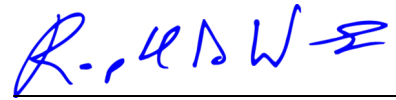
We again ask that you commit to participating in the summer of 2026 and submit Georgia's Interim Plan for Operations and Management (iPOM) no later than August 15, 2025, and the appropriate Notice of Intent (NOI) to participate no later than January 1, 2026, to USDA for consideration and approval. We encourage you to engage in good faith on this issue and submit all appropriate materials as soon as possible.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



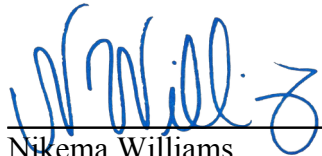
Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



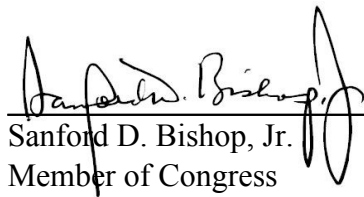
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

¹ https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/Summer-EBT-State-Fact-Sheets_GA.pdf

² <https://www.dec.state.ga.us/documents/attachments/HHNewsletterMay2025.pdf>

³ <https://schoolnutrition.org/sna-news/congress-passes-trumps-mega-bill-that-harms-school-meal-programs/>