

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0910

October 23, 2025

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Ben Albritten  
President of the Florida Senate  
409 The Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Daniel Perez  
Speaker of the Florida House  
420 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Governor DeSantis, President Albritten, and Speaker Perez:

President Trump and Congressional Republicans' refusal to make a bipartisan agreement that reopens the government, lowers health care costs, and saves America's health care should not cause Floridians to go without food. I am calling on the Trump Administration to continue to provide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits during the government shutdown. But our residents deserve a plan in the case that President Trump lacks the willingness to deliver. I urge you to immediately convene a special session to enact legislation that will fund SNAP for Florida families.

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) recently stated that, "If the federal government shutdown continues into November, SNAP benefits for November will not be issued until the federal funding is restored."<sup>1</sup> This is unacceptable. Come November 1st, or in nine days, almost three million Floridians could suddenly be without vital food assistance. This number includes over a million children, over 700,000 seniors, and over a quarter-million Floridians with disabilities.<sup>2</sup>

Floridians are already dealing with worsening unemployment<sup>3</sup> and soaring grocery prices.<sup>4</sup> Food banks in Central Florida have already been reporting a record number of neighbors in need and strained resources.

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<sup>1</sup> "Government Shutdown Could Affect Millions of Floridians' SNAP Benefits," *NBC 6 South Florida*, October 22, 2025, <https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/government-shutdown-could-affect-millions-of-floridians-snap-benefits/3710345/>.

<sup>2</sup> Mia Monkovic and Ben Ward, "Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2023," United States Department of Agriculture, April, 2025, <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/snap-FY23-Characteristics-Report.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> "Florida Unemployment Update," United States Congress Joint Economic Committee, accessed October 23, 2025, <https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/republicans/fl/>.

<sup>4</sup> Najahe Sherman, "Grocery Prices Soar, Leaving South Florida Shoppers Searching for Ways to Stretch Every Dollar," *CBS News*, October 16, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/miami/news/grocery-prices-soar-leaving-south-florida-shoppers-searching-for-ways-to-stretch-every-dollar/>.

For the millions of Floridians who rely on SNAP, the Republican government shutdown makes worse the result of President Trump's so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill," which will cut off an estimated 180,000 Floridians from SNAP because expanded, irrational, and cruel new work requirements now include people over 60, young people leaving foster care, and veterans. Because of Florida's high error rate, come 2027, Florida will have to find an estimated \$340 million to fund the state's cost share of SNAP under the new law as well.<sup>5</sup>

While DCF's above-quoted statement assumes the possibility of the Federal Government opening before November 1st, President Trump already holds the record for presiding over the longest government shutdown ever during his first term, so our state must be prepared for any outcome. While I have continued to come to Washington D.C. every week, Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson continues to cancel voting days and refuses to call members back to work.

With the Republican Congress and Republican President sentencing the nearly 42 million Americans in need of SNAP to food insecurity, it is necessary that Florida's state government does not second this indifference to the suffering and slow violence of that food insecurity.

Please respond to this letter, not in writing, but in action, by holding a special session and funding SNAP for Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maxwell Alejandro Frost". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress

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<sup>5</sup> "Florida Faces \$340 Million SNAP Bill as Work Requirements Expand, Payment Errors Remain High Under New Federal Law," *CBS Miami*, October 10, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/miami/news/florida-could-face-food-stamp-tab-trump-one-big-beautiful-bill-act-snap/>.