

January 28, 2019

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. President, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

The undersigned superintendents of public school districts across America urge you to pass and sign the House-passed appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (H.R. 265) to ensure that more than 30 million children from low-income families continue to receive free or reduced-price meals at school.

Schools across America provide nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snacks to millions of children who need access to free or reduced-price meals so they can enter the classroom ready to learn. According to data from the Trump Administration, more than 30 million children receive free or reduced-price lunch and over 15 million children receive breakfast every day through the federal National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. In addition, the Summer Food Service Program provides meals to nearly 3 million low-income children when they are out of school for the summer. In Fiscal Year 2019, the Department of Agriculture projects these programs will serve nearly 8 billion breakfasts, lunches, snacks, and suppers to children from low-income families.

Unfortunately, the Child Nutrition Programs are not receiving funding due to the government shutdown, bringing uncertainty to school districts and the families and children who depend on these programs. We urge you to end this political food fight by passing and signing the House-passed appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (H.R. 265).

Sincerely,