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The State Senate

October 27, 2025

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

Dear Governor Kemp:

As the impacts of the Trump shutdown are becoming clearer, I am writing to urgently request that you declare a state of emergency in response to the ongoing federal government shutdown and its severe impact on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Georgia Department of Human Services has warned that SNAP benefits will cease starting November 1, 2025, if the shutdown continues, affecting nearly 1.4 million Georgians—including children, seniors, and working families—who depend on this program for basic food security. This crisis risks plunging many of our constituents into immediate food insecurity.

With Georgia's substantial surplus of approximately \$14.6 billion, we have the resources at hand to provide temporary relief. Declaring a state of emergency would empower your administration to allocate these funds swiftly, ensuring continuity of food assistance for SNAP recipients until federal operations resume.

Precedents in states like Virginia and Louisiana, where their Governors have taken similar action for SNAP, demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach in protecting vulnerable populations during federal disruptions. By addressing the needs of SNAP recipients, we can safeguard the health and well-being of our most vulnerable Georgia families including 640,000 children.

I have heard directly from constituents facing this crisis, and I believe this declaration aligns with our shared commitment to supporting Georgians in times of need. Food is not optional. It is our moral obligation to see to it that hardworking Georgia families do not go hungry. I stand ready to collaborate with your office and urge prompt action to avert unnecessary hardship for Georgia families. Please keep me informed of your decision and any steps forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nabilah Islam Parkes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nabilah" being the most prominent.

Nabilah Islam Parkes
Georgia State Senator, District 7