



MISSOURI SENATE

DOUG BECK

DISTRICT 1

October 30, 2025

The Honorable Mike Kehoe
Missouri State Capitol, Rm. 216
Jefferson City, MO

Governor Kehoe,

I appreciate your recent comments on the hardships facing the hundreds of thousands of Missourians who will go hungry during the federal government shutdown. As you are aware, on November 1, President Trump will be the first president in the history of the United States who has stopped funding food assistance during a government shutdown.

Meanwhile, the average amount of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits issued in Missouri each month is more than \$131.5 million. That is why I found your press release yesterday 'announcing' less than \$16 million in funding already appropriated by the Legislature to fall short of what is needed to help the more than half a million Missourians – including rural families, children, those with disabilities, low-wage workers, and the elderly – who face real hunger in the coming weeks.

To truly ensure that these Missouri families do not go hungry, I urge you to formally call on **the Trump Administration to use its funds transfer authority — the same legal authority it is already using to provide additional funds to the Women Infants and Children program — to supplement the SNAP contingency reserves**

During the 2018-2019 shutdown (*in President Trump's first term*), his administration repeatedly stated that contingency funds could be used for SNAP benefits during a shutdown. And, although it has since been erased from its website, the USDA posted a plan *earlier this year* stating that:

"Congressional intent is evident that SNAP's operations should continue" in the case of a shutdown.

As you can see, the President could take action to provide relief to Missourians and all Americans. He simply needs to be shown the way, and I believe you are the person to lead him to it.

Your unflinching loyalty to the President has been well established. When the President ordered you to activate the Missouri National Guard at the end of September, you immediately did so, even though it meant those men and women would serve without pay. When the President ordered you to gerrymander Missouri's congressional maps, you acquiesced immediately, even though it meant passing a map with a blatant error that places more than 870 Kansas City residents in two districts. When the President implemented tariffs that eliminated Missouri's #1 customer of its #1 cash crop and then proposed devastating Missouri's cattle farmers by manipulating the free market by flooding it with substandard Argentinian beef, your loyal silence spoke volumes. And when the President gave Alaska (*population 740,133*) \$25 million in storm relief while only providing Missouri (*population 6,245,466*) \$2.5 million, you dutifully went to social media to give the President 100% of your gratitude for this 10% worth of support.

Every time the President has asked *you* for something, you have provided it without question. Now, **it is time for you to ask *the President* for something.**

If there is anything I or my colleagues in the Missouri State Senate can do to help you in these efforts, please let us know. In the meantime, we will continue to urge members of Congress to reverse the Republicans' healthcare cuts, extend the ACA, and release the Epstein Files, so that the government can reopen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Beck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Senator Doug Beck, Senate District 1
Missouri Senate Democratic Leader