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October 27, 2025

Honorable Nick Langworthy
Kenneth B. Keating Federal Building
100 State Street, Room 4195
Rochester, NY 14614

Dear Congressman Langworthy,

On behalf of Steuben County, we are writing to urge you to work toward an immediate bipartisan agreement that ensures continued federal funding for essential nutrition and home energy assistance programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

Counties in New York are on the front lines of delivering these programs to our residents. SNAP and HEAP are lifelines for millions of New Yorkers, supporting families, seniors, and individuals in meeting their most basic needs: food and heat. Any disruption in these programs would have an immediate and devastating effect on our communities, especially as colder weather approaches.

We are deeply concerned that, without congressional action, low-income New Yorkers will see their SNAP benefits cut off on November 1st, and the opening of HEAP could be delayed. These potential interruptions would come at a time when many households are already struggling with rising costs for food, utilities, and housing.

Neither New York State nor its counties have the financial capacity to pay for these programs if federal funding lapses. Counties are already operating under strict fiscal constraints and are responsible for administering these federally funded programs at the local level. This gap in federal support will create confusion, hardship, and administrative chaos across our human services systems.

Moreover, a disruption in SNAP and HEAP benefits would not only harm the millions of New Yorkers who rely on them but would also reverberate throughout our local economies. These benefits are spent directly in our neighborhood grocery stores, farmers' markets, and small businesses—supporting local jobs and generating economic activity. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), every dollar in SNAP benefits generates more than a dollar and a half in economic impact. When these programs are interrupted, that spending disappears, weakening our economy and straining our businesses and service providers. In Steuben County alone we are facing \$2.2 million per month in lost benefits and associated revenue from grocery stores/markets.

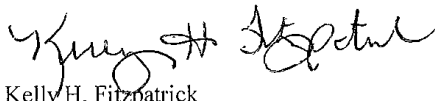
*Steuben County Office Building, 3 East Pulteney Square, Bath, New York 14810-1557
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We respectfully urge you to take immediate action to reach an agreement that maintains federal funding for SNAP and HEAP and prevents service disruptions for millions of New Yorkers.

We also urge USDA to use all available flexibility and contingency funds to sustain SNAP benefits until federal funding is restored, ensuring families do not experience an interruption in this critical support.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your continued partnership with New York's counties in serving our residents.

Respectfully,



Kelly H. Fitzpatrick
Chair, Steuben County Legislature

Cc: Governor Kathy Hochul, Assemblyman Joe Sempolinski, Assemblyman Philip Palmesano, Senator Thomas O'Mara

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