

How to Use this Template Letter

This template letter is designed to make it easy for advocates to weigh in at a critical moment for children and families in South Carolina. When many people send clear, consistent messages to the Governor and state legislators, it reinforces the urgency of opting into SUN Bucks and shows broad, statewide support for the program. This letter balances a unified policy case with space for individual voices, helping decision-makers understand both the scale and the real-world impact on constituents. Thank you for making your voices heard!

How to Send this Template Letter Online

Step 1: Copy the Template

- Click on the “Template Letter” tab and copy the full text into a Word document or Google Doc.
- Do not change the core policy language unless instructed. Consistency helps reinforce a unified message to the Governor’s office and state legislators.

Step 2: Insert a Personal Story (Optional)

- The section marked **{INSERT PERSONAL STORY/TEXT}** is where you can add your individual voice. Including a personal story is optional.
- If you choose not to add one, simply remove the **{INSERT PERSONAL STORY/TEXT}** placeholder before sending the letter.

If you do add a story, aim for **3–5 sentences** that address one or more of the following:

- How you have seen children or families struggle with food access during the summer
- Why this issue matter to you personally or professionally
- How SUN Bucks would make a difference in your community

Guidelines for personal stories:

- Use plain language; statistics are not necessary
- Avoid criticizing state leadership or past decisions
- Focus on impact and solutions, not blame

Step 3: Personalize the Closing

At the end of the letter:

- Replace **[Your Name]** with your full name.
- Add your organization or role if relevant (optional but encouraged).
- Include your city or county to show you are a constituent.

Step 4: Send the Letter

Sending to the Governor

1. Visit the Governor's [website](#).
2. Under **Constituent Services**, select **Contact the Governor or Lt. Governor**.
3. Enter your information and click **Next**.
4. Under **Topic**, select **Health**; then select **Governor** under **Whom to Contact**.
5. Paste your letter into the final message box and click **Next** to submit.

Sending to Your State Legislators

1. Use the [legislator lookup tool](#) to find your elected officials.
2. Select your South Carolina State Senator and State Representative to access their websites.
3. On each site, select **Send Message to...**
4. Enter the required information.
5. Paste your letter into the **Message** box and click **Send**.

Template Letter

Dear **Governor McMaster / Senator / Representative {SELECT ONE}**,

I am writing today as a constituent who believes South Carolina should be participating in the SUN Bucks program, which works alongside existing summer meal programs to help families access food when school is out, because it's a critical investment in our children. Nearly one in six children in South Carolina lives in a food-insecure household. During the school year, many of these kids get the nutrition they need to grow and thrive through free or reduced-price school meals. But when summer arrives, that support disappears, leaving families to stretch already thin budgets. That means for too many, summer becomes the hungriest time of the year.

{INSERT PERSONAL STORY/TEXT}

SUN Bucks offers a proven, effective solution that could reach over 633,000 children across South Carolina. The program provides \$120 in grocery assistance per eligible child during the summer, helping families bridge the gap when school meals are unavailable. By opting into SUN Bucks, South Carolina can ensure more children have consistent access to nutritious food year round.

Families are struggling. Nationally, over the past year, [more than one in four families experienced a job loss, four in ten parents reported worsened finances, and more than a third worried about running out of food this summer](#). Rising food prices make it even harder for families to put enough on the table. SUN Bucks helps ease that burden.

Without SUN Bucks, South Carolina is leaving approximately \$76 million in fully federally funded nutrition assistance on the table each year. Over the course of a year, that adds up to as much as \$131 million in lost economic impact. These dollars could provide critical support to children who lose access to school meals during the summer – at no cost to the state for the benefits themselves. These dollars support local agriculture, food retailers, manufacturers, and small businesses, stimulating economic activity and supporting jobs in every corner of the state.

As **{Governor/ State Senator / State Representative}**, you have the opportunity to ensure that South Carolina's children do not face unnecessary hardship simply because school is out of session. By opting into SUN Bucks, our state can take a practical, fiscally responsible step to support families, strengthen local economies, and keep children healthy and ready to learn when they return to the classroom.

I respectfully urge you to ensure South Carolina participates in the SUN Bucks program so that no child goes hungry during the summer months. Thank you for your leadership and for your consideration of this critical investment in the future of our state.

Sincerely,

Printable version for in-person delivery

Dear State Legislator,

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As a leader in South Carolina, you have the opportunity to ensure that our children do not face unnecessary hardship simply because school is out of session. By opting into SUN Bucks, our state can take a practical, fiscally responsible step to support families, strengthen local economies, and keep children healthy and ready to learn when they return to the classroom.

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