

TAKE ACTION! Trump & Secretary Rollins Are Cutting Off Food Assistance for 42 Million Poorest Americans

**This may be a real email of a senior Trump admin official in charge of SNAP.
Patrick.Penn@USDA.gov**

Today! 10/23 The Coalition on Human Needs is hosting a 1:00 pm ET webinar today: [The Shutdown: Update on What's Happening and How to Protect Basic Needs](#)

Wed, 10/29 8pm: People's Action Institute: Stronger Together: Fight Government Shutdown, Save Healthcare

<https://www.mobilize.us/peoplesactioninstitute/event/862737/>

We will also talk about how to take action to save SNAP!

BACKGROUND:

Increasing hunger is a policy choice. The Big Ugly Bill already imposed the largest SNAP cut in the program's history, and now, with the shutdown, millions more are at risk of losing access to the nutrition program when funding is depleted in two weeks.

In a ploy to get Democrats to bend to their will, President Trump and USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins have decided to shamefully withhold funding for the food assistance that roughly 42 million of America's poorest people, including hungry children, receive enough food to eat.

Rollins is saying that the US Department of Agriculture-run program called SNAP (AKA food stamps) will run out of money for November due to the government shutdown. In reality, she and Trump are refusing to fund the program to play political games. Nearly two-thirds of the funds needed are available in SNAP's contingency fund and must be used when regular funding for SNAP runs short. The Administration must release those funds immediately, as SNAP law requires, to ensure that families can put food on the table next month. Rollins can find the rest of the money in other accounts at the well-funded U.S.D.A., similarly to how Trump found money to pay the troops.

About 1 in 8 people in the U.S. will go without the food assistance they need, including about 16 million children, 8 million older adults, and 4 million people with disabilities.

States are already reporting that there is no SNAP money for November. In addition to harming vulnerable people who need food, these cuts will harm grocery stores where people shop as people seek food at food pantries.

Resources/Backgrounders

- FRAC: [Political Will and Administrative Priorities](#)
- CBPP: [The Trump Administration Can and Should Take Available Steps to Ensure SNAP Participants Get November Food Benefits](#)

We need people to pressure Republican Members of Congress and Republican Governors to call Trump and Secretary Rollins and tell them to fund SNAP!

TARGETS: All Republican Governors are targets. All Republican Members of Congress are targets and members facing close reelection and members of the Agriculture committees are particular targets. Senate members are [available here](#). [House members are listed here](#).

- Sample petition language to Congress is [available here](#).
- Sample petition language to Republican Governors is [available here](#).

Emails are Good but phone calls are best!

SAMPLE CALL SCRIPT:

Hi,

My name is [NAME] and I live in [TOWN/CITY]. I am horrified that President Trump and Secretary Rollins are refusing to fund SNAP. Nearly two-thirds of the funds needed for the November SNAP accounts are available in SNAP's contingency fund that must be used when regular funding for SNAP runs short. The Administration must release those funds immediately as SNAP law requires in order to ensure that families can put food on the table next month. Secretary Rollins must find the rest of the money in other accounts at the well-funded U.S.D.A. If they can pay the troops, they can fund SNAP!

[Add any personal experience with hunger or food stamps]

I urge the [CONGRESSPERSON/SENATOR/GOVERNOR] to publicly call on Secretary Rollins and President Trump to fund SNAP!

Communications!

OPEDS & LTEs are needed!

Post on social!

SPOKESPEOPLE: If you have members who use SNAP and are willing to talk to national press, please contact Unai Montes-Irueste at u.montes-irueste@peoplesaction.org.