

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2025

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

The Honorable James Uthmeier
Attorney General of Florida
The Capitol
400 S Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis and Attorney General Uthmeier,

As members of Florida’s congressional delegation, we urge you to join the lawsuit *Commonwealth of Massachusetts et al. v. U.S. Department of Agriculture et al.*, now before the U.S. District Court in Massachusetts. The case challenges the Trump Administration’s refusal to release \$6 billion in contingency funds available to sustain the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) during the ongoing shutdown.

Without swift action, approximately three million Floridians could lose food assistance when SNAP benefits lapse on November 1, 2025. Congress has explicitly provided contingency funds to prevent this type of outcome.

The Trump Administration’s [claim](#) that these contingency funds “are not legally available to cover regular benefits” contradicts federal law, long-standing precedent, and USDA’s own September 30, 2025, [Lapse of Funding Plan](#). Every prior administration—Republican and Democratic—has used contingency funds to keep SNAP running during funding lapses. The Trump Administration also has the authority to transfer funds, as it did for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

The lawsuit asks the court to bar USDA from imposing penalties, withholding funds, or initiating noncompliance actions against states that use their own resources to keep SNAP operating during the government shutdown. It further seeks to require USDA to reimburse those states for the costs they incur while administering the program, consistent with federal law.

The impact of a suspension of benefits would be immediate and severe, forcing Florida’s children, seniors, Veterans, and working families to turn to already-strained food banks and local charities for help. Florida’s most vulnerable residents should not pay the price for the Trump Administration’s refusal to use funds Congress has already made available.

We urge you to put Florida's interests first by joining *Commonwealth of Massachusetts et al. v. U.S. Department of Agriculture et al.* and demanding that USDA release the funds needed to keep food assistance flowing to those who depend on it.

Sincerely,



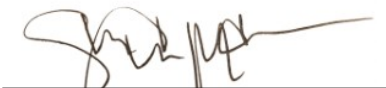
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



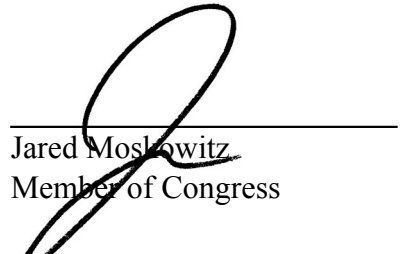
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress