



June 1, 2026

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition  
and Forestry  
United States Senate  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition and Forestry  
United States Senate  
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar,

On behalf of undersigned organizations, representing the nation's school superintendents, school business officials and rural educators, we are reaching out to share our priorities for the 2026 Farm Bill as the Committee continues deliberation. As organizations that represent the priorities of education leaders, we have two specific requests that pertain to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a critical component of the federal nutrition programs that ensure children are nourished and ready to learn, and the Secure Rural Schools Program (SRS), which provides foundational financial support to many rural school districts.

We are deeply concerned by the \$187 billion cut to SNAP that Congress passed as part of the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (OBBBA) and the impact it will have on students and schools. As the largest federal nutrition assistance program, SNAP helps roughly 22.4 million families ensure that their children arrive at school ready to learn. While the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program are important programs to ensure students get the meals they need to learn and grow, SNAP is an essential program to address childhood hunger outside of school. Last fall, superintendents were confronted with this reality when the longest government shutdown in history jeopardized the continuity of SNAP benefits for students. School districts quickly pivoted to host food pantries and direct families to other community resources, but nothing could make up for the critical support of SNAP.

In addition to direct support for students and families, schools also rely on SNAP enrollment for direct certification – which allows schools to automatically enroll eligible children in school meal programs and in some instances, allows schools to provide healthy school meals for all students through the Community Eligibility Provision. A decline in SNAP enrollment and therefore, direct certification, will result in more paperwork for schools and families and less meals for kids. In some states, lower direct certification could even impact state education funding allocations.

According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, SNAP enrollment has already decreased by 2.5 million people since the July 2025 enactment of OBBBA. As the cost shifts to states begin to take effect, states will face no good options as they either cut funding from other critical investments or make cuts to their existing SNAP program, further limiting eligibility. In the worst-case scenarios, states may pull the funding directly from their K-12 budgets or completely withdraw from SNAP, terminating the program for everyone eligible in the state.

We recognize that a full repeal of OBBBA's SNAP provisions is unlikely; however, at a minimum, we **urge the Senate to delay the shift of SNAP benefit costs to states until 2030**. Current law allows states with a Payment Error Rate (PER) above 13.33 percent in FY 2025 or FY 2026 to delay benefit cost sharing until FY 2030. This structure disadvantages states that have taken steps to reduce their PERs while inadvertently incentivizing others states to maintain higher PERs in order to qualify for the delay. Applying the cost shift start date uniformly would avoid uneven treatment and ensure incentives remain aligned with the priorities of improving programs.

Additionally, we greatly appreciate the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (SRS) through Fiscal Year (FY) 2031 that was included in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (H.R. 7567) and **ask this Committee to also include a reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act through FY 2031**. SRS provides essential funding to counties and schools that are near National Forest Lands and, consequently, unable to generate property tax revenue. The program serves 741 counties across 41 states and Puerto Rico, reaching more than 4,400 school districts. SRS payments are flexible, allowing communities to direct funds toward what they need most: supporting teachers and school operations, maintaining rural roads, sustaining fire and law enforcement services, and building the forest management capacity that protects these communities from wildfire and other hazards. In the smallest and most remote schools, SRS funding is not supplemental, it is critical.

If Congress does not reauthorize SRS before its expiration, the program reverts to a revenue sharing model and the reliant counties lose much of the funding they need to continue standard operations. Despite bipartisan support for the program, Congress has struggled to reauthorize the program in a timely manner that signals to the impacted communities that they can count on this funding. In 2024, Congress allowed the program to expire and did not pass a reauthorization until December 2025. Although the reauthorization provided retroactive funding, this lapse created unacceptable instability for some of our country's most rural schools. During the months that Congress failed to take action, district leaders were forced to layoff staff, cut programs and services for students and skip critical facility maintenance because they had no reserve funds to fall back on. The current reauthorization expires at the end of FY2026 and another lapse in funding would be devastating to the rural communities that this program supports.

We recognize that SRS is not within this Committee's jurisdiction, but the farm bill represents an opportunity for Congress to quickly reauthorize the program and provide critical financial stability to the 4,400 schools that rely on this funding.

We look forward to continued collaboration as Congress works to strengthen programs that are vital for every student's success, regardless of geography or socioeconomic status.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association  
Association of School Business Officials, International  
National Rural Education Association

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry