

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

January 23, 2019

Dear President Trump, Senator McConnell, and Senator Schumer,

On behalf of our nation's school children we, the undersigned national education organizations, representing public school superintendents, board members, principals, educators and parents, write to urge you to pass and sign the House-approved FY19 appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The USDA appropriations provides the funds critical to supporting our schools' breakfast and lunch programs, helping to feed more than 30 million children from low income families each day.

The meal and snack programs run in our nation's public schools help ensure our children are ready to enter the classroom as strong students. USDA anticipates that in FY19 alone, these school meal programs will provide more than 8 billion meals and snacks to low-income families. The current shutdown traps these important funds in budget debates taking place right now. We strongly urge you to ensure our nation's neediest students do not go hungry in schools, by adopting the FY19 appropriations bill for USDA and its school meals programs. Our members and the schools and classrooms they lead know the importance of healthy meals for children and call on you to ensure that student nutrition and learning aren't caught in the cross hairs of the current federal shutdown.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association
American Federation of Teachers
Association of Educational Service Agencies
National Association of Elementary Schools Principals
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Education Association
National PTA
National School Boards Association

CC: House Appropriations, Agriculture Subcommittee
House Education and Labor Committee
Senate Appropriations, Agriculture Subcommittee
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee