



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 22, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

Through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Congress has provided critical relief funding and granted authorities to support federal food programs. These steps have provided significant benefits to Americans across the nation during this difficult time. The next opportunity to support these programs is to allow states to contract with companies and non-profit organizations in order to assist with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility determinations. Taking this next step would relieve the current pressure on states to process applications and provide much-needed SNAP benefits to families waiting in the application process.

Allowing states to contract with companies and non-profits in order to assist with SNAP eligibility determinations is a common-sense approach that will give flexibility to ensure eligible families that need SNAP benefits receive them quickly and with accuracy. This would be a temporary change only applicable during the COVID-19 and at the option of the state. The state agency would remain the entity responsible for SNAP administration and states that choose to use contracted staff would still need to meet requirements outlined in law and regulations for operating SNAP.

Under the authority provided by the CARES Act, Republican and Democratic Governors have utilized staffing flexibilities with unemployment insurance (UI) using the flexibility to hire private sector, non-profits, re-hire retirees, or hire temporary workers to handle UI eligibility determinations. As such, Congress should give states the same authority for SNAP that currently exists for the UI program. Flexibility is a bipartisan issue and providing such an authority would still be optional for states, leaving them in control of what is best for their state.

During this challenging time for our country, we must continue to find commonsense solutions that empower states to deliver essential services to those that are hit the hardest by this

pandemic. In conclusion, we respectfully request giving states the option to use the private sector to give them the necessary tools to best support the SNAP program.

Sincerely,



Glenn 'GT' Thompson



K. Michael Conaway



Jeff Fortenberry



Roger Marshall, M.D.



James R. Baird



Austin Scott



Doug LaMalfa



Kelly Armstrong



Rick Crawford



Don Bacon



Vicky Hartzler



Dusty Johnson