



National School Boards Association  
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Senator John Thune (R-SD)  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY)  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

May 11, 2026

Dear Leaders Thune and Schumer,

On behalf of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), representing locally elected school board members and the public school districts they govern, we urge the Senate to use consideration of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (H.R.7567), affectionally referred to as the “Farm Bill,” as a bipartisan opportunity to repeal the harmful reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enacted in the One Big Beautiful Bill.

First, we want to commend the bipartisan coalition of leaders in the House of Representatives who supported the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) in this reauthorization framework. We are especially thankful that it includes extending the runway for reauthorization from three years to five years. NSBA has long been on the front lines advocating for our rural schools to have the resources they need to meet their students’ needs. This action by Congress is a critical step to ensuring our rural schools and communities have the fiscal support they need in the absence of limited tax revenue. However, we believe that the same policy commitment should extend to ensuring our kids have access to nutritious meals.

Today, the Senate has an opportunity to address both of these crucial needs. The cuts enacted by the One Big Beautiful Bill will reverberate in classrooms

  
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nationwide, reducing food security for children outside school hours and destabilizing the very data systems schools rely on to connect eligible students to meals. SNAP is central to addressing hunger and ensuring children arrive at school ready to learn. Guiding our request is the reality that the One Big Beautiful Bill cuts SNAP funding by nearly \$186 billion over 10 years, affecting more than 22 million families. The scale of disruption will be felt directly by schools and students for decades.

Specifically, NSBA asks the Senate to use the Farm Bill to fully reverse the SNAP funding reductions, eligibility changes, and state cost-shift provisions adopted under the One Big Beautiful Bill. These provisions have already begun to reduce SNAP participation and will continue to erode access to nutrition assistance unless Congress acts.

When SNAP participation declines, fewer students are directly certified for free school meals, which increases paperwork for families and districts, reduces access to meals for eligible children, and can undermine districts' ability to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision. District leaders are already preparing for these impacts to materialize in the 2026–27 school year. These impacts are expected to strain existing school district budgets. As school board members tasked with dealing with these issues, we respectfully urge Congress to repeal the existing policy framework.

At the same time, NSBA continues to urge Congress to advance student nutrition solutions that help districts serve healthy meals efficiently and equitably. Specifically, we support reauthorizing the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act with commonsense flexibility and adequate funding so districts can comply without diverting resources from instruction, providing relief on whole-grain and sodium targets, restoring a five-year administrative review cycle, improving eligibility determination and “offer versus serve” flexibility, and increasing reimbursement and other federal support. We also urge the passage and funding of the Universal School Meals Program Act so every child can access breakfast and lunch at school, and we encourage updates to free/reduced-price lunch eligibility thresholds that reflect local cost-of-living realities.



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The Senate has an opportunity to strengthen both SNAP and school meal programs. As you advance the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, we respectfully request that you include provisions to repeal the SNAP cuts from the One Big Beautiful Bill and protect children's access to nutrition so they can arrive at school ready to learn.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering NSBA's priorities. If you have any questions or follow-ups to this communication, please contact Dr. Phelton C. Moss, NSBA's Managing Director of Government Relations at [Pmoss@nsba.org](mailto:Pmoss@nsba.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V" and "M".

Verjeana McCotter-Jacobs, Esq.  
Executive Director & CEO  
National School Boards Association

CC: Members of the Senate