

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2014

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

We write to strongly encourage you to include supplemental yet indispensable funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Revised Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. An adequate LIHEAP investment will ensure that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for countless working families in California will not be jeopardized by the ill-advised policy changes enacted by Congress in the Agricultural Act of 2014.

These policy changes will lead to unwarranted federal cuts of at least \$275 million in essential nutrition services for hundreds of thousands of Californians. A LIHEAP investment of no more than \$20 million will prevent taxpayers in our state from being burdened with compensating for the loss of substantial federal support for California's nutrition programs. Asking a state like California, which contributes more to the federal treasury in taxes than it receives in federal funding and services, to absorb these cuts would only add to the unfairness and pain that California taxpayers should not have to tolerate.

More than 300,000 families across California may soon face the loss of \$62 in precious nutrition benefits every month. Hungry Californians cannot afford more SNAP cuts. California already faces \$457 million in federal benefit cuts in Fiscal Year 2014 due to the expiration of a temporary benefit increase last November.

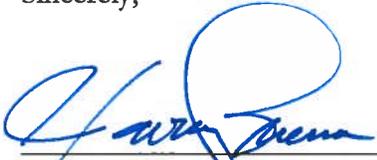
These types of reductions make it much more difficult for working families to put food on the table for those who need it the most. In fact, almost 75 percent of SNAP households include a child, senior or disabled individual who depend on these benefits.

California is experiencing one of the most severe droughts in the state's history. The drought is expected to lead to fewer jobs and greater food insecurity across the state. Now is not the time to put more American families in deeper economic distress or to place an even greater burden on food banks as people continue to search for affordable meals.

Making the LIHEAP investment is one way our state government can ensure that working families are able to feed their children. We urge you to act to protect working families in California and stop another raid on the California-bound services that our taxpayers paid for.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,


XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress


BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress


KAREN BASS
Member of Congress


MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress

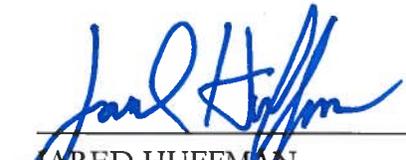

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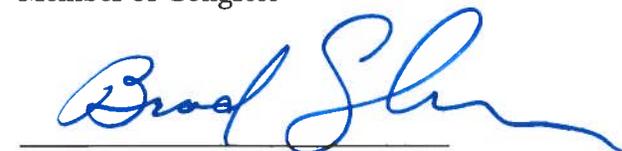
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