



THE FLORIDA SENATE
THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



FENTRICE DRISKELL
House Minority Leader

LORI BERMAN
Senate Minority Leader

October 28, 2025

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

VIA EMAIL

Dear Governor DeSantis,

We write to you today with deep concern for the millions of Floridians facing an urgent and preventable crisis. As the federal government shutdown enters its fourth week, nearly three million Floridians, including more than 1.5 million children, are at risk of losing access to food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) beginning November 1st.

For families already struggling under record food and housing costs, the loss of this critical support would be catastrophic. Local food banks and pantries have already reported overwhelming demand and depleted supplies. Feeding Tampa Bay, Palm Beach County Food Bank, and the Treasure Coast Food Bank have all sounded the alarm: without intervention, their shelves will soon be bare. Food insecurity is also increasing for federal employees and our military families as the shutdown continues.

This is not speculation; it's reality. We are days away from a full-blown hunger emergency that will leave families without food during the holiday season. The state cannot stand by.

Under Section 252.36 of the Florida Statutes, the Governor has clear authority to declare a State of Emergency when "the occurrence or threat thereof is imminent." Hunger is both. We are asking you to use the tools of your office to:

1. Declare a State of Emergency on Food Insecurity to unlock state emergency resources including but not limited to funding;

2. Authorize state agencies to draw from the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund to acquire non-perishable food items, fresh from Florida produce, meats, and dairy, and other aid to address food insecurity;
3. Direct the Department of Children and Families to coordinate with local food banks and community partners to distribute aid immediately;
4. Request the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to implement universal school meals programs for the duration of the emergency.

SNAP is one of the most effective programs for addressing hunger and food insecurity in the state. Especially after the recent cuts stemming from President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill, Floridians cannot afford another day without action by the state.

Florida has the fiscal strength to respond. What's needed now is the moral will to act.

No parent should have to choose between paying rent and feeding their kids. No child should go hungry because politicians in Washington can't agree. We urge you to act immediately.

We expect and appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

In Service,



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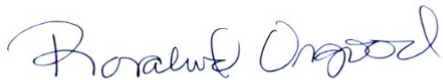
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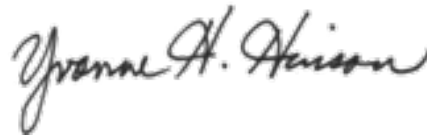
Senator Barbara Sharief



Representative Dan Daley



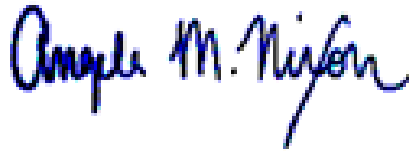
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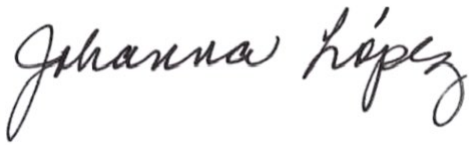
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