



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

September 2, 2020

Chairman Bobby Scott  
House Education and Labor Committee  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairwoman Marcia Fudge  
House Subcommittee on Nutrition,  
Oversight and Department Operations  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott and Chairwoman Fudge:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Financial Security and Poverty Taskforce and Education Taskforce write to thank you and express our support for the Pandemic Child Hunger Prevention Act (H.R.7887) and the Emergency SNAP Flexibilities Extension Act (H.R. 7794) introduced by each of you respectively. CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

We strongly support both bills and would like to see them enacted on their own or as part of the next COVID-19 relief package. The COVID-19 pandemic remains our nation's most pressing public health and economic crisis both of which appear to have no end in sight. Hardships around obtaining food are affecting both children and adults, including those with disabilities, with many reporting that they are not getting enough to eat or are unable to afford food for their children.<sup>1</sup> Food insecurity among households will most likely continue to rise as the COVID-19 pandemic continues and without Congressional action in the near term.

With nearly 30 million children eating at least one meal at school as part of the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program<sup>2</sup>, we must ensure ease of access to these programs for the entire school year as they operate in this unprecedented time. In whatever form students attend school this year, we strongly support the Pandemic Child Hunger Prevention Act (H.R.7887) which would ensure all students can access

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1 Rising Hardship Reveals Need for Relief Now. (2020, August 3). Retrieved from <https://www.cbpp.org/blog/rising-hardship-reveals-need-for-relief-now>

2 Pro Analysis School Meals and COVID-19. (2020 August). Retrieved from [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wEXiEyXvKc9h1TyHAYlvo-3H\\_aK4SNg/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wEXiEyXvKc9h1TyHAYlvo-3H_aK4SNg/view?usp=sharing)

free school meals without the need to certify eligibility thereby providing all children some form of nutrition. The COVID-19 pandemic calls for bold measures and we believe that the last thing students should worry about during this school year is access to school meals.

More people are signing up for food assistance through SNAP as a result of the pandemic and this number will most likely increase if the economic situation worsens<sup>3</sup>. States and individuals, including individuals with disabilities, should be given greater flexibility during this time to better ensure those on SNAP currently remain tied to this crucial assistance along with making it easier for people who may need SNAP in the near future to enroll in the program. We believe the Emergency SNAP Flexibilities Extension Act (H.R. 7794) will allow individuals to more easily remain on SNAP or obtain assistance should their circumstances change as a result of the pandemic. No one should have to make the choice between obtaining enough to eat and maintaining other financial obligations during these unpredictable times.

Again, we thank you both for the introduction of these two crucial pieces of legislation and for your leadership in ensuring children and adults, including those with disabilities, have access to nutrition assistance. We look forward to working with you to enact these bills on their own or as part of the next COVID-19 package. Please do not hesitate to contact Cyrus Huncharek (cyrus.huncharek@ndrn.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

American Council of the Blind  
Center for Public Representation  
Council for Learning Disabilities  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)  
Easterseals  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment  
(National PLACE)  
National Disability Institute  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
RespectAbility  
The Advocacy Institute  
The Arc of the United States

CC: Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy

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<sup>3</sup> Fields, S. (2020, July 27). Need for food stamps surges with pandemic. Retrieved from <https://www.marketplace.org/2020/07/27/covid-19-pandemic-food-stamps-snap-benefits/>