



The Honorable Marcia Fudge
Chair, House Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight and Department Operations
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Fudge:

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA), we write in support of *The Emergency SNAP Flexibilities Extension Act* ([H.R. 7794](#)) which extends existing emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) flexibilities as the coronavirus pandemic continues. This legislation will ensure that county governments, which administer the SNAP program in 10 states representing 31 percent of total participants, can effectively and safely serve our residents for the duration of the public health emergency.

Given the disruption caused by COVID-19, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* (P.L. 116-127) allowed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to approve state waivers to help them manage skyrocketing new applications for SNAP while maintaining program integrity under extraordinary circumstances. Streamlining administration of the program has been necessary to ensure that SNAP-eligible individuals and families receive benefits quickly and to protect the health and safety of county human services staff.

The pandemic has increased food insecurity well beyond rates seen during the Great Recession. Unfortunately, since the March 18, 2020 enactment of *Families First*, the coronavirus has not abated. Yet, on July 21 the USDA told states to adjust to the “new normal” by fall – signaling that it would be very difficult - if not impossible - for states and counties to continue to receive the necessary waivers to administer SNAP effectively during the continuing pandemic. County agencies are concerned that this approach will increase program administration burdens and diminish service levels necessary to respond to the continued surge in SNAP applications while simultaneously working to re-certify benefits for SNAP participants.

The Emergency SNAP Flexibilities Extension Act would address many of our concerns by allowing states to extend SNAP certification periods and adjust periodic reporting and interview requirements through June 30, 2021 without having to gain USDA approval. It would also enable states to use simplified reporting in lieu of the regular recertification requirements for some, or all, of their recertifications through December 31, 2021 to address the potential surge

of new cases and renewals. Those key provisions will provide counties with administrative certainty and offer our staff the flexibility to safely provide critical benefits to vulnerable residents without compromising program integrity.

Thank you for introducing the bill. We stand ready to support efforts to enact it into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew D. Chase". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the beginning of the first name.

Matthew D. Chase
Executive Director
National Association of Counties

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia H. Tuck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the beginning of the first name.

Claudia H. Tuck
President, National Association of County Human Services Administrators
Director of Community Support Services, Alachua County, Florida