CIRCLE *of* PROTECTION

October 29, 2025

Statement from Christian Leaders in the Circle of Protection

We write as the Circle of Protection, a coalition of national church bodies and related ministries representing the diversity of Christianity in this country. The organizations in the Circle together have 100 million members. Nearly all our churches help people in need, and we have grave concerns about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's (SNAP) lapse in funding. We call on Congress to negotiate an end to the government shutdown, and we strongly urge the administration to do everything in its power to ensure families receive full SNAP benefits in November. This includes immediately using SNAP's contingency funding and USDA's transfer authority.

Our churches and food ministries will do all they can to help our congregants and neighbors in need. However, these services are already stretched thin. We simply cannot fill the gap if SNAP benefits lapse, a program that helps more than 40 million put food on the table.

We're grateful that the administration transferred funds earlier so that WIC funding remained available in October. USDA should do the same for both SNAP and WIC to ensure families can put food on the table in November.

Billions of dollars are sitting in SNAP's contingency fund, immediately available for USDA to use. USDA was prepared to use these contingency funds in past government shutdowns and should do so now. USDA also has transfer authority. Just as it did with WIC, USDA has authority to transfer funds among nutrition programs. Also, more than $20 billion is available from Section 32, and we encourage USDA to transfer some of those funds so families can afford groceries.

The consequences of inaction are dire for families who are already struggling to make ends meet. The Bible consistently speaks to God's love for all people, calling us to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable among us. We urge USDA and the administration to use its resources to provide full SNAP benefits in November.

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