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August 26, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As the 2020-2021 school year gets underway, schools may be struggling to implement new methods of teaching while simultaneously figuring out how to provide meals to vulnerable students. During these challenging times, we urge you to review the child nutrition program flexibilities allowed under the law and implement those flexibilities as quickly as possible.

We know the flexibilities utilized at the beginning of the pandemic helped schools provide meals to families in need. With a new school year starting amid the pandemic, it is critical that schools have the flexibility they need to continue providing meals to their students. This flexibility is particularly important since many school districts have announced a variety of plans, including modified in-person classes and meal services, hybrid education, and in some cases continued remote learning. Given the broad range of plans, we should ensure the federal programs that help feed students are flexible, easy to operate, and free of unnecessary burdens.

Therefore, we ask USDA to review the program flexibilities currently available within the child nutrition programs and expeditiously implement much needed flexibilities. Additionally, these program flexibilities should be tied to pandemic-related needs, which is why we also request that you implement the flexibilities for a specific length of time so schools aren't faced with uncertainty and burdensome paperwork and bureaucracy.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



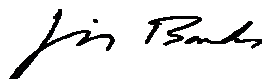
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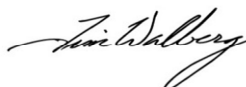
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