

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Rollins:

We were pleased to see you recently supported a state-led effort to include rotisserie chicken among the foods covered under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).¹ As the co-leads of the bipartisan, bicameral Hot Foods Act (H.R.2512/S.1202), we are especially encouraged by these efforts that align with our goal to expand access to hot, prepared foods for SNAP beneficiaries nationwide. We appreciate the Administration's stated commitment to increase access to healthy foods for all Americans.

We should ensure the right policies and financial support are in place to make expanded access to healthy foods a reality. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and your Department to modernize SNAP in ways that better reflect the needs and realities of the individuals and families it serves.

As you know, for more than 60 years, the law governing SNAP has prohibited beneficiaries from purchasing hot, ready-to-eat foods with their benefits. This outdated restriction means that while a parent can use SNAP to buy frozen chicken and spend over an hour preparing and cooking it, they cannot purchase a hot rotisserie chicken to serve their family immediately. This policy no longer reflects the realities of modern American life or the diverse needs of SNAP households.

Of the more than 42 million Americans who rely on SNAP today, nearly 70 percent are children, seniors, or individuals with disabilities.² For many, the inability to purchase nutritious, ready-to-eat foods creates a real and unnecessary barrier to food security.

That is why we have introduced the Hot Foods Act, which would remove the prohibition on using SNAP benefits to purchase hot, ready-to-eat foods. With nearly 100 cosponsors in the House and Senate, the Hot Foods Act is a commonsense, modern solution that would empower SNAP recipients to make healthy choices that fit American life.

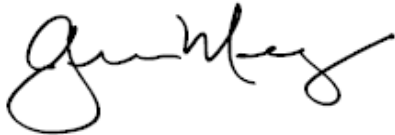
¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Rollins Applauds Arkansas Governor for Submitting SNAP Waiver to Make America Healthy Again," April 15, 2025, <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/04/15/rollins-applauds-arkansas-governor-submitting-snap-waiver-make-america-healthy-again>.

² U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Characteristics of USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Households: Fiscal Year 2022 (Summary)," June 2024, <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/ops-snap-fy22characteristics-summary.pdf>.

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As we continue advocating for the passage of the Hot Foods Act, we look forward to working with you to cut red tape and give the tens of millions of Americans who participate in SNAP greater choice and access to healthy foods that meet their families' needs.

Sincerely,



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator