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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0913

March 24, 2020

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis,

At such a critical time, we must not forget about the most vulnerable. For the roughly three million Floridians who benefit from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), I ask that you take the necessary steps to release these benefits early.

To combat the spread of coronavirus, the Centers for Disease Control has requested that individuals practice social distancing, limiting their contact with others. However, most recipients of SNAP benefits do not have the resources needed to live at home for an extended period, living hand to mouth on monthly payments to purchase the food that they need to feed themselves and their families.

In other crises, Florida has authorized the early release of SNAP benefits, most recently during Hurricane Dorian. The COVID-19 global pandemic has left many Floridians without a steady stream of income placing great stress on those in need. In response to these growing demands, and the potential requirement for some SNAP recipients to need to self-quarantine for 14 days or more, I urge you to offer the early release of next month's SNAP benefits, effective immediately.

Congress is working to ease the burden on the American people and the economy. This small but crucial step would be an important way for the State of Florida to help. Thank you for consideration, and God bless.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

CC:

Chad Poppell, Secretary
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