



COUNTY OF LAKE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
P.O. Box 9000
Lower Lake, CA 95457

Crystal Markytan
Social Services Director
Public Guardian/Administrator

May 9, 2018

Rep. Jim Costa
2222 M St, Suite 305
Merced, CA 95340

Rep. Jeff Denham
4701 Sisk Road, Suite 202
Modesto, CA 95356

Rep. Jimmy Panetta
100 W Alisal St
Salinas, CA 93901

Rep. Doug LaMalfa
2399 Rickenbacker Way
Auburn, CA 95602

RE: Defend SNAP/CalFresh

Dear Reps. Costa, Denham, Lamalfa, and Panetta:

We are writing to you, as County of Lake and its Department of Social Services, to express our strong support for SNAP—the nation’s first line of defense against hunger.

Hunger touches every corner of California and SNAP (known as CalFresh in California) provides life-saving benefits that help working families, children and seniors afford food and make ends in meet. Over 6 million people live in poverty in the Golden state and 4 million Californians (including two million children) are food insecure.

SNAP benefits are designed to target those most in need when they need it most. In California, three-quarters of SNAP participants are families with children and nearly half are working families. In **Lake County** SNAP helped lift **6,502 families** out of poverty, including **2,850 children** and **1,386 seniors**.

As the nation’s most effective federal stimulus, SNAP supports our state’s robust agricultural and retail sectors—linking low-income customers to much needed nutrition and driving local economic growth. Last year, SNAP pumped **\$18,074,353** in 100% federally funded benefits to **Lake County**, generating an estimated **\$90,371,765** in local economic activity—supporting retailers, workers and economic growth in our county; In fact, if SNAP reached 100% of those eligible in **Lake County**, we would see an estimated **\$9,037,177** in additional benefits, and **\$45,185,883** in local economic activity.

California’s anti-hunger network assists Californians in need through voluntary participation of members of the food industry, faith-based, tribal, public and non-profit organizations, and private citizens often partnered with state and federal governments. This informal network collects donations, distributes food, and provides relief to hungry Californians every day – but it is not enough to close the hunger gap in California without the SNAP Program.

☐ Administration
Phone (707) 995-4260
FAX (707) 995-4294

☐ Adult Services
Phone (707) 995-4680
FAX (707) 995-4661

☐ Child Welfare Services
Phone (707) 262-0235
FAX (707) 262-0299

☐ Eligibility
Phone (707) 995-4200
FAX (707) 995-4204

☐ Employment Services
Phone (707) 995-9015
FAX (707) 995-9055

As elected representatives from a diverse range of cities and communities across **Lake County**, we write to urge you to defend and strengthen SNAP because every community in California deserves to be hunger-free.

Sincerely,

Jim Steele
Chair, Lake County Board of Supervisors



Crystal Markytan
Director, LCDSS