July 9, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
322 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator McConnell, Senator Schumer, Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi,

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), we support the Senate and House efforts to reauthorize federal nutrition programs in H.R. 2—the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (the Farm Bill), before the programs expire this September.

We understand that the House and Senate bills differ in their language regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program and requirements for participants, but we are hopeful a bipartisan effort by both chambers will find the needed compromise to pass a multi-year authorization of the Farm Bill. NCSL supports a robust SNAP program that continues to improve the health and nutrition of millions of families in the United States. Our policy opposes any federal proposals that impose costly burdens or mandates on states that would remove state flexibility in the administration of SNAP.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Haley Nicholson at 202-624-8662 or haley.nicholson@ncsl.org

Sincerely,

Joni Jenkins, State Representative
Kentucky Legislature
Co-Chair, NCSL Health and Human Services Committee

David E. Heaton, State Representative
Iowa Legislature
Co-Chair, NCSL Health and Human Services Committee
Renee Unterman  
State Senator, Georgia  
Co-Chair, NCSL Hunger Partnership

Eddie Lucio  
State Senator, Texas  
Co-Chair, NCSL Hunger Partnership