



*Advocating for a diverse membership of grocers, convenience stores, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, and service providers across the food and beverage industry.*

October 22, 2025

**RE: SNAP Payments Continuity**

Dear Congressman,

I write on behalf of our member businesses operating up and down the food supply chain in Pennsylvania to warn about the wide-ranging implications for the food industry if Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits for November are delayed.

A [memo from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service](#), dated October 10, 2025, directs state agencies to "hold their November issuance files and delay transmission to State EBT vendors until further notice" due to insufficient funding. We urge you to recognize that this impending delay is not just a budget issue; it is a potential operational nightmare that will directly impact our businesses and their customers, including the millions of Pennsylvanians who rely on SNAP.

Our members are the backbone of the SNAP delivery system, processing millions of EBT transactions each month. A delayed and uncertain benefit issuance schedule presents the following immediate challenges:

- **Supply Chain Shock and Inventory Issues:** The staggered and unpredictable release of benefits will make accurate demand forecasting impossible. Pennsylvania, already with a confusing and overly complex SNAP distribution schedule, is not well situated to handle further ad hoc changes to how benefits are distributed. Stores count on a predictable routine of SNAP disbursement and spending to schedule staff and order perishable inventory. An abrupt, unscheduled flood of shoppers and demand at random dates could make it difficult or impossible for retailers to stock sufficient fresh produce, dairy, and meat, leaving shelves bare and essential nutritious foods unavailable.
- **Cash Flow and Personnel Strain:** Our retailers will face intense operational strain. Without a predictable purchasing cycle, smaller stores may struggle with cash flow management. Furthermore, staff will be forced to manage a chaotic environment, dealing with frustrated customers and navigating the uncertainty of the EBT system.
- **Customer Confusion and Conflict:** Customers rely on their benefits arriving on time to plan their household budgets. An unscheduled or delayed deposit could mean mass confusion at the register, longer lines, operational slowdowns, and increased stress and potential confrontation between customers and frontline grocery workers.

Our industry is proud to feed the people who live and work in the Commonwealth, but a SNAP payment delay would profoundly challenge our ability to do so. We urge you to take immediate and decisive action to resolve the lapse in appropriations and ensure that FNS can rescind its directive and fully fund SNAP benefit payments on their scheduled issuance dates going forward.

Sincerely,

Alex Baloga  
President and CEO, PFMA