

July 23, 2019

The Honorable Chris Murphy  
United States Senate  
136 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Jahana Hayes  
United States House of Representatives  
1415 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marcia Fudge  
United States House of Representatives  
2344 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murphy, Senator Blumenthal, Senator Klobuchar, Congresswoman Hayes, and Congresswoman Fudge:

We are writing to express our strong support for the *Closing the College Hunger Gap Act of 2019*. This legislation would provide college students who may be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) with eligibility and application information and would require the Department of Education to collect data on food and housing insecurity.

Food insecurity is a growing and serious problem for today's students. Estimates show that about one-third of college students experience some form of food insecurity. Further, while 18 percent of college students qualify for SNAP benefits, only three percent of students actually receive such benefits. With the pressing cost of tuition, work, and family responsibilities that today's increasingly diverse college students experience, the inability to maintain access to nutritious meals are avoidable obstacles that should not get in the way of students' postsecondary success.

The *Closing the College Hunger Gap Act of 2019* would address this critical problem by requiring the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to add measures of homelessness and food insecurity to the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS), which is conducted every four years describing how students and their families finance postsecondary education. It would also notify students with a zero expected family contribution on FAFSA of their potential eligibility for SNAP benefits. Under this legislation, ED would consult with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other government experts to design the written and electronic information on the SNAP notification process and assistance under the program.

This bill would significantly empower low-income college students' with the information they need to reduce food insecurity on college campuses. Thank you for your leadership on this important topic and we stand ready to assist you in advocating for this legislation as a part of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

cc: The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Bobby Scott  
The Honorable Virginia Foxx

Sincerely,

[America Forward](#)

[Challah for Hunger](#)

[Center for Law and Social Policy \(CLASP\)](#)

[College Forward](#)

[College Possible](#)

[The Education Trust](#)

[Food Research & Action Center \(FRAC\)](#)

[GreenLight Fund](#)

[Higher Learning Advocates](#)

[Jobs for the Future \(JFF\)](#)

[Jumpstart](#)

[KIPP Foundation](#)

[National Skills Coalition](#)

[Single Stop](#)

[The Institute for College Access & Success \(TICAS\)](#)

[uAspire](#)

[University Professional and Continuing Education Association \(UPCEA\)](#)

[Young Invincibles](#)

[Youth Villages](#)