The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott,

As we observe Hunger Action Month, we are reminded of our shared responsibility to ensure no child in Texas goes hungry. Yet today, nearly one in four children across our state face food insecurity.

We, the undersigned faith leaders, nonprofit directors, educators, community stakeholders and representatives from the retail and agriculture industries across Texas, write to express our continued interest in the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program and its potential to support over 3.8 million Texas children during the summer months when access to school meals is limited.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this issue and your openness to reconsider Summer EBT funding as stated in your June 22 veto proclamation. We see this as an opportunity to engage in further dialogue and work together to explore a path forward that balances fiscal responsibility with the urgent nutritional needs of Texas families. While the veto statement referenced uncertainty about the future of national food benefit programs—specifically proposed changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other federal funding sources—we now are certain that Summer EBT match rates have remained unchanged.

Without Summer EBT, Texas will continue to miss out on approximately **$450 million in fully federally funded nutritional assistance per year** for children who lose access to school meals during the summer. These are not abstract numbers—they represent over **3.8 million Texas children** who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch during the school year and are at heightened risk of going hungry during the summer months.

Hungry children do not learn or grow as they should. They suffer higher rates of illness, developmental delays, anxiety, and depression. The long-term social and economic costs of food insecurity—borne by families, schools, health systems, and taxpayers—are well-documented and avoidable. What's more, inflation has driven up the cost of food so high that even middle class families are starting to feel the pinch.

Across the state, local communities and faith-based organizations are working tirelessly to close the gaps—operating food pantries, mobile markets, and feeding ministries. But even the most committed networks of volunteers and donors cannot match the scale and reach of public infrastructure.

Texas is a state built on strength, generosity, and boundless opportunity. With our bold leadership and abundant resources, we believe Texas can lead the nation in ensuring every child receives the nourishment they need to grow and thrive.

We respectfully invite you and your team to meet with us to discuss the realities facing Texas families and the potential for our state to participate in Summer EBT for Summer 2026. A pledge from yourself, the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House to reimburse the Texas Health and Human Services Commission for the administrative cost of the program would allow Texas to opt-in. We also recognize that emergency budget transfers have historically been used to address urgent needs outside of Session, and we hope this option might be considered here to ensure every child in Texas has access to food year-round.

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate and share insights from the field. Together, we can make Texas healthier by ensuring that every child in our state has enough to eat.

Respectfully,

FEEDING TEXAS™

NO KID HUNGRY® TEXAS

Fellowship Southwest

UNIDOS US

RAISETEXAS BUILDING FINANCIAL SUCCESS

Good Work Austin

LINK HEALTH

UNITED WAY United Ways of Texas

EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK

FARM & FOOD ACTION PAC

PLEASANT GROVE FOOD PANTRY

From Sharing Comes Change

TEXAS ORGANIC FARMERS & GARDENERS ASSOCIATION TOFGA EST. 1993

AARP Texas



TexProtects
Champions for Safe Children

FARM SHARE AUSTIN

children at Risk
Speaking Out + Driving Change for Children

Texas Pediatric Society
The Texas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Incorporated in Texas

houston foodbank

umoja HEALTH

edtrust IN TEXAS

TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION
TASN

EL PASOANS FIGHTING HUNGER FOOD BANK

TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK


Texas
Religious
Action
Center
of Reform Judaism


BUCKNER
Hope shines here.SM


TEXAS GRANDPARENTS
RAISING
GRANDCHILDREN


Health Collaborative
Bexar County's Community Health Leadership


IGLESIA
NUEVA VIDA EN CRISTO
TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS


For OakCliff


MEALS on WHEELS
SOUTH TEXAS


faith
commons


UNIDOS CONTRA
LA DIABETES


TEXAS IMPACT
PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE


Breaking Bread
BRIDGING THE GAP IN HEALTHY
FOOD ACCESS


FOOD
BANK
of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.


LUPE
La Unión del Pueblo Entero
Founded by César E. Chávez & Dolores Huerta


AMIGOS
DEL VALLE, INC.



CROSSROADS
Strong Families. Changed Communities.

MARC
MONTE ALTO
RECREATION CENTER



GRACE
PLACE

GRAND CENTRAL STATION
GCS
FEED THE NEED



Christian Life
COMMISSION



METROPOLITAN
HEALTH DISTRICT



TEXAS FOOD & FUEL
ASSOCIATION



children's
defense fund
texas



Sealy Christian
PANTRY



















<u>Statewide Organizations:</u>
AARP Texas
Breaking Bread
Baylor University Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty
Buckner International
Children at Risk
Children's Defense Fund
EdTrust in Texas
Every Texan
Feeding Texas
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
Fellowship Southwest

Methodist Healthcare Ministries
RAISE Texas
Share Our Strength
Texas Alliance of Boys and Girls Club
Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA)
Texas Association for School Nutrition
Texas Baptists Christian Life Commission
Texans Care for Children
Texas Farmers Union
Texas Food & Fuel Association
Texas Impact
Texas Small Farmers & Ranchers/CBO
Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Texas Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Texas Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
TexProtects
Texas Pediatric Society
Texas Alliance of YMCAs
Umoja Health
UnidosUS
United Ways of Texas

Local Organizations:

Amigos Del Valle, Inc.	Mission, TX
Belly of the Beast	Spring, TX
BISHOP Enrique San Pedro Ozanam Center Inc.	Brownsville, TX
Blessings of Grace Marion County Food Pantry	Jefferson, TX
Caritas of Austin	Austin, TX
Catholic Charities of Dallas Inc.	Dallas, TX
Central Texas Food Bank	Austin, TX
Central Texas Young Farmers Coalition	Austin, TX
City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District	San Antonio, TX
Colonias Unidas	Rio Grande City, TX
Community Council of Greater Dallas	Dallas, TX
Contexto Consulting, LLC	Rio Grande Valley, TX
Crossroads Community Services	Dallas, TX
Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council	Irving, TX
Dallas West Church of Christ	Dallas, TX
East Texas Food Bank	Tyler, TX
El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank	El Paso, TX
Faith Commons	Dallas, TX
Fannin County Community Ministries	Bonham, Texas
Farm and Food Action PAC	Lampasas, TX
Farmshare Austin	Cedar Creek, TX
Feeding Fannin - Bonham	Bonham, TX
First Unitarian Church of Dallas	Dallas, TX
Flourish	Dallas, TX
Fluff Bake Bar	Houston, TX
Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley	Pharr, TX
Food Pantry, Church of the Advent, Episcopal	Brownsville, TX

For Oak Cliff	Dallas, TX
Frio County Food Bank	Pearsall, TX
Good Work Austin	Austin, TX
Grace Place of Anna	Anna, TX
Grayson Grand Central Station	Sherman, TX
Growing Together Texas	Lubbock, TX
GROW North Texas	Dallas, TX
HOPE Food pantry	Nacogdoches, TX
Houston Food Bank	Houston, TX
Hopkins County Community Chest	Sulphur Springs, TX
Hungry Souls	Austin, TX
Iglesia de Restauracion El Gran Yo Soy	Alton, TX
Iglesia Nueva Vida De Cristo	Edinburg, TX
Irving Cares	Irving, TX
Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas	Dallas, TX
Keep Austin Fed	Austin, TX
Lake Area Shared Ministries	Quinlan, TX
La Union del Pueblo Entero	Rio Grande Valley, TX
Link Health	Houston, TX
MaieB Hospitality	Austin, TX
Magnol French Baking	Houston, TX
Meals on Wheels South Texas	Victoria, TX
Metrocrest Services	Dallas, TX
Michael's Cookie Jar	Houston, TX
Monte Alto Recreation Center	Monte Alto, TX
NCJW Greater Dallas	Dallas, TX
Neighbors Nourishing Neighbors	Prosper, TX
Network of Community Ministries	Richardson, TX
New Braunfels Food Bank	New Braunfels, TX
North Texas Food Bank	Dallas, TX
Oliva family	Weslaco, TX
Our Daily Bread Royse City	Royse City, TX
Pleasant Grove Food Pantry	Dallas, TX
Rachel Austin PR	Houston, TX
Resource Center	Dallas, TX
Rock Hill Outreach Center/Bear Necessities	Brownsboro, TX
San Angelo Food Bank	San Angelo, TX
San Antonio Food Bank	San Antonio,TX
SCB Food Pantry	Frankston, TX
Sealy Christian Pantry, Inc.	Sealy, TX
Sharing Life Community Outreach	Mesquite, TX
St. Bonaventure Food Pantry	Monte Alto, TX
St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church	Edinburg, TX
United Help of Waskom	Waskom, TX
United Way for Greater Austin	Austin, TX
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas	Dallas, TX
Unidos Contra La Diabetes	Rio Grande Valley, TX
Urban Harvest, Inc.	Houston, TX
T2D Concepts, LLC	Dallas, TX
Tarrant Area Food Bank	Fort Worth, TX
Texas Health Resources	North Texas, Texas

The Health Collaborative	San Antonio, TX
The Smoke by Chef Reginald Scott	Houston, TX
The Storehouse Community Center	Plano, Texas
Vickery Meadow Neighborhood Alliance	Dallas, TX
Waxahachie CARE Services	Waxahachie, TX
Wilshire Baptist Church	Dallas, TX
Your Neighbors House	Whitesboro, TX