

Dear _____,

In Virginia, many households are out of work. This has led to an unprecedented need for food access across Virginia and the greater United States. Food banks have been stepping up to get as much food as possible into the households of the most vulnerable populations: seniors, children and low-income families. But they need help from our lawmakers. As follow-up legislation is written, I ask that you promote the inclusion of provisions that will increase funding for our nation's federal nutrition programs and funding for nonprofit charities to continue providing critical relief services to communities.

Funding should include:

- Increased Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for all recipients by increasing the Thrifty Food Plan by at least 15 percent to provide needed food resources.
- An additional investment of \$500 million in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) food and \$200 million in additional funding for TEFAP Storage and Distribution help with the increased demand for food.
- More flexibility for our schools to serve children during school closures. The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act also allows excess, unused food to be donated to local food banks for distribution to hungry children.

In this time of extreme need, I urge you to increase funding for federal nutrition programs to feed the millions of seniors, children and low-income families struggling with hunger. I also urge you to provide enough funding for nonprofit charities to continue serving communities and sustain throughout the pandemic.

Your constituent,
