United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the General Counsel
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-1400

December 28, 2020

Delivered via Electronic Mail
Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW
Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

Re: Interim Response for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. 2020-OSEC-03700-F

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is an interim response to the above-referenced FOIA request received by the Departmental FOIA Office (DFO). The request sought:

> All email communications (including email messages, complete email chains, email attachments, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent by any of the USDA officials listed below containing any of the key terms listed below…from January 30, 2020, through the date of the search.

In an email dated July 20, 2020, you agreed to remove some individuals from your requested list of USDA officials. You are now seeking emails associated with the following employees: Sonny Perdue, Stephen Censky, Joby Young, Kailee Tkacz, Rebeckah Adcock, Kristi Boswell, Pam Miller, Shiela Corley, Brandon Lipps, and Jessica Shahin. You are seeking emails that contain any of the following key terms: Coronavirus, Corona, Virus, Disease, Pandemic, Epidemic, Outbreak, Contagion, containment, "public health emergency," COVID, SARS, "2019-nCOV," POTUS, Wuhan, Hubei, Hoax, "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program," SNAP, "able-bodied," ABAWD, Howell, Lunch, Lunches, NSLP, School, Schools, Student, Students.

On June 29, 2020, we referred the portion of your request seeking emails from Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) employees Pam Miller, Shiela Corley, Jessica Shahin, Lizbeth Silberman, Cindy Long, and Sasha Gersten-Paal to FNS for response directly to you.

In addition, we have identified custodians likely to maintain records about the subject of your request, who you did not mention in your request. We therefore included Blake Rollins, Maggie Lyons, Ken Barbic, Veronica Wong, and Thor Christianson in our search instructions.

Your request is being processed under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

An electronic search for responsive records was conducted by the Chief Information Office Client Experience Center (CEC). The CEC searched in all Outlook email accounts associated

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with Sonny Perdue, Joby Young, Stephen Censky, Blake Rollins, Kailee Tkacz, Rebecca Adcock, Kristi Boswell, Brandon Lipps, Maggie Lyons, Ken Barbic, Veronica Wong, and Thor Christianson for emails they sent pertaining to COVID-19 and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or school lunch programs, dated between January 30, 2020 and May 19, 2020. We found 2,719 pages of responsive records. Of these records, sixty-eight (68) pages originated with Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Executive Office of the President (EOP), or the Department of the Treasury. We have temporarily removed these pages from the record set in order to consult with these entities regarding release. We will address these records in a subsequent final response.

Following a review of the responsive records, the DFO has determined that certain information contained therein should be withheld pursuant to U.S.C. § 552(b)(5) (FOIA Exemption 5) and U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) (FOIA Exemption 6). Below is an explanation of the information that has been withheld.

FOIA Exemption 5 protects from disclosure those "inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency." One of the frequently invoked FOIA Exemption 5 privileges is the deliberative process privilege. To fall within FOIA's deliberative process privilege, the records must be both pre-decisional and deliberative; the records must precede the adoption of an agency policy and include the opinions, recommendations, or deliberations on a legal or policy matter. In this instance, the DFO is withholding, under the deliberative process privilege, pre-decisional intra-agency comments pertaining to department policies as well as briefing materials. We are likewise withholding draft versions of Congressional correspondence, emails, and press releases. Disclosure of such information would have a chilling effect on the ability of agency officials to engage in free and frank discussions regarding policy.

The DFO is also withholding information under the attorney-client privilege. This privilege protects confidential communication between an attorney and his/her client relating to a legal matter for which the client has sought professional advice. Although this privilege fundamentally applies to facts divulged by a client to his/her attorney, this privilege also encompasses any opinion given by an attorney to his/her client based upon those facts, as well as communications between attorneys that reflect client supplied information. In this instance, the DFO is withholding information shared internally by the Department's counsel regarding a pending legal issue.

Exemption 6 generally is referred to as the "personal privacy" exemption. It provides that the disclosure requirements of FOIA do not apply to "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." Application of the exemption involves balancing the public's interest in disclosure against individuals' privacy interests.

The information withheld under Exemption 6 consists of mobile phone numbers, direct phone numbers of certain senior officials, direct phone numbers and email address handles for third parties, and alias email addresses for Secretary Sonny Perdue and Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky. This information qualifies as "similar files" because it is information in which

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individuals have a privacy interest. Moreover, releasing the information could subject the individuals to unwarranted or unsolicited communications. Since there is a viable privacy interest that would be threatened by disclosure, Exemption 6 authorizes this office to withhold the information. Accordingly, we have determined that the public interest in the information's release does not outweigh the overriding privacy interests in keeping it confidential.

With regard to the alias email address for Secretary Sonny Perdue and Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky, the agency has a significant interest in ensuring that its officials have the capacity to safely perform a full range of official functions, including emergency operations, continuity of operations, and devolution planning and execution. These functions could not be accomplished if public email-writing campaigns impeded communications to the email accounts from which officials operate in emergency situations. In the event of emergency, not only are alias accounts necessary for safe and efficient emergency operations, but also so that family members can reach otherwise unavailable officials. While the existence of such alias email accounts and certain content of emails released therefrom may shed light on agency functions, the actual email addresses do not in and of themselves advance a public interest—particularly when balanced against the critical interest of agency officials in maintaining safe and responsible communication with critical business contacts including those in The White House, during emergency situations and situations presenting potential national security threats. That said, in response to records requests, it is the agency's policy to process and release responsive documents derived from searches of all agency email accounts (including alias email accounts) to the extent not otherwise exempt or prohibited by law. Furthermore, we note that the disclosure of officials' primary official email accounts serves as the most appropriate point of contact for the public and poses the least amount of risk or threat in emergency operations.

The DFO continues processing your request and will issue a final response.

You have the right to appeal the DFO's determinations. Due to the need to issue more than one determination in order to fully resolve your request, your appeal rights for all determinations in response to this request will be provided to you in our final response letter.

You may seek dispute resolution services from the DFO's FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Camille Aponte. Ms. Aponte may be contacted by telephone at 202-505-0271, or electronically at Camille.Aponte@usda.gov or USDAFOIA@usda.gov. You also have the option to seek assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Please visit https://www.archives.gov/ogis/mediation-program/request-assistance for information about how to request OGIS assistance in relation to a FOIA request. Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of processing your request. In this instance, no fees will be charged.

If you have any questions regarding the processing of this request, please contact Mr. Harald Fuller-Bennett at 202-239-4522, or electronically at harald.fullerbennett@usda.gov or USDAFOIA@usda.gov.

For additional information regarding USDA FOIA regulations and processes, please refer to the information available online at www.dm.usda.gov/foia.

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The DFO appreciates the opportunity to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,

HARALD FULLER-BENNETT

Digitally signed by HARALD FULLER-BENNETT
Date: 2020.12.28 09:46:55 -05'00'

Harald Fuller-Bennett
Government Information Specialist
Office of the General Counsel

Enclosure: Responsive records (2,651 pages)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov
Cc: Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov)
Subject: Rep Castro re: P-EBT application TX
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:08:00 AM
Attachments: TX approval letter.pdf

Kaitlyn,

Attached is a copy of Texas' approval letter.

Regards,
Veronica

From: Montan, Kaitlyn <Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 5:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Veronica and Chris,

The Ed&L Committee shared the news that Texas got approved for their application for P-EBT, but I saw that their application is not live yet on your website. Would you be able to share this with me?

Thanks,
Kaitlyn

Kaitlyn Montan
Legislative Assistant
Office of Congressman Joaquin Castro
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Office: (202)225-3236 | Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov

From: "Hard, Alison" <Alison.Hard@mail.house.gov>
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 at 10:18 AM
To: "Montan, Kaitlyn" <Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Kaitlyn,

Hope this finds you well – sharing some good news that TX has been approved for P-EBT!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>

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Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:12 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Texas and New Jersey have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state(s) will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State(s) will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State(s) will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State(s) will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

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May 8, 2020

SUBJECT: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT)
Approval of Texas State Plan

TO: Bill Ludwig
Regional Administrator
Southwest Regional Office

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) (FFCRA or the Act) authorized a temporary assistance program for households with children affected by school closures during the public health emergency that was declared on January 27, 2020. On March 20, 2020 the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced and began accepting State plans for the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program. Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 1101 of the Act, FNS approves Texas' enclosed plan to operate P-EBT.

Summary of State Plan
The Texas Health and Human Services Commission, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Department of Agriculture will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system. The State will use procedures described in its approved plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. As detailed in its approved plan, the State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used, as described in the plan. The State must also provide information to non-SNAP households about what to do if they do not wish to receive or use P-EBT benefits. In addition, the State will identify risks for improper payments and ensure a high level of integrity.

Estimated Caseload and Value of P-EBT Benefits
The State will calculate monthly benefits for each eligible child in the household equal to the daily reimbursement for free breakfast and lunch ($5.70), multiplied by the average number of days school was canceled in the month.

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The State estimates that it will issue $465.4 million to 1,364,935 SNAP households and $549.7 million to 1,612,032 non-SNAP households for school closures extending from March 20, 2020 through May 29, 2020, a total of 50 days.

The State agency must notify the FNS Regional Office immediately should difficulties arise with card stock volume or production.

Release of Information
Pursuant to Section 1101(e) of the Act, the Secretary hereby authorizes the release of the information necessary to carry out P-EBT in Texas. Section 1101(e) of the Act states, "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize State educational agencies and school food authorities administering a school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) to release to appropriate officials administering the supplemental nutrition assistance program such information as may be necessary to carry out this section."

Plan Timetable and Revisions
The State agency will distribute benefits to households consistent with the timeframes identified in the State plan. Should the State encounter challenges or delays that significantly impair its ability to implement the approved P-EBT plan or require substantive changes, the State must notify the FNS Regional Office as soon as possible. The FNS Regional Office will work with the State to identify reasonable solutions and review revised plans for approval or further revision.

Civil Rights
Texas will continue to comply with civil rights requirements, to include providing equal access to individuals with disabilities and individuals who are limited English proficient.

Reporting
The Texas Health and Human Services Commission will complete the FNS-292B form on a bi-weekly basis, in accordance with existing requirements. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission will also complete all other normally recurring SNAP reporting, including the FNS-46 and FNS-388 reports, on a timely basis and in accordance with existing requirements.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission will submit monthly reports to FNS with the following information for P-EBT benefits issued in that month:

- Number of children receiving P-EBT benefits, separately identifying the numbers in SNAP and non-SNAP households.
- Number of households receiving P-EBT benefits (as described in your state plan), separately identifying SNAP and non-SNAP households.
- Total dollar value of P-EBT benefits issued, separately identifying the values issued to SNAP and non-SNAP households.

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- Average P-EBT issuance amount per household, separately identifying the average for SNAP and non-SNAP households.

FNS appreciates Texas' commitment to meet the nutritional needs of children during a challenging time. If you have questions, please contact the FNS Southwest Regional Office.

Sincerely,

Cindy Long
Acting Associate Administrator
Regional Operations and Support

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov)
Bcc:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov); Alison.Hard@mail.house.gov; anne simmons; Campbell - OSEC Washington DC Shuford (Campbell.Shuford@osec.usda.gov); Cep, Melinda; Chu-Yuan.Hwang@mail.house.gov; Claire_Borzner@ag.senate.gov; DaNita_Murray@ag.senate.gov; dianne_nellor@appro.senate.gov; Elizabeth_Dent@appro.senate.gov; Emma.Rindels@mail.house.gov; Evan - OSEC Washington DC Lee (Evan.Lee@osec.usda.gov); eyang.garrison@mail.house.gov; Fred_Clark@ag.senate.gov; Haley_Donahue@ag.senate.gov; Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov; James_Glueck@ag.senate.gov; Jasmine.Dickerson@mail.house.gov; Jennifer.Tiller@mail.house.gov; Joe - FNS Tvrdy (Joseph.Tvrdy@fns.usda.gov); Joe_Shultz@ag.senate.gov; karla whalen; Katelyn_Bunning@mcconnell.senate.gov; Ken - OSEC Washington DC Barbic (Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov); kiev randall; Layman, Joseph; Lindsay - FNS Datlow (Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov); Lisa.Shelton@mail.house.gov; Lyron.Blum-Evitts@mail.house.gov; Mandy.Schaumburg@mail.house.gov; Martha.Foley@mail.house.gov; marybeth_schultz@ag.senate.gov; Morgan_Ulmer@appro.senate.gov; Pam - FNS Miller (pam.miller@usda.gov); patti.ross@mail.house.gov; Phillips, Troy; Ravi, Suhasini; Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov; Sean_Byrne@schumer.senate.gov; tom.o"brien@mail.house.gov
Subject:	USDA FNS Update- WIC and SNAP Waiver Extensions - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, May 15, 2020 7:04:00 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) response to COVID-19.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127, the Act) provides the USDA statutory and regulatory waiver authorities necessary in an emergency such as COVID-19.

FNS is **extending all existing waiver approvals for WIC state agencies through June 30, 2020** for States that choose to continue operations under their approved waivers**.** State and local agency reporting requirements still apply.

FNS is **extending all SNAP waiver approvals through June 30, 2020** for States that choose to continue operations under their approved waivers for States operating under an emergency or disaster declaration based on an outbreak of COVID-19**.** State and local agency reporting requirements still apply.

FNS will continue to monitor this emergency and will consider subsequent extensions of waivers.

States agencies have been notified and they should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

For additional information regarding FNS's response to COVID-19, please visit this link: www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC

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Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Bcc:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov); Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); andrew_bahrenburg@leahy.senate.gov; Emily_rampone@budget.senate.gov; Patrick.satalin@mail.house.gov; John_Dowd@leahy.senate.gov
Subject:	Vermont State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 13, 2020 8:22:00 PM

Good evening,

This email is to inform you that tonight the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the Vermont Agency of Education to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the approval currently**.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act summer food programs congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: 3 bills
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 4:28:00 PM

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 3:17 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Frederick.Vaughan@treasury.gov
Subject: RE: Do you have a second to chat?

Fritz,

3 bills I'm aware of:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Thanks,
Veronica

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Withheld info is Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses.

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: 4-8-20 Congressional Letter Report
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:17:10 PM
Attachments: Rep. Schrader Floriculture Assistance.pdf
Rep. Deluaro and House D SNAP Online.pdf
Sen. Thune Cattle Market.pdf
Rep. Abraham and LA Del Crawfish.pdf
Rep. GT Thompson Dairy Assistance.pdf
McCarthy Nunes Letter to USDA on CARES Act Specialty Crops (4-8-20) FINAL.pdf
California Specialty Crop Ltr. to Leader McCarthy and Congressman Nunes .pdf

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Sir,

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP



Thanks,
Ken

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April 1, 2020

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
Member of Congress
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Devin Nunes
Member of Congress
United States House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

RE: California Specialty Crop Industry Priorities in Response to Covid-19 Pandemic

Dear Leader McCarthy and Congressman Nunes:

On behalf of the California specialty crop industry, we write to express our concerns over the rapidly evolving situation with Covid-19 and the impact it is having on our industry. As you, our congressional leaders, continue to navigate these uncommon times and craft appropriate responses to the economic devastation caused by this pandemic, members of the California specialty crop industry are asking for your assistance which will allow our members to keep harvesting, packing, processing and shipping the safe and affordable produce that is vital to every American.

California agriculture represents $50 billion in production value, employs over 500,000 individuals at peak harvest and is the nation's leader in agriculture exports. As an essential business, California's agriculture industry has continued to work during the Covid-19 pandemic to provide consumers with the safest and freshest produce available. The recently passed CARES Act affords the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) many tools and funding mechanisms, which if utilized correctly, can help the whole of the U.S. agriculture industry traverse these difficult times. We join with other industry representatives in calling for $5 billion dollars to be dedicated to assist the U.S. specialty crop industry.

As USDA develops specific programs, under the agriculture provisions set forth in the CARES Act, we ask that you focus on the below areas to help maximize immediate benefits for the specialty crop industry:

Direct Payments to Growers
The potential for significant instability in this country and in markets around the world due to the Covid-19 pandemic calls for the kind of direct payments to specialty crop growers that have been made through the Market Facilitation Program. The CARES Act bolstered USDA's ability to support the specialty crop industry and it would be our recommendation for those that can identify continued harm and loss of markets to be afforded direct payments in accordance with their impacts. Additionally, we request that the eligibility requirements be as flexible and inclusive as possible as with the additional supplemental appropriation for Disaster Relief Act;

Commodity Inclusion: *Berries, Citrus, Fresh Grapes, Tree Fruit, Tree Nuts, Fruit and Vegetable Row Crops and other commodities that fall into the USDA Specialty Crop Definition**

Food Purchase Program
With the unknown duration of this crisis and uncertainty in the food service supply chain we encourage USDA to create a similar purchase program as to what was instituted during the China Trade Dispute. We encourage the department to work with producers of specialty crops, through a direct purchase program and an expanded Section 32 program, to procure specialty crop commodities that can be utilized either by school feeding programs or the national food bank matrix. We would ask that these purchases be targeted

USDA Specialty Crop Definition: Fruits and Vegetables, Tree Nuts, Dried Fruits, Horticulture, and Nursery Crops (including Floriculture)

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to grower/shippers as they are most directly responsible for the food supply and most directly affected by the current crisis;

Commodity Inclusion: *Berries, Citrus, Fresh Grapes, Tree Fruit, Tree Nuts, Fruit and Vegetable Row Crops and other commodities that fall into the USDA Specialty Crop Definition**

Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA) Trust Claim Guarantee
Under PACA, established in 1930, perishable producers are first in line for payment in bankruptcy situations. During the ordinary course of business such bankruptcies would be few, and non-payments would be handled between trading partners. But, given the potential of widespread non-payment and even business failures in this crisis within the food service sector, extra steps are required to avoid disruption in the country's fruit and vegetable supply chain. We propose that the USDA guarantee the payment of all legitimate PACA trust claims filed against bankrupt firms, to the extent these claims are not satisfied by the available trust assets (e.g., receivables realized from the sale of perishable agricultural commodities). Under this proposal, PACA trust claims filed prior to bankruptcy filing would be ineligible for the USDA guarantee.
This proposal would:

- Assist produce growers, shippers, and distributors secure financing with receivables that would be 100% safeguarded against loses in bankruptcy.
- Encourage suppliers to refrain from filing premature trust claims that might force buyers into bankruptcy.
- Relatively easy to administer. Eligible PACA trust claimants not made whole by the bankruptcy process would submit proof of their losses to the USDA, which would review and release funds accordingly.

We, as the undersigned, offer our assistance as these programs are developed to benefit the specialty crop industry. We understand that these are trying times and that our nation is facing a global pandemic unlike one we have ever seen. Members of the California specialty crop industry take the responsibility of providing a safe and reliable food supply seriously and we are just asking for your help in giving us the tools to accomplish that goal.

Sincerely,

Richard Matoian
American Pistachio Growers

Elaine Trevino
California Almond Alliance

Casey Creamer
California Citrus Mutual

Jamie Johansson
California Farm Bureau Federation

USDA Specialty Crop Definition: Fruits and Vegetables, Tree Nuts, Dried Fruits, Horticulture, and Nursery Crops (including Floriculture)

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Ian LeMay
California Fresh Fruit Association



Kathleen Nave
California Table Grape Commission



Michelle Connelly
California Walnuts



John Moore III
Kern County Farm Bureau



Tricia Stever Blattler
Tulare County Farm Bureau



Jim Phillips
Sunkist Growers



Dave Puglia
Western Growers Association

USDA Specialty Crop Definition: Fruits and Vegetables, Tree Nuts, Dried Fruits, Horticulture, and Nursery Crops (including Floriculture)

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We applaud the work you and your team at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are doing to help support agriculture producers in our districts and across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State of California is the largest agriculture producer in the United States and is where nearly 90% to 100% of many specialty crops are grown in the country. This produce feeds our communities, nation, and the world, and is why it is important to help ensure our specialty crop growers have the resources and assistance they need during these tough economic times resulting from the pandemic.

Building on your Department's work, in the recently-enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Congress provided $9.5 billion to the USDA to provide "support for agricultural producers impacted by coronavirus, including producers of specialty crops, producers that supply local food systems, including farmers markets, restaurants, and schools, and livestock producers, including dairy producers," as well as $14 billion to replenish the Commodity Credit Corporation. As the USDA develops a spending plan for these funds, we believe it is important that programs be developed specifically for and to help specialty crop growers.

Accordingly, enclosed is a letter we received from the American Pistachios Growers, California Almond Alliance, California Citrus Mutual, California Farm Bureau Federation, California Fresh Fruit League, California Table Grape Commission, California Walnuts, Kern County Farm Bureau, Tulare County Farm Bureau, Sunkist Growers, and Western Growers Association that outlines California specialty crop growers' top priorities as USDA implements the CARES Act. The groups on the letter represent nearly all the specialty crop growers in California.

Specifically, California's specialty crop industry is requesting USDA support through the CARES Act for direct payments to growers, the purchase of food and produce, and the guarantee of payments for "all legitimate Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA) trust claims filed against bankrupt firms." The enclosed letter goes into detail on each of these requests, including explaining why this assistance is requested and how it would help the specialty crop industry of California survive during the pandemic.

In addition, we are concerned that payment limitations or adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations could be included in agriculture support programs that USDA develops to implement the CARES Act. If current payment and AGI limitations used in other USDA programs are applied to CARES Act programs, it would make CARES Act programs significantly less

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020 CARES programs
USDA-20-FOIA-A-000016

effective for California's specialty crop growers. This is because specialty crops are not only high-value produce, but also many growers have to plant significant acreage of multiple-specialty crops to generate economies of scale – while their gross income may exceed existing AGI limitations, they also have very high expenses that likely significantly lower their net income. Thus, we believe that any CARES Act programs designed to assist agriculture producers must exclude specialty crop growers from any payment or AGI limitations.

We respectfully ask that USDA works to ensure these requests are addressed as CARES Act programs to support agricultural producers are developed and implemented. In addition, signatories of the enclosed letter have informed us that they are not only ready and willing, but eager to work with you and the USDA to ensure the largest agriculture producing state in the Union has a seat at the table as the CARES Act is implemented by the Department.

Thank you for your time and attention on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any questions. If your staff have questions, they can contact Kyle Lombardi with Rep. McCarthy at kyle.lombardi@mail.house.gov or Ian Foley with Rep. Nunes at ian.foley@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

KEVIN McCARTHY
House Republican Leader

DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

Thank you for your continued support of our farmers and food supply chains during this unprecedented health crisis. As you know, Congress provided the USDA with $9.5 billion in the CARES Act to support agricultural producers impacted by the Coronavirus. As Members of Congress from Louisiana, we wanted to highlight an industry that has been acutely impacted by the virus and should be considered for assistance: crawfish.

The U.S. crawfish industry is largely seasonal and relies heavily on direct-to-consumer markets, such as restaurants, large social gatherings, caterers, festivals, and farmers markets. Government orders to close restaurants to dine-in customers and CDC limitations on social gatherings have directly impacted this industry. Many producers have seen prices plummet by more than $1.00 per pound and face average losses of more than $400 per acre by season's end. Taken together, this amounts to a roughly 60 percent loss in market value during the peak of crawfish season. The Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Louisiana State University AgCenter are working to further quantify the impact of these losses.

The crawfish industry provides more than $305 million to Louisiana's economy and, although the industry is mostly concentrated in our state, Louisiana crawfish farmers provide crawfish to restaurants and Americans for consumption all across the country. Without assistance, the short-term losses caused directly by the Coronavirus could lead to permanent loss of markets and impact the long-term health of the industry. We urge you to give strong consideration to the U.S. crawfish industry for assistance under the CARES Act.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our farmers and for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. Senator

John Kennedy
U.S. Senator

Steve Scalise
Member of Congress

Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress

Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress

Garret Graves
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

Mike Johnson
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2020

The Honorable George Ervin "Sonny" Perdue III
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

Given the unprecedented circumstances facing the people of our nation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to immediately implement nationwide expansion of the Online Purchasing Pilot for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as well as to include more retailers in the program.

The move toward accommodating online purchases for SNAP benefits has a long history of bipartisan support that began in the 2014 Farm Bill. More recently, the 2018 Farm Bill required a faster path toward scaling the pilot nationwide. The first phase of the pilot, which started in 2019, includes eight states and eight retailers.

One of the first studies to highlight the potential for expanded food security by online SNAP purchases was published late last year by researchers at Yale University and Tufts University. This study found that, in states participating in the Online Purchasing Pilot, 90 percent of people living in food deserts could receive grocery delivery to their homes[1].

As federal, state, and local governments expand social distancing measures to reduce transmissions of COVID-19, online purchases of food have become increasingly common to reduce public gathering in grocery stores. This is a critical need for many Americans, especially senior citizens who cannot leave their homes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that older adults, 65 and older, are at a higher risk for severe illness for COVID-19; this age group accounts for 8 out of 10 COVID-19 deaths reported in the U.S. In this same

[1] Brandt, Eric J., David M. Silvestri, Jerold R. Mande, et al. Availability of Grocery Delivery to Food Deserts in States Participating in the Online Purchase Pilot. JAMA Network Open. Dec 2019;2(12):e1916444. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2756107

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

demographic, we find high rates of hunger across our country as nearly 5.5 million seniors in 2017 reported to be food insecure.[2]

SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program, has been our nation's foremost and most effective anti-hunger program for decades. Recent estimates reveal SNAP recipients are among our nation's most vulnerable — nearly 20 million are children, about 11 million are people with disabilities, and almost 5 million are low-income seniors.

During this time, it is crucial that we keep SNAP working for those who need it most. Therefore, we again urge you to immediately expand the Online Purchasing Pilot to all states and additional retailers.

Sincerely,

ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress

ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress

JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

CONOR LAMB
Member of Congress

DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress

ILHAN OMAR
Member of Congress

[2] *See* https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html; https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/senior-hunger-research/senior.

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TIM RYAN
Member of Congress

ALMA S. ADAMS, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

DEB HAALAND
Member of Congress

JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress

DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress

SUSAN WILD
Member of Congress

ED CASE
Member of Congress

DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress

MARY GAY SCANLON
Member of Congress

SUZAN DELBENE
Member of Congress

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress

JUDY CHU
Member of Congress

ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress

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Tulsi Gabbard
TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress

Harley Rouda
HARLEY ROUDA
Member of Congress

/s/

BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress

/s/

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

/s/

GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

/s/

DAN KILDEE
Member of Congress

/s/

JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

/s/

ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress

/s/

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Member of Congress

/s/

STEPHEN LYNCH
Member of Congress

/s/

AYANNA PRESSLEY
Member of Congress

/s/

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress

/s/

JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress

/s/

GILBERT R. CISNEROS, JR.
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

/s/

JERRY McNERNEY
Member of Congress

/s/

J. LUIS CORREA
Member of Congress

/s/

DEBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress

/s/

JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress

/s/

ANDRÉ CARSON
Member of Congress

/s/

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

/s/

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
Member of Congress

/s/

DIANA DeGETTE
Member of Congress

/s/

KAREN BASS
Member of Congress

/s/

GRACE MENG
Member of Congress

/s/

SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress

/s/

ALCEE HASTINGS
Member of Congress

/s/

HALEY M. STEVENS
Member of Congress

/s/

JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

/s/

JASON CROW
Member of Congress

/s/

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress

/s/

MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress

/s/

JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress

/s/

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

/s/

BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress

/s/

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

/s/

MARK POCAN
Member of Congress

/s/

HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.
Member of Congress

/s/

JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress

/s/

JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

/s/

JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III
Member of Congress

/s/

KATHY CASTOR
Member of Congress

/s/

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

/s/

CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress

/s/

GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

GLENN "GT" THOMPSON
15TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

400 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–3805
(202) 225–5121
(202) 225–5796 (FAX)

http://thompson.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

AGRICULTURE
Ranking Member, General Farm Commodities & Risk Management

EDUCATION & LABOR

April 08, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As you begin to implement the newly enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, I write to request your support for our nation's dairy farmers. Agriculture is Pennsylvania's number one industry and dairy is the Commonwealth's top agriculture sector. The dairy industry supports more than 50,000 jobs in the state and contributes more than $14 billion annually to the state's economy.

Dairy farmers have already faced extreme market volatility in the face of significant uncertainty in many parts of their businesses. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges. USDA's 2020 milk price estimate reflects a drop of roughly $5.7 billion at the farm level over just the last six weeks. Furthermore, dairy farmers have already suffered five years of low prices and are now enduring a massive drop in sales due to restaurant closures, school closings, and food-service cancellations. Although the milk supply remains safe and production continues across the country, I am greatly concerned by the recent reports of farmers needing to dispose of milk, and fear the already-challenging situation may worsen for dairy farmers as the threat of supply chain disruptions and shifts in consumer buying patterns persist.

Therefore, I request you to use the authority provided to you under the CARES Act to provide robust support to dairy producers as they weather the unique impacts of this pandemic on the farm economy. I also ask that you provide a means of compensating farmers and cooperatives for milk disposed due to COVID-19 related market disruptions or logistics challenges. Such compensation should be made swiftly to allow farms an adequate cash flow in lieu of usual payment for their milk. Such compensation should also be crafted so as to not encourage disposal, and potentially could be paired with an enhanced incentive to donate fluid milk.

Additionally, I request that you use your existing commodity purchasing authorities to make substantial targeted purchases and donations of a variety of dairy products that are not able to be easily redirected to retail channels. A swift and significant product purchase – primarily for consumer-friendly products including cheese and fluid milk – will help stabilize the rapid decline

BELLEFONTE
3555 BENNER PIKE, SUITE 101
BELLEFONTE, PA 16823
(814) 353-0215 (814) 353-0218 (FAX)

EBENSBURG
107 S. CENTER STREET
EBENSBURG, PA 15931
(814) 419-8583 (814) 846-5124 (FAX)

OIL CITY
217 ELM STREET, SUITE B
OIL CITY, PA 16301
(814) 670-0432 (814) 670-0868 (FAX)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

in prices and offset lost sales due to the many cancellations and closures resulting from COVID-19 that have displaced many products. Moreover, with unemployment spiking, food banks – where dairy is often a popular item – are facing unprecedented demands for donations, providing a valuable outlet for the nutritious dairy products your Department could purchase.

Given these extenuating circumstances, I ask that you re-open the 2020 enrollment for the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program. During the initial sign-up period last fall, USDA's DMC decision tool did not project any payments for 2020. However, as of late March, that tool is now predicting margins below the $9.50/cwt. level from March through December, underscoring the economic challenges being wrought by the coronavirus pandemic. I recommend exploring an approach that would enroll producers for the remainder of the current Farm Bill to avoid a repeat of this situation in the future.

Finally, I ask that you consider additional assistance to dairy farmers proportionate to market losses suffered. In this context, I request you to take an approach that encourages producers to reduce excess supply on a voluntary, temporary basis given the significant demand destruction caused by the multitude of closures.

In closing, I thank you and your staff for your Department's ongoing efforts to help our nation's dairy farmers through this unique and difficult crisis. I look forward to continuing to partner with you over the coming months on behalf of our producers.

Sincerely,

Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I am writing to ask that you consider the needs of the American cut flower and greenery industry when evaluating your Department's response to the unprecedented challenges agriculture faces from the COVID-19 pandemic. I urge you to consider the various authorities USDA has at its disposal including the $9.5 billion provided to USDA to support agricultural producers impacted by COVID-19, including floriculture which is a specialty crop.

The domestic cut flower industry creates almost $42 million in economic impact daily and supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States. In the latest National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) Commercial Floriculture survey, which covered 2018, the nation's total floriculture crop value was estimate at $4.77 billion, up from $4.37 billion for 2015 and $4.20 billion for 2014.

Unfortunately, the necessary lockdowns and increased purchasing of essential household supplies due to COVID-19 have led retailers and event planners to cancel up to 100 percent of their flower orders in recent weeks and for weeks ahead. The industry estimates the economic impact of COVID-19 on domestic cut flower and cut greenery growers to be nearly $200 million for March through May. As a result, well-established cut flower and cut greenery farms are laying off hundreds of workers and some are even going out of business or are on the brink of going out of business. One of my growers informed me yesterday that 90 percent of their customers are closed and their total sales are down 80 percent overall. Additionally, cut flower and greenery growers that market products directly to consumers at farmers markets and on farms through pick-your-own sales are also suffering unexpected market losses.

Cut flower and cut greenery growers across the country have felt the impact quickly and profoundly and are working hard to keep their businesses afloat and retain their employees, but options for relief are not currently available. Farms have been turned away from SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans and USDA Disaster Assistance does not cover the current pandemic.

While food producers shift into overdrive to keep up with soaring demand, supermarkets and wholesalers are either significantly decreasing or are stopping the purchase of any flowers. Additionally, farmers that were fortunate to have orders to fill just learned that major trucking

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companies have decided to stop shipping flowers because of statewide lockdown orders.

Today, many of my constituents are facing the prospect of closing farms that have been in operation for generations. As you work to finalize the USDA relief strategy to COVID-19 and utilize the $9.5 billion provided by Congress, we ask that you keep the hundreds of struggling cut flower and cut greenery farms across the country in mind.

Sincerely,



KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld info is Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses.

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: 4-13-20 Congressional Letter Report
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 9:45:41 PM
Attachments: Rep Newhouse +3 Specialty Crop AGI & Payment Limits.pdf
Sen Feinstein +1 Special Crop Assistance.pdf
Sen. Tester COVID Funding Oversight.pdf
Rep. Meng +55 FNS Hot Food Waiver.pdf
Sen. Stabenow and Sen. Peters MI Ag Assistance.pdf
Sen. Moran TEFAP.pdf
Sen. Leahy +24 Dairy Letter.pdf
Sen. Tillis and Sen. Burr Specialty Crops.pdf
Rep. Bergman Cherry Assistance.pdf
Sen. Risch +15 Dairy.pdf
Rep. Curtis Forest Service Fees.pdf
Sen. Bennet and Sen. Gardner CO Ag Assistance.pdf
Rep. Finkenauer IA COVID USDA Assistance.pdf
Rep. Steve King AMS Cattle Investigation.pdf
Sen. Brown +32 Local Market Producers[1].pdf

Sir, (b) (5), DPP

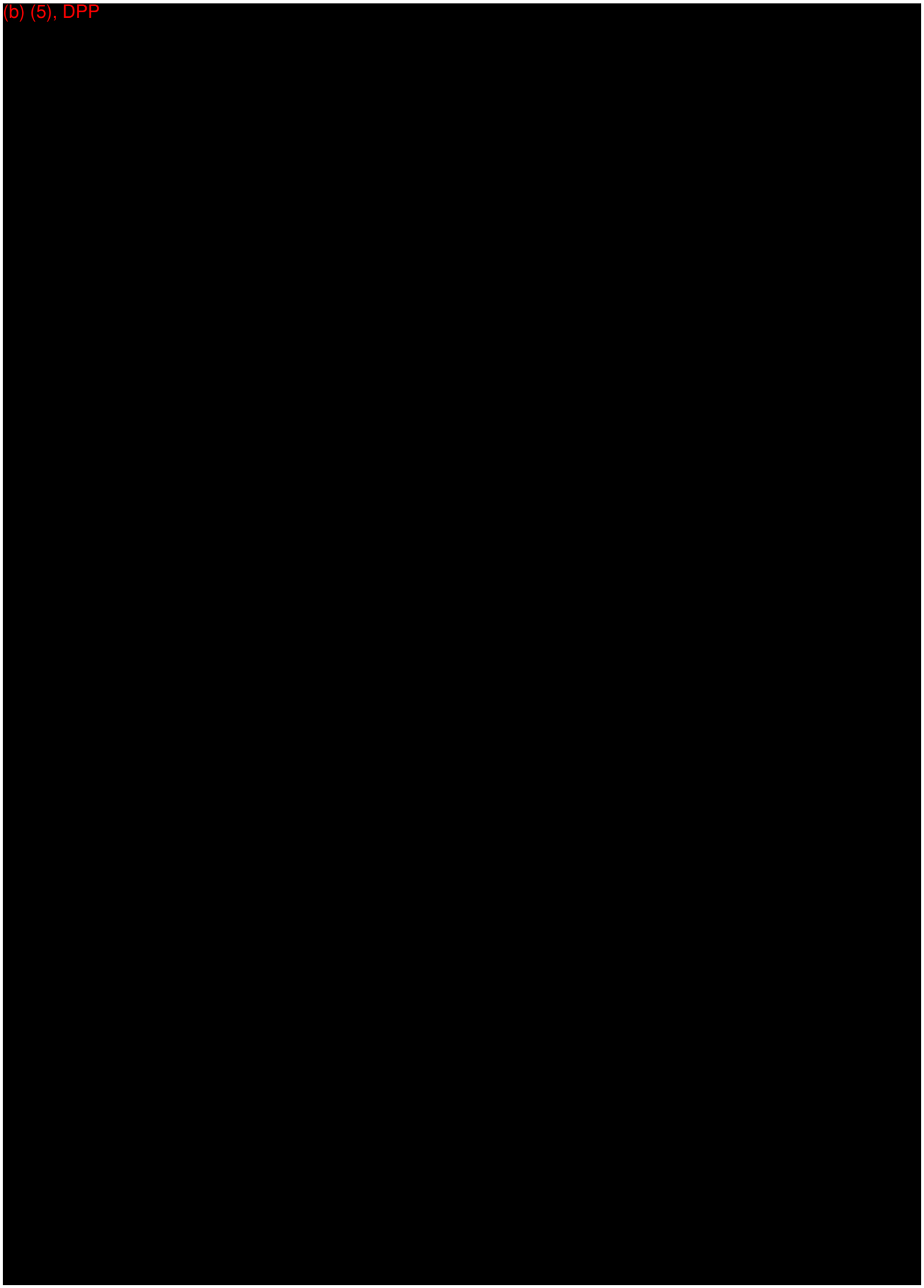
(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



Ken

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted local food systems and caused losses for farmers who sell their products to local markets. We urge you to account for the scale of these losses as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides relief and direct payments to farmers.

The recently-passed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act made $9.5 billion available for USDA to provide support for agricultural producers who are struggling because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act specifically includes "producers that supply local food systems, including farmers markets, restaurants, and schools" among those eligible for the assistance. We write today to emphasize the high level of damages being experienced by local food producers and to provide comments on fair allocation of the CARES payments.

Communities across the country have responded to the spread of COVID-19 by shutting down schools, universities, and other institutions. Many farmers markets have closed or postponed the start of the season to prevent crowds from gathering during the outbreak, and restaurants have closed or are operating on a limited basis. These closures and delays have cut off the usual outlets for producers who sell directly to into local and regional food systems. One study estimates that these market disruptions could lead to a $1.1 billion loss of sales for these producers through the end of 2020.

The growth of the local food economy over the last decade has nurtured a diverse group of small and medium size producers who depend on direct markets to reach consumers. Consumers benefit from having more choices and a deeper connection to where their food comes from and how it is grown. Unfortunately, these losses, compounded by increased sanitization and transportation expenses, threaten the survival of many of the farms that supply local food systems.

We urge you to protect the rich diversity of American agriculture by working with producers who supply local markets to tailor USDA relief efforts to their needs. To do this, we respectfully request that you provide payments to local food producers for lost revenue and additional cost incurred by the COVID-19 disaster.

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We urge you to administer these payments through the Farm Service Agency in response to the industry's projected $1.1 billion loss in revenue. To be eligible to receive a direct payment, local food producers should derive at least 25 percent of total farm income from sales that are locally purchased, including food sold directly to consumers, schools, institutions, food hubs or regional distribution centers, retail markets, farmers markets or restaurants. Further, to be eligible, these producers should meet standard AGI limitations as directed by the Farm Bill and maintain conservation compliance if currently required to have a plan.

For those local food producers making between $1000 and $300,000 in annual revenue in recent years, the USDA direct payment for COVID relief should at a minimum equal 25 percent of annual revenue or at maximum equal $25,000.

For those local food producers who can provide information regarding actual COVID revenue loss and added costs, additional disaster assistance should be made available. Information regarding revenue loss could include a 2020 crop year business plan, a record of approved loans, a record of 2019 crop year revenue, contracts, receipts, or other agreements that can demonstrate a loss of revenue or additional costs incurred by a farmer as a result of the COVID-19 disaster. Payments for these actual losses and costs should be capped at $100,000 per producer or at a minimum should be equal to 50 percent of the total lost revenue and additional costs incurred by producers as a result of the COVID-19 disaster and 60 percent of total lost revenue and additional costs for producers who donate a significant amount to food banks or other charitable causes.

As the ramifications of the COVID-19 emergency continue to unfold, we encourage you to consider whether additional payments will be needed in the future to support local food economies affected by the disaster.

We respectfully request that for crop year 2020, the Farm Service Agency waive farm number requirements for local food producers and new farmers who currently do not have them. We ask that USDA carefully consider an outreach strategy that specifically reaches small, beginning, and socially disadvantaged local food producers, including those with limited internet access or exposure to FSA services. We urge USDA to establish a national hotline to manage incoming producer inquiries, simplify the application process, and make information about the program available in multiple languages.

Thank you for consideration, and please know that we stand ready to work with USDA on relief efforts.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sherrod Brown
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/ Lisa Murkowski
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

/s/ Debbie Stabenow
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/s/ Susan M. Collins
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

/s/ Richard Blumenthal
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher S. Murphy
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

/s/ Robert Menendez
Robert Menendez
United States Senator

/s/ Catherine Cortez Masto
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

/s/ Jeffrey A. Merkley
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ Tom Udall
Tom Udall
United States Senator

/s/ Elizabeth Warren
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

/s/ Tina Smith
Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Patrick Leahy
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Brian Schatz
Brian Schatz
United States Senator

/s/ Jeanne Shaheen
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Patty Murray
Patty Murray
United States Senator

/s/ Joe Manchin III
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Duckworth
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

/s/ Richard J. Durbin
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

/s/ Bernard Sanders
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Kaine
Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

/s/ Martin Heinrich
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

/s/ Amy Klobuchar
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Mark R. Warner
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

/s/ Jack Reed
Jack Reed
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

STEVE KING
4TH DISTRICT, IOWA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–1504

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
JUDICIARY
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL JUSTICE
SMALL BUSINESS

April 13, 2020

The Honorable William Barr
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue,
NW Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Attorney General Barr and Secretary Perdue:

I write to call on your departments to investigate concerns raised by America's farmers and ranchers about possible illegal practices in the cattle industry. Since February 4, 2020, live cattle prices are down 16 percent. This is happening while American consumers bought 77 percent more meat during the week of March 15 compared to 2019. The spike in the purchase of beef products at the grocery store has resulted in higher beef values for meat packers, yet farmers and ranchers have seen a net decrease in the value of their cattle.

Further, the four largest meat packing companies control approximately 80 percent of beef processing in the United States. With the shelf price of meat at record highs and with the high rate of concentration in the meat packing industry, there are concerns that the difference in these margins is the result of illegal practices. These conditions warrant investigations into potential market manipulation and unfair practices within the cattle market.

The Department of Justice and the Department of Agriculture should initiate investigations into potential market manipulation and unfair practices within the cattle market. I have received a large volume of calls and emails from Iowans and member organizations expressing concerns that the current discrepancy between high shelf price and decreased cattle price does not make sense. I share the concerns of these farmers and ranchers, and I take their claims seriously. As such, I request that you examine the current structure of the beef meat packing industry and investigate potential market and price manipulation, collusion, restrictions on competition and/or other unfair and deceptive practices under the United States antitrust laws and the Packers and Stockyards Act.

In particular, Title 7, United State Code, §192, of the Packers and Stockyards Act adopted in 1921, provides the following:

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"Unlawful practices enumerated. It shall be unlawful for any packer or swine contractor with respect to livestock, meats, meat food products, or livestock products in unmanufactured form, or for any live poultry dealer with respect to live poultry, to:

(a)Engage in or use any unfair, unjustly discriminatory, or deceptive practice or device; or

. . .

(e)Engage in any course of business or do any act for the purpose or with the effect of manipulating or controlling prices, or of creating a monopoly in the acquisition of, buying, selling, or dealing in, any article, or of restraining commerce; or…"

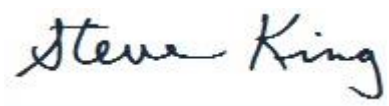
These subsections of the Packers and Stockyards Act have been the subject of considerable enforcement action and litigation in recent years. Although the bulk of that litigation has revolved around individual producers or a group of individual producers who have alleged they have been harmed by the practices of one or more packers, the current market situation does not involve packer conduct against one producer or a small group of producers. Rather, it involves alleged market manipulation that affects all cattle producers, in Iowa and nationwide.

In *Schumacher v. Tyson Fresh Meats, Cargill Meat Solutions, Swift Beef Company and National Beef Packing Company,* the court found proof of adverse effect on competition was not necessary for a claim under 7 U.S.C. §192(a) of the Packers and Stockyards Act (section 202(a) and (e) of the 1921 Act). This case involved allegations of a number of packers knowingly using inaccurate USDA boxed beef prices to negotiate purchase of slaughter cattle at substantially lower prices than economically justified. See *Schumacher v. Tyson Fresh Meats, Cargill Meat Solutions, Swift Beef Company and National Beef Packing Company*, 434 F.Supp. 2d 748 (U.S. District Court, South Dakota Northern Division 2006).

Further, I request that you also investigate for potential violations of section 2(d) of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. § 13(d)) and § 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. § 45) as those sections would apply to these potential violations of 7 U.S.C. § 192(a). See *Re ITT Continental Baking Co.* , 44 Agric. Dec. 748, 1985 WL 63151 (U.S.D.A. 1985). I understand that proof of violations of these federal statutory provisions may be difficult and require extensive investigation, but Iowa and the nation's beef producers deserve a full-scale investigation. The difference in price between what they are receiving, and the retail price consumers are paying at this time of a national pandemic simply cannot be explained, much less justified, by legitimate supply and demand market forces.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this important matter. I hope by May 1st to hear your decision on whether to move forward with this investigation.

Sincerely,



Congressman Steve King
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I write to request information on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s plan for the distribution of emergency assistance recently provided by Congress to address the ongoing outbreak of coronavirus.

On March 27th, 2020, H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Securities (CARES) Act was signed into law. This bipartisan $2 trillion relief package is the third emergency spending bill passed by Congress to support and advance coronavirus response and recovery efforts across the country. While hopeful that these new resources will bring some relief to our families, small businesses, and hospitals, we now have the difficult task of ensuring that assistance reaches every one of our affected communities.

To make sure that Iowans are receiving the help that they need, I ask that you provide an overview of the resources under jurisdiction of the USDA. Specifically, I request that you provide the following information—

1. Briefly detail the different programs and accounts under your agency that received emergency supplemental for coronavirus response and recovery efforts in Iowa. For each program or account, include the following—
    a. Information on how such funding will be distributed (formula, competitive, or otherwise);
    b. The estimated allotment for the State of Iowa or its entities (if applicable);
    c. The amount of any funding distributed to-date;
    d. Any deadlines related to the successful receipt of those funds; and
    e. The estimated award schedule for these funds.
2. Provide a point of contact, or points of contact, within your agency that my office can reach with questions about these resources.
3. Provide any additional information on funding and resources have been awarded to the State of Iowa for coronavirus response and recovery efforts as of April 1, 2020.

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With the information we have requested above, my office hopes to provide Iowans with certainty and peace of mind that emergency assistance will reach our state. While we look forward to your reply, we strongly believe that the Administration should be proactively providing this information. To ensure oversight and transparency, my request today is a first step toward making sure this funding yields real relief for the American people.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your written reply. Please note that separate agencies under the purview of the USDA may reply separately to allow for this information to be shared as quickly as possible. If you have any questions, please send an email to Abby.Finkenauer01@mail.house.gov. We look forward to hearing from you and working together to support our country through this crisis.

Sincerely,



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–1501

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Release 4-000043

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As Colorado struggles with the COVID-19 pandemic, our farmers and ranchers are working to secure a safe, consistent food supply for our nation. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided billions of dollars to assist producers who are now navigating shifting supply chains and volatile market conditions. As the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) begins to implement the CARES Act, we urge you to fully consider the challenges facing Colorado's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

Colorado agriculture generates more than $40 billion in economic activity, providing over 170,000 jobs and supplying local, regional, and international markets. However, the COVID-19 pandemic is creating new challenges and injecting even more uncertainty in markets battered by years of trade wars and extreme weather. The CARES Act provided $9.5 billion to assist agricultural producers affected by the pandemic and another $14 billion to replenish USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). As you determine how to allocate these resources, we request that you consider the following:

- Include Livestock Producers: Colorado's ranching and livestock operations are a proud part of our heritage and economy. Producers raising cattle, sheep, and hogs are now dealing with extreme market volatility and long-term uncertainty. They should be included in any relief package for targeted, temporary assistance to mitigate damages they're facing as a result of the pandemic, while minimizing market distortions.

- Focus on Small and Medium Size Producers: The CARES Act explicitly included assistance for producers that sell to farmers markets, restaurants, and schools. In Colorado, these producers are often small and medium sized, and are integral part of our economy. Some now face cash-flow challenges as a result of lost markets or food supply contracts, and they are exploring new options to sell their product. The USDA should prioritize outreach and assistance to these local, small and medium sized producers to mitigate their current and expected losses.

- Assist Dairy Farmers: For the past few years, low prices and trade disruptions have left many Colorado dairies in precarious financial situations. COVID-19 has further suppressed demand for certain dairy products, limiting restaurant orders and food service

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

purchases. However, dairy farmers often don't have the option to scale back production quickly. The USDA should consider how to use these funds to mitigate price fluctuations, while improving food security and limiting waste in the supply chain.

- Address Fruit and Vegetable Losses: Colorado's climate and high elevation contribute to a thriving specialty crop sector that accounts for nearly $485 million of the state's agriculture revenue. While our producers are trying to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, logistical barriers make it difficult to do so quickly and at scale. The USDA should consider direct assistance to cover lost revenues and added costs, while exploring ways to help producers find markets and purchasers in an effort to minimize food waste.

- Prioritize Outreach and Accessibility: The USDA should emphasize accessibility and flexibility while distributing CARES Act funding. Further, we encourage you to engage in strategic outreach to producers of all sizes, particularly historically disadvantaged and those most at risk of severe financial hardship to ensure equitable access to any disaster relief fund.

In addition to the disaster funding, the CARES Act provided $14 billion to replenish the CCC, which funds various Farm Bill safety net and conservation programs. As you begin to evaluate how to distribute these additional CCC funds, we encourage you to consider how investments in conservation could provide multiple benefits, helping farmers and ranchers weather hard times and enhancing long-term productivity of our working lands.

The CARES Act is a start for agriculture, but work still remains to support Colorado's farmers and ranchers as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Our farmers and ranchers continue to face challenges accessing Small Business Administration programs, finding labor, stabilizing supply chains, and keeping themselves and their workers healthy. We look forward to working with you on these challenges ahead to maintain a vibrant agricultural economy in Colorado.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

/s/ Cory Gardner
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

As we all consider efforts to offer temporary relief to struggling businesses, I ask you to evaluate your existing authority that could be used to support small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic until our nation's economy gets back on track.

In particular, several companies in my district host marathons that implicate U.S. Forest Service land in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, where they are typically charged a fee for 5% of gross revenue collected for their events. These fees can total tens of thousands of dollars per year, and for an industry with slim margins, account for a notable cost to a small business.

With the above paragraph as context, I request that you respond promptly to the following questions:

1. Once collected, what are these fees for an event on USFS utilized for? Are they kept local and shared with other National Forests?
2. Does the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or Forest Service, have the authority to temporarily eliminate, or reduce, these fees to provide relief during the COVID-19 pandemic?
3. If the USDA or Forest Service does have this authority, will you please consider using this authority to appropriately help these companies get their feet underneath them?

If you have any clarifying questions please contact Jake Bornstein (jake.bornstein@mail.house.gov) in my office. Thank you again for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

John Curtis
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We thank you for the tremendous amount of time and effort you and the entire team at the U.S. Department of Agriculture are bringing to the policy table so that farmers can survive and Americans can keep food on their kitchen table. Our farmers and ranchers are doing their part to help the nation navigate the effort to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. Your work is providing valuable assistance in that partnership you so often refer to in your motto to "Do Right and Feed Everyone."

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27th includes several provisions for assistance to agriculture. While few sectors of the economy have been spared from the economic impacts of the heroic efforts of Americans to contain the spread of the coronavirus, perhaps none have experienced the loss of markets to the degree of the U.S. dairy industry. For example, products typically sold to dine-in restaurants, that nearly all have closed due to social distancing requirements, are backing up in warehouses and much of the farm milk used to make those products no longer has a market.

Farm milk prices are on the verge of collapse due to this shift in consumer demand. Dairy producers who, just a few weeks ago were looking at the prospect of the first promising year in more than five, are now in the most economic difficulty in memory.

In this case assistance for the dairy industry adds up to both help for farmers and nutritious food for the entire country. Support for Americans suddenly in need of food assistance is a national priority at this time of need. Economic stability for the dairy industry will help ensure that a stable and abundant food supply is available to the public at reasonable prices now and long into the future.

The Congress provided several ways in the CARES Act to help the dairy industry. We urge you to develop strong measures to help mitigate the current market upheaval so that the dairy industry can survive this crisis.

Sincerely,

James E. Risch
United States Senator

Mike Crapo
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Jerry Moran
United States Senator

/s/ Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



Martha McSally
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator

/s/ M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



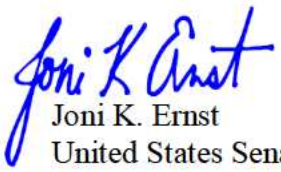
Mitt Romney
United States Senator



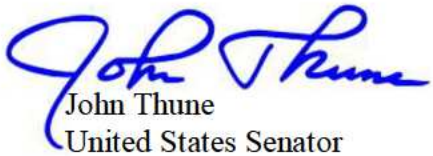
Josh Hawley
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

JACK BERGMAN
1ST DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2201

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

On behalf of Michigan's hardworking tart cherry growers and processors, we urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to use all available authorities and funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to safeguard tart cherry growers and processors.

Relief is needed immediately as the coronavirus pandemic has stripped Michigan cherries of their markets and imposed new challenges on production. The tart cherry industry is already fighting issues in both the domestic and foreign markets which have resulted in low grower prices and an increased cost of production. Given this unprecedented situation, USDA must work diligently to stabilize the industry and ensure it is not overlooked in opportunities to benefit from coronavirus-related efforts.

As you know, the CARES Act included $14 billion to replenish the Commodity Credit Corporation and $9.5 billion to provide support for agricultural producers —including for specialty crops— impacted by coronavirus. It is critical to our constituents that tart cherry growers and producers be able to take full advantage of this new funding which USDA is working to implement. We request the availability of direct payments for tart cherry growers and cherry processors to ensure the CARES Act delivers meaningful relief.

Additional applications of USDA authorities and funding to help Michigan cherries could be used in the following ways: a substantial purchase of surplus product; domestic marketing support; aid to ensure the continuation of key supply chains for agricultural equipment and markets; and funding to help operations keep and protect workers. Finally, as our nation's agricultural sector faces unprecedented obstacles to produce and reach markets, USDA should initiate a whole-of-government effort to consider temporary measures which prioritize products made in the USA ahead of imported products.

As Michigan produces 75 percent of our nation's tart cherries, we thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

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Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to request assistance for North Carolina's specialty crop farmers with the resources provided in the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stabilization (CARES) Act to mitigate the economic fallout caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

North Carolina specialty crop farmers grow the nutritious fruits and vegetables that are essential to a healthy diet. Our specialty crop farmers were already coping with the financial challenges caused by retaliatory tariffs and ongoing trade disruptions, before the COVID-19 outbreak. The disruptions caused by COVID-19 have already caused $5 billion in losses and are pushing many of our specialty crop farmers to their financial breaking point as contracts with restaurants, schools, and the hospitality industry continue to be cancelled during the nationwide shutdown.

Additionally, North Carolina's nursery and floriculture industry, which represents one-third of the value of all specialty crops nationally, is also facing serious economic distress as a result of COVID-19. As you may know, mid-March to Memorial Day, is one of the nursery and floriculture sector's busiest times of year, representing 60 to 80 percent of yearly sales for the industry. We also request assistance specifically reflective of the nature of the nursery and floriculture industry to mitigate losses resulting from COVID-19.

As you implement the CARES Act, we respectfully ask that you deploy assistance to our nation's specialty crop farmers. These are challenging times our country faces and we commend the Administration and your continued efforts to combat and mitigate the consequences of COVID-19 on our nation's agriculture community.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Burr
Richard Burr
U.S. Senator

/s/ Thom Tillis
Thom Tillis
U.S. Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

The COVID-19 pandemic presents an urgent challenge to our nation's farmers and food companies, who are continuing to provide the nation with a safe, abundant, and affordable food supply. This crisis is especially pressing for producers of perishable food, such as dairy farmers who milk cows and deliver milk to processors every day and do not have the option of pausing production.

Although the milk supply remains safe and production continues across the country, we are greatly concerned by the recent sharp decline in dairy futures markets and in cash prices for dairy commodities. This price decline has translated to an estimated $5.7 billion loss at the farm level in just the last five weeks, with several billion dollars lost in the supply chain. Further, the impact of five consecutive years of low prices is felt even more acutely now, as dairy farmers are enduring a massive drop in sales due to restaurant closures, school closings, and food-service order cancellations. Some processing plants that supply these businesses have also temporarily closed or reduced production. Despite efforts by dairy cooperatives and processors to shift milk supplies to other plants, wholesome, high-quality milk is being dumped as processing bottlenecks continue. Further disruptions could be possible, especially if some of the essential workers at processing plants fall ill.

To respond to the damage that farmers have already incurred and to prepare for further losses, Congress included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act a $9.5 billion emergency response fund for agriculture, to equip the Department to prepare for, prevent, and respond to COVID-19 through direct support to producers. Dairy producers are specifically supported within this fund. The law also partially replenishes by $14 billion the borrowing authority for the Commodity Credit Corporation, which can be used to assist producers whether or not they have been impacted by the pandemic. In this context, we also urge you to consider an approach that would provide producers a temporary, voluntary incentive to align supply with demand given the ongoing reduction in demand.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

We urge the Department to act quickly and build off of existing programs to deliver both direct assistance to dairy farmers and intervene in the market to reverse the decline in futures prices and signal a floor on farm prices and support dairy processors and others in the supply chain.

We appreciate the Department's recent decision to adjust the Federal Crop Insurance dairy policies to allow milk that is dumped due to COVID-related disruptions to retain coverage. We suggest a similar flexibility be extended to re-open the 2020 sign-up for Dairy Margin Coverage would provide an immediate, positive opportunity for dairy farms of all sizes to protect against uncertain prices for the remainder of the year. Dairy Margin Coverage would be particularly beneficial, since by design it would automatically ramp-up or ramp-down assistance based on how quickly other interventions, such as purchases, will have on future prices. Though 2020 enrollment closed at the end of last year, using your statutory authority to reopen sign-ups would reflect the unprecedented situation that farmers could not have predicted at the time, given the widespread impacts of the pandemic on our entire economy. We also recommend that the Department cover the cost and fees of tier I coverage at $9.50 under 2020 Dairy Margin Coverage in order to provide an automatic safety net to all dairy farms with production history. While farmers should be provided an opportunity to opt-out or select tier II coverage, providing automatic coverage and refunds will also minimize the contact between farmers and USDA employees.

An immediate and substantial purchase of a variety of dairy products to offset the lost commercial market sales would also send a clear demand signal throughout the dairy economy that would help calm volatility. The purchase should concentrate on products that have lost their normal restaurant, foodservice, and export markets, and that can be repackaged or repurposed for nutrition programs such as processed cheese, mozzarella cheese, shelf-stable milk, and skim milk powder. Moreover, as unemployment spikes and the economy slows, food banks and other feeding programs are already seeing increased demand for nutritious food like milk and other dairy products. We also hope that the Department will take meaningful steps to alleviate financial and liquidity risks across the supply chain by ensuring processors have access to loan programs.

Even with improved risk protection and an effort to shore-up markets, dairy farmers will face significant losses on both milk and other production, such as the beef value of their cull cows and dairy steers. We urge the Department to calculate these losses and provide direct assistance based on recent milk production or herd sizes, instead of historical production. Similar to the tier I coverage under Dairy Margin Coverage, we encourage the Department to set a higher rate for the first 5 million pounds of milk production.

While these recommended actions should reduce the imbalance between milk supply and demand in certain segments of the dairy industry caused by COVID-19, especially in the short

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

term, there will likely be additional milk dumping. With significant dumping of milk possible, the Department should work quickly to ensure that there is a clear incentive to process and donate as much milk as possible. Donating milk can cost the dairy cooperative or processor significantly more than dumping when the costs of transportation, processing, packaging, distribution, and marketing order costs are considered. The 2018 Farm Bill created a new milk donation program that could be used as a model for providing an incentive for donation. This approach would also allow dairy cooperatives and processors to work directly with food banks and other charities to meet their needs without USDA acting as an unnecessary middleman. If necessary, we encourage the Department to provide assistance for dumped milk, potentially working through the Agricultural Marketing Service or similar to the reimbursement for milk dumping losses under the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program.

We thank you for the Department's ongoing efforts to help our nation's producers and food companies through this unique and difficult crisis, and look forward to continuing to partner with you over the coming months on behalf of our dairy farmers, businesses, and workers as our nation endures this unprecedented public health and economic crisis.

Sincerely,

/s/ Patrick Leahy
PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

/s/ Debbie Stabenow
DEBBIE STABENOW
United States Senator

/s/ Charles E. Schumer
CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr
ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
United States Senator

/s/ Tina Smith
TINA SMITH
United States Senator

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand
KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

/s/ Amy Klobuchar
AMY KLOBUCHAR
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters
GARY C. PETERS
United States Senator

/s/ Bernard Sanders
BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator

/s/ Jeanne Shaheen
JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
United States Senator

/s/ Jack Reed
JACK REED
United States Senator

/s/ Elizabeth Warren
ELIZABETH WARREN
United States Senator

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher S. Murphy
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden
RON WYDEN
United States Senator

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.
ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator

/s/ Thomas R. Carper
THOMAS R. CARPER
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher A. Coons
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

/s/ Margaret Wood Hassan
MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
United States Senator

/s/ Richard J. Durbin
RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin
TAMMY BALDWIN
United States Senator

/s/ Sheldon Whitehouse
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein
DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

JERRY MORAN
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United States Senate

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

It is critical for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure that food banks across the country are able to cope with the large influx of Americans seeking food in the wake of economic instability caused by COVID-19. I urge USDA to expedite purchases and allow maximum flexibility in distributing food through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) during the COVID-19 outbreak, to use Section 32 funds for commodity purchases, storage and distribution by food banks, and to proactively make States aware of their ability to request permission to operate the Disaster Household Distribution (DHD) program to help speed assistance to communities.

COVID-19 has caused severe economic stress across the country. This, in turn, has caused a large increase in the number of Americans who are relying on food banks to feed themselves and their families. My state has seen unprecedented demand and long lines at our food banks as this pandemic takes its toll on our economy, including food banks in Kansas City, Pittsburg, Salina and Wichita. Harvesters, the food bank network in the Kansas City area, saw its largest order-processing day in its 40-year history at the end of March. Kansas Food Bank in Wichita is on pace to double the amount of food it sends in March and April to partner agencies in the 85 counties it serves. With current supplies, food banks are not equipped to handle this influx of customers.

In response to this need, Congress has designated $850 million to TEFAP in an effort to provide food banks with the supplies they need as part of Phases II and III of the coronavirus recovery packages. However, food banks do not expect to receive food from this funding until late June or July. At the same time, many food banks expect to run out of existing TEFAP supplies in the next two to four weeks. Because of this, I ask that you fully use USDA's authority to expedite purchases of TEFAP foods and provide maximum flexibility to food banks in distributing the food so that food banks may take advantage of these funds as early as possible.

There are additional avenues of support for food banks that I urge you to take that may provide assistance in a more expedient manner. Section 32 funds should be used to purchase commodities for distribution to food banks. As the pandemic causes supply chains to shift, there are many producers who are struggling to find buyers for their food. USDA can purchase the food, ensure it is in household friendly sizes, and help provide the distribution support to make

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MANHATTAN, KS 66502

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23600 COLLEGE BOULEVARD
SUITE 201
OLATHE, KS 66061

PITTSBURG OFFICE
306 N. BROADWAY STREET
SUITE 125
PITTSBURG, KS 66762

WICHITA OFFICE
100 N. BROADWAY
SUITE 210
WICHITA, KS 67202

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Release 5 of 7
USDA-20-1045-A-000057

sure food banks can distribute it to the millions in need they are serving. To help ease the regulatory burden on food banks, states should also be made aware of their ability to request to operate the Disaster Household Distribution (DHD) program.

Thank you for what USDA has done over the past few weeks to ensure that vulnerable Americans continue to have access to food. The Department has been responsive and decisive, acting swiftly to ensure that low-income families receive meals in a safe manner. Now, we must do all we can to help food banks meet the unprecedented challenge of providing meals to a growing number of Americans in need and provide support to our agricultural producers who have lost markets for their food during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Jerry Moran

Jerry Moran
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

The COVID-19 crisis has severely affected Michigan's farmers and ranchers. As the USDA responds to this unprecedented emergency, we urge you to consider the unique and diverse needs of Michigan agriculture, which supports one in four jobs in our state.

Michigan farmers have been hit hard by this global pandemic and will continue to struggle with the disruptions caused by this disease. Necessary social distancing practices and interruptions to global trade, restaurants, schools, and farmers markets have had an immediate and severe impact on many farmers' ability to distribute and sell their products. Our farmers need assistance during this crisis as they continue to work every day to prevent shortages and keep us supplied with food.

As you know, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides $9.5 billion for COVID-19 disaster assistance, specifically targeting funding for specialty crops, local food, dairy, and livestock producers. Beyond these specific hard-hit sectors, we also encourage the Department to look to the 2018 Farm Bill as a model for how to target assistance to producers who are more vulnerable, such as beginning and minority farmers. We also ask that you include appropriate payment limits and eligibility requirements to ensure the limited funds are distributed equitably. We urge USDA to carefully consider the need of all of these producers and recommend the following suggestions to disperse funds and implement new disaster programs.

Michigan is one of the top producers of specialty crops, including fruits, vegetables, and nursery products, which contribute $2.46 billion to Michigan's economy. The fresh-produce industry has already estimated $5 billion in losses nationwide as a result of COVID-19. Michigan producers of specialty crops have been impacted by closures of restaurants and the hospitality industry, challenges redirecting product to retail, low prices, and increased production costs. Before COVID-19, many crops were already facing challenges from unfair foreign imports from countries like Mexico, Turkey, and Peru, which has further harmed these growers.

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In order to ensure that Americans can continue to access healthy fruits and vegetables, we ask that USDA provide direct assistance to farmers of all specialty crops facing losses and make purchases of products for food banks and other feeding programs. As USDA administers assistance, it is vital to Michigan producers that the Department consider losses resulting from COVID-19 in the summer or fall as market and distribution disruptions will affect the entire industry for the foreseeable future. Producers of many crops will not be able to account for their losses and increased production costs for the next several months but are still facing serious impacts.

Before the COVID-19 disaster, many Michigan dairy farmers were looking forward to a profitable year in 2020 after five years of market instability. As the effects of the pandemic have unfolded, dairy prices have plummeted, and demand has almost disappeared for dairy products used for ingredients, restaurants, and food service. Cows must be milked every day, so dairy farmers, processors, and their essential workers don't have the option to pause production. As a last resort, some milk has been dumped, but much more has been re-routed and used to support families in need. Cooperatives like Michigan Milk Producers have even sped up their planned donation of more than 85,000 gallons of milk and will additionally donate another 4,100 pounds of cheese to food banks who are in desperate need of supplies as unemployment climbs.

We recommend that you take a combination of actions that build off the existing programs to provide improved risk protection and direct assistance to farmers, purchase milk and dairy products, and incentivize donation whenever possible. Immediate and significant action is critical to restore stability and profitability to the dairy industry.

The COVID-19 disaster has presented a new set of challenges for Michigan's producers who supply local and regional markets. We have seen significant market disruptions for farmers who sell directly to consumers due to restaurant, school, and other institutional closures. In Michigan, local food economies contribute nearly $500 million to the state economy. Across the nation, it is expected that local food producers will incur about $1.1 billion in losses and additional costs due to the COVID-19 disaster for 2020.

To address the needs of producers who supply local food, we request that a portion of the $9.5 billion be used to provide direct assistance to these farmers. We recommend developing a flexible revenue reimbursement program that provides a base level of direct assistance to producers with options to increase payments based on documented losses and additional costs related to the COVID-19 disaster.

Michigan's livestock and poultry producers are also facing unprecedented market volatility and supply chain shifts resulting from COVID-19. Futures prices for cattle and hogs have

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

plummeted, and the potential for processing-capacity disruption in the interest of public health presents further challenges to come for livestock and poultry producers. We urge you to also create a temporary program to provide direct assistance to producers of beef cattle, hogs, poultry, and other livestock to help offset the market impacts of COVID-19.

Finally, we appreciate the steps the Department has already taken to support farmers in this unprecedented situation, like providing additional flexibility for those repaying farm loans. In addition to implementing the new provisions in the CARES Act, we encourage the USDA to provide additional emergency flexibility in other existing programs and extend deadlines for program participants and grant applications.

Thank you for your work to support Michigan specialty crops, local food, dairy and livestock producers during the COVID-19 crisis.

Sincerely,

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

JON TESTER
MONTANA

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING
COMMERCE
INDIAN AFFAIRS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

SENATE HART BUILDING
SUITE 311
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-2644

tester.senate.gov/contact

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

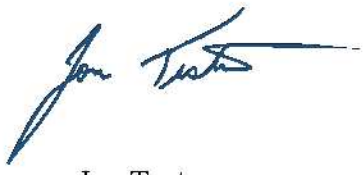
I write today regarding the three recently passed laws in response to COVID-19 and the importance of strong oversight of the taxpayer dollars being used to confront this crisis. I urge your agency to immediately update its protocols to ensure that appropriated funds are targeted to the most affected businesses and individuals, and that you review and update your procedures as appropriate to prevent and identify any incidents of waste, fraud, and abuse.

Our country faces an unprecedented public health and economic turmoil from the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress is passing aggressive measures to provide real and immediate relief to our health care workers, businesses, workers, and local governments. In recent legislative packages, Congress appropriated significant funds to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help respond to the spread of COVID-19.

This is a critical time in our nation's history and USDA plays a vital role in our recovery. Given the President's recent removal of the Chairman of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee and trillions of tax payer dollars going out the door, it is critically important for your agency to be fully transparent and open to independent oversight. As you work to implement COVID-19 legislation, I ask that you provide Congress a detailed plan on how USDA plans to execute these funds and what accountability measures are being put in place to ensure our taxpayer dollars are being spent efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter. I look forward to your swift response.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

BILLINGS (406) 252-0550 | BOZEMAN (406) 586-4450 | BUTTE (406) 723-3277 | MISSOULA (406) 728-3003 | GREAT FALLS (406) 452-9585 | HELENA (406) 449-5401 | KALISPELL (406) 257-3360

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We write to request to allow Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) beneficiaries to purchase hot food items from retailers that already accept electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards.

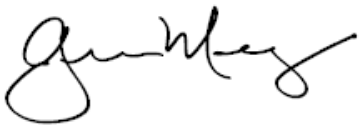
Prior to the COVID-19 public health crisis, 37 million Americans relied on SNAP benefits to buy food each month. Unfortunately, in the midst of this crisis, over 16 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits in a two-week time span. No doubt, unemployment rates will continue to skyrocket. As grocery stores struggle to keep their shelves stocked, more families will become food insecure, and those who are already food insecure will continue to face significant hurdles in feeding their families. SNAP beneficiaries also need more support when public transportation use is discouraged, and when going outside in densely populated areas is dangerous.

Under normal circumstances, SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase hot food; allowing flexibility through a waiver for the duration of the pandemic, however, would ease the burden families face to provide nutritious foods to their families. Further, for essential employees who qualify for SNAP and are risking their lives, the ability to purchase hot food will ease the burden of having to cook full meals during this stressful time. These waivers have been requested by governors across the country.

Therefore, we strongly urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture to immediately issue hot food waivers for states where a major disaster has been declared in addition to a national emergency. We also call on the Food and Nutrition Service to extend its approval of hot food waivers to this pandemic national emergency. While this may differ from the "Disaster SNAP Guidance" (pg. 31) issued by your agency in July 2014, we encourage you to establish alternate and broader policy during the current public health emergency. Language in the Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act (H.R. 6379) emphasized the urgency of allowing SNAP participants to purchase "hot foods" or "hot food products ready for immediate consumption" from SNAP-authorized grocers, and while this language was not included in the CARES Act, we believe that your agency has the authority to implement these waivers without this change in law.
We look forward to your response on allowing EBT retailers to accept SNAP benefits for the purchase of hot food.

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Sincerely,





/s/ Grace Meng
Member of Congress

/s/ Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

/s/ Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

/s/ Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/ Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

/s/ Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/ Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

/s/ Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/ John B. Larson
Member of Congress

/s/ James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

/s/ Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

/s/ Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

/s/ Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

/s/ Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/ Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

/s/ Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

/s/ Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

/s/ Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

/s/ Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

/s/ Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

/s/ Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/ Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

/s/ Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

/s/ Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

/s/ Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress

/s/ Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Release 6 of 7
USDA-20-1045-A-000064

/s/ Bill Foster
Member of Congress

/s/ Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

/s/ Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

/s/ Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

/s/ John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

/s/ G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

/s/ Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

/s/ Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

/s/ Adam Smith
Member of Congress

/s/ Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

/s/ David Trone
Member of Congress

/s/ Judy Chu
Member of Congress

/s/ Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

/s/ David Price
Member of Congress

/s/ Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

/s/ Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Keating
Member of Congress

/s/ Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

/s/ Susan Wild
Member of Congress

/s/ Darren Soto
Member of Congress

/s/ Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

/s/ Sanford D. Bishop
Member of Congress

Cc:
Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Release 6000065
USDA-20-1045-A-000065

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave.
Washington, DC 20250

Secretary Perdue,

Thank you for your leadership and attention to the United States food and agriculture sector in this time of crisis. Continuing to supply Americans with food is essential for health and wellness as we battle the current COVID-19 outbreak, and we are grateful for all of your efforts.

As you begin administering the agriculture provisions included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, we urge that your attention and the CARES Act relief initially target those growers facing severe financial distress and immediate economic collapse such as the specialty crop growers who count on a majority of their business supplying restaurants, hotels, and other foodservice outlets, which have been shuttered by government-mandated orders.

We strongly urge your initial support to be focused on those growers currently facing significant hardship and consider the impact of the current outbreak on demand and prices for a number of these agriculture commodities. Given the catastrophic drop in demand for certain products, many growers are being asked to cut production well below recent purchase commitments and historical production levels. In many cases, growers have already purchased inputs, prepped the ground, and in some cases, planted crops (thousands of dollars per acre) that suddenly no longer have a market. In other instances, growers who have stored their perishable 2019 crop are in jeopardy of losing tens of millions of dollars because food service and institutional demand is nonexistent for the foreseeable future.

As you develop the structure of USDA's support for growers, it is imperative that consideration be given to the historical production of key commodities and that your support programs take into consideration these immediate cuts in contract purchases that cause the harshest market impact. The CARES Act relief should take into account these abrupt market changes caused by the government-mandated closure of foodservice and institutions.

When disasters have struck suddenly, past emergency assistance has pivoted on historical production levels. We recommend a similar approach now. Moreover, many of these crops hurt directly by stay-in-place directives are not traditionally covered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) suite of safety net programs. These growers are unfamiliar with the FSA disaster protocol. Additionally, We trust you will incorporate reasonable adjusted gross income (AGI) and payment limit parameters that reflect previous Congressional and Administrative actions in times of disaster and other significate market challenges. For example, under the USDA WHIP disaster program, AGI limits have been waived if at least 75% of average AGI is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry-related activities. Similar accommodations were made for growers under USDA's 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP).

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Secretary Perdue, we commend you for the tireless focus that you and the entire Department have placed on ensuring the U.S. food supply is sound and moving forward. We can't overstate the importance of that to the health and safety of U.S. consumers and the entire agriculture and food value chain. Thank you for your consideration of the points highlighted in this letter. We stand ready to work with you to ensure the distribution of the funds provided by Congress in the CARES Act is appropriately targeted to the sectors of the industry most in need at this time.

Sincerely,

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld info is Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses.

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: 4-14-20 Congressional Letter Report
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:41:34 PM
Attachments: Sen. Murkowski + AK Delegation Seafood Purchases.pdf
Rep. Kind DMC.pdf
Rep. Brindisi +13 NY Del. Dairy.pdf
Sen. King +ME Del. Potatoes.pdf
Sen. Schumer and Sen. Gillibrand D-SNAP.pdf
Chair Peterson Ag Purchases.pdf

Sir, (b) (5), DPP .

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(b) (5), DPP



Ken

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to encourage you to maximize the purchase of agricultural commodities as you consider how to support America's farmers and ranchers during the pandemic emergency caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

The agricultural economy was already in a fragile state from several years of adverse weather conditions and our challenging trade situation. Despite being an essential service, our ag producers and their supply chain partners are facing the total loss of some market segments and the inability to quickly change their marketing and processing capabilities to meet the new realities.

Farmers and ranchers are all frustrated with the inability to get their dairy, meat, and poultry products as well as fresh fruits and vegetables into the hands of consumers, especially those consumers most in need of food assistance.

I trust that you will use all of the tools at your disposal, including the funding provided to the Office of the Secretary in the CARES Act and under the authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) as well as Section 32 funds, to help lessen the impact that the coronavirus is having on our food production and supply system.

The pictures and video of milk being dumped and fresh vegetables being plowed into the ground is unsettling to most Americans, but it is heart breaking for those farm families that produced that commodity.

I look forward to working with you should you need further legislative tools to help ensure that the production that no longer has a foodservice market can be made available to help our nation's foodbanks.

Thank for you for the many hours that you and your staff are spending to document the devastating impact that the coronavirus has had on our ag economy. We look forward to the delivery of the assistance that was provided in the CARES Act and through the other tools at your disposal.

Sincerely,

Collin C. Peterson
Chairman

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

On behalf of processing potato growers in Maine, we write to draw attention to the industries loss of sales due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, we urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) utilize existing and new spending authorities to make direct purchases of raw potatoes for processing and processed potato products that remain in growers and processors storages from the 2019 crop.

The Maine potato industry, and specialty crop industry as a whole, has faced significant challenges due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, including dramatic reductions in sales as restaurants, food establishments, hospitality businesses and schools have closed. In Maine, 40% of our annual potato crop are processing potatoes grown expressly for use within the food service industry. While the impact to Maine's potato industry is continuing to change day-to-day, and will continue to decline until businesses are allowed to reopen, it is expected that 2,014,400 hundredweight (cwt) of processing potatoes from the 2019 crop may not be sold; 12.2 percent of the total Maine 2019 crop, a value of $22,104,800. Furthermore, this backlog in the 2019 crop caused by the pandemic will likely result in growers seeing a 10 to 20 percent reduction in their planting contracts as they begin their 2020 planting season.

The current pandemic has resulted in a remarkable need to address Americans' food insecurity and nutrition shortfalls through existing federal nutrition programs within USDA. The recent stimulus bills passed by Congress, the Families First Act and CARES Act, included significant investments for these nutrition program. Additionally, the CARES Act replenished the Commodity Credit Corporation borrowing authority by $14 billion to stabilize, support, and protect farm income and prices. This funding, coupled with existing USDA spending authority, including, but not limited to Section 32, should be used to provide nutrient-dense vegetables to feeding programs.

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We greatly appreciate the efforts USDA has made so far to assist farmers impacted by COVID-19, as well as the agencies continued efforts to provide updates to farmers about critical USDA program being used to respond to the pandemic. However, given the current situation facing processing potato growers in Maine, we request that USDA utilize existing spending authority, as well as new funding made available under the CARES Act and Families First Act, to make direct purchases of raw for processing and processed potato products.

Direct purchases of raw processing potato and processed potato products will help to support Maine growers during these tumultuous times, prevent possible layoffs at potato processing facilities, and most importantly, provide nutrient-dense, high-quality food for vulnerable populations through USDA nutrition programs. We ask that you give this request every appropriate consideration, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.
ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator

/s/ Susan M. Collins
SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator

/s/ Chellie Pingree
CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress

/s/ Jared Golden
JARED GOLDEN
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

As Members of New York's Congressional Delegation, we represent a robust community of dairy farmers who have lost direct markets due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Farmers across the country have suffered tremendous loss, and New York is no exception. Our state is home to more than 4,000 family dairy farms who work tirelessly every day to produce healthy, nutritious milk and dairy products for families across our state and our region. The situation is also creating hardship elsewhere along the dairy supply chain, negatively impacting farmer-owned cooperatives, proprietary processors, packagers, merchants and marketers. We are writing to request that swift action be taken, including direct financial assistance, by the administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in order to provide relief to our dairy farmers and other parts of the dairy supply chain.

As you know, the COVID-19 outbreak has caused a collapse of the food service industry, massive economic insecurity, and export disruptions. This, combined with a seasonally rising milk supply, has created an estimated excess of demand by at least 10%. As processors, marketers, and producers adapt to a decline in restaurant sales and a surge in grocery store demand, several processing plants are curtailing or ceasing their operations, which results in cancelled milk orders. As a result, cooperatives and dairy producers across the United States are beginning to "dump" significant quantities of milk. With prices dropping, we fear that this already-challenging situation will only get worse in the coming weeks.

While the extent of the COVID-19 pandemic could not have been predicted, the impacts on the food supply have been very real and unprecedented for America's dairy farmers, including those in New York, the epicenter of the pandemic. Dairy is New York State's largest agricultural commodity, and it is facing significant uncertainties as prices have been historically low for the past five years. Combined with the effects that the pandemic has had on the supply chain, farmers face significant uncertainty, and are in immediate need of relief. Financial stress is building throughout our country's food supply, and New York's dairy farmers are already feeling these effects. Additionally, with more than 10 million Americans already losing their jobs, food banks and similar organizations are seeing a significant increase in demand, a trend that is expected to intensify in the coming weeks.

It is essential that the administration and USDA use the resources available to provide direct aid to dairy producers, create avenues to replace lost demand, provide stability to commodity markets and mitigate systemic financial and liquidity risk. Specifically, we request USDA:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

1. Create a direct payment program for dairy farmers with financial support equivalent to the Dairy Margin Coverage program in order to provide immediate relief from the market effects of COVID-19
2. Establish a Temporary Milk Disposal Reimbursement program through the Agricultural Marketing Service's Federal Milk Marketing Order audit function to compensate milk producers and handlers for milk that has been disposed due to supply chain disruptions resulting directly from the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Begin section 32 dairy purchases to purchase substantial volumes of dairy products for feeding programs in order to help address surging food insecurity while simultaneously stabilizing the dairy market.
4. Modify all Federal Feeding Programs to eliminate restrictions that limit consumer choice, including WIC and School Lunch Programs, and allow for the purchase of whole milk by schools.
5. Create a voucher program through the Milk Donation Program, as authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill, to allow for the facilitation of milk donated by grocery stores and other venues to local and regional food banks.
6. Consider additional direct assistance to dairy farmers. We encourage you to consider doing this in a way that attempts to align supply and demand on a voluntary, temporary basis given the unique disparity that has arisen on account of the many closures.
7. Take meaningful steps to alleviate systemic financial and liquidity risks across the supply chain by ensuring that dairy processors have access to loan programs that can help them continue to operate during this crisis.

We are in danger of losing a critical part of our food supply when we need it most. That's why we as a delegation urge the administration and USDA to work together to provide clarity and support to our farmers and all of those along the supply chain. Our dairy farmers and processors are critical to the success of our local communities and economies, and they urgently need the highest level of support possible during these unprecedented times in order to keep providing a safe and wholesome product to the American consumer.

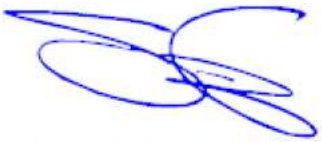
Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress

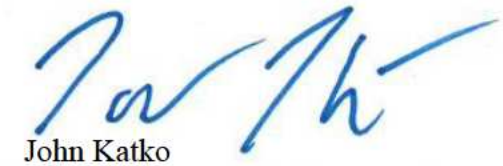
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Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



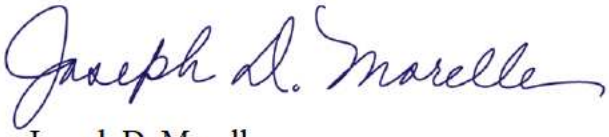
Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



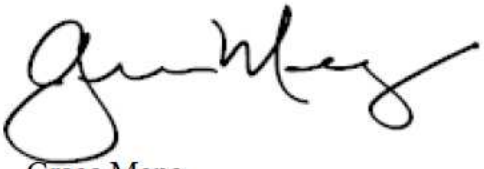
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Tom Reed
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

RON KIND
THIRD DISTRICT, WISCONSIN
SENIOR WHIP
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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EAU CLAIRE OFFICE
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WEBSITE: KIND.HOUSE.GOV

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I write to request immediate action to support dairy farmers in Wisconsin and throughout the country following the COVID-19 outbreak. Over a week ago, the Wisconsin delegation notified you of the tremendous strain facing the dairy industry from the COVID-19 outbreak, but the situation continues to deteriorate by the day. Despite this, there have been few actions to support dairy farmers. While I understand that your agency is planning to roll out an agriculture support package this week, I am confused as to why you have yet to reopen the dairy margin coverage (DMC) program. I ask that you move swiftly to reopen enrollment for the program to give dairy farmers the immediate tools they need to ensure their survival.

Wisconsin's dairy products are particularly reliant on a robust food service industry, and with most restaurants either closed or operating with limited service, dairy farmers are immediately being hit with some of the most severe financial repercussions of the COVID-19 crisis. With milk prices dropping rapidly, USDA needs to move now or many dairy farms in Wisconsin will not survive.

Using an existing mechanism to provide support for dairy farmers would be a quick and effective way to ensure we do not lose farms permanently to this crisis. During DMC enrollment for 2020 in December 2019, milk futures showed some of the highest high milk prices in over five years. Cash strapped dairy farmers who were barely getting by in previous years were eager to take advantage of the higher prices to pay off debts, rebuild their savings, and make needed repairs or improvements to their farms. Many barely scaping by in recent years were understandably unable to justify the costs of the plan's premiums when there was little chance of any payout in 2020, according to USDA's own risk calculator.

Even before the crisis, Wisconsin was losing an average of two dairy farms a day, and the state continued to lead the country in the number of family farm bankruptcies. This year, farmers were looking forward to turning things around, only to be hit with a pandemic that shuttered many of the businesses they rely on most. I ask that you move to reopen enrollment for DMC now, and I stand ready to work with you on providing the necessary support for dairy farmers throughout this crisis.

Sincerely,

Ron Kind

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to fulfill the requests from the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) to exercise your authority under Section 32 and the Food Distribution Program for Indian Reservations (FDPIR) to purchase $100 million of wild Alaska pollock and $20 million of wild sockeye salmon, respectively. The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the supply chain and threatened food security for the nation. Already suffering from tariffs and trade embargos, the pandemic has caused drastic price reductions for Alaska seafood that negatively impacts Alaska fishing communities but provides an opportunity to secure food for American families that are in need.

Alaska harvests two-thirds of all seafood in the U.S. and relies heavily on the sales of seafood to support its economy. The Alaska pollock and sockeye salmon fisheries are the most valuable fisheries in the state. The Alaska pollock fishery contributes up to $500 million annually to the state's economy and is the largest fishery in the nation by volume of landings. In comparison, Alaska's sockeye salmon fisheries are responsible for more than $300 million in landings that support Alaska's economy. These fisheries employ thousands of fishermen who play an important role in both the Alaskan and national economies.

Over the next months, impacts caused by coronavirus (e.g., closure of restaurants and food services) are estimated to cost Alaska's harvesting sector and the entire Alaska seafood industry hundreds of millions of dollars. In addition to disrupting supply chains and challenging harvesters' ability to fish, the coronavirus pandemic is exacerbating the ongoing negative impacts of the Russian trade embargo that was placed on imported U.S. seafood, as well as high trade tariffs imposed by China. As a result, Alaska's seafood industry is in need of immediate stabilization to ensure that this critical sector of the economy can continue operating during the coronavirus pandemic. Large-scale purchases of pollock and sockeye salmon by USDA through the Section 32 and FDPIR programs can provide this stabilization and assure that continued demand exists for these products.

Products from both fisheries are popular staples in the diets of Americans. Alaska pollock products already meet dietary goals in domestic school and food bank programs, and Alaska salmon is a popular and nutritious addition for FDPIR communities. As unemployment rates increase and more families are economically affected by coronavirus, it is imperative that we secure food for those in need. Alaska pollock and sockeye salmon are sustainably harvested, nutritious sources of protein that can contribute significantly to the health and wellbeing of food-insecure Americans who rely on USDA programs for assistance.

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The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has worked with the Alaska seafood industry in the past by authorizing the purchases of Alaska pollock and pink salmon. The coronavirus impacts felt by the Alaska seafood industry and American families provides another opportunity for AMS to procure high-quality protein at an affordable price for families in need. By initiating purchases of Alaska pollock and wild sockeye salmon, the USDA can give much needed relief to the Alaska seafood industry and American families. We urge you to use your authority as Secretary to initiate a $100 million purchase of Alaska pollock products under Section 32 and a $20 million purchase of wild sockeye salmon under the FDPIR to support the livelihoods of fishermen and the health of food-insecure Americans.

We appreciate your review of these requests and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Don Young
Congressman for all of Alaska

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Withheld info is Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses.

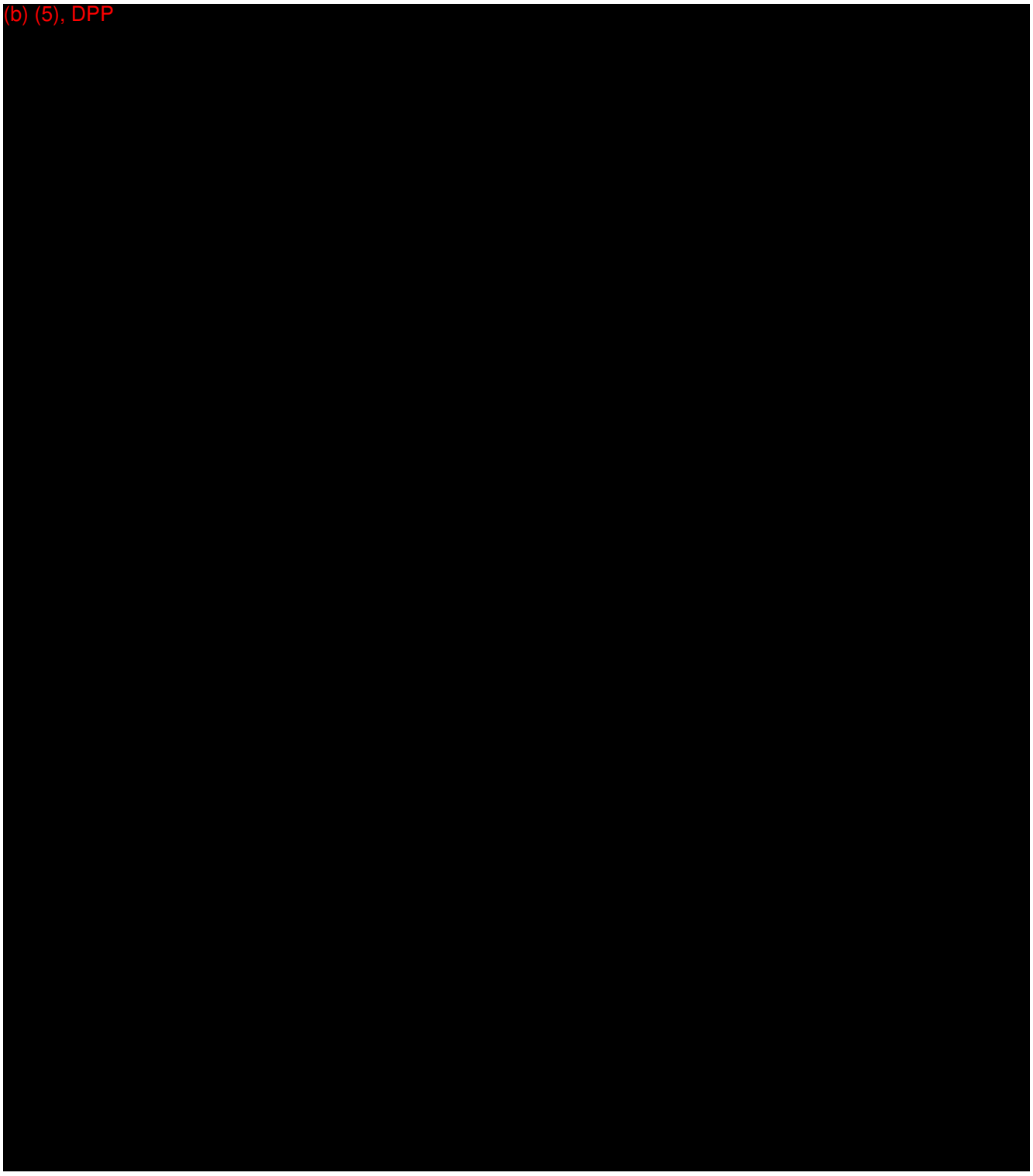
From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: 4-15-20 Congressional Letter Report
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:54:38 PM
Attachments: Sen. Cornyn and Cruz TX Ag.pdf
Sen. Schatz HI Del HI Ag.pdf
Sen. Loeffler GA Ag.pdf
Sen. Warner and Kaine SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot.pdf
Rep. Mike Thompson Food Waste.pdf
Sen. Baldwin Cranberries.pdf
Rep. Welch +14 Dairy.pdf
Sen. Boozman +20 Cotton v2[1].pdf

Sir,

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2020

Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write today concerning the ongoing public health crisis caused by the spread of COVID-19 and its impact on the agricultural industry. We appreciate all the work USDA is doing to ensure farmers, ranchers, and the entire food and agricultural industry can continue to operate during this uncertain time. As you know, American agriculture has suffered greatly in recent years, and the economic strain from the COVID-19 pandemic has presented further challenges for our producers. While all sectors of the agricultural economy have been impacted by this public health crisis, the U.S. cotton industry been particularly hard hit during this time.

Since the beginning of 2020, cotton futures prices have declined 30 percent. As retail stores around the globe have shuttered, orders from U.S. textile mills have dropped as much as 90 percent in the last month. Cotton merchandisers and distributors are also facing additional costs for storage, interest, and other carrying costs as worldwide demand is significantly depressed. Cottonseed, a majority of which is used as a feed ration for dairy and beef cattle, is in a tenuous situation as its main customers – dairy and beef cattle producers– are also facing severe economic losses because of the ongoing public health crisis.

We understand the cotton industry has reached consensus on a package of recommendations to assist all segments of the industry. We encourage you to work with the industry, so that needed aid can be delivered in a timely manner. In responding to the current crisis, Congress and the Administration have acted swiftly to assist the people of our country during this time. We ask that you use that same approach to ensure that this critical industry represented throughout our states receives the necessary assistance.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to provide relief, and we look forward to working with you in this regard.

Sincerely,

John Boozman
U.S. Senator

Mark Warner
U.S. Senator

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John Kennedy
U.S. Senator



Kelly Loeffler
U.S. Senator



Jerry Moran
U.S. Senator



Tom Cotton
U.S. Senator



Richard Burr
U.S. Senator



Marsha Blackburn
U.S. Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
U.S. Senator



Tim Scott
U.S. Senator



Josh Hawley
U.S. Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to assist farmers as they face unique challenges on account of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. As the bipartisan co-chairs of the Congressional Dairy Farmer Caucus and members who represent dairy farmers, we urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to do all it can to help dairy farmers weather this time of incredible hardship.

Dairy farms are the backbone of rural economies across the country. Dairy farmers continue to put themselves at risk by working around the clock to provide products to consumers during this difficult time. However, the dairy industry is now facing unprecedented and extensive economic damage due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The foodservice market has collapsed overnight due to closures of schools and restaurants, and export disruptions are harming milk powder demand. The decrease in demand for finished products has caused processing plants to curtail or cease operations and cancel fluid milk orders. Farmers are being forced to dump milk and milk prices are plummeting. Dairy farmers have already seen losses of more than $5.7 billion due to this crisis.

We ask that you use as many tools as possible, as quickly as possible, to address this crisis in the dairy industry. These tools could include but are not limited to paying producers to reduce production, compensate producers for milk that must be dumped, provide capital for processors to expand their capacity and increase their inventory, purchase dairy products for food banks, reopen the Dairy Margin Coverage Program and make the sign up retroactive, and work to increase international food aid.

Dairy farmers need support immediately. We urge you to use your authority to provide support directly to producers. The CARES Act provides the USDA with $9.5 billion to assist producers and specifically cites dairy in the statutory language. We ask that you take immediate action to support this critical industry.

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Thank you for your consideration of our requests. We look forward to continuing to work with you over the coming weeks and months on behalf of dairy farmers.

Sincerely,

PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

SUZAN K. DELBENE
Member of Congress

MIKE SIMPSON
Member of Congress

TOM REED
Member of Congress

ANN MCLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress

PAUL D. TONKO
Member of Congress

XOCHITL TORRES SMALL
Member of Congress

CHRISSY HOULAHAN
Member of Congress

ELISSA SLOTKIN
Member of Congress

TOM O'HALLERAN
Member of Congress

DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress

ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER
Member of Congress

JOSH GOTTHEIMER
Member of Congress

JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress

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TAMMY BALDWIN
WISCONSIN

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

April 15, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic disruption has created great challenges for the cranberry industry. I urge you to consider the impact and magnitude of these disruptions as you allocate the $9.5 billion made available to support agriculture, including specialty crops, in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Specifically, I ask you to use these funds to provide direct financial assistance to cranberry growers and use Section 32 authority to make purchases of surplus cranberry products, including juice. As the impact of this emergency continues to unfold in the coming months, I urge you to utilize all available programs and authorities at USDA to enable growers to weather these challenges.

Affecting cranberry growers from coast-to-coast, the sudden and unpredictable closure of food-service businesses combined with government-issued stay-at-home orders have heightened the stress of an already challenging business environment. The growing season is now upon us, and some seasonal farm workers that cranberry growers rely on were unable to return to cranberry marshes due to travel restrictions. Many growers would like to immediately hire unemployed members of their community to replace them, but they do not have sufficient funds immediately available to do so. Small growers are especially hard hit because many of these families have unexpectedly lost their non-agricultural income, which was critical for their cash flow. The loss of this additional income leaves many of these growers and their businesses on the brink of collapse.

Consumption of cranberry products away from home has fallen by sixty percent since the onset of the pandemic, and prolonged severe economic damage will continue to affect cranberry consumption in the months and years to come. This economic fallout comes on the heels of years of significant losses in cranberry export markets due to retaliatory tariffs, which have undermined relationships with large overseas buyers that were developed over many years. Prior to the onset of retaliatory tariffs, China was the largest overseas buyer of cranberries, purchasing $55 million of product annually. The global pandemic now means prolonged export market closures during the year when cranberry growers were optimistic about rebuilding relationships with international customers.

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There are numerous challenges facing cranberry growers at this time, and they cannot weather them alone. Please use the funds provided by Congress to directly assist cranberry growers during this incredibly challenging time. These family farms play a critical role in providing Americans healthy food and driving our rural economy. I request that you provide these hardworking growers the resources they need to keep their businesses running so they can continue to contribute to our nation's productivity and wellbeing for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 8/10/2021

MIKE THOMPSON
5TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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April 15, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

Agricultural producers across the country are having to dispose of products due to the inability to market goods to consumers, manufacturers, and trading partners due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic. It is disheartening to hear that agricultural producers are having to dispose of dairy, produce, and other products due to an inability to get the products to in-need consumers. There must be a method to repurpose this food to folks in need and reduce food waste. Across the country, the need for food assistance is growing and most communities cannot keep up. I hope you will work with agricultural producers to connect their products with those in need.

To that end, I am requesting that the USDA develop or expand programs to find ways to repurpose agricultural goods to help people in need. It is nonsensical to dump food when our local food banks are scrambling to provide for our most vulnerable populations.

It is desperate times for both our producers and our consumers. This commonsense approach would help our Nation through these difficult times. Please let me know if I can help.

Sincerely,

Mike Thompson

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

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Printed on recycled paper.

2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 80 of 2054

USDA-20-1045-A-000088

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write today in support of the Commonwealth of Virginia's request to participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Online Purchasing Pilot Program. Inclusion in this program will allow Virginia SNAP recipients to use their benefits to purchase groceries online from authorized retailers, reducing the risk of exposure to the coronavirus for thousands of individuals in the Commonwealth.

The current public health crisis has resulted in an unprecedented rise in unemployment and a subsequent increase in demand for our nation's anti-hunger programs, including SNAP. While USDA has moved swiftly to reduce barriers and increase access to this program during the current public health emergency, most SNAP recipients are only able to utilize these benefits in person at grocery stores or other retailers. This requirement places SNAP recipients at higher risk of infection, as they are not able to utilize various online grocery delivery services that are available for other consumers.

The 2014 Farm Bill required USDA to establish a pilot program to test the feasibility of SNAP beneficiaries utilizing their benefits online with authorized retailers. To date, only a small number of states are authorized to participate in this program and have set up systems to allow SNAP recipients in their respective states to use their benefits with online retailers. Due to the current public health emergency, we understand USDA is working to add interested states to the program on a case-by-case basis if they meet the requirements to administer the online program.

To ensure the health and safety of SNAP beneficiaries in the Commonwealth, we urge USDA to work with the Virginia Department of Social Services to approve Virginia's request to participate in the Department's SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot as quickly as possible. We also urge USDA to do everything within its power to expand this program nationwide so SNAP recipients across the country have the option to use online grocery delivery options and reduce their exposure to COVID-19.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure every American has access to healthy and nutritious foods during this public health emergency.

Sincerely,

MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator

TIM KAINE
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

April 15, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

Thank you for your continued dedication to American agriculture amid this unparalleled health crisis. I applaud the hard work of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as you and your staff author a strong agriculture aid program that I know will provide much-needed relief to an already vulnerable sector of the American economy. I would like to take the opportunity to ask for your support for an important piece of Georgia's agriculture footprint during this difficult time.

Georgia is home to a notably diverse group of specialty crops. According to most recent data, there are 33 different types of vegetables grown in Georgia and these products have a combined farm gate value of $1.13 billion, contributing $2.6 billion to the Georgia economy and providing approximately 13,900 jobs both directly and indirectly. Similarly, Georgia's fruits and nuts have an estimated farm gate value of $614 million and contribute $1.9 billion to the local economy with another 13,000 Georgians employed to work in and around this sector. Thanks to the hard work of Georgia farmers, Georgia is now a top five producing state for products such as blueberries, pecans, peaches, bell peppers, cucumbers, and watermelon, among others.

Specialty crops producers in Georgia face dramatic financial hardship as a direct result of the COVID-19 outbreak. As fruit and vegetable farmers across Georgia prepare to harvest and sell their crops in the coming weeks, they face an uncertain future as their usual buyers such as restaurants, schools, and hotels remain closed or unable to accept these products. I respectfully ask that USDA address these losses in any upcoming aid program. Furthermore, I implore you to work with specialty crop producers to find available avenues for them to sell and distribute their products both domestically and abroad. Georgia's strong food bank network has played an essential part in ensuring food access for Georgia residents throughout the COVID-19 outbreak and they stand ready to work with you and the agriculture community to provide nutritious food options to our at-risk population.

Georgia producers are no strangers to the obstacles and difficulties surrounding specialty crop production. In recent years, Georgia farmers have faced a multitude of barriers keeping their hard-earned products from market. Sinking commodity prices, late freezes, unfair trade policy from foreign governments, and the once-in-a-generation storm in 2018, Hurricane Michael, have all contributed to a bleak future for an otherwise strong agriculture sector. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, it is my duty to ensure that any issue facing Georgia farmers is thoroughly addressed.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. It is my hope that we can work together to provide immediate relief for both the agriculture community and the Americans that rely on the nutritious foods they produce.

Sincerely,



Kelly Loeffler
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

In light of national pandemic pressures we write to request your immediate assistance through the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stabilization (CARES) Act for Hawai‘i’s agriculture producers. The CARES Act provides $9.5 billion for USDA assistance to producers impacted by Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and explicitly prioritizes:

- specialty crops;
- livestock; and
- producers that supply farmers markets, restaurants, and schools.

Many of Hawai‘i’s producers fall into one or more of these categories, and we request your personal attention to ensure that our state’s farmers and ranchers are not inadvertently excluded due to the unique circumstances of our geography and year-round growing season. Below we highlight vulnerabilities that are unique to our agricultural industry, provide specific suggestions for administration of the $9.5 billion, and request additional measures that the agency can take to help producers weather the pandemic and evolve operations to be stronger and more resilient.

HAWAI‘I AGRICULTURE

Hawai‘i's agriculture is unique in that the majority of operations are small, family-run farms. According to 2017 data, 66 percent of Hawai‘i’s estimated 7,328 farms (4,868 farms) were under 10 acres each and another 23 percent (1,693 farms) were between 10 and 49 acres. For comparison, in 2018 the average U.S. farm size was 443 acres. Additionally, the majority of our farms are diversified with specialty crops. Our state leads the U.S. in acres producing macadamia nut, papaya, passion fruit, taro, bananas, coffee, pineapple, and ginger root. Hawai‘i also has a cattle ranching industry that contributes strong, healthy calves to the national supply chain of beef.

Across the board, our producers face higher costs than their mainland counterparts, including agricultural land, shipping, employee wages and salaries, utilities, and other operating expenses. Due to the higher value of agricultural real estate, the average farm asset value in Hawai‘i – including market value of land, buildings, and equipment – is nearly double that of a U.S.

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mainland farm ($1.5 million vs. $0.79 million). This means that the cost of doing business for farms is significantly higher in Hawai‘i than on the mainland, so federal assistance is all the more important.

Despite our unique attributes, Hawai‘i’s agricultural producers are experiencing some of the same negative pressures as that of their mainland counterparts. In 2017, producers saw a 15 percent decrease in revenues, totaling $563.8 million, primarily due to reduced crop sales. Between higher fixed costs and declining sales, Hawai‘i’s producers were facing significant challenges even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Production costs aside, COVID-19 is now causing additional disruptions due to the importance of the hospitality industry to the state’s economy. Commercial air service on March 30, 2020, was 98.5 percent lower than March 30, 2019, and major hotel operators are projecting occupancies below 20 percent for upcoming months – or a 61.2 percent decrease in occupancy from last year. Hawai’i agriculture relies heavily on tourism demand for locally produced foods in higher-end markets. Local farmers and ranchers are facing an immediate economic crisis as their sales plummet from closed restaurant, hotel, school, and farmers’ market channels in reaction to COVID-19. As social distancing and stay-at-home orders have become the norm to combat the spread of COVID-19, the hospitality industry has reached lows not seen since the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Quantifying the economic harm at this early stage is difficult, but it is anticipated that Hawai‘i will be one of the most impacted states by the coronavirus due to its reliance on visitor spending. The University of Hawai‘i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) projects real visitor spending to decline by 17 percent in the second quarter and forecasts an additional 4,000 job losses by the third quarter. According to the Hawai‘i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, to date 194,000 unemployment claims, representing roughly 29 percent of the total workforce, have been filed for March and April.

Hawai‘i’s local farm production is feeling immediate impacts, and the problem is likely to get worse over time. Recovery will be long and difficult, and local agricultural producers need strong, immediate, direct federal support to remain in business. We believe that “recovery” should mean more than just survival; it should mean growth and adaptation so that farmers and ranchers can stand strong against future disasters. Accordingly, we propose the below as ways to assist our agricultural producers.

Administration of the $9.5 Billion Fund

> ***Small Producer Grants***. With mounting expenses, a collapse of demand from typical markets such as restaurants and schools, and cancelled contracts for produce already delivered, Hawai‘i’s agricultural producers need immediate help. Fresh produce is going bad; calves cannot be shipped to the mainland to finish; inventories of less perishable

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items such as coffee and macadamia nuts are backing up in storage; our pig farmers are no longer able to collect food waste from schools and restaurants to use as feed. Food is going to waste in the fields, inviting unwanted pests and disease which exacerbates current difficulties. Increasing farmers' load of debt could easily push their margins too far, and so we request that you consider either grants or loan forgiveness for small agricultural producers, including grants to incentivize the donation of food waste to local livestock farmers for feed.

Grants to Organizations Facilitating Direct Farm to Consumer Delivery. A number of organizations in Hawai'i have stepped up in assisting the delivery of farm produce to consumers. One such organization noted that they had received over 2,500 new sign-ups during just one week. With this surge in demand comes the need to secure additional labor and infrastructure, including transportation, cold storage, leases and utilities, etc. As such, we request that you provide grants to organizations that are working around the clock to ensure that fresh farm produce is provided direct-to-consumer.

Loan Forgiveness for our Next Generation of Farmers. The average age of a farmer in Hawai'i is 60 years old. We are in need of ways to incentivize a new generation of farmers to carry our agricultural industry through the coming decades. A number of Hawai'i's young farmers participate in the Rural Youth 4H Program where during any typical year, they could take out a loan through the Rural Youth Loan Program, raise their livestock, and then sell the livestock at the local fair to help pay back the loan. Due to COVID-19, there will not be local fairs and therefore, no marketplace for these youth to sell their livestock. We ask that you provide loan forgiveness to these youth so that they may continue to pursue a future in agriculture.

Flexibility in Implementation. The diversity of Hawai'i's agriculture, together with the unique opportunities and challenges of a year-round growing season, mean that typical policy assumptions about large-scale, monocrop agriculture with a winter season may inadvertently exclude or make things more difficult for Hawai'i producers. In addition to quick action, we request that you build significant flexibility for the unique agricultural producers of every state as you develop the rule to disburse this funding.

Technical Assistance. Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are skilled experts when it comes to agricultural production, but many need support with the paperwork necessary to access government programs. The current circumstances amplify this need because of the increased reliance on web-based services, together with the new and unfamiliar programs established under the CARES Act. We urge you to provide technical assistance through both the Farm Service Agency and Rural Development for farmers and to distribute grants competitively for local service organizations and Land Grant extension agents to augment the outreach and support.

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Adaptation Micro-Grants. Small-scale agricultural producers are often in a good position to reconfigure operations for different crops. This is especially true in climates that enjoy a year-long growing season. Even under the most optimistic scenarios, however, this will mean months without cash flow. Hawai'i's small agricultural producers that once grew crops targeted for high-end markets, such as microgreens for hotel chefs, now need to shift their production to produce targeted for individual consumers, such as lettuces. Loan forbearance/deferral is a partial solution, but micro-grants would complete the package, and provide farmers and ranchers the resources to accommodate current and future demand. We suggest micro-grants for amounts from $15,000 to $25,000, depending on need and the scale of the applicant's operations.

Additional Measures to Support Farmers

Supply of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for the Agricultural Industry. While the agricultural industry is considered essential workforce, workers all throughout the food supply chain from the fields to the grocery stores are concerned about their individual exposure and risk to COVID-19. These individuals are providing critical services in ensuring that Americans have food on their table. We request that you consider facilitating the supply of appropriate PPE to members of the agricultural industry.

Support for Farmworkers. With revenues in sharp decline, Hawai'i producers struggle to support their employees' paychecks and healthcare premiums. We request that you work with the Small Business Administration and the Department of Labor to confirm the agricultural producers' eligibility for programs created in the CARES Act.

Loan Forbearance and Deferral. Debt servicing is a fixed cost common to almost all agricultural producers, but under the present circumstances loan payments sap liquidity that farmers and ranchers need to tap new markets and reconfigure their businesses. We urge you to consider a program of loan forbearance and deferral to give farmers and ranchers a window to adjust their operations. We suggest an initial period of six months, with the option to renew for a further six months.

Expansion of Weather Disaster Programs. We understand that USDA is reticent to activate its disaster loan, crop insurance, and non-insured crop assistance programs at this time. These well-established programs are familiar to farmers, USDA employees, and Farm Credit System lenders –and will therefore have fewer administrative challenges related to implementation. While we understand concerns about weather disaster in the coming months, the historic and extraordinary scope of the COVID-19 crisis requires flexible thinking, and we request your careful consideration of using your authority as secretary to activate existing USDA response programs.

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Increased Funding for the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment (RTCP) Program. Hawai'i's isolation creates a structural challenge unique to our producers. That is why Congress established and funds the RTCP program. As Hawai'i's producers innovate new markets to recover from the COVID pandemic, this program will become increasingly important. We request that, within existing rules and regulations, you make additional resources available for this program.

Micro-grants for Food Security Program (2018 Farm Bill). This program was designed to help increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food in Hawaii, Alaska, the U.S. territories, and the Compact of Free Association states, through small-scale gardening, herding, and livestock operations in food insecure communities (7 U.S. Code § 7518). The Agricultural Marketing Service is required to follow 2 CFR 200 compliance and risk management procedures. However doing so eliminates the very people the program is intended to help. We therefore request a one-time rule change to allow local departments of agriculture to weigh in on program implementation.

Flexible Payment Systems. Even before the current crisis, SNAP beneficiaries faced challenges accessing farmers markets and other farmer-direct products, which have been exacerbated with COVID-related restrictions. In Hawai'i some of the challenges our constituents face are: (1) limited internet access, (2) social distancing guidelines and stay-at-home orders, (3) limited or no public transportation, (4) language barriers for whom English is a second language, and (5) cyber security needs for financial transactions and personally identifying information. We request you quickly develop regulatory flexibility to ensure SNAP beneficiaries have access to farmer-direct products.

Food Hubs. Food hubs are key to helping Hawai'i's small-scale farms diversify their markets and grow their businesses. The combination of aggregation, distribution, and marketing services makes it possible for Hawai'i's farmers to gain entry into new larger-volume markets that boost their incomes and production. We request that, within existing rules and regulations, you make additional resources available to strengthen existing and establish new food hubs.

Organic Certification. USDA supports producers' transition to organic production through its National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP). At a time when many producers will be re-examining their business plans, we believe it makes sense to provide additional resources through the NOCCSP. While not every producer will choose this option, some may transition as they examine local demand for fresh, locally grown food. We request that, within existing rules and regulations, you make additional resources available for the NOCCSP.

Increased Funding and Use of Commodity Purchases. The COVID-19 pandemic has undermined the market for agricultural producers across the nation. In order to help all

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

producers rebuild, we request, within existing rules and regulations, you make additional resources available for the following USDA commodity purchase programs:

- Commodity Supplemental Food Program;
- School and Child Nutrition Food Programs;
- Food Purchase Program; and
- McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

In conclusion, we ask for your serious consideration of these proposals to ensure that Hawai'i farmers and ranchers continue to be a vibrant part of the state's economy, and to protect Hawai'i's food sustainability.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator



MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator



TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress



ED CASE
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to urge swift action to implement a program to provide relief to the agriculture industry due to the impact of COVID-19. We appreciate the work of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide assistance to farmers, ranchers, and producers who provide our nation's food supply. Because Texas is one of the top agricultural states, we request that you consider the state of Texas when implementing further relief to our nation's farmers and ranchers.

As you know, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides $9.5 billion for the USDA to provide aid to farmers and ranchers in response to the outbreak of COVID-19. The CARES Act also provides $14 billion in additional resources for the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). As you work to implement this funding, we urge you to consider the input we have heard from constituents in Texas.

Texas is the top producer of cattle and cotton in the nation. Prices for live cattle futures decreased by over one-third of their levels before COVID-19. Additionally, meatpacking plants are temporarily closing down operations due to the pandemic. Therefore, we encourage you to consider the entire round-up of the cattle industry-from the cow-calf operator and cattle feeders to the stockers and the livestock sector as a whole.

Texas is the fifth largest dairy producing state in the country. With more supply available than capacity allows due the economic impact of COVID-19, dairy producers need relief. Lastly, specialty and traditional crop producers are in need of urgent assistance as they begin the planting season. For example, cotton prices have also dropped by almost one-third since the outbreak of COVID-19. They will need to have historical production and price accounted for similar to the most recent round of the Market Facilitation Program.

Our nation's agricultural community has circled the wagons to construct unified proposals for addressing the challenges faced by our farmers, ranchers, and producers. We would encourage you to continue to work with our staffs and stakeholders across our state and incorporate their feedback into your work moving forward.

Farmers, ranchers, and producers are integral to the state of Texas and the nation as a whole. We urge you to consider the impact of COVID-19 on the agriculture industry in Texas as a model for the rest of the nation to provide relief. Thank you for your steadfast support of agriculture and rural America.

Sincerely,

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

TED CRUZ
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld info is Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses.

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: 4-20-20 Congressional Letter Report
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 10:17:56 PM
Attachments: Rep. Moore USDA Contracting.pdf
Sen. Sullivan Seafood Follow-up.pdf
Sen. Murkowski + AK Delegation RAC Meetings.pdf
Rep. Finkenauer Plant Closures.pdf
20.04.20 Food Supply Chain Letter.pdf

Sir,

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



Ken

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pence
Vice President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W
Washington, D.C. 20050

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Dr. Stephen M. Hahn
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Chad Wolf
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Vice President Pence, Secretary Perdue, Commissioner Hahn, Administrator Wheeler, and Acting Secretary Wolf:

We write today to inquire about the actions you are taking to ensure the safety of our nation's food supply and protect our essential federal and private sector food supply chain workforce. There have been numerous reports of essential workers in meatpacking plants, processing facilities, farms, grocery stores, and markets falling ill from COVID-19. Other sources have reported that employee absences are high as people fear going into work due to the threat of infection. Some workers have reportedly felt pressured to work even when feeling sick. There are also serious concerns about the health of farmworkers who plant and harvest our crops and often work, live, and travel in close proximity, making social distancing very difficult.

The severe shortages of adequate COVID-19 testing capability and personal protective equipment are exacerbating these problems. Lack of access to tests and personal protective equipment leaves essential food supply workers at even higher risk and makes the virus more likely to spread, harming more workers and further damaging our food supply chain. Beyond the risk of infection, the lack of personal protective equipment is also harmful to farmworkers who apply pesticides and lack basic protections.

It is vital that we do everything we can to protect food supply workers and federal employees from COVID-19 infection. Breakdowns in the food supply chain could have significant economic impacts for both consumers and agricultural producers. It is also imperative that precautions are taken to ensure the stability and safety of our food supply.

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st USDA Release 04-06-2021

During this public health crisis, the White House and your agencies must coordinate with state and local governments and the private sector to take aggressive action to protect essential workers in the food supply chain. We need bold action and creative solutions, including greatly increased testing and tracing of those exposed to the virus in order to stop the spread. This is critically important to protect our essential workforce, our food supply chain, our agricultural economy, and rural America from further damage. We ask you to respond to the following questions by April 24, 2020:

1. What are your plans for and what actions have you taken to help ensure the safety of essential food supply chain workers? In the event that essential food supply chain workers, including all farmworkers, contract COVID-19, what are the preparedness and response plans and actions to control the outbreak, ensure treatment of workers, and ensure that our food supply is maintained?
2. USDA's coronavirus website instructs the food industry to follow protocols set by local and state health departments for guidance about its business operations.
    a. How are your agencies coordinating with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to ensure that employers know what is necessary to protect their essential food supply chain workers from COVID-19?
    b. A clear safety and health standard applicable to this novel virus would ensure employers understand what is necessary to keep essential food supply chain workers healthy so they can continue to work to keep the food chain strong. Have your agencies asked Secretary Scalia to use his existing authorities under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act) to issue an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) to ensure employers of essential food supply chain workers institute necessary safety and health accommodations to deal with this virus? If not, why not?
    c. What are your agencies doing to create consistency regarding recommendations from federal agencies that address issues related to monitoring of symptoms, sanitation practices, social distancing, personal protective equipment standards, and communication requirements?
3. Has the federal government worked with states or the food industry to develop contingency plans or guidance on how to adjust supply chains or move workforce capacity to other areas to address any personnel shortages?
4. What concerns and unmet needs have you heard from the food supply industry regarding protection of these essential workers? What are you doing to address shortages of personal protective equipment for private sector essential food supply chain workers?
5. What actions have you taken to make COVID-19 testing readily available to essential food supply chain workers?
6. Have you taken any actions to work with state and local governments and industry partners to find alternative housing options for essential food supply chain workers who have been infected by or exposed to COVID-19 to help stop it from spreading to others?
7. Protecting the health and safety of USDA inspectors from COVID-19 is critically important.
    a. How many USDA inspectors have been infected by COVID-19?

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 000003
USDA-20-1045-A-000103

b. Have infections of inspectors caused any slowing in or reduction of inspections or production?
c. Has USDA appropriately notified its personnel of the new COVID paid sick and family leave polices recently enacted by Congress?
d. USDA briefed congressional staff and said it has been unable to supply masks for all of its food inspectors and has instead offered to reimburse its employees for making or purchasing their own masks. What is USDA doing to supply all FSIS inspectors, APHIS inspectors, and AMS essential personnel with appropriate personal protective equipment and what is the timeframe when USDA will be able to provide this equipment?

We thank you for your immediate attention to these questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Debbie Stabenow
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ Michael F. Bennet
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

/s/ Jeffrey A. Merkley
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate

/s/ Robert Menendez
Robert Menendez
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Jack Reed
Jack Reed
United States Senator

/s/ Mark R. Warner
Mark R. Warner
United States Senate

/s/ Thomas R. Carper
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

/s/ Richard J. Durbin
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 000265
USDA-20-1045-A-000104

/s/ Jeanne Shaheen
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate

/s/ Tina Smith
Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/s/ Kamala D. Harris
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher A. Coons
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

/s/ Sherrod Brown
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/ Patty Murray
Patty Murray
United States Senator

/s/ Patrick Leahy
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher S. Murphy
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

/s/ Bernard Sanders
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ Amy Klobuchar
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Kaine
Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ Doug Jones
Doug Jones
United States Senator

/s/ Charles E. Schumer
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

/s/ Edward J. Markey
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Duckworth
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 000005
USDA-20-1045-A-000105

/s/ Dianne Feinstein
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

/s/ Jacky Rosen
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 000002656

USDA-20-1045-A-000406

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2020

Secretary Sonny Perdue
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Secretary Eugene Scalia
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Perdue and Secretary Scalia,

I write to express my concern and bring your attention to the devolving and dangerous situation in Iowa, where several meat packing plants have suspended operations after the spread of COVID-19, while others are at risk of closure because of outbreaks. While there is no business or industry untouched by the pandemic, affected plants have seen infections spread and I fear that the situation is only growing worse. We must put the health and safety of Iowa families above all else at this time.

Existing resources and guidance have proven insufficient in keeping these workers safe. I urge you to use your expertise and understanding of our food supply chain to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to deploy resources immediately, as well as develop and implement meaningful safety standards for our food processing facilities.

The risk to those working in these processing plants is undeniable, despite some companies' best efforts. National Beef shuttered its plant in Tama County after several employees were infected with COVID-19, and in an effort to prevent spread, JBS in Marshalltown temporarily stopped production to sanitize the plant. Earlier this week, two employees of the Tyson plant in Columbus Junction, Iowa, died and the plant has been closed. With more than 150 plant employees testing positive for COVID-19, the outbreak is among the most severe in the state.

Not only do these outbreaks threaten the lives of our workers, they also have devastating consequences for the food supply chain in Iowa. Without anywhere to sell their hogs, farmers could be put in a difficult—and sometimes heartbreaking—position about what to do with their livestock. Some may be forced to euthanize animals within a matter of weeks. Unless steps are taken to effectively prevent and manage future outbreaks, we will undoubtedly see more food processing facilities close for extended periods, devastating our farmers as a result.

Iowa plays a critical role in our nation's economy as a major player in the domestic food supply chain. By protecting the essential employees who work in our processing plants, we are protecting the future of our state. They need testing, personal protective equipment, and leave policies that put their health ahead of the bottom line. Employers also need resources and clarity on how to protect them. During this public health crisis, when it

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comes to safety measures and equipment, a one-size-fits-all approach just doesn't cut it. We must do more for the people who make sure that we have food on our grocery store shelves.

With so many friends and neighbors in my district relying on our meat processing plants, this issue is personal to me. Already, I have heard from community members in Waterloo, Iowa, worried about employees at the Tyson plant there, wanting to make sure that they are safe, and hoping that these good jobs stay in our community for years to come.

That is why I again respectfully call on you to provide the resources to protect workers at these plants and work with our public health experts to put forth enforceable, industry-specific guidance and standards. Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

Please do not hesitate to reach my office at (202) 225-2911 if you have any questions.

Regards,



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

CC:

Mr. Robert Redfield, M.D.
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road Northeast
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to request that you provide greater flexibility in allowing Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) to meet telephonically or virtually on an expedited timeline. We have heard from a number of Alaskans who serve on RACs who are awaiting permission from the Forest Service to proceed with virtual meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, RACs are federal advisory committees authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) to evaluate and recommend how the Forest Service should spend Title II funding in the national forests they represent. Local community members and other stakeholders are appointed to these RACs by the Secretary of Agriculture and normally meet several times each year.

Most RAC funding is used to improve natural resource and recreation infrastructure, which will be extremely important as Alaskans rally to salvage and restore our summer tourism and recreation economy during the coronavirus pandemic. We understand the Ketchikan Borough RAC alone has nearly $1 million worth of projects that are on hold while they await Forest Service permission to meet. These projects include replacing old oil stoves in recreation cabins with wood burning stoves and restoring boating docks that have not been repaired in 15 years.

Unfortunately, social distancing guidelines have made it impossible for RACs to meet in person. Delays in RAC meetings are compounded by existing Forest Service guidance that requires RACs to publish a public meeting notice 45 days in advance of a meeting. Given that Alaska has a short summer window in which to plan, approve, and execute RAC projects, it is essential that the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service move to facilitate RAC meetings without further delay.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to your timely reply.

Sincerely

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Don Young
Congressman for All Alaska

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing in follow-up to my recent conversation with Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky, and the other members of Alaska's congressional delegation, to reiterate support for the inclusion of fishermen in USDA essential food supply actions. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the food supply chain around the nation and I commend your stabilization efforts, such as the recently announced $19 billion relief program to support farmers and ranchers. This program, along with other USDA efforts, should also include fishermen alongside ranchers and farmers.

Fishermen, like other American food producers, are in need of support during this critical time. This pandemic has led to drastic price reductions for seafood and relief efforts will help in mitigating this unfortunate turn of events. Seafood production is important to the economies of many communities throughout the U.S., and sales have been severely disrupted by restaurant closures. The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) can simultaneously provide support in maintaining American access to seafood and offer immediate relief to fishermen and other food producers.

Additionally, I urge you to include fishermen in your consideration as you develop testing protocols and identify PPE needs for food producers. We must stand beside our food producers, including fishermen and seafood processors, during this national crisis to ensure they operate safely in providing food for Americans. We had the opportunity to discuss this with Deputy Secretary Censky during our call, and I was both heartened and relieved by his agreement to consider this important matter. I also had the opportunity to raise this issue on a conference call with several U.S. Senators, the President, his Chief of Staff, Mark Meadows, and the Secretary of the Treasury, Steve Mnuchin.

In addition to discussing the current assistance package, we had the opportunity to discuss the significant nutritional value seafood brings for American families in need. The delegation reiterated our support for additional future Section 32 purchases of seafood to provide relief to the seafood industry and American families in need. In the past, you have been a strong supporter of purchases of Alaska seafood products, and I urge you to again use your authority to initiate additional seafood purchases.

I appreciate your attention to these matters. Mr. Secretary, you and your team at USDA have been a strong partner with Alaska on so many issues. We very much appreciate that and I look forward to working together with you in accomplishing the issues discussed.

Sincerely,

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

cc:

- Stephen Censky, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
- Mark Meadows, White House Chief of Staff

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

GWEN MOORE
4TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SELECT REVENUE MEASURES
WORKER AND FAMILY SUPPORT
OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2252 RAYBURN OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4572

DISTRICT OFFICE:
250 E. WISCONSIN AVE.,
SUITE 950
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
(414) 297-1140
FAX: (414) 297-1086

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

As the Department carries out its public information and communication strategies, I am writing to urge you to ensure that a diverse range of businesses (including minority and women -owned) can compete for and be awarded such contracts. Such firms can be especially effective in reaching low-income and underserved populations that your programs serve and which these firms often have special expertise in reaching in a culturally competent way. I would like to learn more about how USDA has engaged with disadvantaged small businesses, minority businesses, and women owned business as part of your communication and public outreach plan for USDA's nutrition programs in FY 2019, FY 2020, and during the current response to the coronavirus pandemic when USDA has made numerous adjustments to its programs that need to be communicated to a wide and diverse audience.

As noted in a 2019 solicitation from the USDA's Office of Communications, "The Department of Agriculture is responsible for perhaps the broadest range of programs in the federal government" including to "ensure the safety of our food supply, protect and preserve our environment, ensure the welfare of the needy, lead research that benefits all Americans, and supports American producers in their efforts to market goods throughout the world… It is also critical that Department does this using communications services, tools or products that effectively reach the target audience at the least cost to the taxpayer."

I am concerned that like many other federal agencies, USDA underutilizes small minority and women owned businesses who are fully qualified to carry out this work and who are highly

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effective at reaching some of its most vulnerable customers, including minority audiences. Failure to use these businesses undermines efforts to successfully reach all of the audiences served by your Department and to communicate critical information in an effective and cost-efficient way.

Inclusion of businesses owned by women and minorities in your Department's public awareness and communication efforts is critical. The federal government is the largest advertiser in the United States, and it has an obligation to ensure equitable access to its contracts for businesses owned by minorities and women, including for key messages about your nutrition programs. I encourage USDA to boost efforts to more effectively work with such businesses as part of your communications efforts, especially now when those you serve need to know critical information about changes in program requirements.

As part of your agency's coronavirus response, the Food and Nutrition Service is using authorities (some longstanding, others newly authorized this year) to help ensure continued access to a range of programs as schools close and stay at home orders become the norm. Unfortunately, while these changes may have been communicated to states and other partners carrying out these programs, the audiences served by these programs, especially minority populations, often are the last to find out about new requirements or flexibilities. The good news is there are qualified businesses available who can get the message out.

Unfortunately, I am not aware of any efforts by USDA to directly fund contracts to small disadvantaged or minority businesses to support a national or regional public education campaign in regards to recent changes to SNAP, WIC, and the school meals programs (among others) tto adapt to this new environment. If you have, please provide me with the information about the particulars of such engagement, including the types of campaigns funded, the amount of funding allocated, and the number of minority or women-owned businesses engaged. If not, this is a missed opportunity especially given the urgent need to ensure that those who are directly affected by these changes know about them. Therefore, I urge you through FNS headquarters or through FNS regional offices to seek out minority or women owned communication partners to increase awareness about recent changes to your nutrition programs, and to do so expeditiously.

Again, USDA should directly undertake efforts to use minority and women owned businesses to increase public awareness about ongoing changes that ease access to nutrition and other programs. For example, USDA recently unveiled its Coronavirus Food Assistance Program which, among other provisions, includes the purchase of at least $3 billion in surplus commodities and their distribution to food banks and other USDA food programs. This seems like a great opportunity to work with minority and women owned businesses to help communicate to the intended recipients how and where they can access the additional food resources locally.

I remind you that federal statutes (such as the Small Business Act) and executive orders stress the responsibility of your Department to encourage the participation of small businesses, including those owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

There is no shortage of qualified small disadvantaged and women owned enterprises available to do this work. What is missing is a willingness on the part of federal partners which is why the federal government has a poor record in this area. I hope under your leadership USDA can do

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better and become a leader across the federal government in engaging such businesses in helping to carry out its mission.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Gwen Moore

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld info is Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses.

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: 4-27-20 Congressional Letter Report
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:26:38 PM
Attachments: Sen. Hawley CFAP.pdf
Sen. Hirono +3 SNAP College.pdf
Rep. David Scott +9 GA Del Peaches.pdf
Sen. Risch + ID Del CFAP.pdf
Sen. Risch + ID Del CFAP Memo.pdf
Sen. Collins + ME Del Aquacullture CFAP.pdf

Sir,

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP



Ken

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Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2020

Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We write to confirm aquaculture farmers' eligibility for direct relief from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). The work that the USDA is doing to assist farmers across the country during this uncertain time is absolutely critical, and we urge the USDA to ensure relief is being made available to all farmers, including those who raise seafood.

Similar to other farmers across the country, aquaculture farmers in the state of Maine have suffered greatly due to COVID-19. Maine's aquaculture operations cultivate a range of seafood products, from eastern oysters and blue mussels to seaweed and scallops. These farms rely heavily on the restaurant industry to keep their businesses afloat. For example, the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association estimates that 90 percent of oysters – sales of which brought in $11 million for Maine farmers last year – are eaten in restaurants. With the closure of food service establishments across the country due to mandated public health measures, Maine aquaculture farmers are in dire need of assistance.

A recent survey of more than 500 U.S. aquaculture companies conducted by the Virginia Tech and Ohio State University Extension Programs revealed some alarming impacts already being felt by this sector: 90 percent of respondents indicated that their farm or business had been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic; 84 percent reported that they had experienced lost sales due to the pandemic; 80 percent reported have had orders and/or contracts cancelled; 59 percent have or will soon have to lay off employees; and only 34 percent expect they can survive three months without external intervention.

Maine's aquaculture industry has undergone significant growth and diversification in recent years, creating new jobs and economic opportunities in our state. We are committed to ensuring that our state's growing industry remains stable throughout this unanticipated downturn. As the Department works to distribute CFAP funding, we urge you to ensure aquaculture farmers are among those eligible to receive much needed direct relief from USDA.

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Sincerely,

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Angus S. King Jr.
United States Senator

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Jared Golden
Member of Congress

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Mike Crapo
United States Senator
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

James E. Risch
United States Senator
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress
2084 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress
1520 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

IDAHO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

April 27, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We write to you regarding our interest in the Department's proposal for implementation of the CARES Act. Specifically, we encourage you to ensure that the eligibility requirements for producers are flexible, simple, and reflective of local production practices.

Given that family farms producing hundreds of different commodities will likely be seeking assistance under this program, it is important that the Department consider the numerous complicated relationships between these producers and their customers who include processors, distributors, packinghouses, and others. Often these relationships occur with minimal, abbreviated, or no documentation.

However, the absence of comprehensive documentation does not correlate with the absence of economic harm for these growers. Rather, these family farms are under intense economic stress and in need of rapid assistance.

For example, in the potato industry, many producers have agreements with processors that span over a year. Those producers have bought seed for this 2020 crop year, prepared their ground and planted their crop at a cost of thousands of dollars per acre. At the same time, the processors who maintain these contracts are notifying growers verbally that they will void those contracts at levels up to 100 percent of the planted acres due to the food service shutdown. These impacted growers now possess full knowledge that their crop, planted specifically and uniquely for that one customer, will not be paid for. However, the growers do not possess a written notice of termination or documentation that the injury took place prior to the April 15th deadline. Moreover, many of these terminations were held off as long as possible by processors in hopes that CARES Act implementation may allow the agreements to be upheld. While the agreement may been voided after April 15th, the injury occurred due to decisions and market conditions that existed prior.

This is just one example of numerous complex situations that ultimately result in economic harm to growers. The breadth of this situation compels us to urge you to utilize a method for direct payment eligibility that has been used before in the Market Facilitation Program (MFP). Under MFP, individual producers self-certify their economic harm with the Farm Service Agency, and their claim is then validated or rejected by FSA County Committees.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The strength of this process is that it utilizes the local knowledge of the FSA County Committees to determine production practices commonly employed in their areas of jurisdiction. Those entities will have the ability to determine the legitimacy of claims made and whether the injury the grower alleges is commonly occurring to other similar local growers. This process will relieve the Department of having to create a prescriptive set of documentation requirements that inevitably will leave some injured growers ineligible due to technicalities.

We believe these recommendations will strengthen the Department's responsibility to maintain compliance standards while also facilitating accurate, efficient distribution of relief for family farms under this program. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and your work to assist our farmers and ranchers and help stabilize the agricultural economy.

Sincerely,

JAMES E. RISCH
United States Senator

MIKE SIMPSON
Member of Congress

MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator

RUSS FULCHER
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Russell Vought, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

In furtherance of our COVID-19 Market Stabilization Program already proposed to USDA, we provide the following additional comments.

A. Multiple Payment Periods

To facilitate the most efficient and accurate payments to producers demonstrating economic loss during the covered period, we suggest having at least two payment periods for this program:

March 1st – April 30th

May 1st – June 30th

However, if a grower files a claim for losses during more than one payment period, the grower may only claim losses in the subsequent payment period not already claimed in the first.

B. Evidence of Loss

As discussed in our original proposal, not all types of fresh produce will be able to demonstrate economic loss during the covered period in the same manner with contracts and invoices. Therefore, we include below two examples for USDA to consider as options for proving "other losses that can be substantiated by eligible entities with appropriate documentation or evidence consistent with standard business practices that may be unique to particular fruits, vegetables, and tree nuts". (Note: these options are in addition to, not in lieu of, the other types of documented losses, such as contracts and invoices.)

1. Calculation Based on Historical Revenue

   To calculate loss based on historical revenue for each eligible crop: multiply the Average Revenue per Acre (during the covered period for 2017 through 2019) by the Amount of Acreage in Production during the covered period for 2020, and subtract the grower's revenue during the covered period in 2020.

   Revenue per Acre (2017-2019) x Acreage in Production (2020) - Revenue = LOSS

   The sum of loss for each of the grower's eligible crops during the covered period equals the grower's total loss.

2. Self-certification with FSA Validation

   This would be a two-step process:

   1. The growers self-certify their economic loss based upon their specific circumstances and provide that information to FSA; and
   2. The FSA County Committee validates, or rejects, the grower's claim.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

If FSA County Committees can review claims with sufficient speed, the FSA review should take place prior to disbursing funds to a grower. Alternatively, growers could be paid based on their self-certification, subject to a later review by the FSA County Committee. If an FSA County Committee determines that a claim was not valid, the grower would be required to repay those funds.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

On behalf of the National Peach Council, we write to request your consideration of the direct purchase of 65 million pounds of fresh peaches for distribution through USDA's COVID-19 Food Assistance Program. This purchase would mitigate the impact of recent changes in consumer purchasing due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The United States peach industry seeks to assist those grappling with the economic effects of the pandemic by supplying fresh peaches. This season's growing conditions were incredibly favorable, leading to one of the largest and finest crops in recent years. However, the disruption of global trade negotiations coupled with altered consumer behavior put this industry at great risk. Peach growers directly support local rural economies, with 40% of production costs being labor. Consequently, a domestic market collapse would be detrimental to these communities.

It is also important to emphasize the timing of this aid, as peaches are highly perishable. U.S. peach production begins in May, hits its peak in July, and generally ends by mid-September. Accordingly, it is recommended that 25% of the purchases be made in June, 50% in July and the final 25% in August.

As Representatives of the "Peach State," we urge you to support this vital industry by strongly considering the purchase of 65 million pounds of fresh peaches. We sincerely appreciate your support of our farmers and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

David Scott
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Rick Allen
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Doug Collins
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

A. Drew Ferguson, IV
Member of Congress

Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate

April 27, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to urge reconsideration of the blanket denial of waiver requests from states wishing to maintain eligibility in the Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for college students who have lost their employment due to COVID-19. Twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia requested these waivers on current restrictions for students to receive food assistance, signaling that the issue was serious enough to warrant the prompt attention of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), and the Agency's actions in response imply a lack of concern for this already vulnerable population.

Recent widespread closures at our nation's colleges and universities have interrupted semesters and disrupted lives during this unprecedented national crisis. Emergency proclamations leading to the closure of retail and food service businesses, among others, have further exacerbated this disruption and increased financial strain on workers, including college students. Congress has provided resources to support students affected by these closures, and may provide further assistance in the future. However, more can be done in the meantime.

Even before these closures, many college students were food insecure. Last year, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) documented numerous studies that indicated food insecurity is prevalent among college students, estimating that more than 30 percent of student study participants were close to food insecure. GAO's report only confirms what we have heard from students, schools, service providers, and others. College has become increasingly more expensive, and, while many students work in order to afford to attend school, a substantial number are still food insecure.

FNS has worked with state agencies on waivers that increase flexibility with reporting parameters, application and certification, and emergency allotments. It is important to continue to ensure that the needs of vulnerable populations, including college students, do not go unaddressed in this time of extreme and unpredictable economic conditions. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted a number of weaknesses at various points in our food supply chain, and we should be responding by taking actions that increase access to food security for those who are currently, or are on the verge of being, food insecure.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

It is for these reasons that we request USDA immediately reconsider the sweeping denial of waiver requests seeking the temporary waiving of the work requirement imposed on college students and allow students who lose their employment to continue to receive SNAP benefits for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

JOSH HAWLEY
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KYLE PLOTKIN
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2509

COMMITTEES
JUDICIARY
ARMED SERVICES
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AGING

April 27, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

Missouri agriculture is in crisis and suffering from disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Farmers and ranchers have already sustained enormous losses and uncertainty looms about the months ahead. Your swift action and announcement of $19 billion in aid through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) was an essential start to making clear assistance was on the way to producers who have suffered otherwise insurmountable losses. For many, this will provide the necessary support to stay in business and continue farming.

But these huge losses stare in the face of producers and I, along with many of them, am concerned the CFAP program rules and payment limits will prevent many farmers and ranchers from getting the aid needed to keep their farm functioning and continue to feed our nation. As you work to finalize the rules of this program, I urge you to significantly raise the payment limitations per commodity and per individual and to ease eligibility restrictions to make sure sufficient aid gets to those who have suffered losses from the coronavirus.

In my state, that means everyone. The coronavirus crisis has upended agricultural production plummeting the prices producers get for their work and threatening the food supply chain. As you know, the closure of meatpacking plants is an urgent problem as market ready animals back up on feedlots and prices plummet; biofuel plants are idling production and canceling orders for corn and soybeans. In addition to economic damages, pork producers, for example, now worry having little choice but to euthanize the very hogs they have worked so hard to raise. I urge you to take steps to address the closure of meatpacking plants and other factors to ensure the timely delivery of food to every corner of our nation and the wellbeing of its farmers.

Thank you for working to get the funding allocated by Congress in the CARES Act to those who need it through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program and for your attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

Josh Hawley
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld info is Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses.

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: 4-29-20 Congressional Letter Report
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 10:10:10 PM
Attachments: Sen. Gillibrand and Sen. Schumer NY P-EBT.pdf
Rep. Castro +18 CHC Meatpacking Worker Conditions.pdf
Sen. Braun DPA Canning Industry.pdf

Sir, (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

Ken

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

MIKE BRAUN
INDIANA

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
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(202) 224-4814

United States Senate

April 29, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Secretary Perdue,

I write during this unprecedented time to urge you to act swiftly to protect America's canned and frozen fruit and vegetable supply chain. As American citizens do their part to help slow the spread of COVID-19 through social distancing and other measures, it remains critical that our nation's canneries and frozen food suppliers are able to keep shelves stocked with a full supply of non-perishable foods.

This industry operates on extremely short harvest and processing windows. It is particularly vulnerable to shortages in labor and personal protective equipment (PPE), or other regulatory and administrative barriers that could disrupt the harvest window. For example, our nation's annual supply of canned and frozen corn, green beans, tomatoes, peaches and peas are harvested and packed within the span of two to three months.

Section 1 of the President's April 28 Executive Order *Delegating Authority Under the DPA with Respect to Food Supply Chain Resources During the National Emergency Caused by the Outbreak of COVID-19* provides you the authority to "identify additional specific food supply chain resources" that require continued operation during this unprecedented national emergency. I urge you to use this authority to ensure that our nation's supply chain of canned and frozen fruit and vegetables remains secure.

Thank you for the dedicated work from you and your team during this pandemic. I look forward to working with you to ensure the continued stability of our critical food supply chain.

Sincerely,

Mike Braun

Mike Braun
U.S. Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
Joaquin Castro | Chairman
116TH CONGRESS

April 29, 2020

Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Honorable Eugene Scalia
Secretary
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20210

Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
330 C St SW,
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Secretary Perdue, Secretary Scalia, Inspector General Fong, and Inspector General Dahl:

Throughout the time of the COVID-19 health crisis, it is imperative that our agriculture industry is protected, effective, and efficient in order to ensure that everyone is able to receive the food they need every day. While most Americans have stepped away from the public sphere in order to stay safe at home, food processing workers must continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every American family still has the food they need for every meal. Members in the House of Representatives have been working tirelessly to ensure that agriculture workers as well as other essential workers are given the proper protective gear that they need to keep doing their job in a safe and healthy manner.

However, as we work to help bring stronger protections to every worker, especially essential workers during this public health crisis, President Trump's executive order on Tuesday, April 28, ordering meat production plants to remain open to head off a food supply shortage, is leaving meatpacking employees at high risk.[1] Numerous companies across the meatpacking industry have not taken the necessary precautions they need to protect workers. While some

[1] https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/04/28/trump-meat-plants-dpa/?pwapi_token=eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJjb29raWVuYW1lIjoid3BfY3J0aWQiLCJpc3MiOiJDYXJ0YSIsImNvb2tpZXZhbHVlIjoiNTllZTBlMDlhZGU0ZTI1MmFhY2EzYmRjIiwidGFnIjoid3BfbmV3c19hbGVydF9yZXZlcmUiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy53YXNoaW5ndG9ucG9zdC5jb20vYnVzaW5lc3MvMjAyMC8wNC8yOC90cnVtcC1tZWF0LXBsYW50cy1kcGEvP3dwbWs9MSZ3cGlzcmM9YWxfbmV3c19fYWxlcnQtZWNvbm9teS0tYWxlcnQtbmF0aW9uYWwmd3BfZT1hbGVydCZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9jYW1wYWlnbj13cF9uZXdzX2FsZXJ0X3JldmVyZSJ9.iHW_IxMi1L6WtgL-v0-8qr0TNFuumc7EKKOzVFn1pWs&utm_campaign=wp_news_alert_revere&utm_medium=email&utm_source=alert&wpisrc=al_news__alert-economy--alert-national&wpmk=1

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

companies were early actors in providing personal protective equipment, the callous inaction of others has reportedly led to multiple deaths and thousands of sick workers, as well as the death of two inspectors from the Department of Agriculture.[2] As companies continue operations, it is not only important for agencies to be diligent in issuing guidance but they must mandate that meatpacking companies protect their employees.

Our nation must come together to ensure that we protect both the food supply chain and employees. If not, we will run the risk of meat, poultry, seafood, and processed eggs becoming scarce within a period of two to four weeks.[3] The safety of all workers in the food processing industry is vital for the well-being of our nation. Over the past few weeks, we have seen extremely worrying numbers of deaths, illness, and closing processing plants.

- Smithfield's pork processing plant at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, - 644 confirmed cases of COVID-19 tied to the facility, which represents nearly half of all confirmed cases in that state.[4]
- Patrick Cudahy factory, in Cudahy, Wisconsin – at least 28 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and the facility has closed down for cleaning[5]
- Rose Packing factory in Chicago, Illinois – at least 21 confirmed cases of COVID-19[6]
- Patrick Cudahy facility in Martin City, MO – at least 1 confirmed case of COVID-19 and the facility has closed for two weeks[7]
- Tyson Foods in Shelby County, Texas – at least 14 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and two deaths tied to the facility[8]
- And across the United States, there have been at least 4,400 confirmed cases of COVID-19 tied to meatpacking facilities at 80 plants in 26 states, and at least 18 reported worker deaths at 9 plants in 9 states[9]

It has long been known that meat processing jobs are some of the most dangerous in the nation. Workers struggle through long hours under stressful and hazardous conditions. For example, meat processing workers are exposed to biological agents, even some that are resistant to antibiotics, they are at increased risk of lung cancer,[10] and meatpacking workers face illness

[2] https://subscriber.politicopro.com/agriculture/whiteboard/2020/04/2nd-fsis-inspector-dies-from-coronavirus-3979747
[3] https://civileats.com/2020/04/17/poor-conditions-at-meatpacking-plants-have-long-put-workers-at-risk-the-pandemic-makes-it-much-worse/
[4] https://theintercept.com/2020/04/19/smithfield-foods-wisconsin-coronavirus/
[5] https://theintercept.com/2020/04/19/smithfield-foods-wisconsin-coronavirus/
[6] https://abc7chicago.com/rose-packing-meat-packaging-plant-outbreak-coronavirus-food/6114075/
[7] https://www.cbs58.com/news/patrick-cudahy-plant-closing-for-2-weeks-after-number-of-employees-test-positive-for-virus
[8] https://www.texastribune.org/2020/04/21/texas-investigating-meat-processing-plants-over-coronavirus-outbreaks/
[9] https://investigatemidwest.org/2020/04/16/tracking-covid-19s-impact-on-meatpacking-workers-and-industry/amp/
[10] https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/meatpacking/hazards_solutions.html

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 000430
USDA-20-1045-A-000430

rates at 17 times the rate of other industries.[11] According to OSHA's safe work practices, these workers should have already been provided appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including waterproof gloves, facemasks, and goggles, and numerous companies have failed to provide any type of facemasks even during a health crisis.[12] COVID-19 has brought to light the hazardous and life-threatening conditions that meat processing workers are exposed to everyday.

Meat processing companies only recently started taking the precautionary steps needed to protect employees after COVID-19 started spreading in their facilities, leaving our nation at dire risk of a disrupted food chain. If too many essential meatpacking workers become infected with COVID-19, thousands to millions of people could be without food in the future. Many of these billion-dollar companies that employ tens of thousands of workers are not properly informing their workers (who speak about 30 different languages) about the virus or its presence at the plant and many are choosing to not institute protective measures until after workers have become ill.[13]

Additionally, Smithfield Foods' website published a statement from their CEO, stating, "The closure of this facility, combined with a growing list of other protein plants that have shuttered across our industry, is pushing our country perilously close to the edge in terms of our meat supply . . . We have a stark choice as a nation: we are either going to produce food or not, even in the face of COVID-19." Yet contrary to what Smithfield Foods' CEO believes, our nation's food supply is not a zero-sum game. Healthy and safe environments as well as protective gear must be provided at all times, especially in a public health crisis. Otherwise, we will not even have the choice to produce any food at all.

We request that you conduct an investigation into the pervasiveness and consequential effects that the working conditions for meat processing workers during COVID-19 have had on workers' wellbeing and our nation's food supply. However, while an investigation is critical to better understand the problems in the meatpacking industry and possible solutions, it is imperative that the Department of Labor immediately issue an emergency temporary standard to protect essential workers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued specific recommendations on April 22, 2020 to reduce COVID-19 transmission at the Smithfield Foods Sioux Falls Pork Plant[14] that all meatpacking facilities should abide by during this public health crisis.

[11] https://www.bls.gov/iif/
[12] https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/meatpacking/hazards_solutions.html
[13] https://civileats.com/2020/04/17/poor-conditions-at-meatpacking-plants-have-long-put-workers-at-risk-the-pandemic-makes-it-much-worse/
[14] https://covid.sd.gov/docs/smithfield_recs.pdf

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 3 of 285
USDA-20-1045-A-000431

As our country continues to practice social distancing across the country and essential workers, like meatpacking workers, are needed at factories, the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Labor, and the Department of Health and Human Services must remain diligent in ensuring every essential worker's safety. Without workers' heroic presence amid the COVID-19 outbreak, our nation will crumble.

Thank you for your attention to this immediate request. We look forward to hearing from you within the next two weeks. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Kaitlyn Montan at Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Joaquin Castro CHC Chair	Ruben Gallego CHC First Vice Chair	Nanette Diaz Barragán CHC Second Vice Chair
Adriano Espaillat CHC Whip	Veronica Escobar CHC Freshman Representative	José E. Serrano. Member of Congress
Tony Cárdenas Member of Congress	Juan Vargas Member of Congress	Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr Member of Congress
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Member of Congress	Lori Trahan Member of Congress	Grace F. Napolitano Member of Congress
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan Member of Congress	Norma J. Torres Member of Congress	Nydia M. Velazquez Member of Congress
Jesus "Chuy" Garcia Member of Congress	Lou Correa Member of Congress	Sylvia R. Garcia Member of Congress
Raul Grijalva Member of Congress		

Cc: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 000432
USDA-20-1045-A-000432

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

April 29, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
The U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We are writing to request that USDA expeditiously approve New York State's request for approval to operate Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer, also known as Pandemic EBT. New York State has submitted their plan and it was received by USDA on March 25, 2020, but is still pending approval.

As you know, Pandemic EBT is a new program authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) which provides assistance to families of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals dealing with school closures. This assistance is in the form of an EBT card that is provided to households with the value of the free school breakfast and lunch reimbursement rates for days that schools are closed. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, this program would permit New York State to provide benefits similar to SNAP benefits to children who normally receive free or reduced price school meals.

Currently ten states have been approved to operate a Pandemic EBT program, with the most recent approvals coming on April 24, 2020. With New York State being the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic, and school closures beginning in New York City on March 15 and statewide on March 18, it is imperative that New York State's request be approved so they can start feeding hungry kids immediately.

Over a million children in New York continue to be hungry while this request remains unapproved. We urge you to immediately approve their Pandemic EBT request. Thank you for your careful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Charles E. Schumer
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

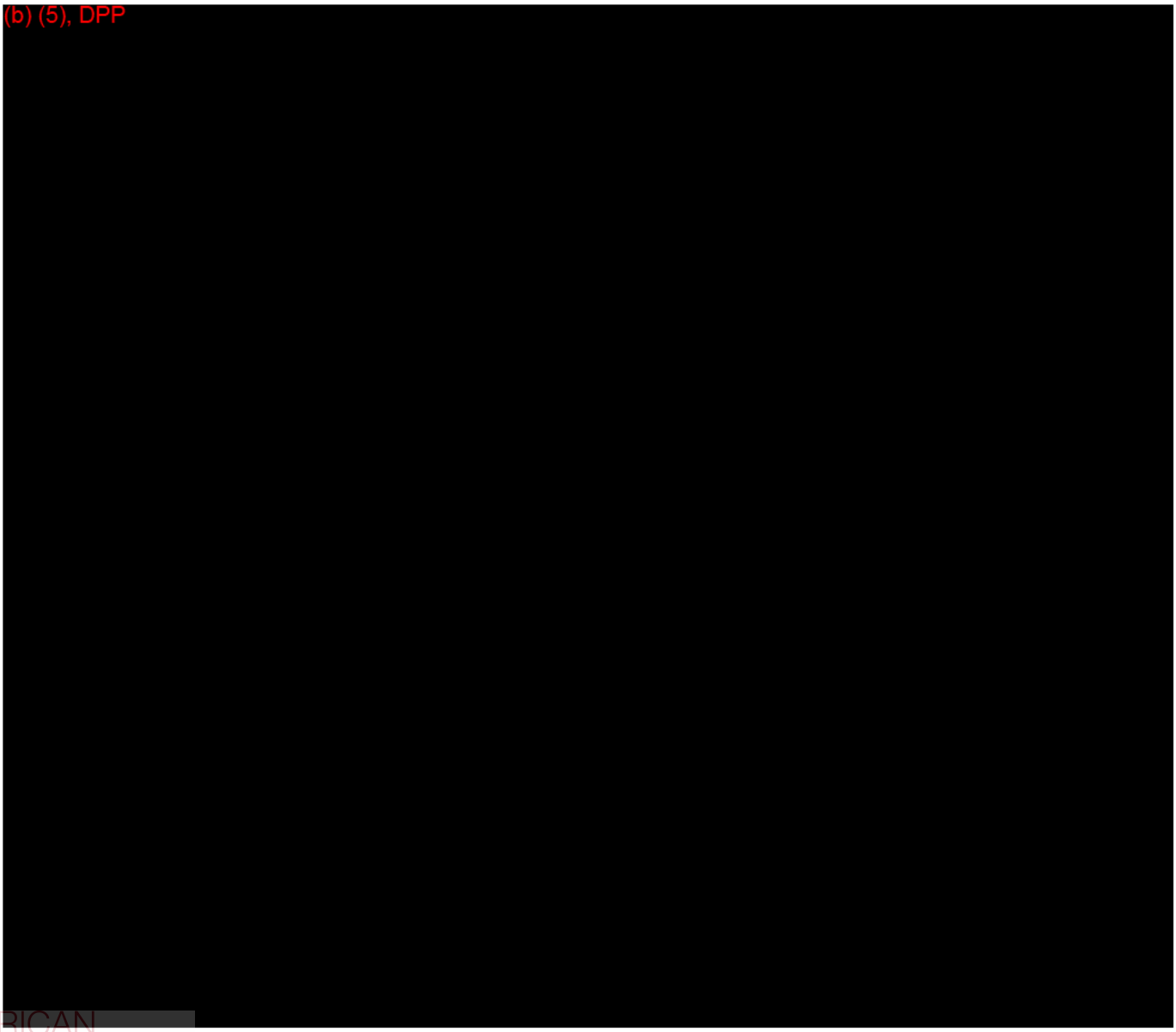
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Withheld info is Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses.

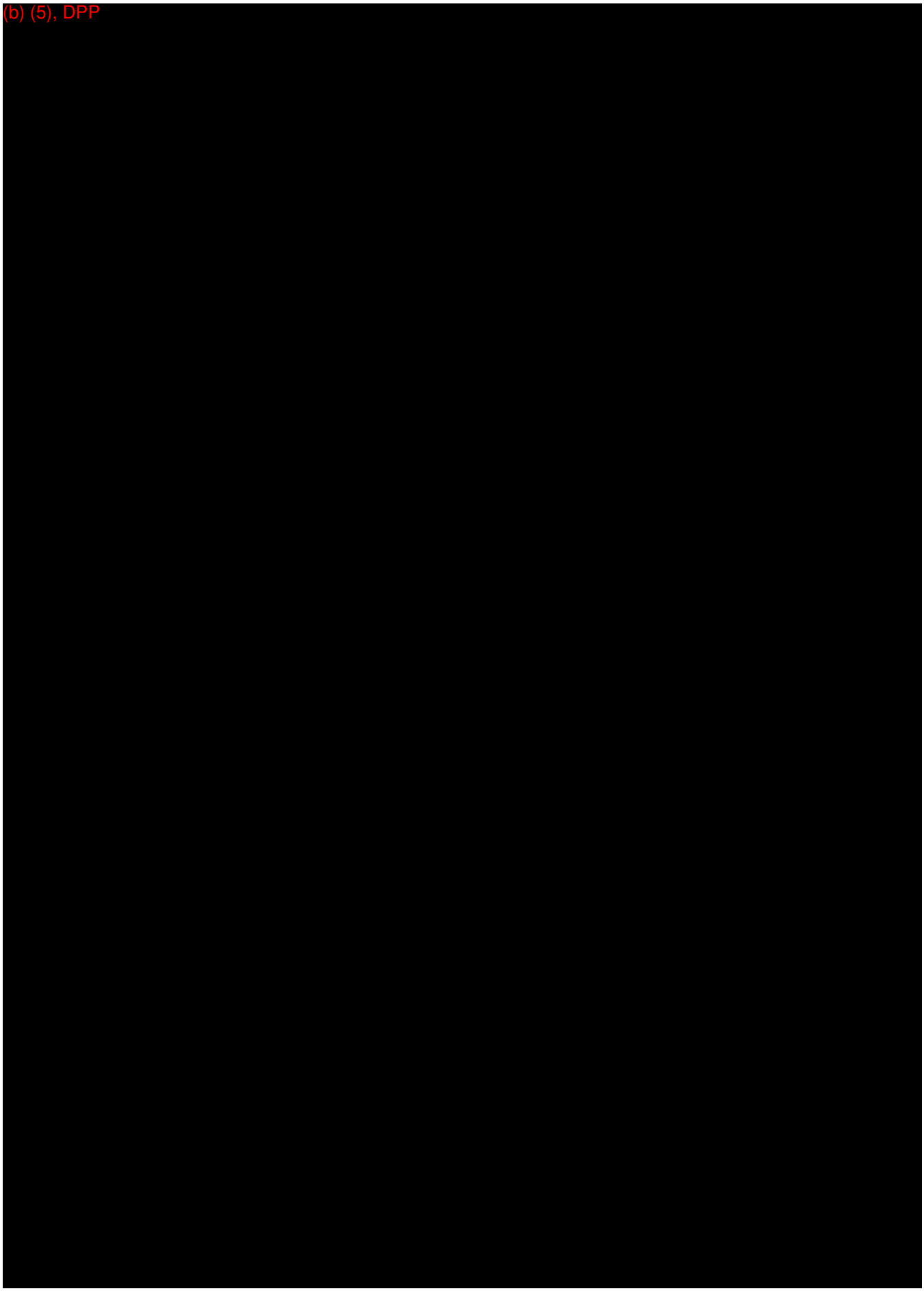
From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: 5-1-20 Congressional Letter Report
Date: Sunday, May 3, 2020 9:42:14 AM
Attachments: Sen. Coons and Sen. Wicker CFAP Poultry.pdf
Rep. Lucas +2 Cattle Market Investigation.pdf
Reo. Cleaver and Rep. Fudge DPA Worker Safety.pdf
Rep. Lauria +2 VA Del Shellfish Purchases.pdf
Sen Wyden OR Strategic Food Reserve.pdf
Sen. Stabenow Food Boxes.pdf
Rep. Pence Canning Industry DPA.pdf
Sen. Gillibrand Seafood F2F Food Box.pdf
Rep. Kuster +18 Local Produce for Food Boxes.pdf
Sen. Markey and Sen. Warren Seafood Assistance Questions.pdf
Rep. Price +3 Worker Safety DPA.pdf
DeLauro Enclosure Food Supply Plan.pdf
Rep. DeLauro Food Supply Letter.pdf

Sir,

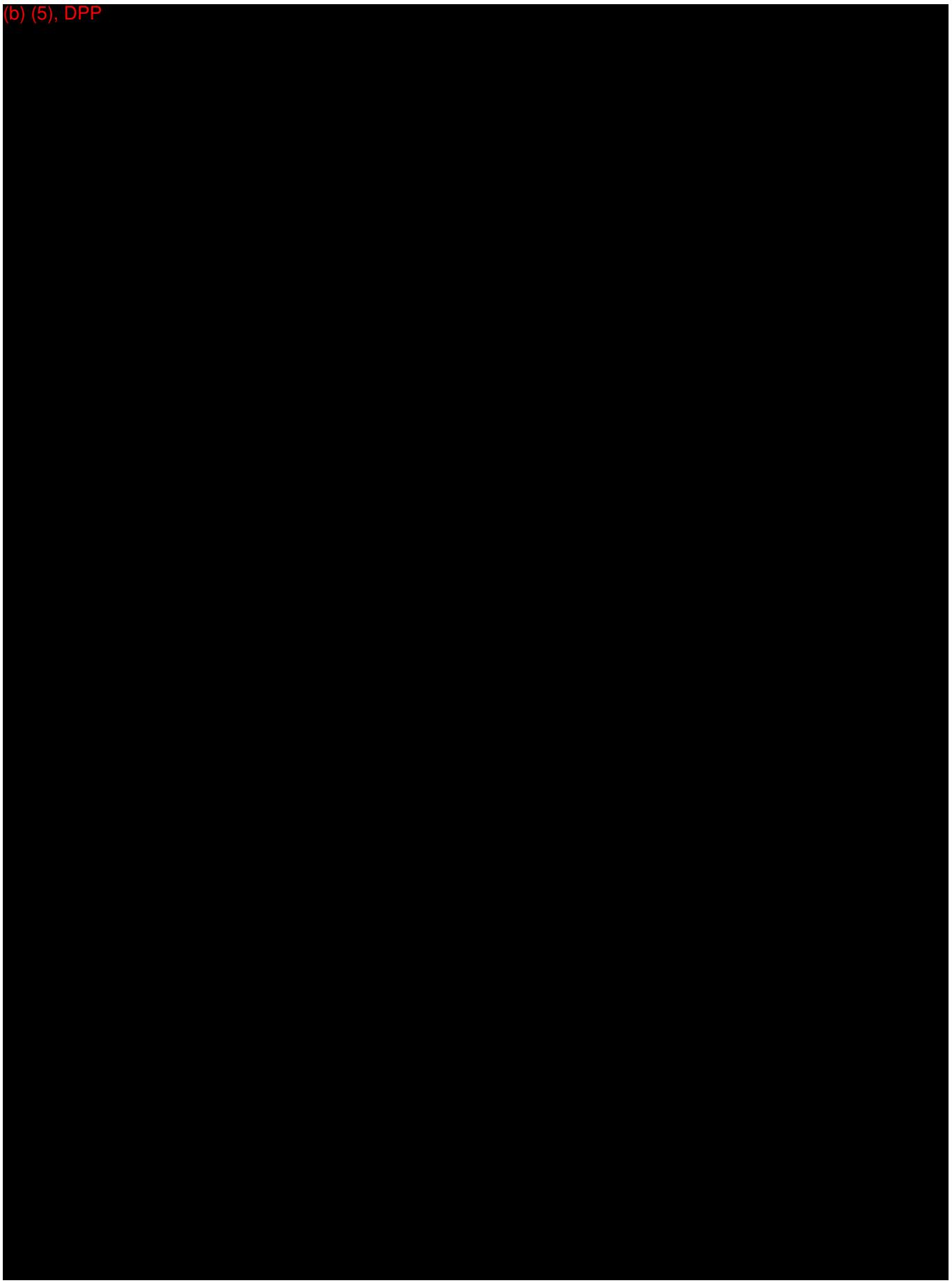
(b) (5), DPP



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Ken

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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ROSA L. DELAURO
3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

CO-CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES
CHAIR
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

May 1, 2020

The Honorable George Ervin "Sonny" Perdue III
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I write regarding the continuing impact the COVID-19 public health emergency is having on America's agricultural system as well as the farmers, ranchers, and growers dedicated to producing our abundant food supply. Given the massive scale of this crisis, I urge you to undertake a bold and innovative response to ensure the continued availability of food by utilizing the full weight of the federal government.

In recent weeks, the challenges facing our food system have garnered national attention. Images and videos continue to surface of dairy farmers dumping millions of gallons of milk, farmers plowing over fields of fresh produce, and greenhouses throwing away spring flowers. These actions are undoubtedly heartbreaking for farm families who have seen their markets eliminated. But at the same time, their juxtaposition to the shortages and long lines at food banks have caused confusion and frustration among many Americans.

On Friday, April 17, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), a $19 billion direct payment and commodity procurement proposal using a portion of the resources provided by Congress through the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* as well as the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. While the proposal will provide some relief to certain sectors of the agricultural economy, it will fall woefully short in meeting the needs of farmers as well as the growing number of people facing hunger and food insecurity.

Instead, I urge you to undertake bold and innovative actions in an effort to ensure the continued production and distribution of food in America. The historical approach of direct farm payments and bulk food purchases can play a role in stabilizing farm income and market prices, but they

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

alone are inadequate solutions to the ongoing disruptions to the food supply chain caused by COVID-19. As such, I respectfully submit the following action plan.

Action 1: Establish an Ad Hoc Public-Private Partnership with Members of the Food Processing and Distribution Sectors to Expedite Diversion of Surplus Foods

Prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency, Americans consumed a significant portion of their food away from home – at restaurants, corporate cafeterias/dining halls, and hotels. As a result of social distancing guidelines, many of these businesses have closed along with their sophisticated supply networks of food service providers. Realizing the food system is unable to pivot quickly from providing large quantities of product for restaurants and other food service customers to smaller quantities purchased at grocery stores, a public-private partnership with the processing and distribution sectors could:

- Create and implement a detailed food distribution plan prior to procurement of surplus commodities to provide for an efficient and equitable distribution of food and to minimize food waste and supply shortages;
- Provide for real-time understanding and collaborative solutions of problems related to processing, transportation, storage, delivery, and other logistics; and,
- Identify programs and authorities, and gaps thereof, within USDA that could expand appropriate distribution of food throughout the supply chain.

Action 2: Create an Intergovernmental Task Force to Protect Food Workers, Meat Processing Workers, and Farm Workers to Ensure Continuity of Supply

Members of the frontline food supply chain workforce – food processing, meat and poultry plant employees, and farm workers – play an essential role in the continued availability food products. By failing to fully protect this workforce, we not only jeopardize their own personal health, but risk a continued increase in closures of food processing facilities. To address this shortcoming, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) should immediately create an intergovernmental task force with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to establish, implement, and ensure compliance with recommendations to ensure worker safety during this pandemic. Ensuring that food processors and distributors are operating with proper health and safety protocols will enable a more robust food supply system by avoiding a concentration of burden and risk on the few suppliers still in operation. Additionally, USDA and its federal partners should:

- Prioritize members of the food supply chain workforce for COVID-19 testing, access to personal protective equipment (PPE), and forthcoming treatments;
- Review and modify existing regulatory waivers of federal meat inspection requirements, if necessary, to meet recommended food safety and health guidelines for safe operation; and,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- Direct meat packing companies to reduce production line speeds and require them to provide employees with social distancing and physical barriers to reduce potential exposure and spread of coronavirus.

Action 3: Fully Utilize All Resources Provided by Congress to Assist Family Farmers, Ranchers, and Grower Operations Affected by COVID-19

Family farmers, ranchers, and grower operations have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 because of losses of direct markets, falling market prices, and uncertainties around farm labor. While nearly all agricultural sectors have been impacted, some have been hit harder than others. These include small and mid-sized dairy farms, specialty crop growers, and greenhouse and nursery operations. Swift, decisive action is needed to preserve these small and mid-sized farming operations, many of which have been family-owned for several generations.

- Identify and employ existing USDA purchasing and program authority (e.g. Section 32, CCC, etc.) to compensate local farmers and ranchers for distributing product to local food banks, school meals programs, and other federal food purchase and distribution programs;
- Expand the list of recipient organizations eligible of USDA food distribution beyond food banks and select organizations that are already overwhelmed by increased demand, a lack of funding, and too few volunteers;
- Utilize the unbiased expertise of USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) to estimate and project current and future losses for various agricultural sectors;
- Incorporate into existing USDA proposals the additional $14 billion funding for the Commodity Credit Corporations (CCC) provided by Congress in the *CARES Act*;
- Prioritize direct payments to small and mid-sized farm, ranch, and growing operations not typically covered under Farm Bill safety net programs;
- Enable the Farm Service Agency to ease repayment periods, explore low interest and loan forgiveness options, and maintain suspension of all new internal loan accelerations and foreclosures through the end of 2020; and,
- Increase USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) oversight and investigation of livestock markets to identify market manipulation and price irregularities and report findings to appropriate state and federal authorities.

Action 4: Partner with Congress on Bold and Innovative Solutions to Utilize Excess Capacity to Feed Americans

The mounting problems caused by COVID-19 on the nation's food supply are more than any one segment of the supply chain can solve alone. This massive crisis must be met with the full weight of the federal government. As Congress begins negotiations on future coronavirus response packages, USDA should partner with Congress on bold and innovative solutions that bring together federal government resources, abilities of state and local governments, and the expertise of nonprofit organizations to address outstanding issues. Proposals for consideration include:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- Increase the food purchasing power of low-income and recently unemployed people by increasing the monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit, and expand SNAP spending flexibility by granting nationwide eligibility for online purchasing, allowing for low-cost, hot meal purchases at retailers and restaurants, creating an incentive program tied to the purchase of perishable food items.
- Identify ways to utilize the enormous excess capacity of commercial kitchen spaces, food processing and distribution facilities that have the ability to produce foods on large scale for distribution and harmonizing USDA food procurement with these efforts where possible;
- Establish a Food Donation Program to offset costs for farmers and food producers to process and deliver to food pantries, cities/municipalities, and nonprofit organizations food product that would otherwise be destroyed or dumped.
- Authorize federal funding for nonprofits, like Chef José Andrés' World Central Kitchen, engaged in activating restaurants, food service distributors, and school cafeterias to provide meals to vulnerable populations;
- Support initiatives by state and local governments, like New Haven, Connecticut's Coordinated Food Assistance Network (CFAN), to coordinate food resources, provide for food deliveries, and safely prepare a volunteer network;
- Administer a federal grant program to provide food banks and pantries the resources to obtain additional storage space and refrigeration capacity that is needed to handle increased food donations and perishable items;
- Through additional regulatory flexibility and new authority, provide for reimbursement of school meal expenses incurred as a result of emergency community feeding programs; and,
- Support efforts in Congress to expand the reach of nutrition education programs, like SNAP-Education (SNAP-Ed), by allowing two percent of the program's budget to be used for increases in staff, providing of technical assistance, and conducting pilot research programs.

Thank you for your consideration of these proposed actions and I look forward to working with you as we act to ensure a safe and abundant food supply throughout this emergency.

Sincerely,

Rosa L. DeLauro

ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Bold Actions Needed to Safeguard the Nation's Food Supply Throughout the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro (CT-03)

Every year, America's farmers, ranchers, and food workers feed the world. Their commitment, hard work, and ingenuity has provided for an abundant national food supply. However, the COVID-19 public health emergency has caused severe disruptions in the food supply chain, and the continued spread of coronavirus has threatened additional aspects of food production. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other federal agencies must undertake bold action to ensure the continued production and distribution of food in America.

Action 1: Establish an Ad Hoc Public-Private Partnership with Members of the Food Processing and Distribution Sectors to Expedite Diversion of Surplus Foods

Prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency, Americans consumed a significant portion of their food away from home – at restaurants, corporate cafeterias/dining halls, and hotels. As a result of social distancing guidelines, many of these businesses have closed along with their sophisticated supply networks of food service providers. Realizing the food system is unable to pivot quickly from providing large quantities of product for restaurants and other food service customers to smaller quantities purchased at grocery stores, a public-private partnership with the processing and distribution sectors could:

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to establish, implement, and ensure compliance with recommendations to ensure worker safety during this pandemic. Ensuring that food processors and distributors are operating with proper health and safety protocols will enable a more robust food supply system by avoiding a concentration of burden and risk on the few suppliers still in operation. Additionally, USDA and its federal partners should:

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- Enable the Farm Service Agency to ease repayment periods, explore low interest and loan forgiveness options, and maintain suspension of all new internal loan accelerations and foreclosures through the end of 2020; and,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- Increase USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) oversight and investigation of livestock markets to identify market manipulation and price irregularities and report findings to appropriate state and federal authorities.

Action 4: Partner with Congress on Bold and Innovative Solutions to Utilize Excess Capacity to Feed Americans

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- Increase the food purchasing power of low-income and recently unemployed people by increasing the monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit, and expand SNAP spending flexibility by granting nationwide eligibility for online purchasing, allowing for low-cost, hot meal purchases at retailers and restaurants, creating an incentive program tied to the purchase of perishable food items.
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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Secretary Eugene Scalia
United States Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

Secretary Sonny Perdue
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Secretary Alex M. Azar
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. President, Secretary Scalia, Secretary Perdue, and Secretary Azar:

We are alarmed by serious outbreaks of COVID-19 cases at poultry and meat plants all over the country, and many workers have noted a lack of guidance from their employers which has put them in the position of choosing between their livelihoods and their health. Though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have released guidelines to promote health and safety, it is clear that the lack of enforceability has led to unacceptable examples of noncompliance.[1]

Given these serious worker safety and public health concerns, we are disappointed to see that your Executive Order invoking the Defense Production Act to keep meat processing plants open includes no further guidance about worker safety or increased safety standards. It is certainly important that we maintain food supply chains in this time of unprecedented crisis, but that goal is undermined if workers processing the food are not kept healthy and workplaces are unsafe. More than 3,000 workers in the meat industry have already contracted COVID-19, and at least 17 have died.[2] In light of recent outbreaks at these plants, we encourage you, the CDC, OSHA, and USDA to implement the following policies for meat processing facilities:

- Implement strict, enforceable standards for meat processing plants that include social distancing measures and access to personal protective equipment (PPE);
- Implement mandatory, priority COVID-19 testing for all meat processing workers and ensure that employers comply with paid sick leave laws for COVID-19 signed into law in the Families First Coronavirus Protection Act;

[1] Liz Crampton, "Court orders meat company to protect workers at Missouri plant," POLITICO (April 27, 2020) *available at* https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/27/meatpacking-plant-coronavirus-211632.
[2] National Employment Law Project. President Trump's Meatpacking Plant Executive Order Puts Thousands of Workers' Lives at Risk (April 208, 2020) *available at* https://www nelp.org/news-releases/president-trumps-meatpacking-plant-executive-order-puts-thousands-workers-lives-risk/.

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- Require a decrease in line speeds at all meat processing plants, pause any existing line speed waivers, and immediately stop issuing new line speed waivers. At current line speeds, social distancing is virtually impossible;
- Implement comprehensive whistleblower protections and anti-retaliatory measures for workers speaking out about health and safety concerns or utilizing any sick leave or other forms of leave.

Providing PPE and ensuring proper public health practices should rest on the employer and relevant federal agencies, not on the workers. Any federal mandate that an employer remains operational must come with adequate assistance from the federal government in securing necessary PPE and other safety equipment, as well as enforceable guidelines for worker safety. A secure food supply cannot exist without healthy workers. While the Executive Order may seek to keep meat plants open, it will not be effective without addressing worker health and safety in a more holistic manner.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

David Price
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
219A Whitten Building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We write again to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) include East Coast seafood producers among the recipients of financial assistance to agricultural producers that the Department is providing in response to the coronavirus pandemic. On April 17, 2020, USDA announced a $19 billion Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) intended to support farmers, ranchers, and consumers during this public health and economic crisis. But USDA did not specify whether seafood producers would be eligible for that aid.[1] We ask that you recognize the devastating effects the pandemic has had on seafood businesses, engage with these important stakeholders, and include them in these financial assistance programs.

As we have previously explained, the fishing and seafood industries are essential to the American economy, with $5.6 billion worth of fisheries products landed and $11.6 billion worth of fisheries products processed in 2018.[2] The coronavirus outbreak has caused restaurants across the United States to shutter, eliminating a key customer base. The pandemic has also disrupted large export markets in countries such as China, which the coronavirus has hit hard. As a result, the U.S. fishing and seafood industries are under serious financial duress that shows no signs of abating.[3]

The $19 billion CFAP includes $9.5 billion from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, $3 billion from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and $6.5 billion from the Commodity Credit Corporation. Congress designated the $9.5 billion in CARES Act funding for support to agricultural producers affected by coronavirus, including producers that supply local food systems and restaurants.[4] Approximately two-thirds of U.S. seafood consumption occurs in restaurants.[5] When USDA begins its purchasing programs intended to assist those whom the pandemic has effected, USDA should include domestic seafood.

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[1] USDA, Press Release, *USDA Announces Coronavirus Food Assistance Program*, (Apr. 17, 2020), https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/04/17/usda-announces-coronavirus-food-assistance-program
[2] NOAA Fisheries, *Fisheries of the United States, 2018* (Feb. 21, 2020), https://www.fisheries noaa.gov/feature-story/fisheries-united-states-2018.
[3] Laura Reiley, *Commercial fishing industry in free fall as restaurants close, consumers hunker down and vessels tie up*, Wash. Post (Apr. 8, 2020), https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/04/08/commercial-fishing-coronavirus/.
[4] P.L. 116-136, Title I, Agricultural Programs.
[5] Christine Bank, *Seafood suppliers forced to adjust to rapidly changing market condition*, Seafood Source (Mar. 30, 2020), https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/foodservice-retail/seafood-suppliers-forced-to-adjust-to-rapidly-changing-market-conditions.

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In addition to assistance available through the CFAP, USDA announced on April 17 that it would provide an additional $873.3 million in Section 32 funding for the purchase of a variety of agricultural products for distribution to food banks. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has previously purchased seafood through the Section 32 program, and we urge USDA to continue that practice.[6] East Coast seafood producers can offer a wide variety of seafood that currently does not have a market, and which should be included in purchases made for this program.

We urge you to work with these producers to better understand the available supply and to ensure their inclusion when USDA starts implementing its announced programs. In order for us to better understand USDA's consideration of seafood in its assistance to agricultural producers affected by the coronavirus pandemic, please respond to the following questions by May 13, 2020:

1. Will USDA include seafood in its purchases of agricultural products under the CFAP?
2. Will USDA include seafood in its purchases of agricultural products under the additional $873.3 million in Section 32 funding?
3. Are there other USDA programs that will buy seafood products to provide assistance to producers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic?
4. Is USDA currently in conversations with seafood producers from the East Coast to purchase seafood?

If you have any questions about this request, please reach out to Claire Richer on Senator Markey's staff at claire_richer@markey.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

[6] Agricultural Marketing Service, *2021 USDA Budget Explanatory Notes for Committee on Appropriations: Marketing and Regulatory Programs*, https://www.obpa.usda.gov/21ams2021notes.pdf#page=126.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

As the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) implements its $3 billion commitment to purchase fresh food for food banks and community organizations, we write to urge the Department to ensure as much of this food as possible is locally sourced and procured from small and mid-sized producers. These purchases are a critical component of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and will make a tremendous difference to those confronting food insecurities during the COVID-19 pandemic. If executed with an emphasis on purchasing from small, family farms, CFAP could also be a vital lifeline to these producers who have lost markets and supply chains needed to remain financially viable.

We know you share our belief that small farms are the backbone of our nation. They comprise the vast majority of agriculture businesses, sustain our rural economies, and feed their fellow Americans from coast to coast. Their ability to weather the current crisis is critical to sustaining our food supply, both now and in the years ahead. Unfortunately, many of them lack the financial infrastructure of large-scale agriculture operations. With the closure of everything from restaurants to farmers markets, commodity prices falling, and the absence of other revenue sources like agritourism, smaller producers are having an especially hard time making ends meet. Recent years of economic instability in the agricultural sector have only exacerbated this current challenge.

As the USDA works with distributors and wholesalers on the CFAP Distribution and Purchase component in the days and weeks ahead, we ask that you take a strategic approach that will ensure the amount of fruits, vegetables, dairy, and meats purchased from small and mid-sized producers is maximized. It is also imperative to the long-term health of our food supply chain that, to the fullest extent possible, these producers be identified based upon their proximity to the intended charitable organization recipients. By using this program to link food banks with farmers located within approximately one hundred miles of their facilities, the USDA can help foster invaluable connections between producers and those who are food insecure. This would help the program best support those on both ends of the food supply chain.

Please extend our gratitude to all USDA employees who are working diligently to support American agriculture during this pandemic. We stand ready to partner with you to guarantee the success of CFAP.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Andy Kim
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK
SENATOR
RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4451

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
AGRICULTURE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I am writing in support of our commercial fishermen, shellfish growers, and aquaculture farmers and request they be included in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Purchase and Distribution (Farmers to Families Food Box) Program as a part of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) that was funded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. I also request additional funding for CFAP, to properly allow for the inclusion of commercial fishermen, shellfish growers, and aquaculture farmers in the Farmers to Families Food Box Program. Our commercial fishermen, shellfish growers, and aquaculture farmers in New York and around the country have been hard-hit by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has significantly disrupted their markets and the restaurant and food service industry on which they rely.

As announced, through the Farmers to Families Food Box program, USDA will partner with regional and local distributors, whose workforce has been significantly impacted by the closure of restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities to purchase $3 billion in fresh produce, dairy, and meat. The distributors and wholesalers will then provide a pre-approved box of fresh produce, dairy, and meat products to food banks, community and faith based organizations, and other non-profits who are currently serving Americans in need during this public health crisis. Given that our commercial fishermen, shellfish growers, and aquaculture farmers are hurting, along with our livestock, crop, produce and dairy farmers and ranchers, due to the disruption of their typical markets that include restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities, it only makes sense that they be included in the USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box program as well. Commercial fisherman, shellfish growers, and aquaculture farmers all play essential roles in feeding coastal states like New York.

In order to provide our regional and local distributors, including our commercial fishermen, shellfish growers, and aquaculture farmers, the clarity needed to most effectively utilize funding for this food purchasing and distribution program, I request that the USDA provide Congress with an implementation plan that outlines the necessary changes needed to include fishermen, shellfish growers, and aquaculture farmers in the Farmers to Families Food Box program by Friday, May 8th 2020.

Our commercial fishermen, shellfish growers, and aquaculture farmers are in desperate need of the federal government's help and support now more than ever before. I hope that you will

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seriously consider this request in order to ensure that our fishermen, shellfish growers, and aquaculture farmers can get the same opportunities as our livestock, crop, produce and dairy farmers and ranchers, and get access to the assistance they need to help get them through this very difficult economic time.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to your prompt response. Should you wish to discuss this matter in further detail, please do not hesitate to reach out to my staff.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Cc: Bruce Summers, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

GREG PENCE
6TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE, EURASIA, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1406

COLUMBUS OFFICE:
555 FIRST STREET
UNIT B
COLUMBUS, IN 47201

MUNCIE OFFICE:
2810 WEST ETHEL AVENUE
MUNCIE, IN 47304

RICHMOND OFFICE:
50 NORTH 50TH STREET
2ND FLOOR
RICHMOND, IN 47374

GREENFIELD OFFICE:
18 EAST MAIN STREET
SUITE 210
GREENFIELD, IN 46140

May 01, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I write to express gratitude on behalf of Indiana's Sixth Congressional District for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) efforts to provide direct relief to farmers, ranchers, and producers across the nation through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). In addition to these efforts, I am pleased that this week President Trump signed an Executive Order to delegate authority under the Defense Production Act of 1950 (DPA) to secure our food supply during the coronavirus pandemic. These steps are keeping farmers' supply chains moving – a critical part to our nation's infrastructure.

Indiana is the fifth largest pork producing state and employs over 14,000 people, generating more than $630,000,000 in personal income for hard-working Hoosiers in the pork industry. This pandemic has devastated farmers in our state, with demand uncertainty forcing them to destroy crops or render their excess supply of livestock unusable. I applaud the administration's decision to keep processors of pork, beef, and poultry in operation to address these issues, and I urge the USDA to utilize the same authority to grant relief to the processed fruit and vegetable industry facing the same challenges.

As the third largest segment of the food manufacturing sector after protein processing and bakery manufacturing, the processed fruit and vegetable industry employs over 165,000 workers nationwide in over 1,700 establishments. As you may know, this industry operates within a very tight timeframe of only two to three months to harvest and package their products. There are only 60 days to process the packaging of corn, string beans, carrots, tomatoes, pears, and other seasonal products for the entire year.

With harvest and packaging season quickly approaching, concerns from livestock processing facilities predict the real danger of shutdowns to the vegetable and fruit supply chain. I urge you to issue additional guidance to preserve our nation's processed fruit and vegetable industry following the President's Executive Order.

Sincerely,

Greg Pence
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

PAT ROBERTS, KANSAS
CHAIRMAN
MITCH McCONNELL, KENTUCKY
JOHN BOOZMAN, ARKANSAS
JOHN HOEVEN, NORTH DAKOTA
JONI ERNST, IOWA
CINDY HYDE-SMITH, MISSISSIPPI
MIKE BRAUN, INDIANA
CHUCK GRASSLEY, IOWA
JOHN THUNE, SOUTH DAKOTA
DEB FISCHER, NEBRASKA
KELLY LOEFFLER, GEORGIA

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6000
202–224–2035

DEBBIE STABENOW, MICHIGAN
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
SHERROD BROWN, OHIO
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA
MICHAEL F. BENNET, COLORADO
KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, NEW YORK
ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., PENNSYLVANIA
TINA SMITH, MINNESOTA
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) considers applications and implements the disaster food purchasing program, I urge you to provide flexibility for farmers and ensure a wide variety of food products in the boxes.

As you know, COVID-19 has created an unprecedented crisis for our country that has tested the strength of the food supply chain. Many farmers have lost markets as a result of cancelled contracts and the closure of restaurants, the hospitality industry, and schools and universities. At the same time, families across the country are grappling with unemployment and struggling to put food on the table. While SNAP is the first line of defense for families facing food insecurity, distributing any excess food in the supply chain to families in need is critical. I appreciate USDA's actions to establish a framework to connect Americans with fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and meat, as long as the program is implemented in a flexible and effective manner that addresses the needs of both farmers and families.

I urge the Department to take the following actions to maximize aid and distribute a wide variety of food products via all scales of distribution:

- Given the tight turnaround to establish partnerships and submit the applications for a brand new program, the Department should allow the option for additional applications or flexibility to modify contracts throughout the summer if necessary. Many distributors may not be able to fully account for projected need or identify all partners when submitting the application. Modifications would ensure affected producers with late-season harvest would have the opportunity to participate as well. It is also vital to ensure

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that local food and specialty crop providers who may not have existing relationships with distributors have the time to make those connections. Food banks are also stretched thin with a 70 percent increase in demand. They must be able to provide ongoing input and modifications to deliveries based on need and capacity.

- I appreciate that the Request for Proposals allows for distribution networks to cover a region or small subset of a region. However, concerns remain that larger distributors will outbid these local networks. If local or regional distributors have the capacity, local support and reasonably comparable bid, preference should be given to local or regional plans to maximize dollars and utilize existing relationships, while using local product in the region to the greatest extent possible. A strong bid should be based on a variety of factors and should not discount distributors who have not participated in federal contracts.

- The Request for Proposals does not require that the fresh fruit and vegetable food boxes contain a variety of products. While food banks should have the flexibility to request product in the method and quantity that meets their needs, it is important to ensure all types of fresh fruit and vegetables should be able to participate in the program and not be excluded by distributors based on price.

- Because the focus of this program is supporting farmers and families in need, it is critical that USDA work to maximize the funding utilized to purchase food for distribution and maximize the efficiency of labor and distribution. Funding should be adjusted based on availability of products in the supply chain and demand from food banks for additional food. I'd ask that you adjust monthly allocations of funds accordingly to account for this supply and demand.

- Farmers across the country are being forced to destroy produce, dump milk and euthanize animals due to shifts in demand and supply chain problems. USDA should give a preference to proposals that directly prevent food waste and source from these farmers and processors that have an oversupply rather than drawing down on existing stocks of stored production or supplying products that still have strong commercial demand.

- The 2018 Farm Bill created a new Milk Donation Program that reimbursed partnerships between dairy cooperatives, processors and charities for certain donation costs to remove a disincentive for donation. It also created a Farm to Foodbank Program to help cover some of the costs for farmers to donate their product to food banks. I urge USDA to make these existing partnerships eligible for the purchase program and expand them to

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st USDA Release 045 A5 002655
USDA-20-1045-A-000455

provide additional products. These partnerships typically do not involve a traditional distributor and USDA should not arbitrarily exclude these proven efforts that could be ramped up.

- The Request for Proposals only allows for precooked pork and chicken products in the meat boxes and only fresh fruits and vegetables in produce boxes. I urge the Department to consider available and seasonal products, as well as working with food banks to meet the needs of their requests.

I also respectfully encourage the Department to continue approving purchases through other USDA purchasing programs, such as Section 32, to move surplus products to emergency feeding organizations.

Thank you for all of your work to respond to the challenges created by COVID-19. I appreciate your consideration and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1450 of 2656
USDA-20-1045-A-000456

RON WYDEN
OREGON

RANKING MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

COMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I am writing to urge the Department of Agriculture to support the creation of strategic food reserves in Oregon as a model for the nation facing emergencies like the current COVID-19 crisis. The reserves will address food insecurity in times of peace and prepare the state for increases in food demands during times of emergency.

In addition, I ask that the Department provide emergency food supplies to Oregon as soon as possible to fill the current 70% rise in demand the Oregon food banks are currently experiencing.

USDA has the ability to support farms and ranches in the United States with loans, purchases, payments, and other operations. It also has the authority to purchase and donate food to domestic relief agencies and assist in the development of new domestic markets and marketing facilities for agricultural commodities.

I ask the USDA to use its capacity to support the current hunger needs in Oregon and an Oregon specific program that identifies immediate availability of food that is in oversupply and at risk of being dumped due to market disruption. It can also work with and pay Oregon processors to freeze, aseptically pack, dry, and create shelf-life for their product to go into storage. In addition, USDA could support this endeavor by providing money for warehouse construction or preparation through the Rural Development Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated an already fragile food supply chain in Oregon and the nation. The farmers and agriculture producers who help feed my state have been hit hard by this pandemic and the need for a program that provides long term stability in times of crisis, has never been more apparent. I commend USDA's new Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) for providing a similar service by working with local and regional distributors to purchase their products. That program needs to work as quickly and efficiently as possible - each day of delay is another day of hunger for thousands of Oregonians and millions of Americans.

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(541) 858-5122

THE JAMISON BUILDING
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BEND, OR 97701
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707 13TH ST, SE
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(503) 589-4555

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Oregon needs help immediately and Oregon needs a long-term program that will not only address food insecurity during COVID-19 but also provide food security for any future emergency.

I appreciate the work the Department of Agriculture has done to assist the country with food insecurity and look forward to working with you on this in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We write to urge you to include aquaculture growers and commercial fisheries as part of the recently announced $19 billion United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) pandemic relief package.

The aquaculture industry and commercial fisheries have been hit especially hard by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. While other agriculture industries have used grocery sales to help compensate for the loss in restaurant revenue, this is not a viable option for shellfish growers. Sales to restaurants, caterers, and other food service businesses make up almost 70% of the aquaculture industry's annual revenue.[1] Logistical challenges and consumer preferences limit the ability of seafood producers to rapidly shift their production to the grocery market. With most restaurants in the United States either closed or operating at significantly reduced capacity, many producers report seeing demand for their products disappearing overnight.

While aquaculture growers and commercial fisheries are seeing their revenues collapse, food banks are reporting a 70% increase in demand for food assistance.[2] Supporting these industries will bolster this important economic engine while also helping Americans access a highly nutritious food source. In fact, USDA already recommends that Americans eat fish or shellfish twice a week.[3]

Peak oyster and clam harvest season has just finished in many parts of the country. Unless something is done to support growers, millions of pounds of fresh shellfish risk being wasted, and an industry worth almost $1.5 billion could face devastating economic consequences.

USDA's $16 billion in direct support to farmers and ranchers should include aquaculture growers and commercial fishery producers as eligible recipients. We also encourage USDA to

[1] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *Fisheries of the United States, 2017 Report*. December 2018. https://www.fisheries noaa.gov/resource/document/fisheries-united-states-2017-report
[2] Business Insider, "'Will we have enough food?:' Millions of Americans are now unemployed and hungry. Food banks worry they can't feed them." April 22, 2020. https://www.businessinsider.com/food-banks-feeding-americans-unemployment-hunger-2020-4
[3] U.S. Department of Agriculture, "10 Tips: Eat Seafood Twice a Week." https://www.choosemyplate.gov/ten-tips-eat-seafood

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work with stakeholders in these industries to develop solutions to any regulatory or logistical challenges associated with using shellfish and other seafood products for its planned $3 billion commodity purchase and distribution program.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and for your work on behalf of consumers and food producers.

Sincerely,



Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Eugene Scalia
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

The Honorable Alex M. Azar, II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Perdue, Secretary Scalia, and Secretary Azar:

We write to follow up on the Executive Order signed by President Trump on April 28, 2020, invoking the Defense Production Act (DPA) to classify meat processing plants as critical infrastructure to keep them in operation during the coronavirus national emergency.[1]

Prior to issuance of the Executive Order, media reports indicated the government would provide personal protective equipment (PPE) and guidance for employees and employers on worker safety, and that the order would shield meat processing companies from legal liability against worker claims of inadequate protection.[2] However, neither the Executive Order nor the subsequent press release issued by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) contain information about coordination between federal agencies to provide PPE or plans to increase coronavirus testing for plant employees and the surrounding communities.[3]

Over 6,500 employees at meat processing plants have either tested positive or gone into self-quarantine, and 20 workers have died since the start of the pandemic, according to the United Food and Commercial Workers Union.[4] Continued operations at these plants and reopening currently closed facilities would require coordination between federal agencies, states, local communities, plant owners and workers, otherwise more workers will be at risk. To better understand federal efforts in this area, we request responses to the following by May 6, 2020:

[1] https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-delegating-authority-dpa-respect-food-supply-chain-resources-national-emergency-caused-outbreak-covid-19/
[2] https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/28/trump-to-order-meat-plants-to-stay-open-215555
[3] https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/04/28/usda-implement-president-trumps-executive-order-meat-and-poultry
[4] https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-28/trump-says-he-s-issuing-order-for-tyson-s-unique-liability

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1) What guidance has been shared with meat processing plants regarding the steps they need to undertake to ensure worker health and safety before reopening or the steps they must undertake immediately to ensure worker health and safety if they are currently operating?
2) How is the federal government coordinating with meat companies, employees, state and local health departments, and local communities? How will each of these stakeholders be involved during the time the DPA is invoked?
3) What is the plan and timeline for distribution of PPE for all plant employees and will these supplies be sourced from the states' supply or the federal stockpile? Will there be continued deliveries of PPE while the DPA is invoked for these processing plants to ensure all employees are adequately protected?
4) As part of the DPA and any forthcoming guidance, will companies be required to retrofit plants and/or modify shifts and other practices in order to ensure compliance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recommended social distancing?
5) What enforcement mechanisms will be put in place to ensure OSHA and CDC guidance is adhered to at individual plants? Will teams from USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service or OSHA regularly inspect these plants during the DPA?
6) Will there be a hotline or other mechanism for employees to report violations?
7) Will increased testing be provided at these plants for symptomatic and asymptomatic employees, including contact tracing? Is there sufficient testing capacity to regularly test all employees, whether or not they are symptomatic? What consultation have your agencies completed with the CDC and state and local health departments regarding testing capabilities in these states?
8) How will your agencies coordinate with the CDC to develop guidance regarding employees most at risk of developing COVID-19 complications? What is the timeline for release of that guidance? If such guidance has been developed, what actions does it recommend or require plants to undertake to protect these employees?

Maintaining our food supply chain is critical to the food security of all Americans, as well as our farmers and producers. however, it cannot be at the expense of worker health and safety,

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important issue. We look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

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Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

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Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

TJ Cox
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 01, 2020

Hon. Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We would like to begin by thanking you for all the work that you and your staff have done to help farmers, ranchers, and consumers during the Covid-19 pandemic. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's commitment to stand with the American farmer and rancher, whose livelihood has been threatened by this public health emergency is a testament to the principle that American agriculture is a fundamental pillar to the strength of our nation.

Beginning in the first few weeks of the crisis, cattlemen have seen prices drastically decline, with cattle futures falling 29% between the month of January and April, all-the-while beef prices increased on market shelves. While we do recognize the complexity of the beef markets generally, the devastating effect this has had on many of our constituents in the last few weeks is clear. This is of great concern to us for a variety of reasons but chief among them being the doubt it casts on our markets as a whole. When market participants begin to believe that markets are not competitive or transparent that suspicion has a dangerous industry-wide ripple effect. That is why we applaud you for expanding the ongoing investigation into the cattle market's reaction to the 2019 plant fire in Holcomb, Kansas to encompass the more recent CV-19 related market concerns. This oversight role the agency plays is an immensely important one that helps ensure that our markets are equipped to function properly.

We are encouraged by the recent steps that the Department has taken to better coordinate with the Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). We hope that this cooperation yields new insights into the relationship between cattle spot and futures markets. Producers want effective, market-based risk management tools. However, volatility during this pandemic has made market participation difficult to manage and capital intensive.

It is because of the alarm that is being felt across the country that we write to you today asking that the findings of your investigation be released as soon as possible. As policymakers, we rely on these findings to provide clarity and information to make the most informed policy decisions going forward. We look forward to working with you to address these concerns and restore cattle producer's confidence in the market.

Sincerely,



Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

James Comer
Member of Congress

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Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress

Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress

Liz Cheney
Member of Congress

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Jason Smith
Member of Congress

Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress

Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress

Kevin Hern
Member of Congress

Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress

Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress

Warren Davidson
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Christopher Stewart
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M
Member of Congress

John Rose
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

Thank you for your commitment to supporting American farmers and our agricultural economy throughout the COVID-19 crisis. As you are well aware, COVID-19 is severely disrupting meat production operations essential to our country's food supply, including chicken farming and processing. On April 17, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it will provide $16 billion in direct financial assistance to agricultural producers impacted by COVID-19. As representatives of states with substantial chicken operations, we strongly request that USDA provide direct assistance for chicken farmers impacted by COVID-19 and continue to provide support for chicken processing facilities.

The U.S. chicken industry provides an essential service in feeding Americans, who on average consume about 100 pounds of chicken meat each year. As you know, chicken processing facilities across the country have been forced to reduce or suspend production as a result of workforce shortages caused by COVID-19. We appreciate USDA's efforts to comply with President Trump's executive order and work with processing facilities, local officials, and other federal agencies to keep these facilities operating and provide employees with the safest working conditions possible. As these facilities continue to experience challenges due to COVID-19, we ask that you continue to provide support to the fullest extent possible.

The challenges faced by chicken processing facilities impact the entire supply chain, including the independent family farmers in our states who raise chickens. Chicken farmers across the country have been forced to depopulate millions of healthy birds in response to substantial reductions in processing capacity. As these farmers cope with changing and uncertain demand, we believe it is essential that they be provided with direct financial assistance.

The impacts of COVID-19 on the chicken industry are becoming more serious and visible as the disease continues to spread throughout the United States. As an industry essential to American food security, we urge you to provide necessary support for chicken farmers and processing facilities.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please to not hesitate to contact us if you would like more information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

/s/ Christopher A. Coons

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

/s/ Rodger F. Wicker

Rodger F. Wicker
United States Senator

/s/ Mark R. Warner

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

/s/ John Boozman

John Boozman
United States Senator

/s/ Thomas R. Carper

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

/s/ Tom Cotton

Tom Cotton
United States Senator

/s/ Doug Jones

Doug Jones
United States Senator

/s/ Thom Tillis

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Kelly Loeffler

Kelly Loeffler
United States Senator

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Cindy Hyde-Smith

Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

/s/ James Lankford

James Lankford
United States Senator

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/s/ James M. Inhofe

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Burr

Richard Burr
United States Senator

/s/ John Cornyn

John Cornyn
United States Senator

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Withheld info is Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses.

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: 5-4-20 Congressional Letter Report
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 8:29:49 PM
Attachments: Rep. Young +4 Seafood.pdf
Rep. Kuster Food Box Program.pdf
Sen. Casey SNAP Online Purchases PA.pdf
2020.5.4 Doggett to Perdue - Prevent Inhumane Killings of Farm Animals.pdf

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Sir, (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

Ken

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Jamie L. Whitten Building
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to place unprecedented pressure on our Nation's food systems, we appreciate the U.S. Department of Agriculture's leadership in ensuring American families continue to have access to healthy and nutritious food.

Unfortunately, the particular problems this crisis has caused for processing and slaughter facilities has placed some farmers and ranchers in the dreadful position of having to "depopulate" their animals on an alarming scale. The National Pork Producers Council, a trade association that represents many pork producers, reports that due to lack of access to processing, the industry could be forced to cull upwards of 700,000 pigs a week, while millions of birds raised for poultry have already been killed because of this same issue. Depopulation is always a last resort for farmers, but it is troubling that some of the accepted methods of depopulation present serious concerns. As the USDA works to meet the challenges created by the pandemic, we ask you to ensure that farmers and ranchers use the most humane depopulation methods available and prohibit the cruel use of ventilation shutdown -- whether done alone (without the addition of gas) or done in conjunction with heat. Additionally, we ask that the USDA ensure that water-based foam methods are used only as a very last resort.

When executed with heat, ventilation shutdown for poultry and pigs causes animals to die by hyperthermia. However, ventilation systems often fail, instead causing animals to slowly die from suffocation caused by the high levels of carbon dioxide and other gases that quickly accumulate in the barns. The process is inhumane, distressing, and painful for the animals who can take many hours to die. This method has not been approved as a depopulation method by the World Organisation for Animal Health, even in extreme cases. Water-based foam – often used in the poultry industry – essentially drowns or suffocates animals. Adapted from firefighting foam, the foam obstructs the animal's airway and causes death over several, stressful, and agonizing minutes.

If humane slaughter (as determined by federal statute and regulation) at a processing facility is not available, we ask the USDA to ensure farmers and producers use methods deemed "preferred" as outlined in the American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals or "acceptable" or "acceptable with conditions" as outlined in the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. Though these animals are not being euthanized – but rather "depopulated" – these methods provide a more humane death than many depopulation methods. Under no circumstances should producers be utilizing ventilation shutdown, and water-based foam depopulation methods should only be used when all other options have been exhausted.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you for your attention to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett	Jerry McNerney
Tony Cárdenas	Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
David N. Cicilline	Donald Payne
Steve Cohen	Katie Porter
Gerald E. Connolly	David Price
Jason Crow	Mike Quigley
Raul Grijalva	Lucille Royball Allard
Eleanor Holmes Norton	Linda Sanchez
Barbara Lee	Jan Schakowsky
Ted Lieu	Nydia Velazquez
Jim McGovern	Susan Wild

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ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3805

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I write in support of Pennsylvania's request for implementation of the expedited online purchasing option for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP). The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) submitted its State Plan for Providing Online Purchasing to provide the option for online purchasing and delivery services for SNAP recipients on April 30, 2020 and hopes to be able to offer the option by June 1, 2020.

The COVID-19 outbreak has required many individuals in Pennsylvania and across the country to self-quarantine and engage in social distancing. This is necessary to protect the health of our communities but has consequently made it challenging for some SNAP households to travel to stores to purchase food. This is especially true for seniors and immunocompromised individuals, and thus it is critical to ensure online delivery is an option for all customers, including SNAP recipients.

DHS has taken the necessary steps in order to mitigate risks associated with the proposed expedited timeline to bring SNAP online purchasing to Pennsylvania. These steps include coordination and discussions with the EBT processor (Conduent), the third party processor/ secure PIN-entry provide and the retailers currently authorized for online purchasing. DHS has developed a detailed timeline and is able to make the necessary updates to the system and have the technical resources available to implement this plan.

Approval of this plan will enable any SNAP household in Pennsylvania to utilize online purchasing through the available retailers. As Pennsylvania continues to implements critical social-distancing measures to protect the health and safety of students during this pandemic, it is vital to ensure that SNAP recipients have access to the same delivery and ordering services that are currently available to other customers across the Commonwealth. For these reasons, I respectfully request you provide full, fair and expeditious consideration of Pennsylvania's request to implement online SNAP purchasing.

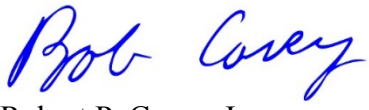
I appreciate USDA's efforts to expedite the process through which states can participate in the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot. Pennsylvania's participation in the program would provide an important step forward for expanding delivery options SNAP recipients. At the same time, there is even more that needs to be done to expand the options available for SNAP delivery, and I urge

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USDA to continue to work to promote and facilitate additional delivery mechanisms, including the use of point of sale (POS) devices.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, your team can be in touch with Alyssa Charney on my staff at alyssa_charney@casey.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I write to seek clarification regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety requirements for suppliers who will be participating in the Farmers to Families Food Box initiative within the Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program (CFAP). As currently written, I believe the requirements would unfairly exclude most of the specialty crop farmers in my district. I would therefore ask that the Department use its existing authority under the Federal Acquisitions Regulations (FAR) to grant producers the fair flexibility they deserve.

Pertaining to the food safety requirements for the food box initiative, section "4A52.246-1(a) Contract Quality Requirements," states the following:

"(f) In order to facilitate the expedited purchases of commodities and address the challenges with conducting audits of fruits and vegetable that are sourced from storage; the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will allow greater flexibility to verify food safety requirements. Suppliers must meet one of the following: (1) USDA Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices audit conducted by a USDA-AMS auditor. (2) Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) benchmarked certification program audits (GlobalGAP, SQF, Primus GFS, CanadaGAP). (i) USDA-AMS reserves the right to conduct onsite or remote validation audits of any vendor."

Based upon this language, I understand there is confusion for farms or farmer co-operatives that propose to participate in the program by delivering fresh produce that is not sourced from storage and is in compliance with applicable law under Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) – either as a qualified exempt farm or a covered farm. In this scenario, is the USDA requiring a third-party food safety audit, such as the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Handling Practices (GHP), or Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), be performed as well?

Presuming this is the case, this would severely limit the participation of many specialty crop farms, given the added challenges of the food supply chain during the current pandemic. I would call on you to consider using the Department's Emergency Acquisition Authority under FAR Part 18.108. As you know, this section empowers agencies to determine what qualifications requirements not to enforce when a national emergency exists. I urge you to utilize this authority in order to allow farms and farmer co-operatives to participate as distributors and suppliers for the purposes of the food box program, and to consider a certificate of completion for the Produce

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Safety Alliance Curriculum as a minimum requirement to assure farms have adequate food safety knowledge.

I believe that allowing participation under these conditions will not only maintain critical food safety standards, but also will be the surest way to meet the goal of the program: to support American agriculture's small farmers feeding their local and regional communities. Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We are writing to express our concern on the negative impacts the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the American seafood industry. Seafood is an integral part of the country's domestic food infrastructure and largely contributes to coastal communities' economies. The commercial and recreational fishing industry provides 1.62 million jobs all over the country from Alaska to Massachusetts, and generates $208 billion in sales. Since the adoption of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines promoting social distancing and the closure of many restaurants and other food service establishments, the American seafood industry has been experiencing monumental losses that they may never recover from once our country comes out on the other side of this historic pandemic.

With food service establishments closing, the seafood industry has been disproportionally affected. In 2017, more than two-thirds (68%) of the $102.2 billion that consumers paid for U.S. fishery products was spent at food service establishments, as opposed to eaten at home. Due to this dramatic drop in demand from the food service industry, the supply chain has been disrupted, which will result in the loss of tens of thousands of jobs around the country in both the seafood and restaurant industry. Once a supply chain closes, it is incredibly difficult and expensive to reopen, and many seafood industry workers at all levels of the supply chain will be effected when their employers are unable to reopen. Unless the government takes dramatic action, the American seafood industry will permanently suffer, leading the US to further rely on foreign seafood to harvest, process, and distribute seafood products.

Support from the Department's Section 32 Program can be instrumental in keeping the American seafood industry from deteriorating to a point of no return. The industry has been negatively affected by the ongoing impacts of the Russian trade embargo that was placed on imported U.S. seafood, as well as high trade tariffs imposed by China. The seafood industry is in need of assistance to ensure that this critical sector of the economy, which provides jobs for over a million Americans, can remain functional.

Additionally, it is important for fisheries that are still operating to have access to Covid-19 testing and screening to ensure they are able to continue to operate in this new and unique climate. Rapid tests are especially imperative to the seafood industry, which tends to be seasonal throughout the country. We urge you and your Department to:

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- Ensure USDA Section 32 funding levels are maintained or increased
    - This important program ensures seafood producers are able to sell their products and provides necessary relief to the seafood industry.

- Include seafood as a separate line item in relief packages crafted by the USDA
    - We request that USDA not simply model relief programs after the flawed Commodity Credit Corp program, which excluded seafood.

- Prioritize rapid testing for seasonal workers such as fishermen and seafood producers.
    - You and Vice President Pence have been holding discussions on how to facilitate testing and other resources for meatpackers and food producers, and seafood plant workers must be included, as they were identified as "essential critical infrastructure workers" by the Department of Homeland Security.

- Provide the needed regulatory flexibility that would allow seafood processing companies to access both the H-2A and H-2B program.
    - Accommodating seafood processing within the definition of agricultural labor or services and granting flexibility for eligible entities to use either the H-2A or the H-2B program would be invaluable to the industry, and can help ensure they are able to continue operating.

At a time when food security is in danger, it is imperative that the Department does what it can to aide American industries that produce nutritious food. We appreciate your review of these requests and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Don Young
Congressman for All Alaska

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov)
Subject: 11 am call topics
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 9:41:00 AM

I added the CN and WIC topics at the end with P-EBT. If you want a different order of topics or to remove any questions, let me know.

SNAP

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

TEFAP

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Farm to Food Bank

-can the (b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

P-EBT

-(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Child Nutrition

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

WIC

-can you (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Veronica Smith Wong

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: A few issues
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 2:30:00 PM

Anne/Campbell – below are a few random issues I would like to run past sp via email. I don't think they require a briefing. Please let me know your thoughts. Thanks!

Sir:

Below are a few issues I wanted to run by you for clearance prior to proceeding. I have presented each as an issue/recommendation. Please let us know if you are good or would like to discuss and we can set up a time.

Regards,
Brandon

1. Issue: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
   Recommendation: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
2. Issue: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
   Recommendation: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
3. Issue: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
   Recommendation: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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Withheld info is Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: (b) (5), DPP, ACP
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 10:04:38 PM

Sir -

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

[redacted]

[redacted]

Brandon

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Added one more line to SNAP
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 7:37:00 PM

- Guidance and waiver template for requesting Pandemic SNAP. This is the program that allows states to load the value of school meals on the household's EBT card. (Note: This is pending OIRA clearance and we are unsure if it will come back tonight).

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From:	Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Crosswhite, Caleb - APHIS; Densel, Brock - AMS; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Additional COVID Planning - CLOSE HOLD doc for review and edit
Date:	Friday, March 13, 2020 6:13:51 PM
Attachments:	Supplemental Considerations for Ag.docx

As discussed at yesterday's meeting, attached is the early brainstorming document for your policy level edit and input. Please return edits by COB Monday and ID your mission in the format.

Thanks, Reb

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

1) (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

b. (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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2) (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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Withheld info is Secretary Purdue's alias email addresses

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Ag Stakeholder Call-Docs
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 12:46:44 PM
Attachments: Agriculture Leader Stakeholder Call 3.24.20.docx
image001.png
Registration List_3.24 Stakeholder Call.xls
Notable Stakeholder Updates 3.24.docx

Sir,

Good afternoon. Docs attached for your call this afternoon:

1. Talking points/policy doc
2. RSVP list (400+ RVSP's so far. We invited Food Supply Chain Companies, Farm Groups, Ag Labor groups, NASDA, and Farm Bureau Presidents)
3. Short list of stakeholder updates we wanted to flag

Joby & I will talk to you shortly.

Thanks much,
Blake

usda logo

Blake Rollins
Deputy Chief of Staff

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (b) (6) (cell)

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Notable Stakeholder Updates: **3/24/20**

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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First Name	Last Name	E-Mail	Registration Source	Registered On
Lory Reveil	AFFI	(b) (6)		2020-03-23 10:33 34
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Tom	Adam			2020-03-23 19:08:16
Gary	Adams			2020-03-23 12:03:12
Jeff	Aiken			2020-03-23 10:17 22
Chase Adams	Am Sheep Industry Assn			2020-03-24 08:19 04
Mark	Amato			2020-03-23 10:22:43
William Tatum	Amazon			2020-03-23 10:35 58
Barbara Hiden	American Beverage Association			2020-03-23 10:15 31
Katherine Lugar	American Beverage Association			2020-03-23 10:15:42
Zippy Duvall	American Farm Bureau Federation			2020-03-23 12:51 25
Ryan Findlay	American Soybean Association			2020-03-23 10:37:10
Sara	Arsenault			2020-03-23 10:28:41
Blayne	Arthur			2020-03-23 10:52 38
Grace	Atherton			2020-03-23 11:41 52
Tres	Bailey			2020-03-23 10:35:48
Juan	Baldovinos			2020-03-23 14:09 07
Richard	Ball			2020-03-23 10:18 38
Bethany	Baratta			2020-03-23 13:24 07
Timothy	Bardole			2020-03-23 19:02 01
Joe	Bartenfelder			2020-03-23 10:32 20
Chelsi	Bay			2020-03-23 11:27 31
Mike	Beam			2020-03-23 10:24:49
Carl	Bednarski			2020-03-23 10:49:43
Gabriela	Beecher			2020-03-23 15:28:44
Mary Jane Saunders	Beer Institute			2020-03-23 10:29:10
Jordan	Beezley			2020-03-23 10:17:16
Amy	Belcher			2020-03-23 10:30 02
Lia	Biondo			2020-03-23 11:39 57
Joe	Bischoff			2020-03-23 10:52:40
Curt	Blades			2020-03-23 10:17 03
Anna	Blom			2020-03-23 12:13 01
Michael	Blume			2020-03-23 10:22 04
Abigail	Blunt			2020-03-23 10:20 54
John Walt	Boatright			2020-03-23 19:22:10
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Karen	Boon			2020-03-23 13:04:14
John	Boortz			2020-03-23 12:30 30
Lee	Borneman			2020-03-23 14:25 06
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Kristi	Boswell			2020-03-23 10:19 32
Michael	Botelho			2020-03-23 10:39 09
Kenneth	Bounds			2020-03-23 10:55 00
Cassey	Bowden			2020-03-23 14:28 54
N.	Brady			2020-03-23 11:08 00
Beth	Breeding			2020-03-23 14:32 35
Amelia	Breinig			2020-03-23 11:53 56
Jon	Brekken			2020-03-23 16:49:48
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Dana	Brooks			2020-03-23 10:22:44
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Andy	Brown			2020-03-23 16:15 38
Danny	Brown			2020-03-23 10:16 35
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Zach Kinne	Cargill			2020-03-23 10:46 09
Michael	Carlton			2020-03-23 10:53 07
Robert	Carter			2020-03-24 12:26:10
Chuck	Cawley			2020-03-23 10:30 24
Tatiana	Chaparro			2020-03-24 09:27 51
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Chris	Chinn			2020-03-23 10:59:43
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Matt	Coleman			2020-03-23 14:56 55
Robert	Collette			2020-03-23 10:29:49
Kate Greenberg	Colorado Department of Agriculture			2020-03-23 10:15:16
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Steve	Connelly			2020-03-23 10:48 27
Kevin	Conroy			2020-03-23 10:17:46
Michael Gruber	Consumer Brands Association			2020-03-23 10:38 30
Lisa	Conti			2020-03-23 10:19 52
Robin Bowen	Corn Refiners Association			2020-03-23 10:19:46
Jerry	Costello			2020-03-23 12:52 51
Dan	Coyne			2020-03-23 12:36 51
Richard	Crawford			2020-03-23 10:29 51
Steve	Crawford			2020-03-23 10:35 38
Casey	Creamer			2020-03-23 11:11 02
Ray McAllister	CropLife America			2020-03-23 12:22 20
Jamison	Cruce			2020-03-23 13:44 58
Amanda	Culp			2020-03-23 12:12 20

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Ken	Dey			2020-03-23 14:57:40
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Mike	Duffy			2020-03-23 11:43:47
Silvia	Dumitrescu			2020-03-23 10:55 37
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Stephanie	Essick			2020-03-23 18:46 09
Jennifer Hatcher	FMI			2020-03-23 10:35:19
Leslie Sarasin	FMI - The Food Industry Association			2020-03-23 10:16:15
Greg	Ferrara			2020-03-23 10:17 20
Louis	Finkel			2020-03-23 10:17 23
Laurie	Fischer			2020-03-23 14:55 53
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Alicia	Gagne			2020-03-23 12:29 02
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Laura Karet	Giant Eagle Inc.			2020-03-23 10:29 53
Laura	Ginsburg			2020-03-23 10:52 58
Barbara	Glenn			2020-03-23 10:46 57
Megan Costello	Global Cold Chain Alliance			2020-03-23 12:42:43
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Alice	Gomez			2020-03-23 10:52 02
Monica	Gonzales			2020-03-23 16:47 52
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Rich	Guebert			2020-03-23 10:38 28
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Jenifer	Gurr			2020-03-23 22:49 37
Karis	Gutter			2020-03-24 10:10 27
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Timothy	Hanosh			2020-03-23 11:17:19
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Matthew	Hart			2020-03-23 10:19 35
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Jared	Hill			2020-03-23 10:18 58
Morey	Hill			2020-03-23 12:19:45
Martha	Hilton			2020-03-23 13:22:19
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Jessica	Hixson			2020-03-23 10:20 50
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Jon	Holt			2020-03-23 12:37 27
Kevin	Holt CEO Ahold Delhaize USA			2020-03-23 11:27 20
Mike	Honeycutt			2020-03-23 15:39:16
Emily	Horton			2020-03-23 10:31 09
Dudley	Hoskins			2020-03-24 09:26 20
Kevin	Hourican			2020-03-23 11:30 36
Laverne (Vernie)	Hubert			2020-03-23 11:24:13
Anthony	Hucker			2020-03-23 10:23:11
Trudi	Hughes			2020-03-23 12:54:14
Bryan	Hurlburt			2020-03-23 11:32:16
Blake	Hurst			2020-03-23 15:56:18

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		(b) (6)		
Scott	Hutchins			2020-03-24 09:00:49
Myron	Inglis			2020-03-23 10:36:19
Jessica	Inhof			2020-03-23 11:09:44
Grant Kimberley	Iowa Soybean Association			2020-03-23 15:15:19
Barbara	Iverson			2020-03-23 10:34 21
Shane	Jacques			2020-03-23 11:20 28
Lynn	Jacquez			2020-03-23 10:20 32
Angela	James			2020-03-23 12:22 31
Katie	James			2020-03-23 11:51 26
Shawn	Jasper			2020-03-23 12:57 37
Maddison	Jaureguito			2020-03-23 10:42 50
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Rick	Juchems			2020-03-23 16:03:12
Joshua	Kellam			2020-03-23 15:11 32
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Bruce	Kettler			2020-03-23 11:32 32
Chandler	Keys			2020-03-23 10:33 25
Matt	King			2020-03-24 10:10 20
Jacqueline	Klippenstein			2020-03-23 10:15 34
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Diane	Kurrle			2020-03-23 10:22 32
Mike Strain	LA Department of Agriculture & Forestry			2020-03-23 13:25 30
Shahra	Lambert			2020-03-23 10:15:40
Michael Daniels	Land O'Lakes Inc.			2020-03-23 10:19:42
Reece	Langley			2020-03-23 11:20 28
Pamela	Larson			2020-03-23 13:34:19
Emily	LeRoy			2020-03-23 11:52 28
Clint	Leach			2020-03-23 10:22:14
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Cliff	Lillywhite			2020-03-23 12:19 54
Kyle	Liske			2020-03-24 09:18:13
Mark	Loeffler			2020-03-24 11:05:14
Gerald	Long			2020-03-23 15:00 27
Todd Parker	Louisiana Department of Agriculture			2020-03-23 10:38 36
Kenny	Lum			2020-03-23 14:34 36
Cory	Lunde			2020-03-23 13:46 27
Ashley Randle	MA Department of Agricultural Resources			2020-03-23 10:16 32
Rob	MacGregor			2020-03-24 09:21 03
Nancy McBrady	Maine Department of Agriculture			2020-03-23 10:37 00
Larry	Marek			2020-03-23 12:27 34
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Lisa	Martin			2020-03-23 14:04:10
Paul	Mastronardi			2020-03-23 16:16:18
Mark	May			2020-03-23 12:40 30
Jay	Mayr			2020-03-23 12:48 59
Morgan	McCord			2020-03-23 10:51:13
Carol	McDonald			2020-03-23 10:33 31
Chris	McDonald			2020-03-23 11:00 38
Connor	McKoy			2020-03-23 11:35 38
Kenneth	Mcfarlane			2020-03-23 10:43 52
David L.	Meeker			2020-03-23 10:16 09
Matthew	Mika			2020-03-23 10:16 01
Randy	Miller			2020-03-23 19:19 07
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Renee	Munasif			2020-03-23 14:02 36
William	Murray			2020-03-23 10:19 50
Kirti	Mutatkar			2020-03-23 14:20 09
Kirti	Mutatkar			2020-03-23 15:33 34
Mark Dopp	NAMI			2020-03-23 10:15 38
Aline DeLucia	NASDA			2020-03-23 10:27 54
Chrissy Waggett	NC Department of Agriculture			2020-03-23 10:18 56
Bobby Frederick	NGFA			2020-03-23 10:35 27
Mike	Naig			2020-03-23 11:04 54
Colin Woodall	National Cattlemen's Beef Association			2020-03-23 10:20 56
Wayne Stoskopf	National Corn Growers Association			2020-03-23 10:38 29
Becca Smith	National Council of Farmer Cooperatives			2020-03-23 11:07:40
Aaron Shier	National Farmers Union			2020-03-23 10:15:15
Max Fisher	National Grain and Feed Association			2020-03-23 11:47 20
Jaime Castaneda	National Milk Producers			2020-03-23 13:38 52
Clay Detlefsen	National Milk Producers Federation			2020-03-23 10:21:13
Andrew Bailey	National Pork Producers Council			2020-03-23 10:17 29
Kevin	Natz			2020-03-23 10:19 38
Rob	Neenan			2020-03-23 11:15:48
Dale	Nellor			2020-03-23 10:48 58
Katie	Nelson			2020-03-23 10:43 09
Positive T. A.	Nelson			2020-03-24 04:54:42
Clint	Nesbitt			2020-03-23 14:50 31

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jay	Nielsen	(b) (6)		2020-03-23 10:30 06
Nancy Foster	North American Renderers Association			2020-03-23 10:15 28
Doug Goehring	North Dakota Dept of Agriculture			2020-03-23 16:41 33
Charles	Nutter			2020-03-23 14:51 33
Leslee	Oden			2020-03-23 10:15:10
Linsey	Ogden			2020-03-23 20:19 31
Angela	Olige			2020-03-24 12:08 37
Kelsey	Olson			2020-03-23 11:20:43
Tim	Oten			2020-03-23 15:29:43
Jennifer	Ott			2020-03-23 12:24:41
John	Owen			2020-03-23 16:13:41
Greg Hostetter	PA Dept. of Agriculture			2020-03-23 10:20 31
Kevin	Paap			2020-03-23 10:15:46
Arletha	Parks			2020-03-23 12:01:43
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Kelly	Pehrson			2020-03-23 11:54 06
Nathanael Brague	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture			2020-03-23 10:32:17
Charles	Penry			2020-03-23 10:58 00
Grace Puma	PepsiCo			2020-03-23 10:35:13
Catharine	Perry			2020-03-23 10:30:43
Louie	Perry			2020-03-23 23:35 27
Thom	Petersen			2020-03-23 10:38 32
Molly	Pfaffenroth			2020-03-23 10:41 31
Laura	Phelps			2020-03-23 16:52 57
Jennifer	Pickett			2020-03-23 10:46 22
Julie Anna	Potts			2020-03-23 13:01:18
Celeste	Poulin			2020-03-23 10:37 20
Alan	Prouty			2020-03-23 12:31:49
Wayne	Pryor			2020-03-23 12:04 36
TOM	RABE			2020-03-23 14:15 04
Lowell	Randel			2020-03-23 10:22:11
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Kay	Rentzel			2020-03-23 10:42:15
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Karen	Ross			2020-03-23 14:13:47
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Randy	Russell			2020-03-23 10:43 38
Stan	Ryan			2020-03-23 12:49 58
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Lee	Sanders			2020-03-23 10:18 34
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David	Schade			2020-03-23 11:18 32
Paul	Schiefer			2020-03-23 16:57 34
Paul	Schlegel			2020-03-23 10:37 38
Lee	Schrepel			2020-03-23 12:30 30
Joe	Scimeca			2020-03-23 10:30 30
Bryan	Searle			2020-03-23 11:29 32
Jordan	Seger			2020-03-23 10:55 20
Michael	Severeid			2020-03-23 16:22:43
Christy	Seyfert			2020-03-23 10:17 35
Shelby	Shaw			2020-03-24 10:55:16
Don	Shawcroft			2020-03-23 10:24:14
Phyllis	Shimabukuro-Geiser			2020-03-24 05:10 55
Bethany	Shively			2020-03-23 10:29 08
Dan	Shorts			2020-03-23 12:28 27
Campbell	Shuford			2020-03-23 10:21:49
Jack	Sinclair			2020-03-23 11:06:13
Ross	Siragusa			2020-03-24 10:03 20
Stefanie	Smallhouse			2020-03-23 10:40:12
Ashley	Smith			2020-03-23 10:16 56
Kelly	Smith			2020-03-23 10:31 50
Ken Sulivan	Smithfield Foods			2020-03-24 10:45 53
Gustavo	Soberano			2020-03-24 11:26 55
Michael	Sorenson			2020-03-23 13:54:47
Lorrin Naasz	South Dakota Department of Agriculture			2020-03-23 10:19 22
William	Stafford			2020-03-23 16:47 39
Nicolette	Stanley			2020-03-23 10:29 28
Peter Van Helden	Stater Bros. Markets			2020-03-23 15:53 29
Tom	Stenzel			2020-03-23 10:15:44
Heather	Stevenson			2020-03-23 14:32 31
David	Stewart			2020-03-23 12:13 29
Mike	Stigers			2020-03-23 11:46:18
Robert	Stout			2020-03-23 11:01 36
Glenn	Stracan			2020-03-23 12:11 00
Mike	Stranz			2020-03-24 10:11:43
Jim Phillips	Sunkist Growers			2020-03-23 11:06 36
Rayne Thompson	Sunkist Growers			2020-03-23 11:05 34
Patricia	Swanson			2020-03-23 12:13 35

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Jennifer	Sweeney	(b) (6)		2020-03-23 12:29:19
Chris	Swonger			2020-03-23 10:15 56
Alexis	Taylor			2020-03-23 10:44 52
Allison	Taylor			2020-03-23 13:18 33
Anson	Tebbetts			2020-03-23 10:25:12
Rick	Teeny			2020-03-23 15:00 38
Corey Rosenbusch	The Fertilizer Institute			2020-03-23 14:14 00
Matthew Perin	The Kroger Co.			2020-03-23 11:23 06
Ben	Thomas			2020-03-23 11:38 33
Edward	Thomas			2020-03-23 13:31:49
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Elaine	Trevino			2020-03-23 20:36 52
Jason	Troendle			2020-03-23 10:26 00
Don	Tuller			2020-03-23 21:08 51
Spencer	Tuma			2020-03-23 10:16 51
Jim Bair	U.S. Apple Association			2020-03-23 11:05 28
Bill Northey	USDA			2020-03-24 08:56 01
Courtney Knupp	USDA			2020-03-24 09:03:42
Lillie Brady	USDA			2020-03-23 10:28 06
Caleb Crosswhite	USDA MRP-APHIS			2020-03-24 09:00 33
Kathryn	Unger			2020-03-23 14:33:16
Lisa	Van Doren			2020-03-23 10:18 03
Scott	VanderWal			2020-03-23 11:42 24
Kim	Vanneman			2020-03-23 10:31 38
Lindsay	Vierheilig			2020-03-24 09:11 50
Tom	Vincent			2020-03-23 14:02:45
Scott	Vinson			2020-03-23 10:17:19
Jordan Bonfitto	WH			2020-03-24 12:19 38
Kent A. Leonhardt	WV Department of Agriculture			2020-03-23 15:16 57
Liz	Wagstrom			2020-03-23 13:47 20
Marjory	Walker			2020-03-23 11:05 23
Wes	Ward			2020-03-23 16:22:18
Evan Sheffels	Washington State Dept of Agriculture			2020-03-23 11:56:16
Hugh	Weathers			2020-03-23 10:30:48
Lesly	Weber McNitt			2020-03-23 17:11:44
Brad	Weddelman			2020-03-24 10:36 33
Danny	Weeden			2020-03-23 20:32 01
Larry	Welch			2020-03-23 15:28 57
Diane	Welland			2020-03-23 11:24:14
Steve	Wellman			2020-03-23 10:44 52
Dave Puglia	Western Growers			2020-03-23 11:27:47
Chuck	White			2020-03-23 14:54:45
Richard	Wilkins			2020-03-23 11:56:10
Jeff	Williams			2020-03-23 10:54:46
Lauren	Williams			2020-03-23 10:57:49
Marshal	Wilson			2020-03-23 10:32:40
Jeff	Witte			2020-03-23 10:49 00
Jeff	Worn			2020-03-24 08:57:12
Ann	Wright			2020-03-23 10:48:15
Doug Miyamoto	Wyoming Department of Agriculture			2020-03-23 10:33 29
Stacia Berry	Wyoming Dept of Agriculture			2020-03-23 10:53 26
brandon	barnholt			2020-03-23 12:17:42
diane	bothfeld			2020-03-23 10:27 20
kate	coler			2020-03-23 10:16 29
will	feucht			2020-03-23 11:53 03
charlie	garrison			2020-03-23 10:29 34
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julian	heron			2020-03-23 10:51 51
chang	lee			2020-03-23 14:19 28
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geoff	palmer			2020-03-23 10:27 31
chris	sarles			2020-03-23 12:54 03
mike	seyfert			2020-03-23 10:29 25
Tyler	stephens			2020-03-23 10:19:10
alexis latifi	sugar association			2020-03-23 10:19 04
michal	thompson			2020-03-23 14:06 57

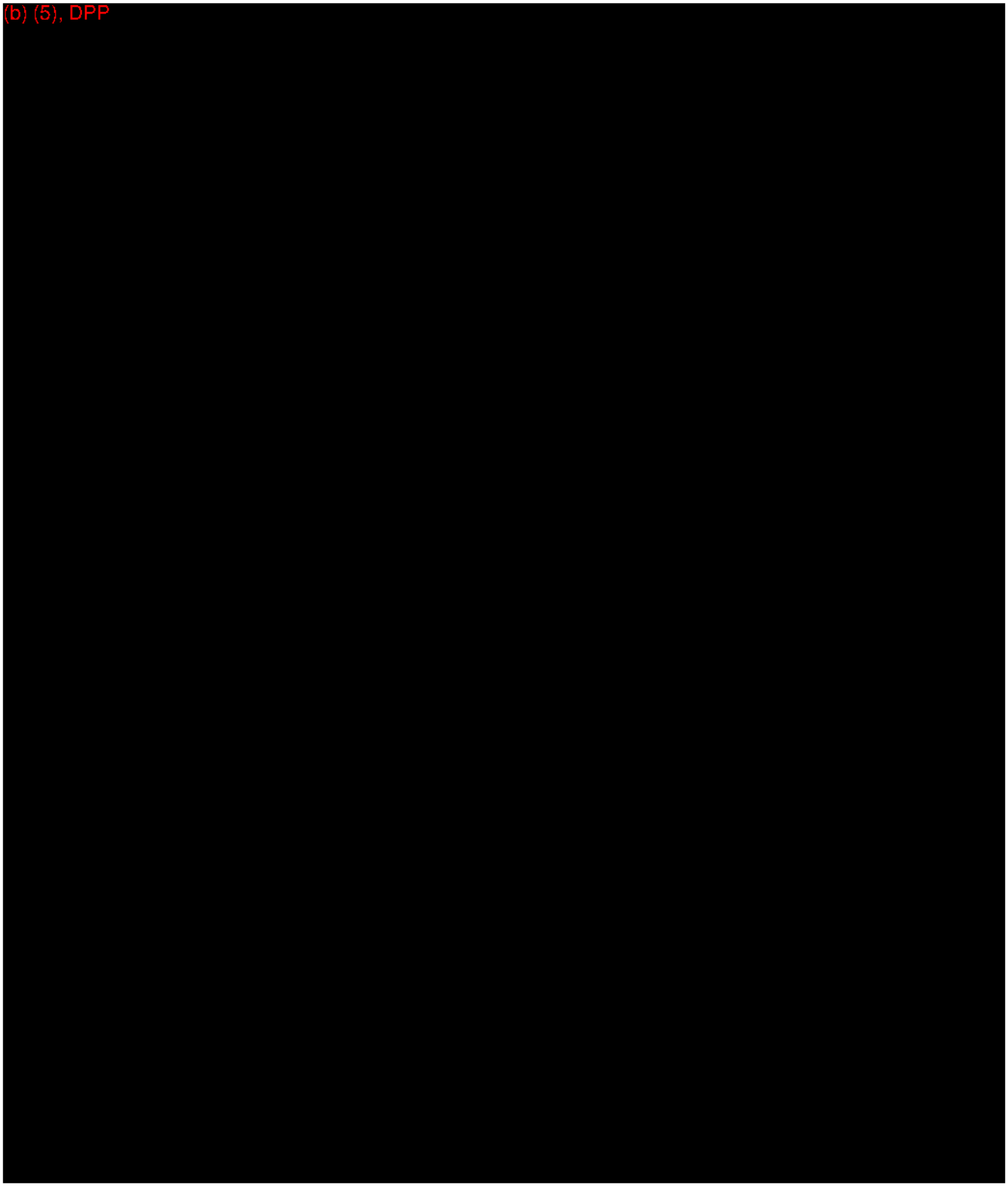
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Ag Day Stakeholder Call

March 24th, 2020

2:00 PM

Groups invited to the Call: Food Supply Chain Companies, Farm Groups, Ag Labor groups, NASDA, and Farm Bureau Presidents.



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(b) (5), DPP

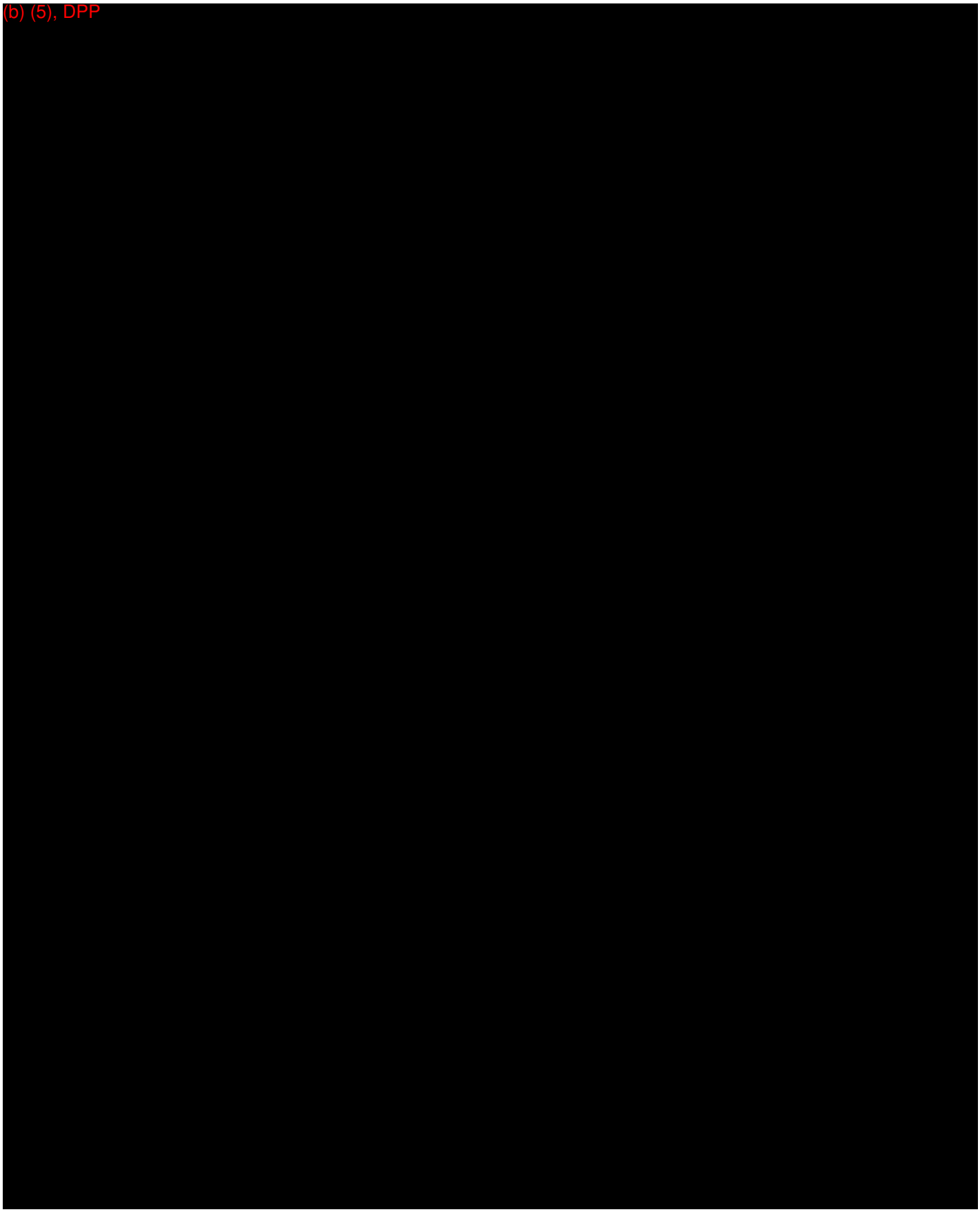
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(b) (5), DPP



With that, I'd be happy to take a few questions.

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From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: OpsCenter - OHS, Washington, DC; Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC; Colby, Michelle - OHS, Washington, DC; O"Connor, Mike - OHS, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC; Crosswhite, Caleb - APHIS; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC; Dougherty, Ellen - FAS, Washington, DC; Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC; Carroll, Chad - OSEC, Washington, DC; Sheckels, Jeffrey - OO, Washington, DC; Williams, Duane - OO, Washington, DC; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Kiecker, Paul - FSIS; McGrath, Kevin - DM-OHRM, Washington, DC; Gray, Keith - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC; Densel, Brock - AMS; Young, Benjamin - OGC, Washington, DC; Elmore, Christopher - OGC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Cullo, Diane - OTR, Washington, DC; Pagett, Riley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC; "ethan.gallgher@usda.gov"; Gallagher, Ethan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lindsay, Sally - OSEC Washington, DC; MONACO, ANTHONY; Aucott, John - OHS, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barnes, Kevin - NASS; Barrett, Todd -OHS, Washington, DC; Beatty, Mike - OPPE, Washington, DC; Bennett, Steven M - APHIS; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brent, James - RD, Washington, DC; Canaday, John D - APHIS; Cash, Kim - FAS, Washington, DC; Marklund, Chris - OSEC; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Davis, Scott - OPFM, Washington, DC; Follansbee, Douglas - DM-OHRM, Washington, DC; Hayes, Jeff; Hoffman, William - REE-NIFA, Washington, DC; Hortin, Steve - FNS; Jackson, Michael J - OCFO, New Orleans, LA; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Jekanowski, Mark - OCE, Washington, DC; Lago, Lenise -FS; Linsky, Scott - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC; Lodder, Ruth - RD, Washington, DC; Lott, James - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - OC, Washington, DC; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC; Nelson, Christopher - OO, Washington, DC; Nickerson, Cynthia - ERS; Norton, Kevin - NRCS, Washington, DC; Park, Joon; Peterson, Steve - FSA, Washington, DC; Pollard, Nicole - OBPA, Washington, DC; Pratts, Jorge Garcia - NASS; Reed, Jeremy Todd - FSIS; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Sachs, Gordon -FS; Scott, Winona -ASCR; Serach, Michael J - APHIS; Sydow, Sharon - OCE, Washington, DC; Toombs, Dionne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Walton, Ronald - RD, Washington, DC; Washington, Gary S - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC; Watson, Crandall - OCP, Washington, DC; Wechsler, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC; Willbrand, Zhulieta - FAS, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC

Cc: Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Chaves, Barbara - FAS, Washington, DC; Hamilton, Clay - FAS; Whitley, Daniel - FAS, Washington, DC; Cooper, Joseph - OCE, Washington, DC; Tobin, Andrew - OE, Washington, DC; Moss, Angelique (CTR) - OO, Washington, DC; Nishiura, Katherine - FAS,; Browne, Peggy - FSA, Washington, DC; "Jeff Sheckles"; Rucker, Mark - OO, Washington , DC; King, TraceyD - OO, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gartner, James - FAS, Washington, DC; Griffin, Steve -FS; Geringer-Frazier, Barbara - FS; Aspey, Louis - NRCS, Washington, DC; Jones, LaKeya - NASS; Combs, Bryan - NASS; Velasco, Robert -FS; Colby, Hunter - OCE, Washington, DC; Richardson, Vickie - FS; Coleman, Angela -FS; Shere, Jack A - APHIS; Mullaney, Roxanne C - APHIS; Dinsmore, Ben - FSIS

Subject: Agenda for COVID-19 MAC Meeting March 5, 2020

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:29:43 PM

Attachments: MAC COVID 19 Agenda 3 6 20.docx

-----Original Appointment-----

From: OpsCenter - OHS, Washington, DC <OpsCenter@USDA.GOV>

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 12:49 PM

To: OpsCenter - OHS, Washington, DC; Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC; Colby, Michelle - OHS, Washington, DC; O'Connor, Mike - OHS, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC; Crosswhite, Caleb - APHIS; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC; Dougherty, Ellen - FAS, Washington, DC; Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC; Carroll, Chad - OSEC, Washington, DC; Sheckels, Jeffrey - OO, Washington, DC; Williams, Duane - OO, Washington, DC; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Kiecker, Paul - FSIS; McGrath, Kevin - DM-OHRM, Washington, DC; Gray, Keith - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC; Densel, Brock - AMS; Young, Benjamin - OGC, Washington, DC; Elmore, Christopher - OGC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Cullo, Diane - OTR, Washington, DC; Pagett, Riley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC; 'ethan.gallgher@usda.gov'; Gallagher, Ethan - OSEC,

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Washington, DC; Lindsay, Sally - OSEC Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; MONACO, ANTHONY; Aucott, John - OHS, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barnes, Kevin - NASS; Barrett, Todd -OHS, Washington, DC; Beatty, Mike - OPPE, Washington, DC; Bennett, Steven M - APHIS; Bice, Don - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brent, James - RD, Washington, DC; Canaday, John D - APHIS; Cash, Kim - FAS, Washington, DC; Marklund, Chris - OSEC; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Davis, Scott - OPFM, Washington, DC; Follansbee, Douglas - DM-OHRM, Washington, DC; Hayes, Jeff; Hoffman, William - REE-NIFA, Washington, DC; Hortin, Steve - FNS; Jackson, Michael J - OCFO, New Orleans, LA; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Jekanowski, Mark - OCE, Washington, DC; Lago, Lenise -FS; Linsky, Scott - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC; Lodder, Ruth - RD, Washington, DC; Lott, James - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - OC, Washington, DC; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC; Nelson, Christopher - OO, Washington, DC; Nickerson, Cynthia - ERS; Norton, Kevin - NRCS, Washington, DC; Park, Joon; Peterson, Steve - FSA, Washington, DC; Pollard, Nicole - OBPA, Washington, DC; Pratts, Jorge Garcia - NASS; Reed, Jeremy Todd - FSIS; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Sachs, Gordon -FS; Scott, Winona -ASCR; Serach, Michael J - APHIS; Sydow, Sharon - OCE, Washington, DC; Toombs, Dionne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Walton, Ronald - RD, Washington, DC; Washington, Gary S - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC; Watson, Crandall - OCP, Washington, DC; Wechsler, David - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC; Willbrand, Zhulieta - FAS, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Chaves, Barbara - FAS, Washington, DC; Hamilton, Clay - FAS; Whitley, Daniel - FAS, Washington, DC; Cooper, Joseph - OCE, Washington, DC; Tobin, Andrew - OE, Washington, DC; Moss, Angelique (CTR) - OO, Washington, DC; Nishiura, Katherine - FAS,; Browne, Peggy - FSA, Washington, DC; 'Jeff Sheckles'; Rucker, Mark - OO, Washington , DC; King, TraceyD - OO, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gartner, James - FAS, Washington, DC; Griffin, Steve -FS; Geringer-Frazier, Barbara - FS; Aspey, Louis - NRCS, Washington, DC; Jones, LaKeya - NASS; Combs, Bryan - NASS; Velasco, Robert -FS; Colby, Hunter - OCE, Washington, DC; Richardson, Vickie - FS; Coleman, Angela -FS; Shere, Jack A - APHIS; Mullaney, Roxanne C - APHIS; Dinsmore, Ben - FSIS
Subject: COVID-19 MAC Meeting March 5, 2020
When: Thursday, March 5, 2020 4:00 PM-4:45 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: 104A or Dial in: (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)

Please Hold: 4:00 pm - 4:45 PM March 5, 2020 for a COVID-19 MAC meeting in 104A (Whitten building) or call in:

USDA Bridge line: (b) (6)

Access code: (b) (6)

Respectfully,

USDA Operations Center

Emergency Programs Division
Office of Homeland Security
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.5711

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

MULTI AGENCY COORDINATION (MAC) – USDA COVID-19 RESPONSE

March 5, 2020

AGENDA

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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Withheld info is Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: American Farm Bureau Federation Letter
Date: Saturday, April 4, 2020 2:13:04 PM
Attachments: CARES Letter-Final.pdf
AFBF-House.pdf
AFBF Recommendations.docx.pdf
USDA COVID Ltr March 17 2020.pdf

Sir,

I wanted to share these letters that we received last night from AFBF. (b) (5), DPP [redacted] Agripulse also ran a story about it today that I will forward along.

Kristi

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AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®
600 Maryland Ave. SW | Suite 1000W | Washington, DC 20024

ph. 202.406.3600
f. 202.406.3606
www.fb.org

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As President of American Farm Bureau Federation, I want to extend to you and the entire Administration our support, commitment and dedication in helping you combat the health challenge now facing our country. America's farmers and ranchers will be with you every step of the way, doing all that we can to help you win this fight and to ensure the health, safety and prosperity of all America.

The nation is now responding to the President's call for strict measures in response to the coronavirus. At the same time, we are hearing reports from around the country from our members about specific issues that challenge their ability to put food on America's tables. I am writing to bring these matters to your attention so that, as you develop and refine plans to deal with COVID-19, you can do everything possible to help farmers and ranchers continue to grow, harvest and market their production.

Note: This letter relates concerns and issues that have arisen in the last 48 hours. We fully expect to get ongoing reports from our members across the U.S. We will share those with you as they reach us. We also want to invite a continuous dialogue with you and your staff so that the agricultural community can meet the needs of all Americans.

Initial List of Priority Items

- **H-2A Program**

  Yesterday, the State Department announced that the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and all U.S. consulates in Mexico will suspend routine immigrant and nonimmigrant visa services starting March 18, 2020, and until further notice. According to the announcement, the U.S. Embassy and consulates will continue to provide essential consular services to U.S. citizens as well as emergency visa services.

  This is a critical matter for U.S. farmers and ranchers. More than a quarter-million individuals participate in the H-2A program and help to sustain U.S. farms and ranches. We urge the Administration to find an appropriate mechanism, either through an emergency waiver or some other means, to ensure that H-2A workers may continue to safely come to America's farms and ranches.

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- **Supply-chain Concerns**

  - As companies adopt social distancing policies in keeping with health directives, this mode of work could have a significant impact on the processing plants that drive America's supply chain. Anecdotal reports of potential shutdowns or reduced operating capacity for processing facilities (such as meat packing plants, dairy processors or ethanol plants) have led to lower cash prices for many farmers at a time when retail prices are rising. This situation must be monitored closely, and problems should be addressed promptly as they arise.

  - Exports are a vital component of the economic health of the agricultural sector. A key component of ensuring exports is having enough USDA inspectors for agricultural cargoes to be shipped.

  - Seeds, fertilizer and crop protection products also are critically affected by the supply chain. While many farmers may already have these supplies on hand as planting begins across the U.S., USDA should prioritize protecting the supply chain throughout the agricultural sector and ensuring it continues to work effectively and smoothly.

  - While the current FMCSA Emergency Declaration provides regulatory relief of Hours of Service (HOS) regulations, the declaration currently applies only to "food for emergency restocking of stores." It does not address the entire supply chain including the movement of livestock and poultry to processing facilities; movement of grain, feed, and medication for both livestock and poultry; or movement of perishable and non-perishable foods and beverages to manufacturing facilities, distribution centers, restaurants and other locations. We request a federal waiver to HOS rules allowing for flexibility for transportation within the food and agriculture sectors that will benefit the entire U.S. and allow for business continuity.

- **Livestock Concerns**

  - Members of the livestock sector have heightened anxiety about potential manipulation in livestock markets. To illustrate this challenge, it is noteworthy that only earlier today, before the market rose, cattle and hog futures were down nearly 30 percent since the virus was first confirmed in China. We strongly urge USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service to monitor this situation to ensure that price manipulation does not occur. AFBF has been in communication with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, which has oversight over these spot markets, and we will continue that dialogue.

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- It is critical that federal graders at livestock markets and federal meat inspectors at packing plants retain the ability to work and serve those markets. They are essential to the flow of business in the livestock markets.

- For many livestock producers, Farm Service Agency loan payments are due now. Can USDA consider temporary relief (such as deferment or loan adjustment) to help producers respond to the impact the pandemic is having on normal marketing and prices?

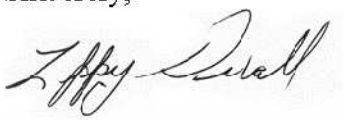
- **Market disruptions**

  Some farmers in fresh produce are reporting possible dumping of produce from countries outside the U.S. as producers in those nations deal with the same market challenges we face in the U.S. USDA should work with appropriate federal agencies to ensure that U.S. farmers are not unfairly disadvantaged during this unique period.

- USDA's extensive reach into rural communities can help reinforce the critical need to follow CDC guidance on social distancing and other matters. This is particularly critical for the rural health care system, which will face potentially insurmountable challenges if we cannot "bend the curve" in rural communities.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters. Because this situation is changing rapidly, I envision further communication with you and your staff – in days, if not in hours. We applaud your leadership and commitment and stand ready to work with you as our nation meets this unique challenge.

Sincerely,



Zippy Duvall
President

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Policy Recommendations to Assist Agricultural Producers

1. **Agricultural labor**
   a. *Access*
   While containment of COVID-19 is a national emergency, providing food to over 300 million Americans is no less critical. The H-2A program provides over a quarter million workers to sustain the U.S. agricultural sector. H-2A workers must be available to the agricultural sector, either by designating this visa category as emergency or critical or through some other mechanism. Additionally, border states such as Arizona are critically dependent on commuter workers who reside in Mexico but work in the U.S. We must assure that these workers remain available.
   b. *Cash flow*
   Many farms are facing do-or-die situations. Every effort should be made to provide cost flexibility to farming operations during this emergency. Some of this can be accomplished through tax relief but temporary suspension of regulatory requirements can also be helpful. At a minimum, the DOL should suspend expensive H-2A requirements (the adverse effect wage rate, the ¾ guarantee, and potentially others) that impose costs on farmers that they cannot sustain during this emergency.
   c. *Continuity and flexibility*
   The Federal government should automatically extend the length of H-2A visas; allow H-2A users to share workers among farms; provide interim temporary legal status to current farm workers (such as dairy workers) and their families; halt all deportations of agricultural workers; and provide dairy workers special means of assuring that they have work permits. Additionally, the program should consider temporarily relaxing other requirements (such as housing) that may temporarily be affected by requirements of public health policies (such as social distancing).

2. **Authority for USDA to function as a Federal backstop**
   Many farmers will be extremely challenged to meet cash needs. The Federal government can and must play a critical role in this effort.
   a. *Commodity Credit Corporation*
      i. *Scope of authority*
      Congress must assure that the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) has ample authority to devise and implement any program that is designed to meet the needs of farmers and ranchers during this emergency.
      ii. *Funding authority*
      Congress must assure that the CCC has ample budget authority to meet the financial needs of growers.
   b. *FSA*
   Similar to efforts undertaken previously when agricultural producers faced unique

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challenges, FSA should have the authority to provide no- or low-interest loans to producers, particularly livestock producers, during this emergency. The deadline to enroll in Agricultural Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage and Dairy Margin Coverage recently closed. Given the rapid decline in market prices sign-up should be reopened for producers enrolled or seeking to enroll in these programs. In addition, USDA should explore the ability to make advanced payments on ARC or PLC before the expiration of the crop year.

c. *AMS*
The decline in restaurant and school demand for food and dairy products may well result in lower demand and as a consequence processing capacity at some food production facilities. In special circumstances the Federal government should be actively engaged and work with companies to assure that farmers continue to have markets for their products, including but not limited to Section 32 food purchase and distribution programs.

d. We support provisions in the Senate legislation that allows the Federal government to actively engage and work with companies to assure that farmers continue to have markets for their products.

e. *Emergency Relief*. To assist the agriculture sector in the 1980's, USDA was authorized under emergency economic provisions to provide lending assistance to producers. This authority should be renewed so that USDA has the broadest possible latitude in providing a safety net to the agriculture sector.

3. **International/border issues**
   a. The United States should work aggressively with our trading partners to assure that critical trade relations remain intact to the greatest extent possible. Specifically:
      i. Livestock trade with Canada and Mexico must be maintained.
      ii. Chemicals and other farm inputs from foreign nations should continue to flow so that farmers do not lose these critical components of agriculture production. This is affecting availability of fertilizer and other commodities.

4. **Critical Resources**
   a. In order to assure continued agricultural production with a minimum of disruption, agricultural retail suppliers should be regarded as essential components of the food system so that farmers can retain access to seed, fertilizer, chemical inputs and other essential components of farm production. In addition, all aspects of agricultural production (including nursery, sod and greenhouse operations and timber) should be designated as essential parts of agriculture.
   b. The understandable commitment to prioritize PPE equipment for health care workers could result in shortages for the food processing industry. We support efforts to maximize production of PPE equipment to make sure it remains available to critical processing jobs in the food sector.

5. **Rural Broadband**
   The national effort to contain the virus by social distancing has underscored the critical need of rural broadband infrastructure. Funding for broadband construction in rural communities must be given a high priority.

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6. **Financial Assistancce**
    a. *Credit*
    Immediately provide readily accessible, unsecured credit to businesses of *all* sizes to ensure they have the cash to pay their workers, rent, and other costs during this crisis.
    b. *Cash flow*
    Suspend the filing of business returns and the payment of *all* business taxes to the federal government for the duration of the pandemic
    c. *Tax certainty and relief*
    Amend the Tax Code to, among other items, restore the ability of businesses to carryback any net operating losses against previous year tax payments; suspend the application of the Section 163(j) limitation on interest expense deductions for tax year 2020 to avoid penalizing businesses for borrowing during this crisis; and suspend the Section 461(l) loss limitation on pass-through businesses to allow the owners of pass-through businesses to fully deduct any losses they incur this year.
    d. Any financial aid afforded the fuel and energy sector should include assistance to companies that produce renewable fuel and renewable power.

7. **Rural Communities**

    a. *Secure Rural Schools (SRS)*
    Remove the annual 5 percent reduction in future SRS payments. Allow SRS funding to be used for broadband connectivity. With the increasing number of school closures, it is critical that these counties have the flexibility to expand connectivity within their communities.
    b. *Mandatory Funding for Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT)*
    Provide mandatory PILT funding for the estimated 61 percent of counties that have nontaxable federal public lands to pay for health crisis management and emergency response.
    c. *Relax routine requirements*
    With the health care system under stress, some individuals may have difficulty scheduling routine medical exams to maintain waivers for CDLs. This requirement should be suspended temporarily during this emergency.

8. **Heath Care**
    a. Expand the use of telehealth, specifically:
        i. Allow Medicare patients to use telehealth even with a doctor that a patient does not have a preexisting relationship.
        ii. Allow rural health clinics to treat patients with telehealth.
    b. Provide additional funding for community health centers, which are critical for rural health care service.

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March 20, 2020

Madam Speaker Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Conaway
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Representative Peterson McCarthy and Conaway:

American Farm Bureau commends your work to assist Americans affected by the coronavirus, and we wholeheartedly endorse your leadership.

American agriculture is uniquely vulnerable, particularly because of our ongoing labor shortage, the perishability of our crops, and the thin margins on which so many producers work. I am enclosing with this letter a list of significant concerns farmers and ranchers have. We strongly urge you to consider incorporating relief along these lines as you finalize the legislation now before you.

We stand ready to support and assist you in any way, and we appreciate your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Zippy Duvall
President

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April 3, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Secretary:

You and your staff are doing a tremendous job supporting American agriculture in this crisis. The farmers and ranchers of our nation are in debt to you and we offer our continuing appreciation and support.

Enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) just a few days ago was a necessary step in helping to protect American farmers and ranchers. Now, as you begin implementing this historic legislation, I need to share with you the critical needs surfaced by American Farm Bureau Federation members as we assess them today. Even before the onset of the COVID crisis, many members were continuing to suffer economic damage from ongoing trade disputes, underscoring the need for additional MFP support. The COVID emergency has only exacerbated this situation. By way of background, I am attaching a copy of my letter to you dated March 17, 2020. That letter outlined our initial assessment of needs and is updated herein. I am also attaching a copy of a more detailed list of concerns shared with congressional leaders on March 20 as they debated the CARES Act last week. Please utilize these documents as you move forward.

Overarching Concern

I consistently hear from growers around the country the imperative need to get financial assistance into producers' hands immediately. Timing is crucial. With congressional approval of $14 billion to replenish the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and $9.5 billion for livestock, specialty crops and other growers, producers cannot wait. We urge you to set the highest priority on getting these critical dollars into farmers' and ranchers' hands absolutely as soon as possible. This must be the Department's #1 Priority.

I outline below in more detail the most immediate concerns farm and ranch producers have brought forward. As you develop programs to implement the CARES Act, I urge you to give top priority to the following critical needs:

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Support for all of agriculture

All sectors of agriculture must be included under CARES coverage as implemented by USDA. Specialty crops, livestock, and others are highlighted in the special $9.5 billion authority vested with the Secretary, while the replenishment of CCC authority should also provide broad authority to assist other segments of agriculture. Certain sectors of agriculture are particularly hard-hit; I have outlined these immediately below. But other growers are also faced with immediate financial hardship, and they are set out also. It is critical that USDA do all in its power to assist growers in every region, of all commodities, to the maximum of its ability.

- Sectors particularly hard-hit

  We urge the Department to turn its attention as quickly as possible to these sectors and use its full authority to provide relief to the greatest extent feasible:

  a. Dairy and milk prices have declined sharply in recent weeks and farm-level milk prices are likely to be even lower due to price re-blending to account for distressed and disposed loads of milk. We urge USDA to examine every possible way to support the sector. This may be through:
     i. Crafting a special direct payment to dairy farmers. While we previously proposed re-opening Dairy Margin Coverage, we believe a direct payment at least equivalent to the financial support provided by DMC would provide immediate financial support to dairy farmers;
     ii. To offset the decline in demand in the food service and school meal sectors, USDA should immediately make purchases of dairy products including but not limited to fluid milk, butter, cheeses and dry milk powders. Additional support could be provided through export assistance programs and direct commodity support;
     iii. The creation of a voucher program through the Milk Donation program to facilitate the distribution of donated milk through grocery stores and other venues since some food banks are not geared for highly perishable products;
     iv. Consider activating a milk loss program similar to the 2019 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity and Milk Loss (WHIP-ML) Program to indemnify eligible dairy operations for milk that was dumped or removed without compensation from the commercial milk market due to COVID-19;
     v. Temporarily increase the minimum milk solids content in fluid milk to above 8.25 solids-non-fat and for whole milk above 3.25 percent butterfat.
     vi. Ensure that any milk disposed of or dumped, counts towards a Dairy Revenue Protection policy holder's total milk marketing's.
     vii. Allow school lunch programs still operating to purchase whole milk; and
     viii. Section 32 dairy purchases to the greatest extent possible.

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b. Livestock is also under tremendous stress, as is poultry. Futures prices have plummeted for live cattle, feeder cattle and lean hogs by as much as 30%. USDA should do its utmost to cover the significant losses livestock producers have incurred. In addition, we urge the department to:
    i. Craft a special direct payment to cattle, hog and poultry farmers, including but not limited to stocker and cow/calf operators.
    ii. Catfish, crawfish and other aquaculture producers should be eligible for assistance since 60% of their sales goes to restaurants.
    iii. Utilize where appropriate existing authorities under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish;
    iv. Consider purchases of beef, pork, poultry and aquaculture products for distribution in food and nutrition programs; and
    v. Cooperate and share information with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and Chicago Mercantile Exchange to monitor and prevent price manipulation in the spot or futures markets for livestock and dairy commodities.

c. Specialty crops

    i. The labor demands in fruit and vegetable production are acute. We want to continue to work with USDA, DOL and DOS in providing maximum accessibility to the workforce and flexibility in labor operations.
    ii. It will be important to assure that funds allocated to specialty crop growers get to all producers, regardless of size, experiencing immediate impacts.
    iii. Direct payments are needed for all specialty crop growers that are dumping products and experiencing income losses due to restaurant and retail closures.
    iv. With the steep decline in purchases in the food service sector, USDA should consider developing a purchase program that would quickly provide stability to all impacted fresh produce growers through the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

d. Cotton prices have fallen below 50 cents per pound and are the lowest in more than a decade. We urge USDA to examine every possible way to support the sector. This may be through:
    i. Direct payments to cotton producers that recognizes the price declines related to COVID-19 and the slowdown in economic output; and
    ii. Reactivating the Cotton Ginning Cost Share Program to provide financial assistance to offset the cotton ginning costs – a prerequisite for marketing cotton lint and seed.

e. Ethanol and biofuels have seen their prices and operating margins fall sharply due to the impact of COVID-19 self-distancing on gasoline demand. The reduced demand for ethanol has negatively impacted cash corn prices across the Midwest and reduced the supplies of critical livestock supplies and feedstuff such as dried distillers grains or CO2. We urge the department to use its authority to provide emergency financial assistance to all participants affected by the current situation. This includes corn growers, who produce feedstock for ethanol facilities; ethanol plants that produce biofuel; livestock producers who depend on the co-products for animal feed and

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livestock processing facilities that depend on CO2. While different approaches have been advanced (such as purchasing feedstock at ethanol and biofuel facilities) we believe the Department must devise a solution that supports all parties who depend on a healthy biofuels sector. This may require innovative thinking, and we are prepared to work with USDA in helping craft a workable solution that is sensitive to the interests of all parties.

- Other Sectors Needing Critical Relief

Whether under the special appropriation of $9.5 billion to the Secretary or under the CCC reauthorization, financial support must be provided to these important production sectors, which are often the backbone of a rural community and a rural economy:

a. Agri-tourism
b. Aquaculture producers, including:
    i. Catfish
    ii. Crawfish
    iii. Tilapia and hybrid striped bass
    iv. Oysters
    v. Shellfish
    vi. Trout farmers and others
c. Forage crops
d. Nurseries (including sod), floriculture and horticulture (including retail greenhouse and ornamental crops) and related sectors (such as hay & straw sales lost to racetrack closings)
e. Other specialty livestock (e.g., wool and fur producers) and equine
f. Self-employed farmers and sole proprietors. While these individuals may not have payroll obligations, they are under equal financial stress and should be covered under all programs.
g. Tobacco
h. Craft beverage producers and wineries
i. Local fresh market farmers whose local fresh markets are no longer operating due to stay-at-home orders issued by state or local government.
j. Livestock producers whose sale barn auctions have been closed or disrupted
k. Producers in such areas as hydroponics, aquaponics and indoor production

- Meet needs immediately

Many growers are increasingly desperate. They include livestock, dairy, nursery, horticulture and others such as those listed immediately above. As soon as realistically possible, these growers should be given clear, unequivocal guidance on:

a. What USDA and other government assistance programs are available
b. Where to go for assistance
c. How to apply
d. Clear eligibility criteria

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At the same time, farm retail outlets (either on- or off-farm) must be provided information about where to go to get relief resources (such retailers have lost markets due to stay-in-place orders).

Additionally, USDA should seek to expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Online Purchasing Program to allow qualified vendors at farmers markets, food hubs, farm stands to accept SNAP purchases, fulfill food orders and comply with social distancing and other mitigation order aimed at reducing spread of COVID-19.

- Workforce/health issues

  The Department should consider funding and/or forgivable loans for workforce safety programs on farming operations. The funds from the program could be used to buy additional personal protective equipment masks, meet additional lodging and sanitation requirements, provide wellness checks, etc. Farmer applicants could ask for a loan commensurate with the level of funding they think they will need to provide these safety measures for the next 2.5 months, and then on June 30 the loan will be forgiven if the farmer can show receipts for the purchase/outlay of those covered costs. The program could also cover administrative pay for sick workers. Administrative leave would allow workers to get paid while encouraging them to come forward.

- Continuity and supply chain issues

  These remain critically important components of a successful program to aid the agricultural sector. We continue to urge USDA to work aggressively with our trading partners to assure that critical trade relations remain intact to the greatest extent possible. Specifically:
  a. Livestock and agricultural trade with Canada and Mexico must be maintained.
  b. Chemicals and other farm inputs from foreign nations should continue to flow so that farmers do not lose these critical components of agriculture production. This is affecting availability of fertilizer and other commodities.
  c. Shipments of plant material to chain stores will undoubtedly be affected. These shipments start to ramp up in April.

- Special Needs

  Hawaii imports 90% of its food. While much of it comes via ocean cargo, more perishable items are transported on passenger planes as cargo. With the reduction of flights, we must assure that the food needs of Hawaiians are protected.

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Farm Bureau stands ready to partner with you in this evolving, dynamic situation. We anticipate new insights and will share those with you as the department ensures that farmers and ranchers get the help they need in these unprecedented times.

Thank you again for your leadership at this critical time.

Sincerely,



Zippy Duvall
President

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Withheld info is Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 5:44:58 PM

Mr. Secretary:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Brandon

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Arizona State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date:	Saturday, March 14, 2020 9:43:40 AM

Good Morning,

This email is to inform you that today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the Arizona Department of Education to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the approval currently**.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thanks,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Arkansas State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 8:40:27 PM

Good evening,

This email is to inform you that tonight the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the state of Arkansas to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the approval shortly** through our regional Food and Nutrition Service office.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ken - OSEC Washington DC Barbic (Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov); Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov)
Subject:	Blumenthal Letter to USDA FNS re Nutrition Waivers and Guidance
Date:	Thursday, March 19, 2020 2:52:00 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png image006.png 2020 03 19 Letter to USDA FNS re Nutrition Waivers and Guidance (002) PDF.pdf

Just got this Blumenthal letter on FNS waivers.

From: Craig, Danisha (Blumenthal) <Danisha_Craig@blumenthal.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 2:43 PM
To: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Cc: Smith, Emily (Murphy) <Emily_Smith@murphy.senate.gov>; Kalonia, Maya (Blumenthal) <Maya_Kalonia@blumenthal.senate.gov>
Subject: Letter from Senator Blumenthal to USDA FNS re Nutrition Waivers and Guidance

To whom it may concern,

Please see attached letter to Secretary Sonny Perdue and Administrator Pam Miller requesting immediate guidance regarding the implementation of just-approved Families First Coronavirus Response Act, as well as swiftly approving Connecticut's nutrition waiver submissions.

Thanks,
Danisha

Danisha Craig
Legislative Correspondent & Deputy Scheduler

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal
706 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2823
Fax: (202) 224-9673
http://blumenthal.senate.gov



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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Pam Miller
Administrator of the U.S. Department
of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service
3120 Braddock Place 7th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Secretary Perdue and Administrator Miller:

As Americans face the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, it is imperative that everyone has access to enough food to meet their nutritional needs, while being able to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidance of having a two-week supply of food. It is essential that the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provide the state of Connecticut with immediate guidance and clarification on the implementation of provisions of H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. USDA FNS must also swiftly approve Connecticut's nutrition waiver submissions. Officials at the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) have so far received little to no direction from USDA FNS and are waiting for waivers to be approved to continue their important work of preventing hunger during this unprecedented time.

On March 18, the United States Senate sent the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to President Trump's desk. This legislation includes additional aid for families and food banks. Specifically, this measure provides $400 million for the Commodity Assistance Program for the emergency food assistance program (TEFAP). TEFAP provides low-income Americans, including older Americans, with emergency food, often through distribution at local food banks. We are concerned and saddened that USDA FNS has yet to provide any information regarding the implementation of these provisions and how much assistance Connecticut will receive. Connecticut DSS officials stand ready to work with USDA FNS to ensure that Americans in need receive essential aid in a timely manner.

Connecticut DSS has submitted seven waivers to USDA and only three have been approved. Connecticut is still waiting on the following waivers to be approved: 1) to issue supplemental benefits to all existing SNAP households for up to a full month's benefits 2) to waive the eligibility requirements for students in higher education enrolled more than half time 3) to extend certification periods by 90 days and waive periodic reports for 90 days 4) flexibility around Fair Hearings timeframes. While we appreciate the flexibility provided by FNS recently

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regarding the Quality Control process, it does little to ensure individuals and families receiving SNAP assistance have enough food in their homes to sustain them through this tumultuous period. Nor does it alleviate the burdens that state offices are feeling in attempting to meet the demands of processing new applications and recertifications with a severely depleted workforce.

The waivers regarding supplemental benefits and student requirements are vital to ensuring that people are not left without benefits at a time when some grocery stores have struggled to keep up with demand and maintain stocked shelves. Timely approval is also important to ensuring that as newly unemployed individuals apply for benefits to feed their families, local resources and phone lines are not overburdened.

As we have all seen over the past few weeks and even days, COVID-19 is moving rapidly and indiscriminately through communities across the country. As such, we implore USDA FNS to urgently approve pending nutrition waivers and provide Connecticut and their state partners with much needed guidance and clarification regarding the implementation of measures within H.R. 6201. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and respectfully request a response by March 26, 2020. People should not have to jeopardize the health of themselves or their families to keep food on the table. Lives are on the line.

Sincerely,

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate

CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senate

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Withheld info is Secretary Purdue's alias email address

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Call Request: PA Gov Wolf
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 5:57:15 PM
Attachments: 2020.3.25 TWW Perdue emergency food assistance COVID 19 (002).pdf
image001.png

Sir,

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Thank you,
Blake

usda logo

Blake Rollins
Deputy Chief of Staff

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (b) (6) (cell)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 25, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I write to request your immediate assistance related to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's needs during the COVID-19 pandemic – specifically related to emergency food assistance. To fight the spread of COVID-19 and protect Pennsylvanians and our healthcare providers, I ordered all non-life sustaining businesses to close physical operations and am encouraging Pennsylvanians to stay at home in areas where there has been an exponential increase of new COVID-19 cases. As a result, many Pennsylvanians are temporarily unemployed and unable to afford basic necessities due to these necessary mitigation and social distancing efforts. To date, there have been an unprecedented number of initial claims for unemployment compensation, and our charitable food system is struggling to meet the increased demands of Pennsylvanians who are temporarily out of work.

On Friday, March 20, 2020, Pennsylvania submitted its application for Disaster Household Distribution to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). I am writing to urge that USDA review and approve this application as soon as possible. This immediate action is critical to ensure that Pennsylvania's food banks and food assistance networks can swiftly distribute USDA Foods currently in their warehouses to those newly in need of food assistance without the need to verify eligibility.

Further, I request your immediate consideration of the following three items of critical importance to Pennsylvanians struggling with food insecurity:

Waive Eligibility Requirements for The Emergency Food Assistance Program

We are grateful that the Families First package was passed and signed, which increases The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) funding by $400 million. However, this critical funding will not make the needed difference if USDA does not also temporarily waive all eligibility requirements for TEFAP. I urge you to take administrative action under the President's national disaster declaration to temporarily waive these requirements to help Pennsylvanians who need access to emergency food now. It is critical that Pennsylvanians in need have access as quickly as possible, and that the food banks working around the clock can help those in need without the additional burden and delay of completing paperwork and verifying client eligibility. Those who are seeking assistance from our food banks are the newly unemployed and those critically in need of food, and it is unconscionable to delay their access because of the need to complete cumbersome paperwork requirements to prove that they are eligible for the food that they so desperately need.

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 000223

Reconsideration of Pennsylvania's Request for Temporary Waivers

I also ask that you issue temporary waivers to allow use and replacement of on-hand supplies of USDA Foods at schools and state warehouses to provide food to those in need as a result of this crisis. Normally, with a disaster declaration, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is able to access USDA Foods intended for National School Lunch to provide to the Red Cross and others for use in congregate feeding sites and is able to seek replacement of these foods after the disaster conditions are resolved. Since congregate feeding sites are not safe due to COVID-19, we must be able use these foods in creative new delivery methods and be assured of replacement. I request that schools be allowed to use these foods to prepare meals and provide them to other family members – children and adults – who might bring enrolled students to a closed Seamless Summer/Summer Feeding site. Having flexibility to use these foods and to be able to seek replacement would allow the sites to serve any child 18 years of age or younger, and potentially the caregivers as well. We requested this flexibility from FNS on Tuesday, March 17, and it was denied on Friday, March 20. I strongly urge you to reconsider and direct your staff to allow this critical flexibility.

Flexibility within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Further, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act provides temporary new authority and broad flexibility for USDA and states to adapt the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to address many people's food needs during the current public health emergency and economic shock from the COVID-19 pandemic. USDA and states need to act quickly and aggressively to fully utilize SNAP in order to protect public health and mitigate hardship.

The Act allows states to provide emergency supplemental SNAP benefits to many participating SNAP households to address temporary food needs. The legislation authorizes USDA to provide an ***additional*** emergency allotment to all households, up to the amount of the maximum benefit for their household size. Unfortunately, USDA is interpreting section 2302 to allow states to raise SNAP benefits for each household up to the maximum benefit for the household size, ***without*** any additional allotment.

If USDA maintains this interpretation, households already at the maximum benefit, which make up nearly 40 percent of SNAP households and those with the lowest incomes, will not receive any additional assistance. The reason households receive the maximum benefit is that they have *no* income available to purchase food. About 2.5 million of the households receiving the maximum benefit are families that include children, about 1 million households receiving the maximum benefit are households with elderly members, and 600,000 are households with people with disabilities.

We are deeply concerned that the poorest households, particularly those with very young children, would not be eligible to receive anything under this reading of the law. We strongly urge USDA to reconsider its interpretation to avoid imposing a restriction on the emergency benefit at a time of such extraordinary crisis.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st USDA Response 4-20-2021
USDA-20-1045-A-000224

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot

USDA's SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot makes it possible for SNAP participants to purchase grocery deliveries, but its availability is limited to only a few states. Given the social distancing required to fight COVID-19, I urge USDA to notify retailers of the flexibilities that do currently exist to make grocery delivery possible for all SNAP recipients who need it.

All retailers that are able to offer online ordering are doing so, and this option must be made available for SNAP participants as well. There are several models that the private sector can employ, such as processing the EBT card either at the time of pickup from the store or when the groceries are delivered to the SNAP participant. For retailers who have mobile device capabilities, swiping the card at drop-off would be the simplest option. If mobile devices are not available, the card could be obtained by the retailer or other partner prior to pick-up at the store, swiped upon pick-up at the store, and returned upon drop-off of the groceries to the card holder.

USDA has a direct line to the retailers who accept SNAP benefits and must ensure that they are encouraged to offer grocery delivery for SNAP participants. Pennsylvania retailers are already interested in providing these options to customers. I also urge you to seek out public-private partnerships with these retailers, as you have recently done with companies to begin to help with rural school meal delivery.

I appreciate the collaboration with USDA to date to approve several critical flexibilities related to signatures and distribution of USDA Foods through The Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. However, without additional action from USDA, Pennsylvania's food banks will not be able to keep up with the demand placed on them by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is inhumane to consider that Pennsylvanians who are doing the responsible thing by staying home to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities would go hungry because of USDA's limiting interpretations and refusal to cut bureaucratic red tape during a national crisis.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf

TOM WOLF
Governor

225 Main Capitol Building | Harrisburg, PA 17120 | 717.787.2500 | Fax 717.772.8284 | www.pa.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F_1st_Interim_Response_000225
USDA-20-1045-A-000225

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: (b) (5), DPP
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 9:16:30 PM

Unfortunately there (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

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From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject:	Close hold - do not share.
Date:	Wednesday, March 11, 2020 5:57:57 PM
Attachments:	COVID 19Pandemic EBT.pdf COVID_01_xml_OMAR_FINAL.pdf COVID19_xml_BONAMICI COMER_FINAL.pdf image001.png

Attachments are Congressional Records

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From: Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 5:40:24 PM

To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>

Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Subject: FW: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

Stephen Alexander Vaden
General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Suite 107W
Washington, DC 20250
☎ **202-720-3351 (Office)**
✉ **stephen.vaden@ogc.usda.gov**

From: Brian.Callanan@treasury.gov <Brian.Callanan@treasury.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 5:24 PM

To: Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>

Cc: George.E.Doty@who.eop.gov; Mark.R.Paoletta@omb.eop.gov; Paul.Wolfteich2@treasury.gov; Michael.Briskin@treasury.gov; James.Stern@treasury.gov

Subject: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

Importance: High

Stephen, (b) (5), DPP, ACP

[redacted] Thanks.

Brian

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS
Subject: Committee - Request for call on FNS issues
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 7:01:20 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Anne and Team,

Wanted to give an overview of the Committee call requests currently.

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Wanted to put it all in one place to try and devise a plan.

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] we could (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Open to discussing how to proceed.

Thanks,
Veronica

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From: Simmons, Anne <Anne.Simmons@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 6:38 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Phillips, Troy; Cep, Melinda; Dickerson, Jasmine; Lisa.Shelton@mail.house.gov; Titus, Alison; Hwang, Chu-Yuan; Simmons, Anne
Subject: Request for call on FNS issues

Veronica,

Team Peterson was hoping to have a call so we can walk through these issues with the appropriate folks at the Department.

Thank you!

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Anne

- Has USDA received any D-SNAP requests in response to the coronavirus pandemic? If so, does USDA believe these D-SNAP requests meet the requirements for USDA to grant those requests?

- Has USDA received concerns from States about matching for state administrative costs during this pandemic? Are there specific types of administrative costs that States are seeing an uptick in?

- We understand that states can ask to have their May TEFAP foods delivery moved up to April in order to meet the increased demand for food at food banks. We also understand that the additional TEFAP foods purchased with funds provided under the Families First Act and CARES Act are not expected to be available until July. Based on current increased demand for TEFAP foods, does USDA expect to have enough TEFAP foods to last until the additional TEFAP foods are available.

- We have received calls from several member offices and food banks about waiving the eligibility and related tracking requirements for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) during the COVID-19 public health emergency outbreak. We understand that states can apply to run a household disaster distribution program with TEFAP foods that does not have the same eligibility requirements as TEFAP, but that only certain areas of the state may be eligible to run the household disaster distribution program. For areas of the state that are not eligible for the household disaster distribution program, does USDA have the authority to waive administrative requirements such as the eligibility and related tracking requirements, without States amending their State plans? Would the below language help USDA waive such administrative requirements for TEFAP so that States do not need to amend their State plans?

  Sec. XXXX. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture may issue guidance to waive administrative requirements under section 202A of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C 7503) to ensure commodities can be distributed during a public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act based on an outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19).

  (b) Sunset.—The authority under this section shall expire [90 days] after the date of enactment of this Act.

- Does USDA currently have the authority to waive the hot foods requirement at approved retailers for SNAP either nationwide or in certain areas of the country at the request of States, based on the Presidential disaster or emergency declarations for the

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COVID-19 pandemic?

- Are there GusNIP participants having difficulties or unable to operate their programs because of farmer market closures? What are the current options available to such GusNIP participants?

- Are there any State SNAP offices that have closed? Has USDA heard from States that they need additional assistance given office closures or the uptick in applications?

Anne Simmons
Staff Director
House Agriculture Committee
1301 Longworth
Washington DC 20515
202-225-1494 desk
202-225-2171 main office



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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov)
Subject: committee call tomorrow - topics
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:05:00 PM
Attachments: Feeding_America_-_Farm_Bureua_Letter_to_USDA_4.13.2020.pd.pdf

---

Anne,

For tomorrow's call with committee staff at 11, here are the topics I have compiled so far. I anticipate they will send more by end of the day, but wanted you to have this now for planning purposes.

-
Veronica

-

-

SNAP
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

-

P-EBT
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

TEFAP
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Farm to Food Bank
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The American Farm Bureau Federation and Feeding America applaud the leadership you and the Department are demonstrating as the nation responds to the COVID emergency. In that context, we are writing to recommend additional steps to ensure food banks across America are stocked, and farmers and ranchers can expand existing partnerships with food banks to respond to shifting demands and urgent needs during this crisis.

As you are aware, food banks are under tremendous pressure to meet the skyrocketing demand. Press reports underscore the massive surge in need, with some food banks seeing as much as 100 percent increases in demand. In some states, the National Guard has been called upon to help package goods for distribution to customers. At the same time, however, we are seeing literally tons of agricultural goods being discarded because of the shutdown of so much of the economy. Paradoxically, we are seeing a simultaneous surge in demand at a moment when many farmers are being told there is an oversupply of their product. The unfortunate consequences include public panic about an adequate food supply and plunging prices for farm produce.

We are writing you to ask USDA to expand on your partnership with us in executing the solution. The Department has the opportunity to help address both unfortunate consequences described above through a voucher program that would deepen the relationships between farmers and food banks, allowing them to work directly with one another instead of relying upon third parties and what is sometimes a longer pathway to get food from farms to food bank shelves. We recognize that regulatory flexibility also may be required to ensure rapid action, and we ask you to consider it within the confines of ensuring the safety of the food being supplied.

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This is an opportunity for USDA to act quickly to produce a win for food banks and a win for farmers. It is a chance for government to serve as a facilitator while clearing bureaucracy and red tape. We pledge our willingness to work with you and your staff in quickly implementing such a program in response to urgent, critical needs.

Sincerely,

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot
CEO
Feeding America

Zippy Duvall
President
American Farm Bureau Federation

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Cc:	Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov); Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject:	CongQ C 19 Rep Castro (TX) re: P-EBT application TX
Date:	Monday, May 11, 2020 8:37:00 PM

From: Montan, Kaitlyn <Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 5:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Veronica and Chris,

The Ed&L Committee shared the news that Texas got approved for their application for P-EBT, but I saw that their application is not live yet on your website. Would you be able to share this with me?

Thanks,
Kaitlyn

Kaitlyn Montan
Legislative Assistant
Office of Congressman Joaquin Castro
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Office: (202)225-3236 | Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov

From: "Hard, Alison" <Alison.Hard@mail.house.gov>
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 at 10:18 AM
To: "Montan, Kaitlyn" <Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Kaitlyn,

Hope this finds you well – sharing some good news that TX has been approved for P-EBT!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:12 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Texas and New Jersey have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state(s) will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State(s) will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State(s) will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State(s) will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Cc:	Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov); Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS
Subject:	CongQ C 19 Sen Brown (OH) re: p-ebt Ohio application status
Date:	Friday, May 1, 2020 2:35:00 PM

From: McCracken, Jonathan (Brown) <Jonathan_McCracken@brown.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA FNS - 1 SNAP Flexibility Income and Eligibility Verification System - COVID-19

Thanks for the update. Does FNS have Ohio's application for Pandemic-EBT?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 30, 2020, at 5:08 PM, Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov> wrote:

> All,
>
> This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
>
> FNS is approving the **Ohio** IEVS adjustment for ongoing SNAP households at recertification and periodic report from the receipt of this approval through May 31, 2020 under authorization of **section 2302** of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
>
> This adjustment will allow the state to suspend the use of the **Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS)** for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. The State will continue to verify income through other data sources and databases and act on all other mandatory matches, including prisoner and death matches. Therefore, ongoing SNAP households will not have their benefits reduced or terminated based on IEVS data. This adjustment approval does not adjust the State agency's requirement to use IEVS data matches in determining eligibility at initial certification.
>
> The State agency that requested this flexibilities received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.
>
> State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with any questions.

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Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

<image001.jpg>

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Cc: Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov); Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS
Subject: CongQ C 19 Sen Jones (AL) RE: P-EBT application
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:15:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image005.png

Sen Jones (AL) office would like to see the state's P-EBT application.

From: Howard, Rebecca (Jones) <Rebecca_Howard@jones.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:06 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Their application, please!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Howard, Rebecca (Jones) <Rebecca_Howard@jones.senate.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Rebecca,

Are you looking for the state's application or the approval letter?

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Howard, Rebecca (Jones) <Rebecca_Howard@jones.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

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Hi Chris and Veronica,

Excited about this news. Is there any way you can share their application? It would be greatly appreciated.

Best,

Rebecca Howard
Legislative Assistant
Office of U.S. Senator Doug Jones
(202) 228-3737

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 5:33 PM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Alabama has received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval.

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The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject:	CongQ C 19 Sen Reed (RI) RE: P-EBT RI
Date:	Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:25:00 PM

From: Smith, Lucas (Reed) <Lucas_Smith@reed.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Chris,

Can you tell me what the total funding provided to the state for this will be? How many students/families will be served?

Best,
Lucas

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 11:14 AM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Rhode Island received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval.

The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS
Subject:	CongQ C19 House Ag Comm RE: SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause
Date:	Monday, April 13, 2020 1:57:00 PM

From: Tiller, Jennifer <Jennifer.Tiller@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause Flex - COVID-19

Can you confirm that this ensures the SNAP applicant has indeed applied for a SSN, but due to COVID, is unable to follow-up because of the moratorium of face:face interviews?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause Flex - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a **Washington** waiver request to **increase the time allowed to provide the SSN for SNAP applicants** under Good Cause as a result of the State's response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following flexibilities under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations,** FNS's existing statutory authority.

FNS will allow the state to extend the timeframe for an individual to participate in SNAP after having established good cause for failure to provide a SSN for up to an additional three months. This will allow the State agency to grant good cause for a total of five months, the month of application plus one month as already provided for by 7 CFR 273.6(d), and an three additional months as provided for by this adjustment. This adjustment is approved through May 31, 2020.

The State has been provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Cc:	Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov); Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS
Subject:	CongQ Sen Kaine re: SNAP online purchasing VA
Date:	Monday, May 11, 2020 10:59:00 AM
Attachments:	4.14.20 USDA Online Pilot Letter.pdf

From: McWalters, Evan (Kaine) <Evan_McWalters@kaine.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 10:20 AM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Barbour, Micah (Warner) <Micah_Barbour@warner.senate.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Letter to Secretary Perdue Virginia Online SNAP Purchasing Pilot Program

Good morning Evan and Veronica,

We wanted to follow up on this Online SNAP request for Virginia. Is there any update you could provide?

Thank you,

Evan

Evan McWalters
Legislative Assistant
Senator Tim Kaine

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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write today in support of the Commonwealth of Virginia's request to participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Online Purchasing Pilot Program. Inclusion in this program will allow Virginia SNAP recipients to use their benefits to purchase groceries online from authorized retailers, reducing the risk of exposure to the coronavirus for thousands of individuals in the Commonwealth.

The current public health crisis has resulted in an unprecedented rise in unemployment and a subsequent increase in demand for our nation's anti-hunger programs, including SNAP. While USDA has moved swiftly to reduce barriers and increase access to this program during the current public health emergency, most SNAP recipients are only able to utilize these benefits in person at grocery stores or other retailers. This requirement places SNAP recipients at higher risk of infection, as they are not able to utilize various online grocery delivery services that are available for other consumers.

The 2014 Farm Bill required USDA to establish a pilot program to test the feasibility of SNAP beneficiaries utilizing their benefits online with authorized retailers. To date, only a small number of states are authorized to participate in this program and have set up systems to allow SNAP recipients in their respective states to use their benefits with online retailers. Due to the current public health emergency, we understand USDA is working to add interested states to the program on a case-by-case basis if they meet the requirements to administer the online program.

To ensure the health and safety of SNAP beneficiaries in the Commonwealth, we urge USDA to work with the Virginia Department of Social Services to approve Virginia's request to participate in the Department's SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot as quickly as possible. We also urge USDA to do everything within its power to expand this program nationwide so SNAP recipients across the country have the option to use online grocery delivery options and reduce their exposure to COVID-19.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure every American has access to healthy and nutritious foods during this public health emergency.

Sincerely,

MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator

TIM KAINE
United States Senator

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov)
Cc:	Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov); Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Congressional Incoming Letter - Sen Casey
Date:	Monday, May 4, 2020 9:59:00 AM
Attachments:	5.4.20 Letter to USDA re PA Online Pilot Support.pdf

Please see the attached incoming letter from Sen Casey in support of Pennsylvania joining the SNAP online purchasing pilot program.

From: Charney, Alyssa (Casey) <Alyssa_Charney@casey.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: support letter -SNAP Online Purchasing

Hi Veronica,

Attached please find a letter from Senator Casey in support of Pennsylvania's request to provide the online purchasing option for SNAP recipients.

Thank you!

Best,
Alyssa

Alyssa Charney
U.S. Senator Bob Casey
(d) (202) 224-8483
(m) (b) (6) [redacted]

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ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3805

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I write in support of Pennsylvania's request for implementation of the expedited online purchasing option for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP). The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) submitted its State Plan for Providing Online Purchasing to provide the option for online purchasing and delivery services for SNAP recipients on April 30, 2020 and hopes to be able to offer the option by June 1, 2020.

The COVID-19 outbreak has required many individuals in Pennsylvania and across the country to self-quarantine and engage in social distancing. This is necessary to protect the health of our communities but has consequently made it challenging for some SNAP households to travel to stores to purchase food. This is especially true for seniors and immunocompromised individuals, and thus it is critical to ensure online delivery is an option for all customers, including SNAP recipients.

DHS has taken the necessary steps in order to mitigate risks associated with the proposed expedited timeline to bring SNAP online purchasing to Pennsylvania. These steps include coordination and discussions with the EBT processor (Conduent), the third party processor/ secure PIN-entry provide and the retailers currently authorized for online purchasing. DHS has developed a detailed timeline and is able to make the necessary updates to the system and have the technical resources available to implement this plan.

Approval of this plan will enable any SNAP household in Pennsylvania to utilize online purchasing through the available retailers. As Pennsylvania continues to implements critical social-distancing measures to protect the health and safety of students during this pandemic, it is vital to ensure that SNAP recipients have access to the same delivery and ordering services that are currently available to other customers across the Commonwealth. For these reasons, I respectfully request you provide full, fair and expeditious consideration of Pennsylvania's request to implement online SNAP purchasing.

I appreciate USDA's efforts to expedite the process through which states can participate in the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot. Pennsylvania's participation in the program would provide an important step forward for expanding delivery options SNAP recipients. At the same time, there is even more that needs to be done to expand the options available for SNAP delivery, and I urge

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USDA to continue to work to promote and facilitate additional delivery mechanisms, including the use of point of sale (POS) devices.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, your team can be in touch with Alyssa Charney on my staff at alyssa_charney@casey.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Covid - rep Wilson (FL) -D-SNAP Letter
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:45:27 AM
Attachments: D-SNAP Letter.pdf

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From: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:44 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: D-SNAP Letter

From: Wolf-Johnson, Max <Max.Wolf-Johnson@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 5:10 PM
To: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Subject: D-SNAP Letter

Hello,

Please find attached a letter from Congresswoman Wilson (FL-24) to Secretary Perdue seeking approval for the state of Florida's pending request to activate D-SNAP.

I plan to share an updated copy tomorrow reflecting support from other members of Florida's congressional delegation.

Thanks,

Max Wolf-Johnson
Legislative Assistant
Office of Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2201

March 31, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I write to urge you to approve Florida's request to administer the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and to send additional Emergency Food Assistance Program resources to Florida regions in need.

South Florida has become an epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak in the United States. At the time of this writing, there are 3,135 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Miami-Dade and Broward counties alone and 6,338 throughout the state.

Both counties have alarmingly high poverty rates that at 12.6 and 16 percent, respectively, are above the national average, and thousands of Floridians will likely be in need of additional food assistance in the coming months.

Florida has already experienced a surge in applications for unemployment benefits. More than 74,000 people filed unemployment claims during the week of March 15 and the actual number of people seeking benefits is probably much higher given how overwhelmed the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity is due to high call volume and website traffic that must be managed at a "minimum" staffing level. Sadly, the number of people needing assistance will increase significantly as the virus continues to spread and businesses are forced to close their doors.

Florida also is likely to be disproportionally impacted by this public health crisis because of its sizable vulnerable population. People over the age of 65 make up 20 percent of the state's population and according to the CDC, are at heightened risk of severe illness. In addition, Florida is home to a large number of people who do not have health insurance and 16.5 percent under the age of 65 are uninsured.

For these reasons, I ask that you approve the request submitted by Governor Ron DeSantis on March 22 to activate D-SNAP for the state of Florida. In this moment of crisis, the federal government must be a reliable resource for states and ensure that every possible policy option is exhausted.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to working with you to ensure the wellbeing of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	FNS - OPS Front Office
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject:	covid - sen cortez masto - SNAP emergency allotments
Date:	Wednesday, April 8, 2020 11:10:00 AM

From: McClure, JoAnne (Cortez Masto) <JoAnne_McClure@cortezmasto.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Badmington, Casey (Cortez Masto) <Casey_Badmington@cortezmasto.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19-- follow up questions

Hi Chris – hope this message finds you well, and thanks for the information – a couple of questions.

- Can you clarify whether the emergency allotments for SNAP households have already been made for March in Nevada?
- How much funding is the state of Nevada looking at receiving for these allotments?
- Also will the state need to apply for May if the emergency declarations are still active within HHS and the state?

Thanks for your help in this.

Best,

JoAnne McClure
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Cortez Masto

> **From:** "Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
> **Date:** April 7, 2020 at 9:41:01 PM EDT
> **Cc:** "Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
> **Subject: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19**
>
> All,
>
> This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
>
> FNS is approving SNAP **Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority

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granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to **the 46 States** previously approved.

March and April Approvals: Nebraska and Nevada

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov)
Cc: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: COVID fns draft
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:21:00 PM
Attachments: COVID fns draft vw.03.24.20.docx

Noah,

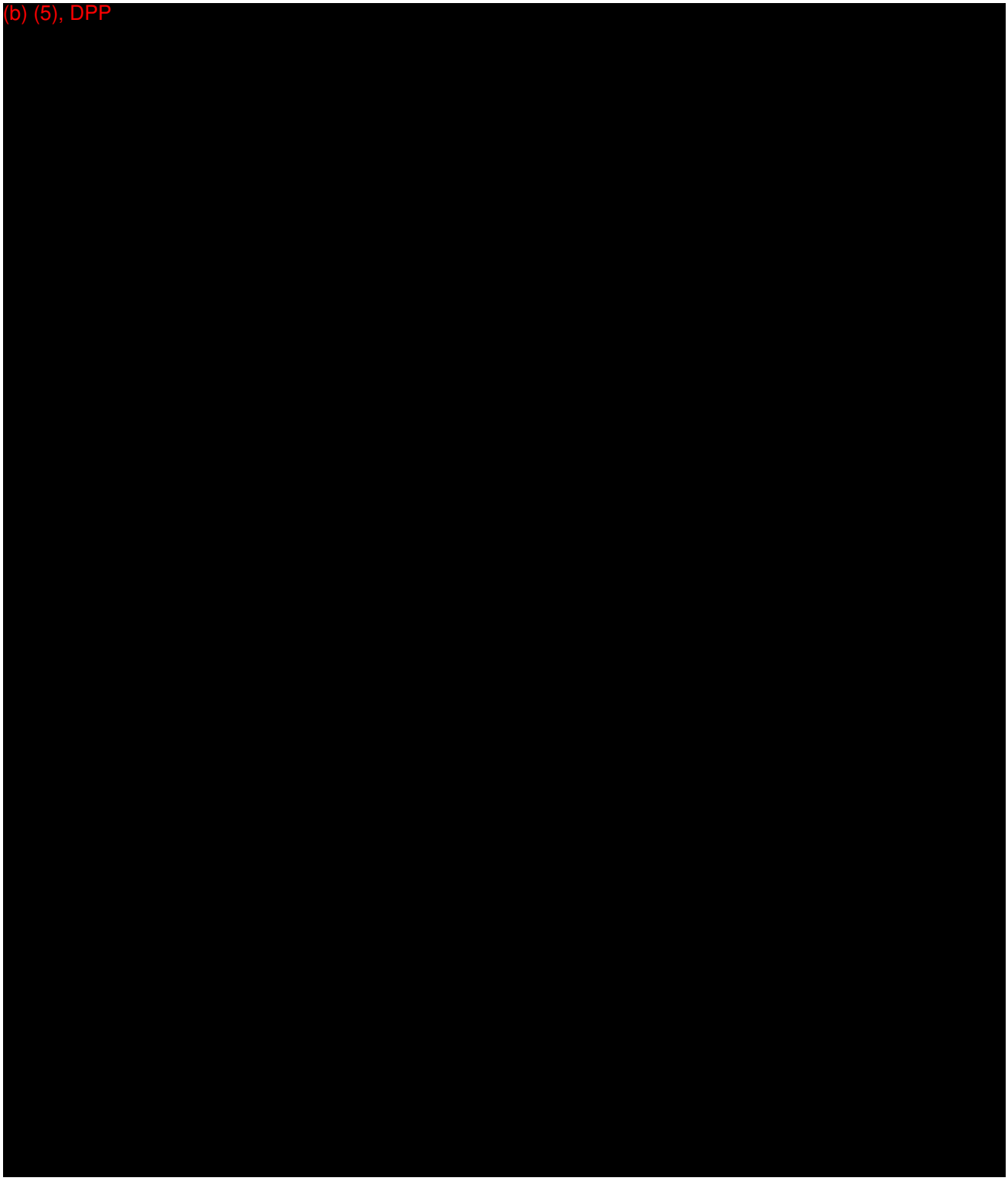
Attached is my FNS COVID draft form response. It is written to (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Hope it helps.

Thanks.

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(b) (5), DPP



Sincerely,

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: kiev randall; karla whalen; Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: COVID-19 - House Ag Majority - SNAP emergency allotments
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 5:35:00 PM

Lisa Shelton requesting copies of the state guidance on SNAP emergency allotments.

From: Shelton, Lisa <Lisa.Shelton@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 5:11 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19

Thank you.
Could please provide the guidance sent to states?
Appreciate it

> On Mar 24, 2020, at 2:52 PM, Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> All,
>
> This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
>
> FNS is approving two month SNAP Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**
>
> **March and April Approvals:** Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina
>
> **April and May Approvals:** Tennessee
>
> Guidance and templates for states to use in their requests were provided on Friday, March 20.
>
> State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.
>
> State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.
>
> Regards,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: karla whalen; kiev randall; Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: COVID-19 - rep bernice johnson - SNAP TX POC
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 4:12:00 PM

See request for TX state SNAP poc.

From: Ladak, Nawaid <Nawaid.Ladak@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Texas Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Hi Veronica;

Do you happen to have the contact information for either Mr. Salter or anyone else who may be administering the SNAP program in Texas. We're trying to get in touch with someone oever there regarding a waiver request that the state government just filed.

Thank you,

-Nawaid Ladak
Legislative Assistant
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Texas Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of **Texas** has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

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The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: kiev randall; karla whalen; Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: COVID-19 - Rep Kaptur - TEFAP supplies
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 3:07:00 PM

Rep Kaptur's office says they have food banks without enough food and they must wait till next week for the next delivery. They would like assistance on this.

From: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Appears like they have requested assistance but were told it wont be released until March 31.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Courtney,

Have they already requested additional food from the regional distribution sites? And if so, were they told there were insufficient foods in certain categories?

Veronica

From: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Thank you Veronica,

We are hearing that some of our food banks are currently purchasing food and hoping they get provisions soon.

Some are also in fear of shutting down due to insufficient safety provisions. Any guidance is helpful.

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-Courtney

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Courtney,

Thank you for the email. We will get back to you with more information as soon as possible.

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:04 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

Do we know the status of TEFAP provisions for food banks? Will they be dispersed soon? Is the National Guard assisting in this effort?

Thanks,

Courtney

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:07 PM

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To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Ohio a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Ohio state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: kiev randall; karla whalen; Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: COVID-19 - Rep Pallone - SNAP emergency allotment NJ
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 12:11:00 PM

From: Gristina, Alexander <Alexander.Gristina@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19

Hey Chris,

Thanks for the email! Do you know how much NJ will be given?

Best,
Alex

Alexander Gristina
Legislative Aide/Scheduler
Office of Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06)
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
202-225-4671 – Office
202-225-9665 – Fax

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:55 AM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**

March and April Approvals: Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island

April and May Approvals: Iowa

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This is in addition to the 7 states noticed yesterday.

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Democrat Phase 4 legislation Ag provisions summary
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:12:53 PM
Attachments: HEROES.Act.USDA.Summary 5.12.20 v2[1].docx
image001.png

Sir,

(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Ken

Pre-decisional/deliberative/draft

Ken Barbic
Assistant Secretary – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile (b) (6)
Office: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Predecisional/Deliberative

HEROES Act Summary
USDA Provisions

(b) (5), DPP

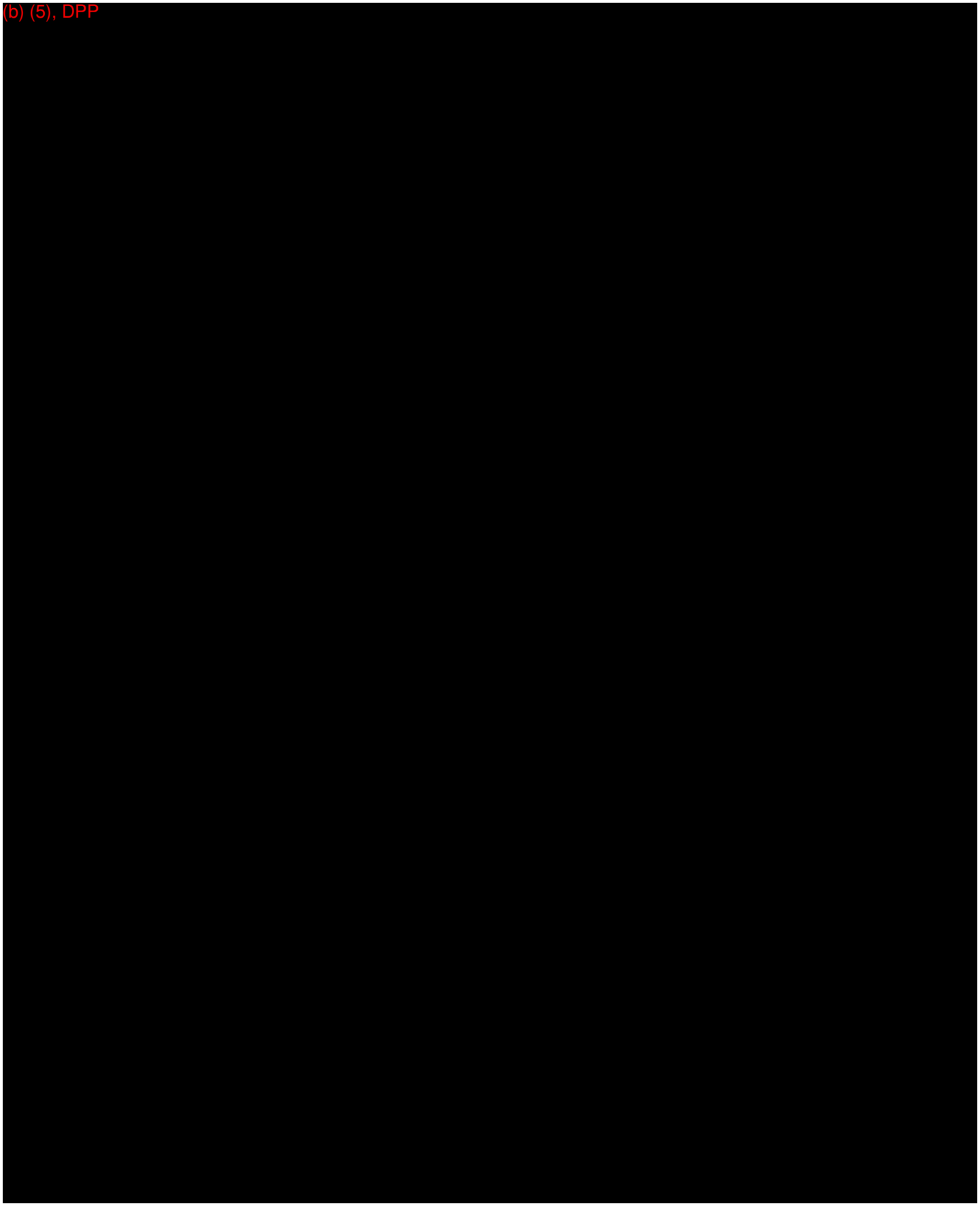
[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

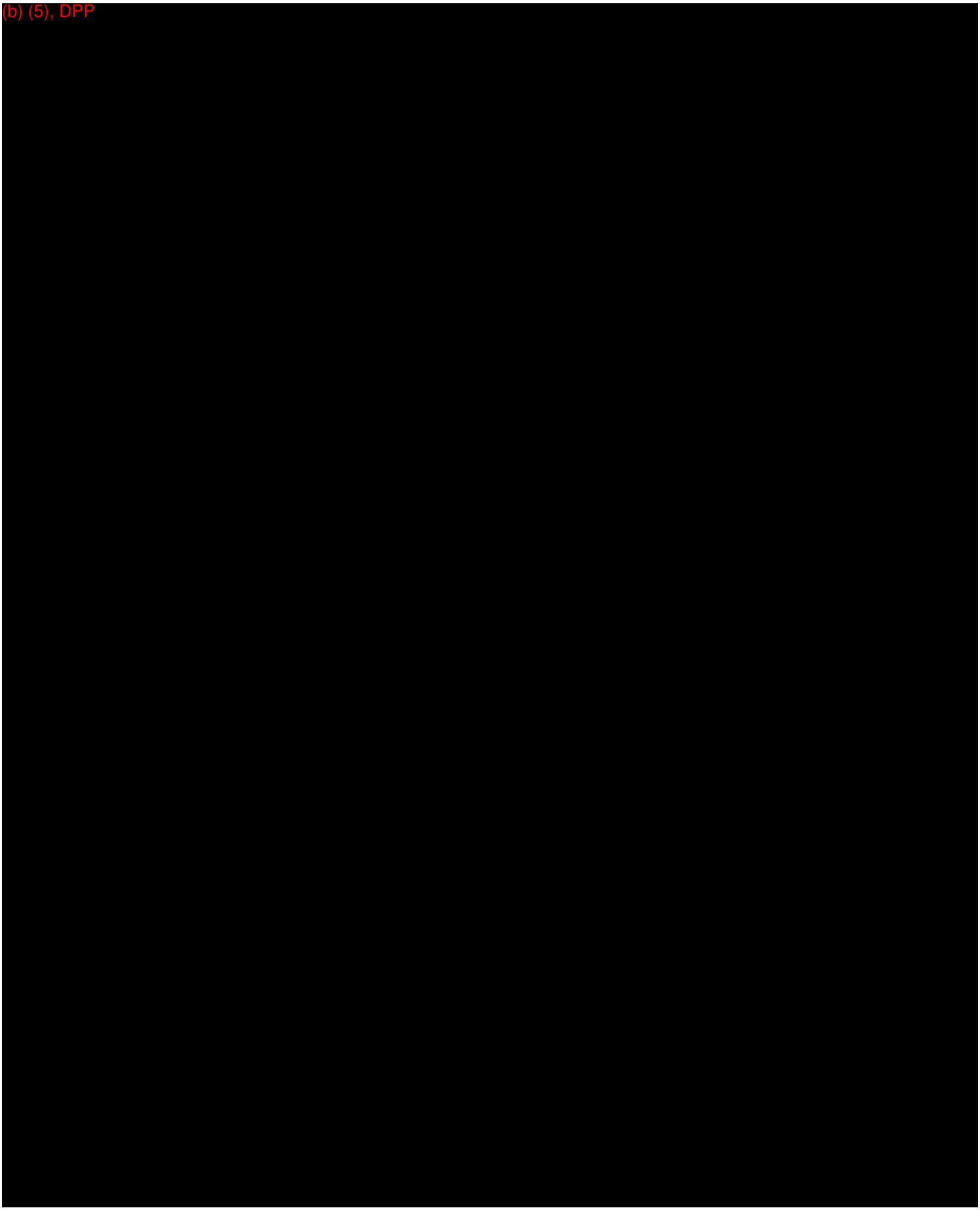
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

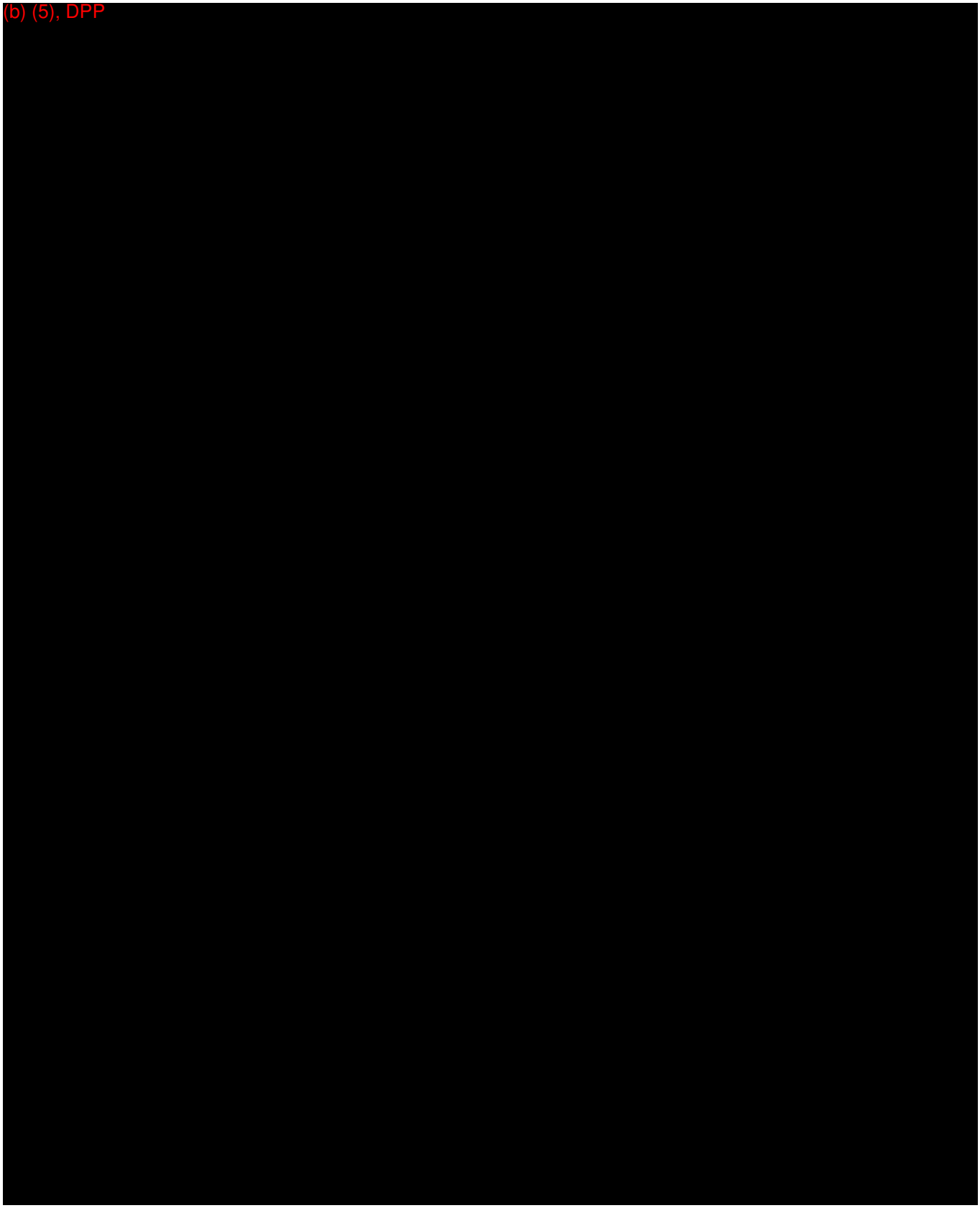


AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

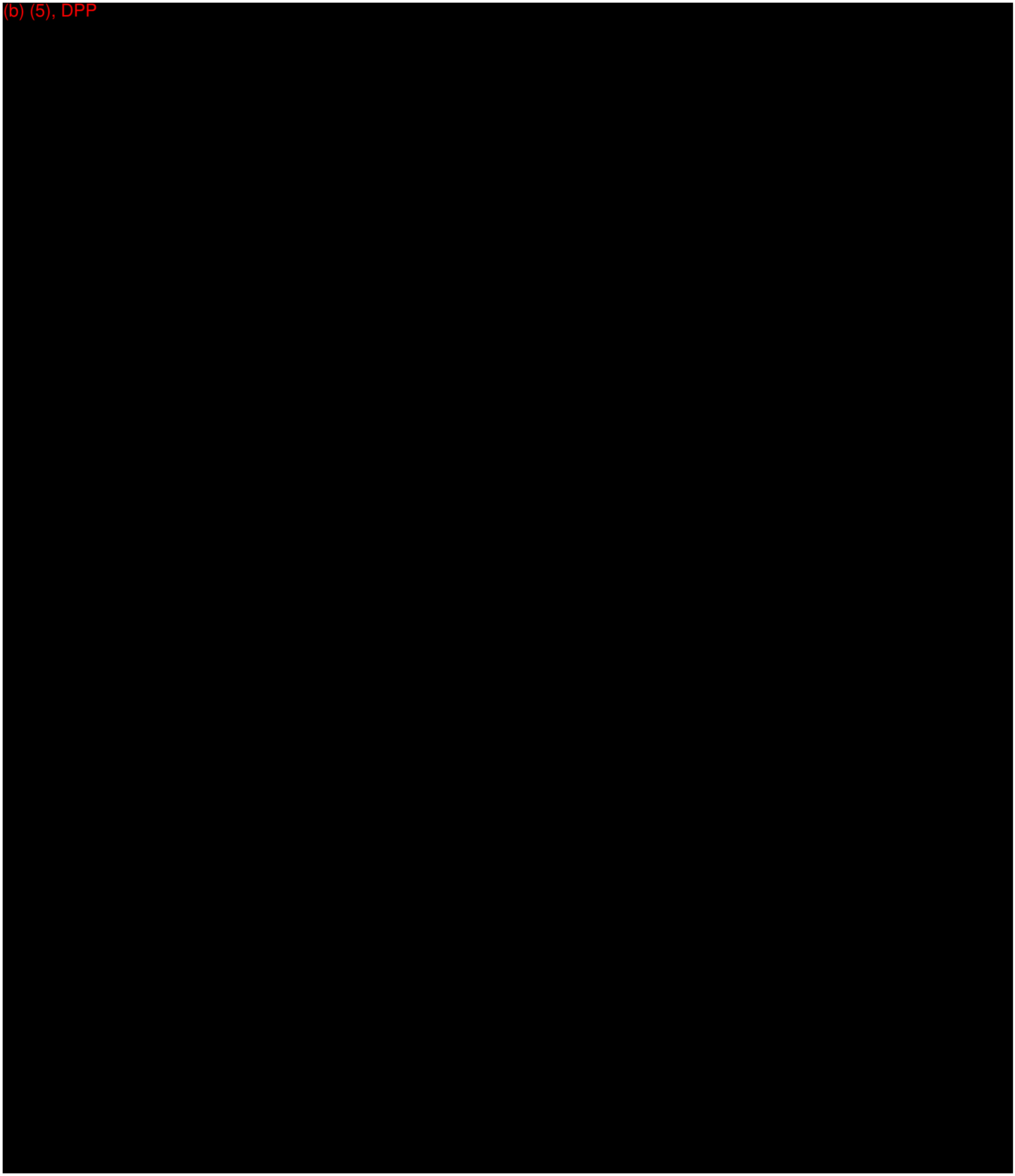


AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Disaster Household Distribution
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 9:16:00 PM
Attachments: Disaster Household Distribution.docx

Anne –

Please see attached. Hopefully this is in good shape (b) (5), DPP [redacted].

Campbell –

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Secretary Perdue
From: FNCS; Campbell
Date: March 26, 2020
Re: **Disaster Household Distribution Update**

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

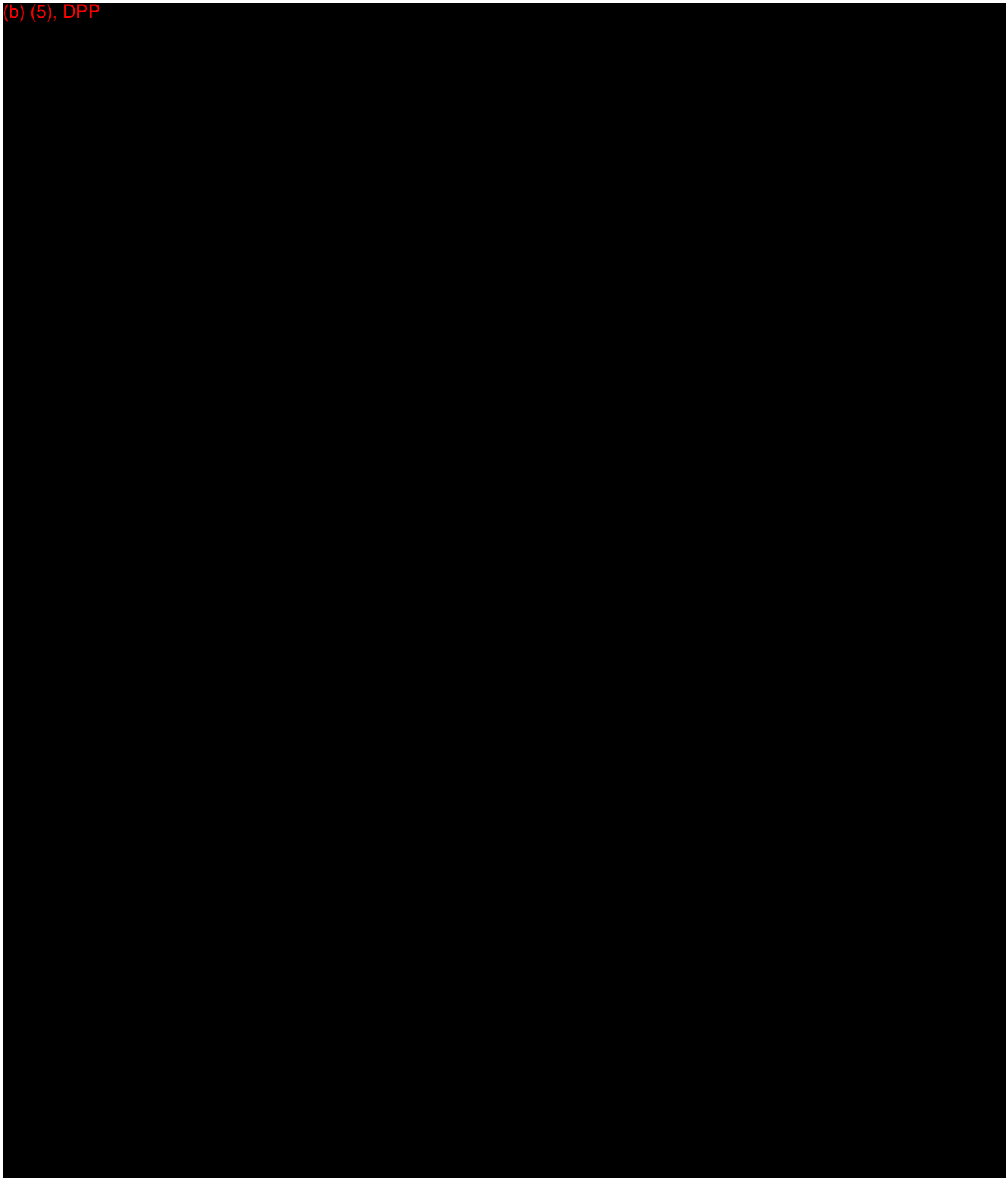
From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Ken - OSEC Washington DC Barbic (Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov)
Subject: draft FNS overview.04.08.20
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 11:56:00 AM
Attachments: FNS overview.04.08.20.docx

Please see attache

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Overview of FNS COVID Funding

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: JoAnne_McClure@cortezmasto.senate.gov
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Emergency allotment - sen Cortez Masto
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:43:00 PM

JoAnne,

In reference to your inquiry:

1. **Can you clarify whether the emergency allotments for SNAP households have already been made for March in Nevada?**
   FNS approved Nevada's SNAP emergency allotments request on April 6. Per the state's plan, on April 26, 2020, Nevada will issue emergency allotments to all SNAP households for the months of March and April. Please see https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/NV-SNAP-COV-EmergencyAllotments-Incoming.pdf for more information.

2. **How much funding is the state of Nevada looking at receiving for these allotments?**
   Per the state's plan, 121,550 SNAP households in Nevada will receive a total of $23,807,837 in emergency allotments each month.

3. **Also will the state need to apply for May if the emergency declarations are still active within HHS and the state?**
   FNS is currently developing a process for States who may wish to extend EA beyond two months.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: McClure, JoAnne (Cortez Masto) <JoAnne_McClure@cortezmasto.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Badmington, Casey (Cortez Masto) <Casey_Badmington@cortezmasto.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19-- follow up questions

Hi Chris – hope this message finds you well, and thanks for the information – a couple of questions.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- Can you clarify whether the emergency allotments for SNAP households have already been made for March in Nevada?
- How much funding is the state of Nevada looking at receiving for these allotments?
- Also will the state need to apply for May if the emergency declarations are still active within HHS and the state?

Thanks for your help in this.

Best,

JoAnne McClure
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Cortez Masto

From: "Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Date: April 7, 2020 at 9:41:01 PM EDT
Cc: "Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving SNAP **Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to **the 46 States** previously approved.

March and April Approvals: Nebraska and Nevada

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

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From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Cc:	Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Families First Act Summary
Date:	Friday, March 13, 2020 9:37:00 PM
Attachments:	Summary.Coronavirus Families First Response Act.docx

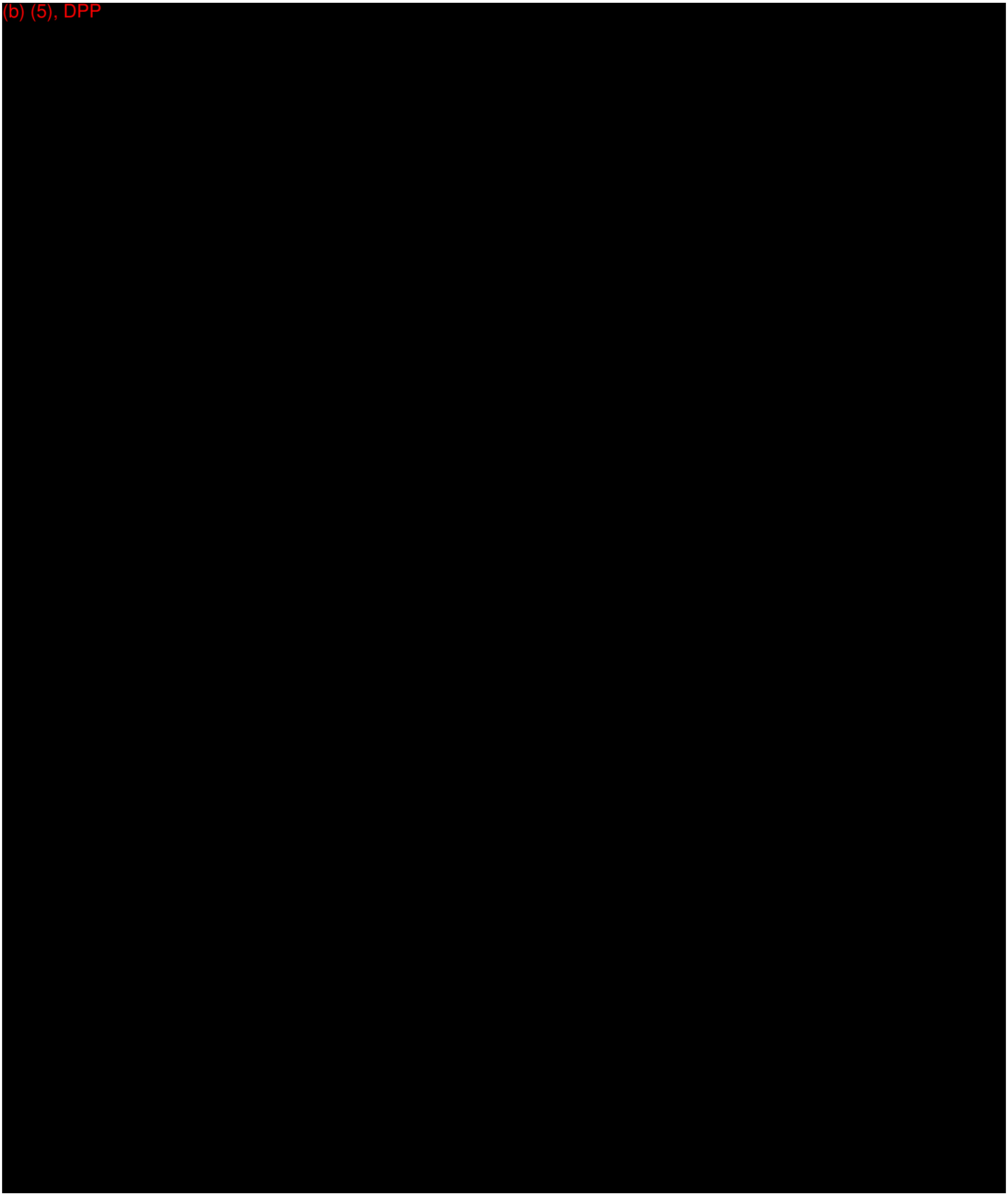
Hi All –

Attached is what I provided the Secretary tonight as a summary of the house bill. We may need to use this as a reference point as we are providing updates on the senate and final versions.

Thanks,
Brandon

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Families First Coronavirus Response Act



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Withheld info is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beach, Allie - FAS, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Colby, Michelle - OHS, Washington, DC; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beach, Allie - FAS, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FAQ Development Clarity
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:45:50 PM

To level set re the development of existing FAQs, to date FAQs have been brought into development via the MAC on **which all of your missions/interests are represented** and have had an active voice. This process began weeks ago.

Some FAQs are already public, some are held for 'as needed,' others may remain internal only.

From this point on FAQ development will transition to being managed in this policy group rather than the larger MAC.

- Reb

-----Original Appointment-----
From: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 10:36 AM
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC; Lillie Brady; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Campbell Shuford; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beach, Allie - FAS, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Colby, Michelle - OHS, Washington, DC; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beach, Allie - FAS, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Weeks,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Daily COVID-19 Policy Meeting
When: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 12:30 PM-1:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: 221A or call in info below

Please see the call in and room information above. There will be no forwarding function on these invites. If you believe someone is missing from this invite, please let Mary Dee or me know.

Room: 221A

(b) (6)
Participant Code: (b) (6)

USDA COVID-19 Policy Coordination Agenda
Tuesday, March 17, 2020
12:00 pm

(b) (5), DPP

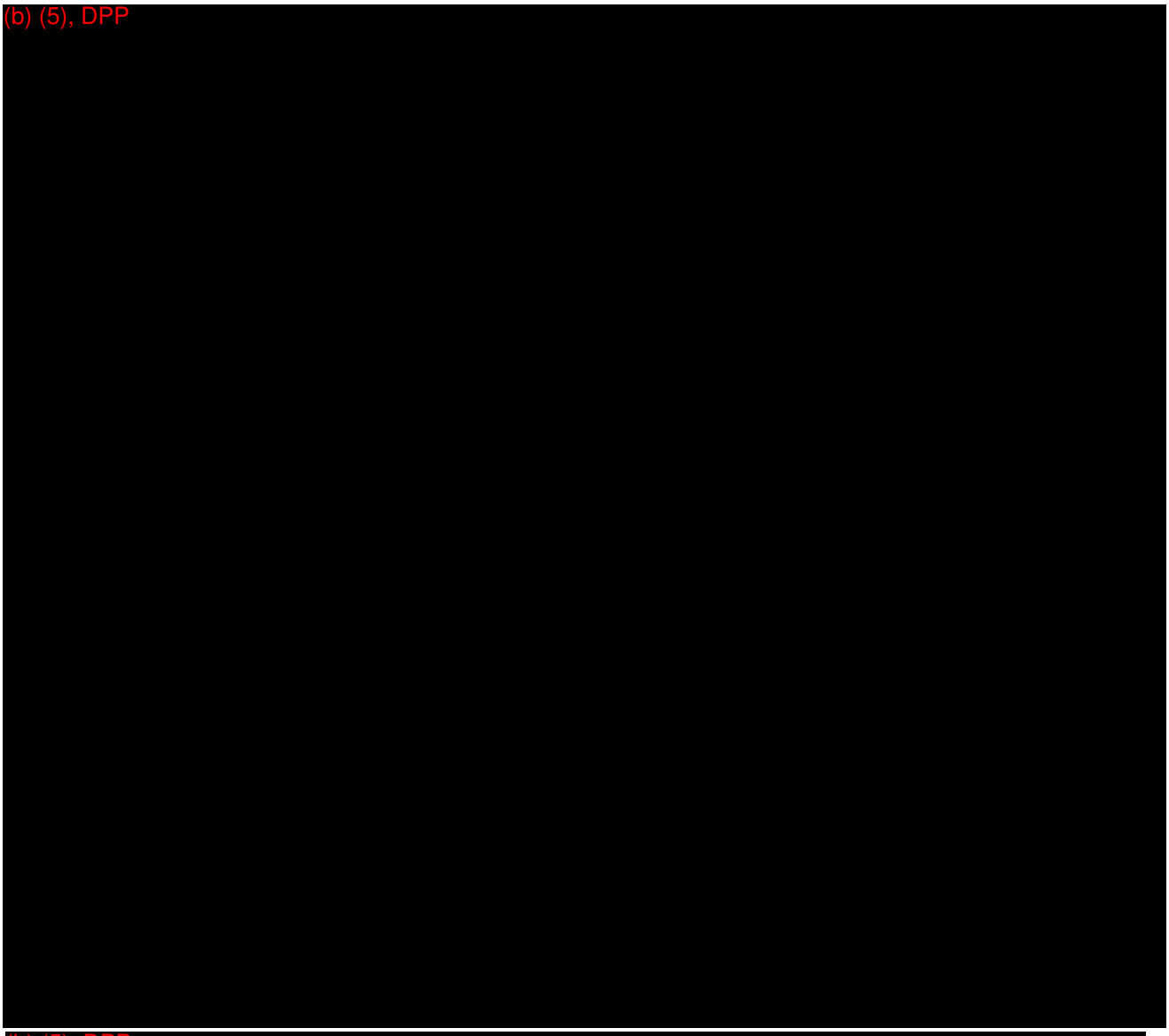
[redacted]

Potential Issues to be Addressed:

(b) (5), DPP

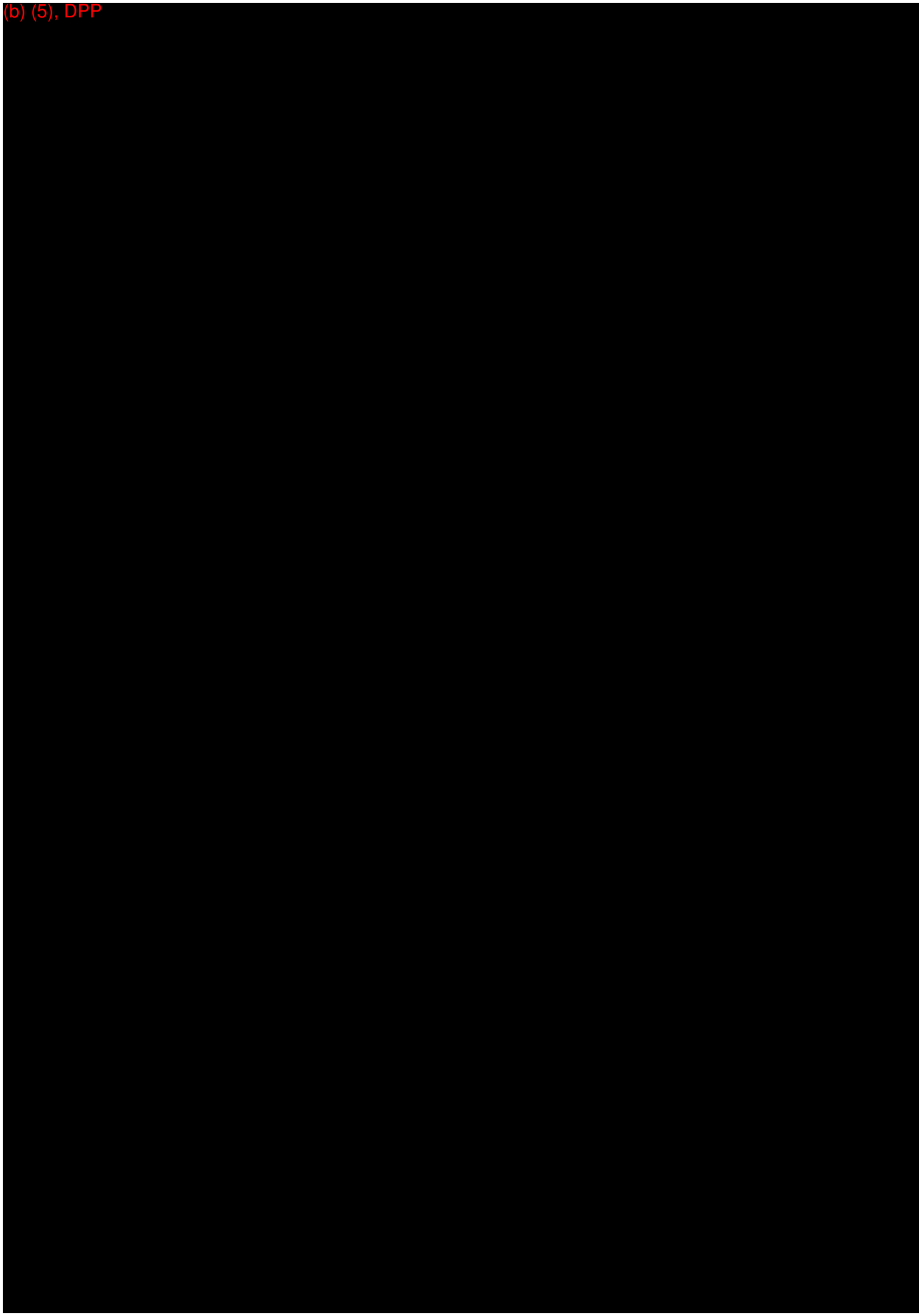
[redacted]

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_____

All:

Per the conversation most of you joined (or have been briefed on since) this morning, we are standing up a daily USDA COVID-19 policy meeting to keep track of new and moving policy pieces, similar to the parallel operational work flow.

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Please reach out with any questions. Otherwise, I'll talk with you tomorrow and many days to come.

MDB

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Florida State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 8:40:59 PM

Good evening,

This email is to inform you that today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the state of Florida to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the approval currently**.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act, summer meals program congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: cjones@mail.house.gov
Subject: Florida State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 8:43:00 PM

Good evening,

This email is to inform you that today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the state of Florida to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the approval currently**.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act, summer meals program congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FNCS 8633931 Schumer and Gillibrand AD vw edits.04.29.20
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 4:36:00 PM
Attachments: FNCS 8633931 Schumer and Gillibrand AD vw edits.04.29.20.docx

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

(b) (5), DPP



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Ken - OSEC Washington DC Barbic (Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov)
Subject: FNS overview updated
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 1:10:00 PM
Attachments: FNS overview.04.08.20.docx

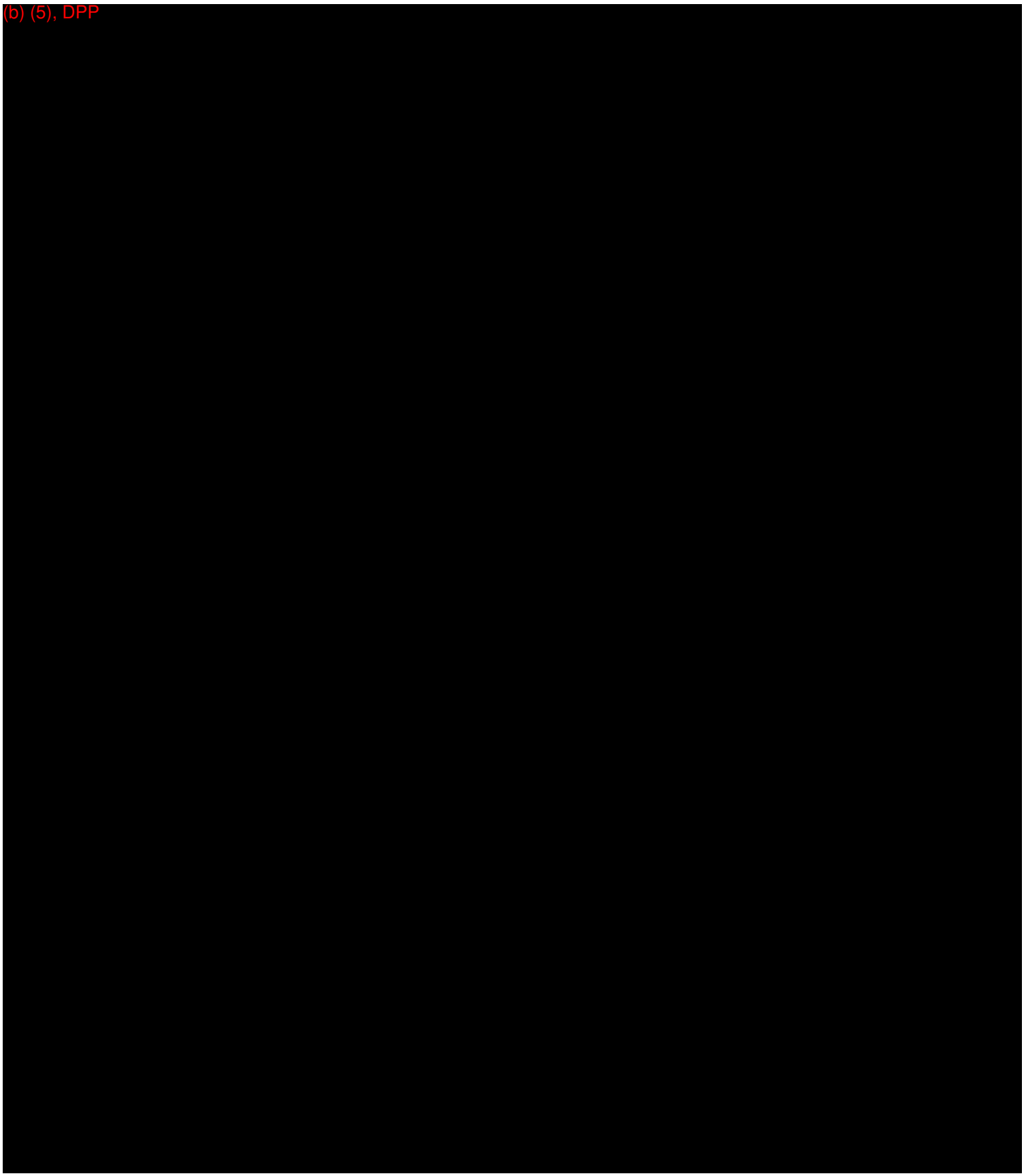
Updated.

To the question on SNAP funding – (b) (5), DPP [redacted].

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Overview of FNS COVID Funding

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Ken - OSEC Washington DC Barbic (Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov)
Subject: FNS overview.04.08.20
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 12:18:00 PM
Attachments: FNS overview.04.08.20.docx

Updated with a few more timing notes using track changes.

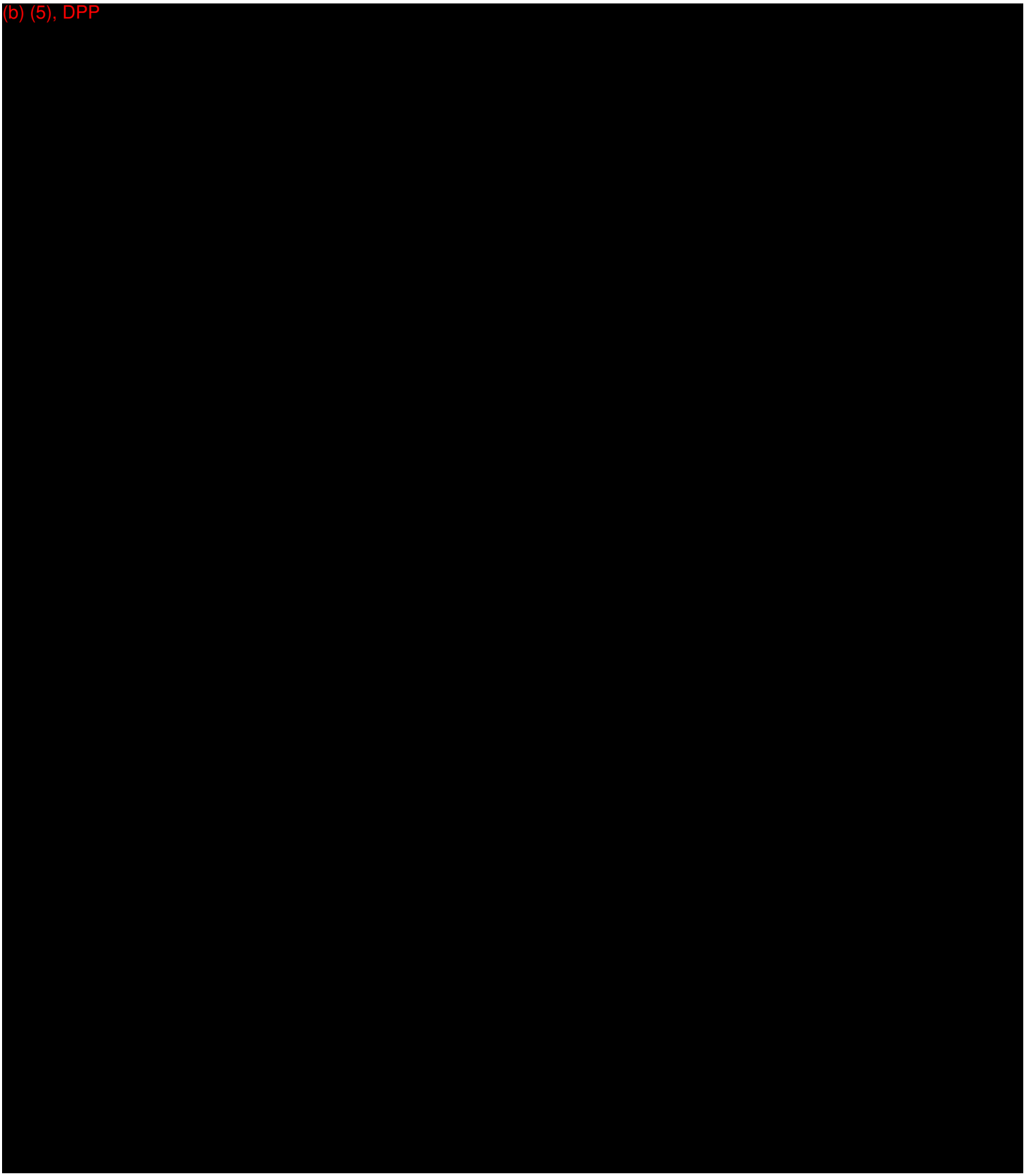
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Overview of FNS COVID Funding

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: For BBCE convo
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 9:33:41 AM
Attachments: 2020-05-01 Collins Manchin SNAP Letter to USDA FINAL[1].pdf
image001.png

We should (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Ken Barbic
Assistant Secretary – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As millions of Americans face increased food insecurity as a result of COVID-19, we write today to highlight the importance of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a vital safety net for families who are struggling to navigate these challenging times. We believe it would be an irresponsible step backwards for the Administration to proceed with any proposal to dramatically limit eligibility or decrease benefits during this pandemic or the economic recovery. We therefore urge USDA to immediately suspend all rulemaking for the "Revisions to Categorical Eligibility in SNAP" proposed rule, which was originally published on July 24, 2019.

SNAP is an important part of the coronavirus response, yet looming uncertainty regarding the status of this proposed rule threatens its effectiveness during this time of heightened need. As you said last week, "these are unprecedented times for American families who are facing joblessness and hunger." Feeding America estimates that up to an additional 17.1 million people could experience food insecurity under current conditions, a 46 percent increase from the 37 million prior to the pandemic. A public health or economic crisis is not the time for rulemaking that would without question result in more people experiencing food insecurity and hunger.

Even prior to the pandemic, USDA's Categorical Eligibility proposed rule was extremely concerning in that it threatened access to food assistance for 3.1 million individuals, including more than 44,000 in Maine and 25,000 in West Virginia. Now, however, in addition to making it more difficult for individuals to qualify for food assistance benefits, attempts to refine categorical eligibility requirements could notably affect populations at higher risk for severe illness associated with COVID-19, including seniors and individuals with underlying health conditions. This policy change could also have a significant effect on children's access to free or reduced price school breakfast and lunch, which are vital during times of uncertainty. Under this proposal, those losing access to SNAP would primarily be working families with children, seniors, and people with disabilities. The proposed rule, if implemented, would also greatly increase administrative burdens on states, which are already stretched thin signing up new participants, monitoring current participation, and implementing new program flexibilities related to COVID-19. States will likely continue to experience this heightened caseload for the foreseeable future.

Beyond those that would be directly impacted by the proposed rule change, entire communities suffer when rates of food insecurity and hunger rise. Food banks across the country are experiencing dramatic increases in demand for charitable food assistance as more families are

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

struggling—as a direct result of COVID-19—to put food on their tables. When additional strain is placed on the charitable food system, it imposes a tremendous burden on entire communities, including faith-based and hunger relief organizations that believe it is their obligation to serve their communities but face capacity limitations.

In recognition of the health and economic challenges related to COVID-19, we urge an immediate suspension of USDA's rulemaking. Moving forward with this flawed proposal would worsen the struggles that millions of low-income Americans are facing as a result of the deepening public health and economic crisis.

Thank you for your consideration and continued work to provide food assistance to children, families, and seniors.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: for COVID-19 RE: House Agriculture Hearing Brief #3
Date: Monday, March 2, 2020 6:00:06 PM
Attachments: MAC COVID 19 outline to SP.docx

Suggested briefing outline for SP tomorrow.

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Reb

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 8:51 AM
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Joby Young <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Agriculture Hearing Brief #3

I am off site for a presentation for first half of this briefing but will come in asap (eta 2:30) to brief on COVID-19.

Will have on-time materials for that since things change by the hour.

Rebeckah

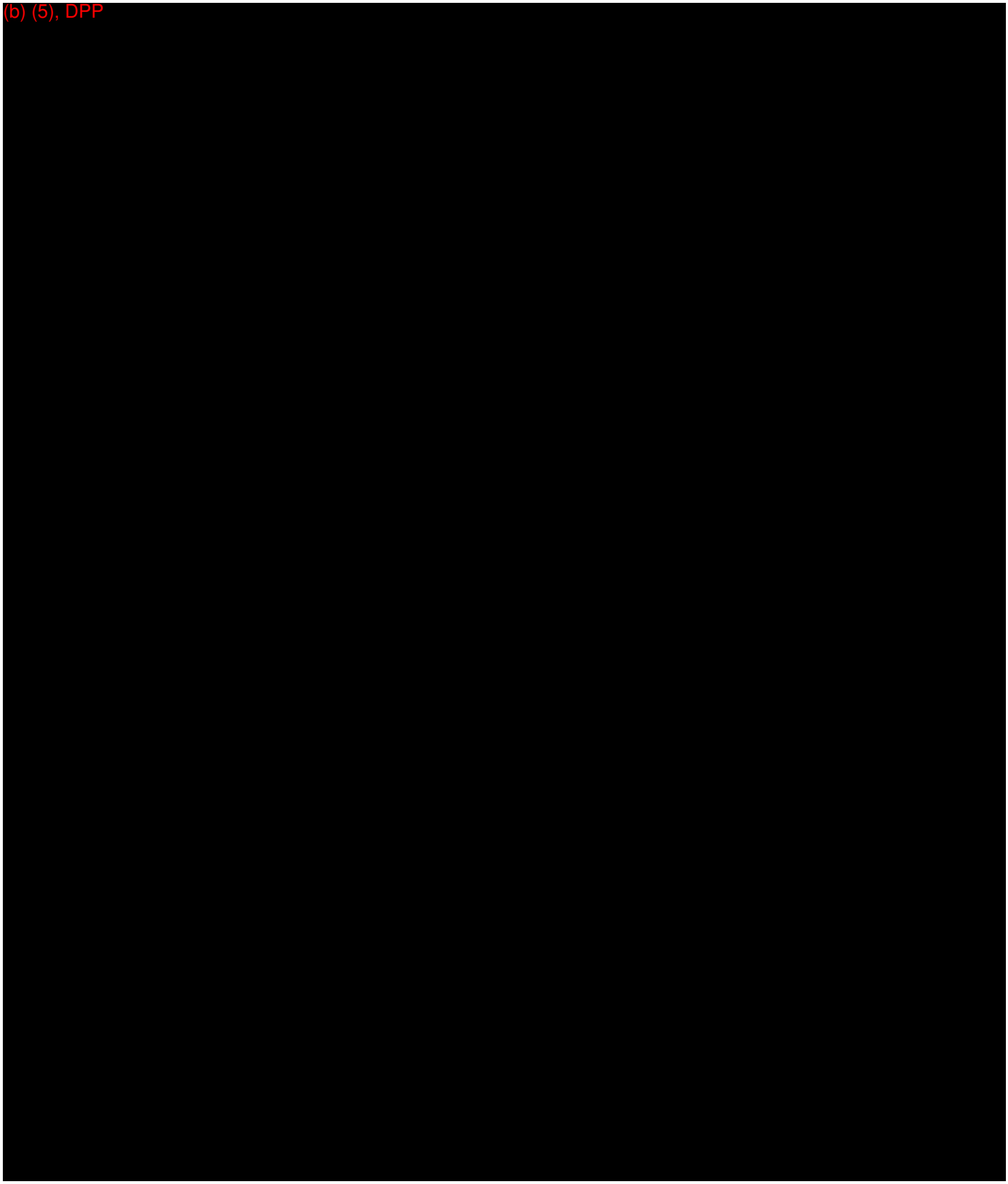
WIthheld info is Secretary Purdue alias email address.

-----Original Appointment-----
From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 5:46 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: House Agriculture Hearing Brief #3
When: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 1:45 PM-3:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: 200A Conference Room

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

MULTI AGENCY COORDINATION (MAC) – USDA COVID-19 RESPONSE
March 3, 2020

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld info is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Mission Area Contingency Plans
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020 10:37:00 PM
Attachments: USDA COVID19 planning 031220.docx

Sir:

Jessica & Reb shared the attached with us tonight regarding the MA continuity plans in case of an outbreak.

(b) (5), DPP My recommendation is (b) (5), DPP

Thanks,
Kailee

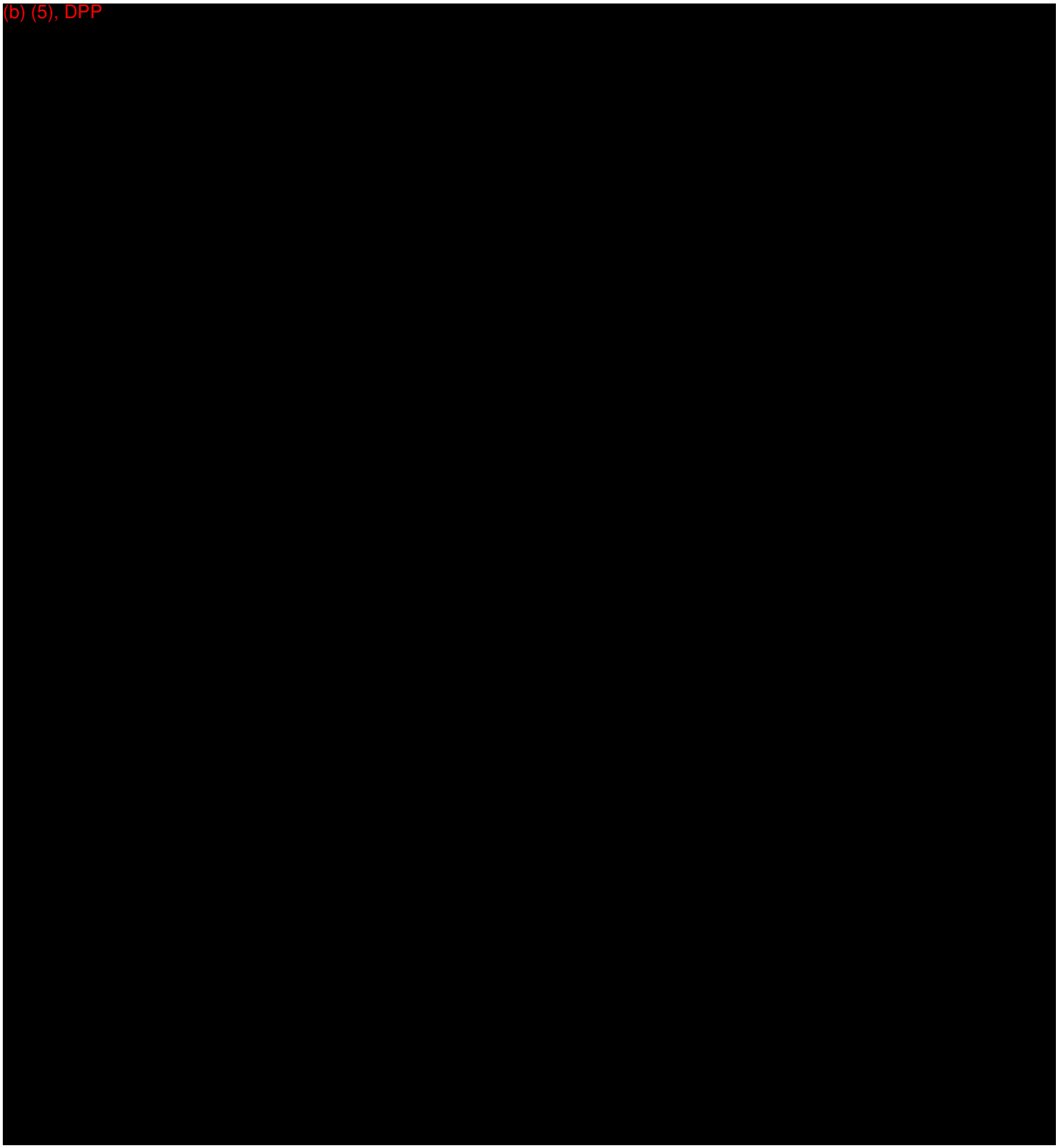
Kailee M. Tkacz

Chief of Staff to Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky
United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6)

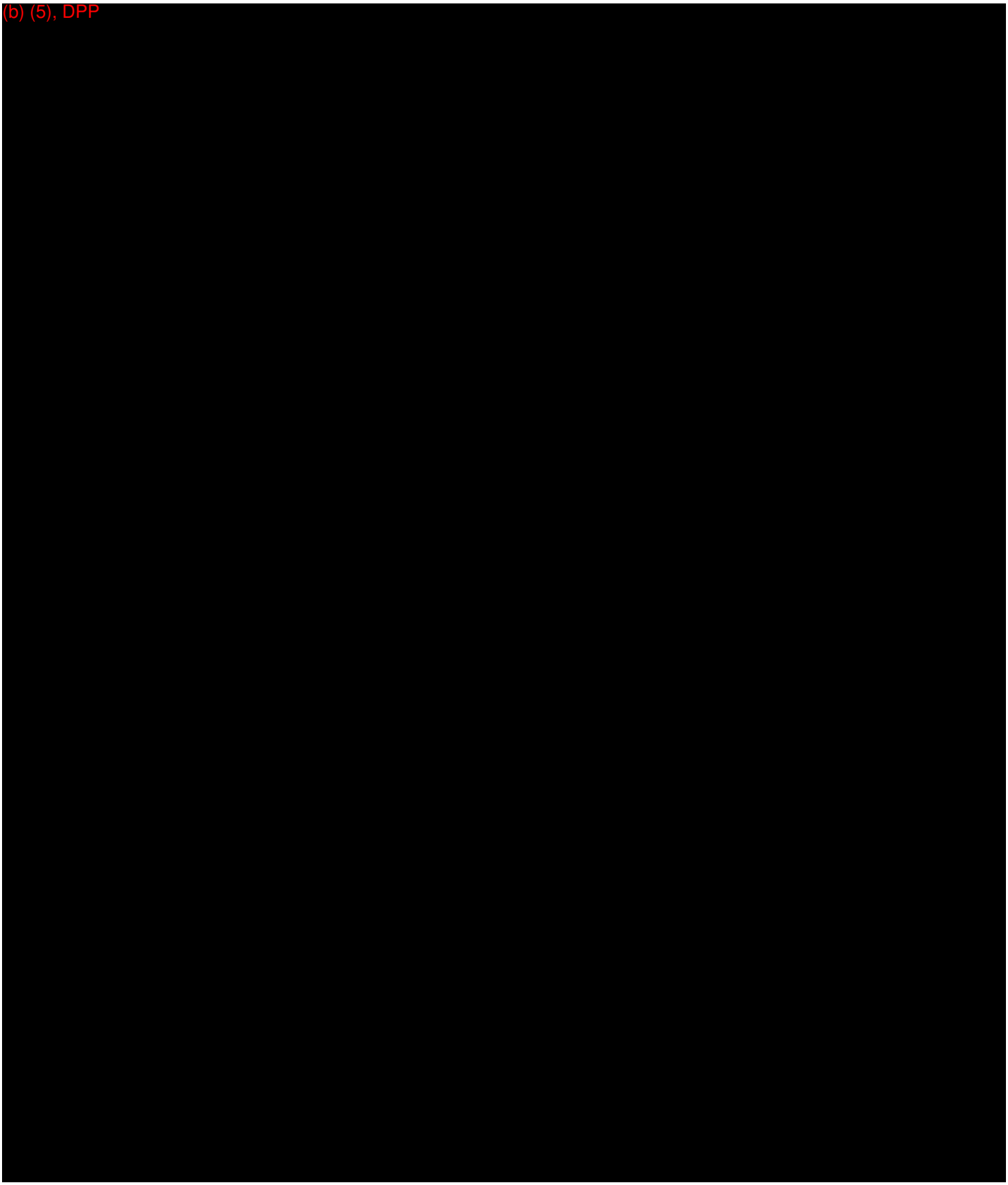
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

USDA Planning for Substantial Workforce Impacts due to COVID-19

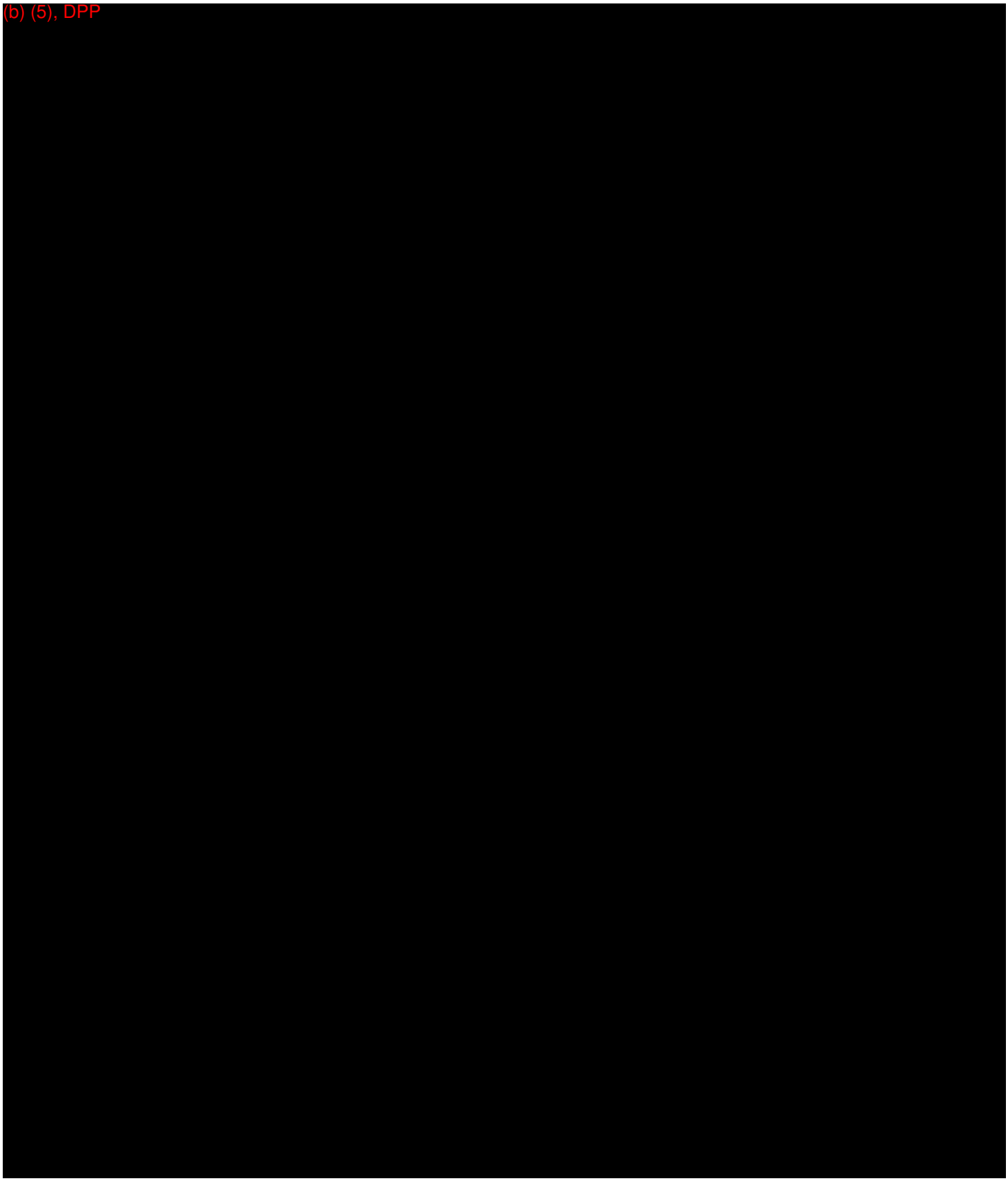
(b) (5), DPP



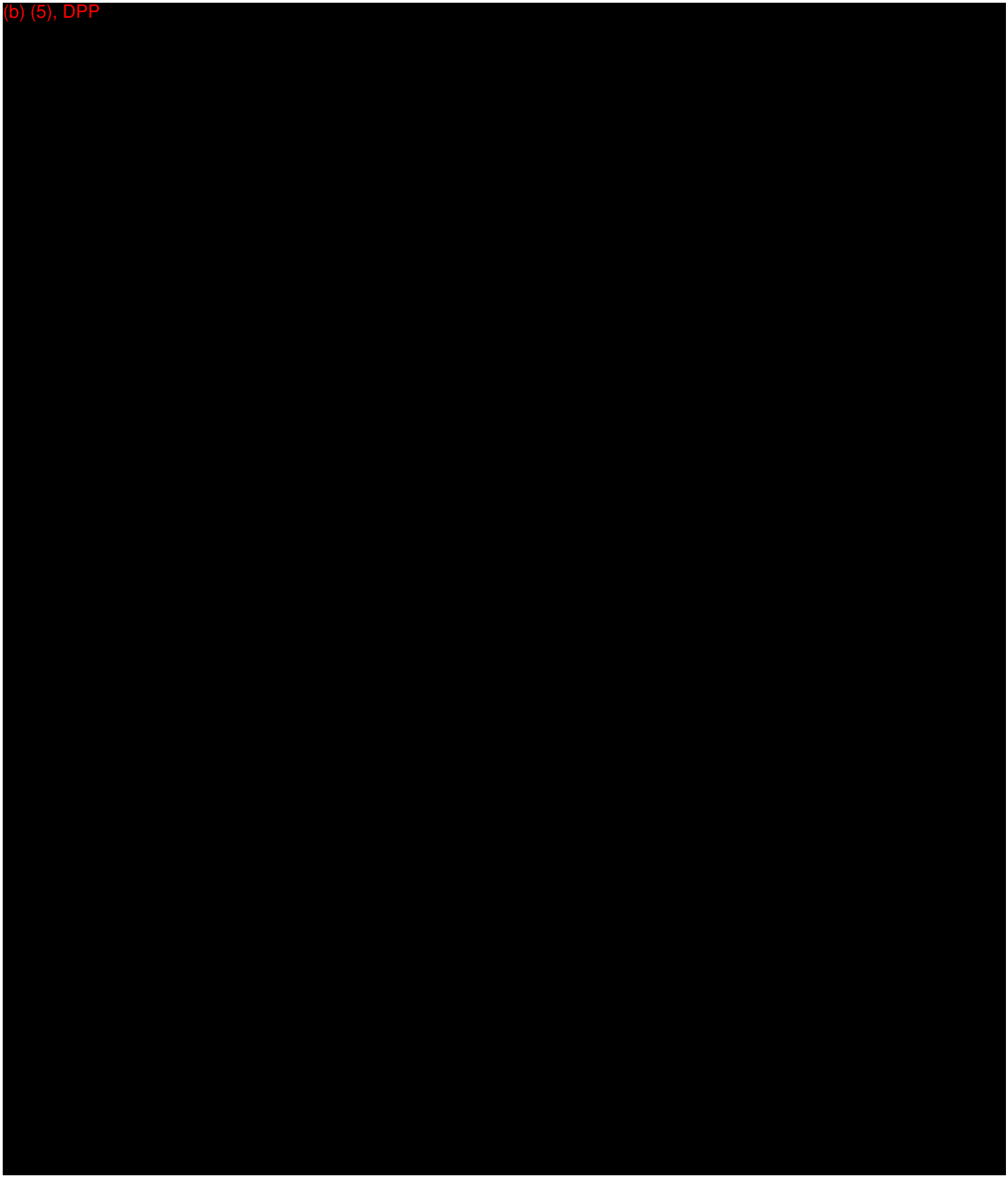
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld info is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Track changes OIG Letter
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 11:06:00 AM
Attachments: Pandemic-Related Management Challenges OGC Edits.docx

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Sir:

OGC tracked changes for OIG letter that's due tomorrow.

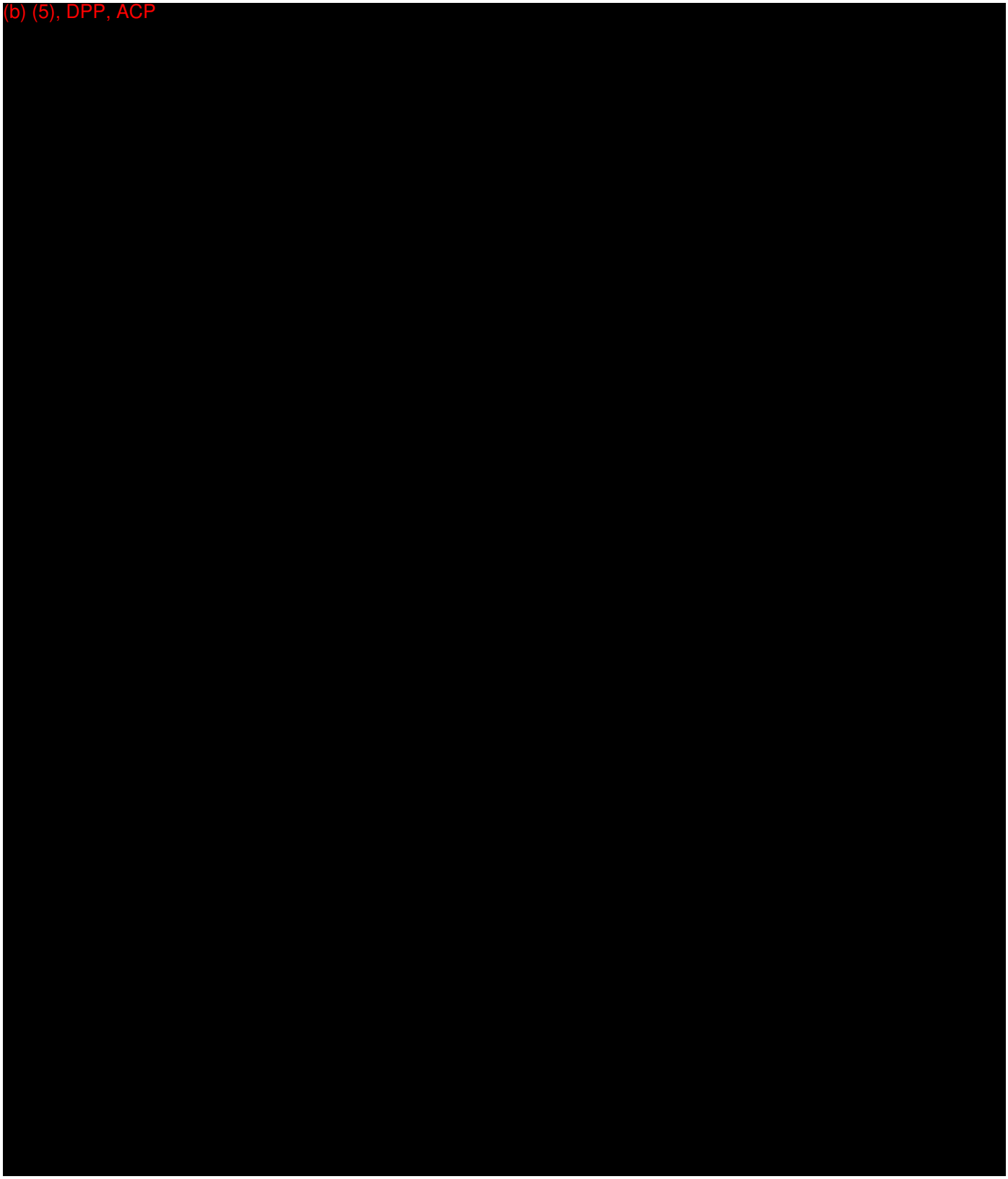
We will bring this up at EOD.

KMT

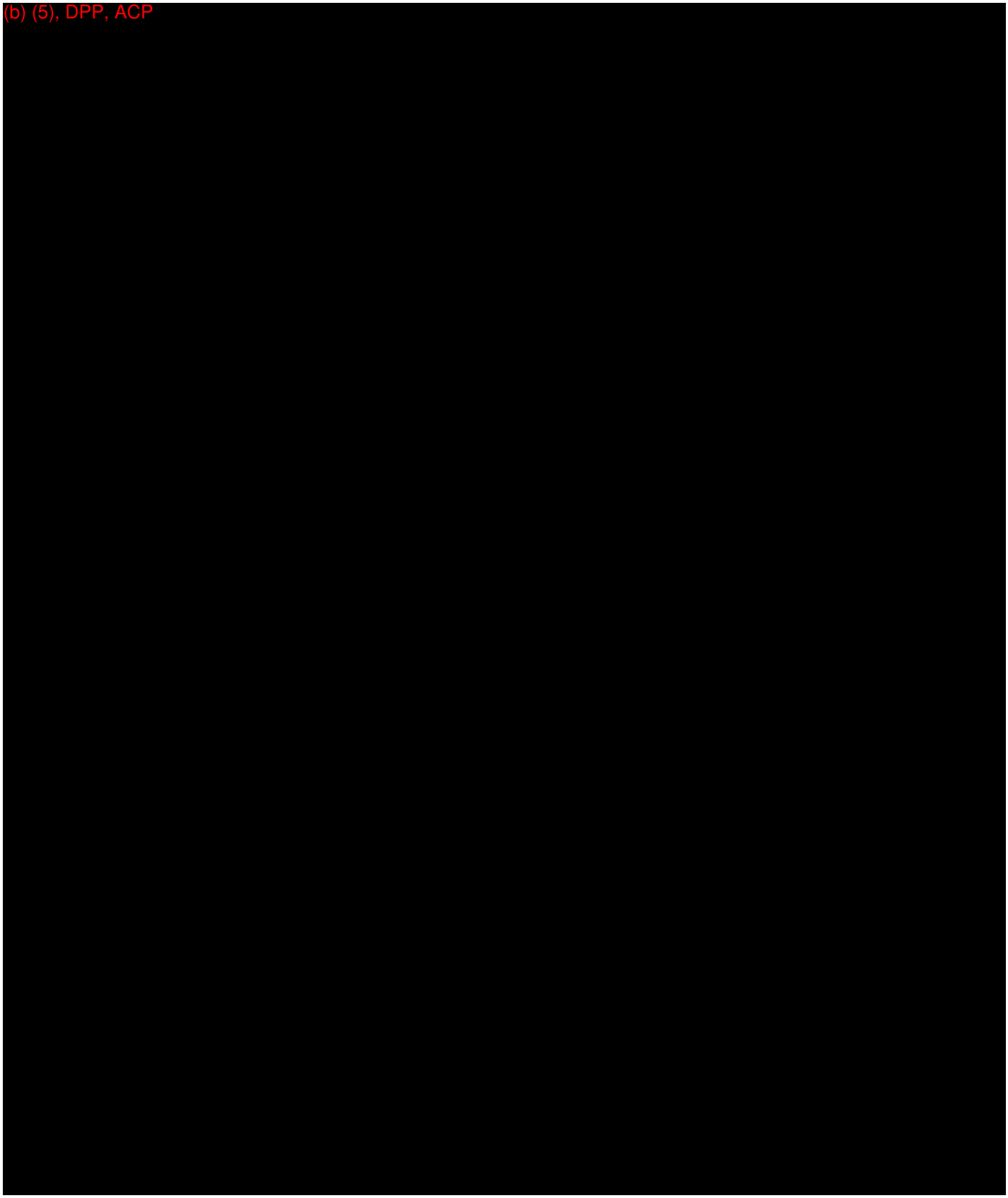
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USDA Top Management Challenges
Pandemic-Related Responsibilities

(b) (5), DPP, ACP



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DRAFT

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov)
Subject: friday committee topics
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 11:54:00 PM

Anne,

In advance of Friday's all at 11am with House/Senate Ag Committee staff, I've compiled a list of questions/topics the Committee has asked in writing. If I receive others between now and Friday I will let you know.

Veronica

SNAP

- (b) (5), DPP
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

Child Nutrition

- (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

TEFAP

- (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

Other

- (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
- [redacted]

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS
Cc:	Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot
Date:	Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:12:04 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.png image006.png 2020-04-01 Online SNAP during COVID 19 FINAL.pdf

---

From: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:10 PM
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lester, Susan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC

From: Shropshire, Saundrea <Saundrea.Shropshire@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:51 PM
To: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Cc: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Garrison, Eyang <Eyang.Garrison@mail.house.gov>
Subject: USDA Online SNAP Letter

To Whom it May Concern,

Please see the attached letter from Rep. McGovern and Rep. Fudge regarding USDA's implementation of online SNAP during the COIVID-19 Pandemic.

Saundrea "Drea" Rupert-Shropshire | Senior Legislative Assistant |She/Her
408 Cannon HOB| 202-225-6101



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to move forward with nationwide implementation of online purchasing through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as authorized under federal law. Since coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak began, a growing number of states are encouraging social distancing and issuing stay-at-home orders. As a result, SNAP participants across the country need expanded access to online grocery shopping.

Congress granted USDA the authority to expand online acceptance of SNAP benefits in the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills, which amended section 7(k) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. Under this statute, USDA was authorized to approve retail food stores to accept benefits online nationwide, after testing its feasibility through an online SNAP pilot in a few states. To date, USDA is successfully carrying out online projects in five states – Alabama, New York, Washington, Oregon, Alabama and Iowa – and through four online retailers –Wright's Market, Inc., ShopRite, Amazon and Walmart. Over 5 million people in participating states now have access to online SNAP purchasing and delivery of their groceries.[1]

We understand that USDA is already working with states and electronic benefit transfer (EBT) processors to ensure the safe and secure processing of online transactions in accordance with federal law. One-third of SNAP households are comprised of the elderly or disabled, both of whom are reportedly more vulnerable to the effects of the disease. For these reasons, we encourage USDA to use its existing authority to push forward with nationwide implementation of online SNAP.

To better understand USDA's plans for nationwide expansion, we request responses to the following:

1. An explanation of what actions USDA is taking or plans to take towards nationwide implementation of online SNAP purchasing, specifying current steps being taken to expand the program;

2. A list of states agencies that have expressed interest and/or readiness to launch online SNAP purchasing, specifying states that have expressed interest during the COVID-19 pandemic;

[1] USDA Food and Nutrition Service. February 2020. *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Number of Persons Participating*. https://fns-prod.azureedge net/sites/default/files/resource-files/29SNAPcurrPP-2.pdf

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

3. Provide an explanation of how USDA works with interested state agencies and retailers to prepare them for the successful launch of online SNAP purchasing;

4. Provide an explanation of how USDA determines whether a state agency is ready to launch online SNAP purchasing and list any requirements states must meet prior to implementation;

5. Provide guidance issued by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to regional offices and state agencies regarding online SNAP purchasing; and

6. Information on the readiness of approved online retailers particularly Amazon and Walmart and EBT processors to expand beyond the current pilot states.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter. We look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov); kiev randall; karla whalen
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: #4 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 4 Approval
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:40:00 PM
Attachments: GA-SNAP-COV-032-Approval.pdf
MT-SNAP-COV-025-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
RI - SNAP -COV033 -ExtendCert.pdf
IN-SNAP-COV-037-Approval.pdf
FL-SNAP-COV-025-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
KS-SNAP-COV-026-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval (1).pdf
CA-SNAP-COV-036-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
MI-SNAP-COV-027-Approval.pdf
TX-SNAP-COV-034-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
SD - SNAP - COV-031 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf
NY - SNAP -COV030 -ExtendCert.pdf
MN - SNAP - COV-035 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf

Anthony, Kiev, and Karla,

I'm happy to notify on these state waiver approvals. Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:23 PM
To: Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; Noble, John (David) - FNS <john.noble@usda.gov>; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS <eliot.delacruz.kriviski@usda.gov>; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS <Melanie.Meisenheimer@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Jacqueline - FNS <Jacqueline.O'Connor@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #4 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 4 Approval

SNAP, the fourth batch of (12) are approved to be sent to states.

Veronica, the draft notification is below and attached are the final approval letters.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

1. CA
2. FL
3. GA
4. IN
5. KS
6. MI
7. MN
8. MT

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

9. NY
10. RI
11. SD
12. TX

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:03 PM
To: Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; Noble, John (David) - FNS <john.noble@usda.gov>; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS <eliot.delacruz.kriviski@usda.gov>; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS <Melanie.Meisenheimer@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Jacqueline - FNS <Jacqueline.O'Connor@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #3 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 3 Approval

This is all 21 waivers including the 2 that came in after 6 PM tonight. Amazing work folks! Let's get these last ones out and go home!!!

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SNAP, the third batch of (7) are approved to be sent to states.

Veronica, the draft notification is below and attached are the final approval letters.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

1. CT
2. DE
3. LA
4. NM
5. OH
6. OR
7. VA

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 23, 2020

Tikki Brown
Director, Economic Opportunity and Nutrition Assistance
Economic Assistance and Employment Support Division
Department of Human Services
444 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: SNAP - Minnesota Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Brown.:

This letter transmits approval of the Minnesota Department of Human Services adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-035) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-035

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Minnesota

5. **Region:** Midwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 23, 2020

Alex J. Mayer
SNAP Program Administrator
Division of Economic Assistance
Department of Social Services
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

RE: SNAP – South Dakota Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Mayer:

This letter transmits approval of the South Dakota Department of Social Services adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-031) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 2020-03-23
USDA-20-1045-A-000328

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-031

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** South Dakota

5. **Region:** Mountain Plains

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

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15. Date of National Office action: March 23, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 23, 2020

Barbara C. Guinn
Executive Deputy Commissioner
Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
40 North Pearl Street, 3rd Floor
Albany, New York 1224-0001

RE: SNAP – New York Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Guinn:

This letter transmits approval of the New York Temporary and Disability Assistance (TDA) adjustment request (Adjustment#COV-030) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-030

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** New York

5. **Region:** NERO

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

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8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 23, 2020

Wayne Salter
Deputy Executive Commissioner
Access and Eligibility Services
Health and Human Services Commission
P.O. Box 13247
Austin, Texas 78711-3247

RE: SNAP – Texas Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Salter:

This letter transmits approval of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-034) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

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Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-034

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Texas

5. **Region:** Southwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

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Food and Nutrition Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

March 23, 2020

Dawn M. Sweeney
Administrator
Economic Stability Administration
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
333 South Grand Ave
P.O. Box 30195
Lansing, Michigan 48909

RE: SNAP – Michigan Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Sweeney:

This letter transmits approval of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-027) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer and Lender

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-027

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Michigan

5. **Region:** Midwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 23, 2020

Alexis Fernández
Chief
Calfresh and Nutrition Branch
Department of Social Services
744 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SNAP – California Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Fernández:

This letter transmits approval of the California Department of Social Services (DSS) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-036) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-036

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** California

5. **Region:** Western

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Laura Howard
Secretary
Kansas Department for Children and Families
555 South Kansas Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66603

RE: SNAP – Kansas Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Secretary Howard:

This letter transmits approval of the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-026) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

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Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-026

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Kansas

5. **Region:** Mountain Plains

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 23, 2020

Taylor N. Hatch
Assistant Secretary
Economic Self Sufficiency
Department of Children and Families
1317 Winewood Boulevard
Building 1, Room 202
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

RE: SNAP – Florida Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Hatch:

This letter transmits approval of the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-025) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-025

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Florida

5. **Region:** Southeast

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Food and Nutrition Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

March 23, 2020

Adrienne Shields
Director
Division of Family Resources
Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
402 West Washington Street, Room W392
Indianapolis, Indiana 42604-2747

RE: SNAP – Indiana Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Shields:

This letter transmits approval of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-037) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Director
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-037

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Indiana

5. **Region:** Midwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 45 of 351

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

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March 23, 2020

Courtney Hawkins
Director
Department of Human Services
25 Howard Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

RE: SNAP – Rhode Island Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

This letter transmits approval of the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-033) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-033

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Rhode Island

5. **Region:** NERO

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

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8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 23, 2020

Justine Welker
Interim SNAP Program Manager
Department of Public Health and Human Services
Department of Children and Families
P. O. Box 4210
Helena, Montana 59620

RE: SNAP – Montana Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Hatch:

This letter transmits approval of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-028) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-028

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Montana

5. **Region:** Mountain Plains

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

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Food and Nutrition Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

March 23, 2020

Kimberlin Donald
SNAP Director
Georgia Department of Human Services
2 Peachtree Street, North West
19th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: SNAP – Georgia Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Donald:

This letter transmits approval of the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-032) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-032

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Georgia

5. **Region:** Southeast

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response A6 000360

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	kiev randall; karla whalen; Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov)
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	FW: #9 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 9 Approval
Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:00:00 AM
Attachments:	NH - SNAP - COV-029 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf OK - SNAP - COV-045 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf MS - SNAP - COV-046 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf

Chris and I can send this hill notice. Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; Noble, John (David) - FNS <john.noble@usda.gov>; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS <eliot.delacruz.kriviski@usda.gov>; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS <Melanie.Meisenheimer@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Jacqueline - FNS <Jacqueline.O'Connor@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #9 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 9 Approval

SNAP, the ninth batch of (5) are approved to be sent to states.

Veronica, the draft notification is below and attached are the final approval letters.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

1. MS
2. OK
3. NH

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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[redacted] (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:03 PM
To: Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; Noble, John (David) - FNS <john.noble@usda.gov>; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS <eliot.delacruz.kriviski@usda.gov>; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS <Melanie.Meisenheimer@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Jacqueline - FNS <Jacqueline.O'Connor@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #3 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 3 Approval

This is all 21 waivers including the 2 that came in after 6 PM tonight. Amazing work folks! Let's get these last ones out and go home!!!

SNAP, the third batch of (7) are approved to be sent to states.

Veronica, the draft notification is below and attached are the final approval letters.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

1. CT

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2. DE
3. LA
4. NM
5. OH
6. OR
7. VA

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted].

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 26, 2020

Patrick Klein
Director
Adult and Family Services
Oklahoma Department of Human Services
Sequoyah Memorial Office Building
2400 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

RE: SNAP – Oklahoma Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Klein:

This letter transmits approval of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-045) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-045

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Oklahoma

5. **Region:** Southwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 26, 2020

Jacob Black
Deputy Executive Director for Operations
Mississippi Department of Human Services
200 South Lamar Street
Jackson, MS 39205

RE: SNAP – Mississippi Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Black:

This letter transmits approval of the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-046) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-046

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Mississippi

5. **Region:** Southeast

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 26, 2020

Debra E. Sorli
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Family Assistance
Department of Health and Human Services
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-3857

RE: SNAP – New Hampshire Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Sorli:

This letter transmits approval of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-029) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-029

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** New Hampshire

5. **Region:** Northeast

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	karla whalen; kiev randall; Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov)
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	FW: #15 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 4 States; Extended Recerts for NC; Telephonic Signature for AZ
Date:	Monday, March 30, 2020 3:31:00 PM

Anthony, Karla and Kiev,

Can one of you all send the hill notifications on this? Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: #15 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 4 States; Extended Recerts for NC; Telephonic Signature for AZ

SNAP, the fifteenth batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 4 emergency Allotments, Extended Recerts/Periodic Reports for NC, and Telephonic Signature for AZ.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: kiev randall; karla whalen; Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov)
Subject: FW: #17 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 8 States
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:10:00 PM

Can you all notify on this?

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 3:53 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #17 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 8 States

SNAP, the seventeenth batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 8 emergency Allotments.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Cc: Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov)
Subject: FW: #37 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for MN
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 3:09:00 PM

All,

I am going to notify the hill on this emergency allotment for MN and I will add the notice for South Dakota. I found the South Dakota emergency allotment hill notification stuck in my email outbox from last week, so it never went to the hill. So, I'll put these two together and send momentarily.

Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #37 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for MN

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 1 Emergency Allotment approval.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	FW: American Farm Bureau Federation Letter
Date:	Friday, April 3, 2020 11:33:13 PM
Attachments:	CARES Letter-Final.pdf AFBF-House.pdf AFBF Recommendations.docx.pdf USDA COVID Ltr March 17 2020.pdf image001.png

Attachments included previously in record set at pages 203-215

Did you get this too? (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Lauren Sullivan <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 at 4:13 PM
To: Lillie Brady <lillie.brady@usda.gov>, Blake Rollins <blake.rollins@usda.gov>, Joby Young <joby.young@usda.gov>, "Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Cc: "Lindsey, Adrian - OES, Washington, DC" <adrian.lindsey@usda.gov>, "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>, Hailey Ghee <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: American Farm Bureau Federation Letter

Passing this on.

From: Valeria Zavala <valeriaz@fb.org>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: American Farm Bureau Federation Letter

Hi Lauren and Campbell,

Hope you are doing fine and staying safe! Attached please find letter from AFBF to Secretary Perdue and 3 attachments.

Regards,

Valeria Zavala
Director, Office Operations
American Farm Bureau Federation®
600 Maryland Ave S.W., Suite 1000W
Washington, D.C. 20024
Office: (202) 406-3680
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
valeriaz@fb.org

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject: FW: CongQ C19 Sen Cortez Masto RE: SNAP Emergency allotment
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:33:00 PM

Sorry, forgot to copy you both. Thanks.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:23 PM
To: FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov) <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: CongQ C19 Sen Cortez Masto RE: SNAP Emergency allotment

Fyi – For question #2 below, the Nevada document online does not include the emergency allotment amount. So, I could not refer her to the website.

From: McClure, JoAnne (Cortez Masto) <JoAnne_McClure@cortezmasto.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Badmington, Casey (Cortez Masto) <Casey_Badmington@cortezmasto.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19-- follow up questions

Hi Chris – hope this message finds you well, and thanks for the information – a couple of questions.

- Can you clarify whether the emergency allotments for SNAP households have already been made for March in Nevada?
- How much funding is the state of Nevada looking at receiving for these allotments?
- Also will the state need to apply for May if the emergency declarations are still active within HHS and the state?

Thanks for your help in this.

Best,

JoAnne McClure
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Cortez Masto

> **From:** "Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
> **Date:** April 7, 2020 at 9:41:01 PM EDT
> **Cc:** "Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
> **Subject: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving SNAP **Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to **the 46 States** previously approved.

March and April Approvals: Nebraska and Nevada

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) on this page is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020 5:21:00 PM

From: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 5:21 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC <Mindy.Brashears@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities

Thanks, Brandon.

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) [redacted]
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:47 PM
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC <Mindy.Brashears@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Importance: High

Mr. Deputy Secretary –

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

Regards,
Brandon

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Importance: High

See below

From: Lowell Randel <lrandel@gcca.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Importance: High

Pam,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I hope you are doing well during these crazy times. I wanted to reach out and let you know of a concern that some of our members are raising about operations during the coronavirus outbreak. As counties and states start to "lockdown" or close operations, we feel that it is critical our members have the ability to keep operating. I know that at least the House relief package addresses food security and emergency SNAP and other feeding programs. If our member facilities are forced to stop operations, they will not be able to deliver food to support these programs. As you know, many of our members handle food that supports USDA food programs, so I thought I would raise the issue with you to get your thoughts.

I know this is a very crazy time, but I'd really appreciate your insights on what our industry can do to make sure our members can keep operating and supporting the food supply chain.

Thanks!

Lowell

Cell (b) (6) [redacted]

LOWELL RANDEL
VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL AFFAIRS
GLOBAL COLD CHAIN ALLIANCE
phone +1 703 373 4300 ext. 220
lrandel@gcca.org

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Bennett, Elizabeth T. EOP/WHO
Subject: FW: Democrat Phase 4 legislation Ag provisions summary
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:14:02 PM
Attachments: HEROES.Act.USDA.Summary 5.12.20 v2[1].docx
image001.png

Attachment previously included at pages 268-274

FYI-please don't forward this, but pull as you'd like and give me a call if you'd like to discuss further!

From: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:12 PM
To: "(b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC" <(b) (6)usda.gov>
Cc: "(b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC" <(b) (6)usda.gov>, Joby Young <joby.young@usda.gov>, Blake Rollins <blake.rollins@usda.gov>, Kristi Boswell <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>, Dudley Hoskins <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>, Campbell Shuford <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>, "Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC" <evan.lee@usda.gov>, Veronica Wong <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>, Michawn Rich <michawn.rich@usda.gov>, Meghan Rodgers <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>, Robert Johansson <robert.johansson@usda.gov>, Kailee Tkacz <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: Democrat Phase 4 legislation Ag provisions summary

WIthheld (b)(6) info is Purdue and Censky alias email addresses

Sir,

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Ken

Pre-decisional/deliberative/draft

Ken Barbic
Assistant Secretary – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Details on COVID
Date: Monday, March 16, 2020 10:35:00 AM
Attachments: Congressional Legislation on COVID 19.docx

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 10:24 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Details on COVID

You might find this useful too. It is a plan language description of the House-passed bill.

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 10:06 AM
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Details on COVID

Attached is a (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

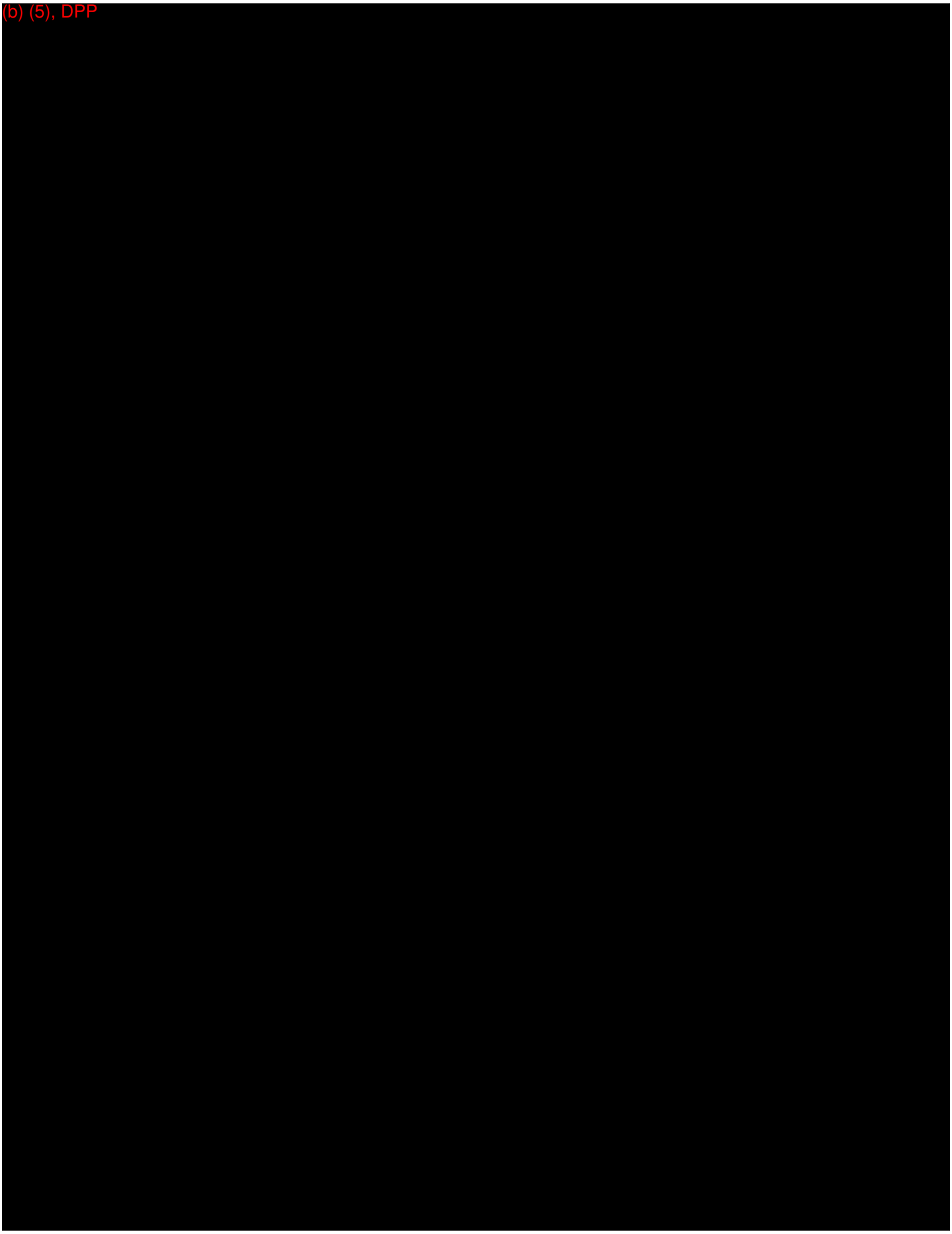
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congressional Legislation on COVID 19

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Campbell Shuford (campbell.shuford@usda.gov)
Subject: FW: Docs for Tomorrow"s WH Event
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 9:56:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png
SP Podium Remarks COVID 3.27.20.docx
WH Press Conference Event Brief-3.27.20..docx
SP Additional Talking Points.docx

Was planning to (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Also, any thoughts on (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Could be:

- (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 5:20 PM
To: Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Taylor.Crowe@usda.gov>; Campbell Shuford (campbell.shuford@usda.gov) <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lillie Brady <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Docs for Tomorrow's WH Event

Docs Attached:

1. Event Brief
2. Remarks for Event
3. Talking Points for Q/A

Taylor, can you print for SP?

Thanks,
Blake

usda logo

Blake Rollins
Deputy Chief of Staff

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 897-6275 (cell)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

SP Additional Talking Points – POTUS/VP Press Conference

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE

BRIEFING DOCUMENT

White House Press Conference
Friday, March 27, 2020
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20500

(b) (5), DPP

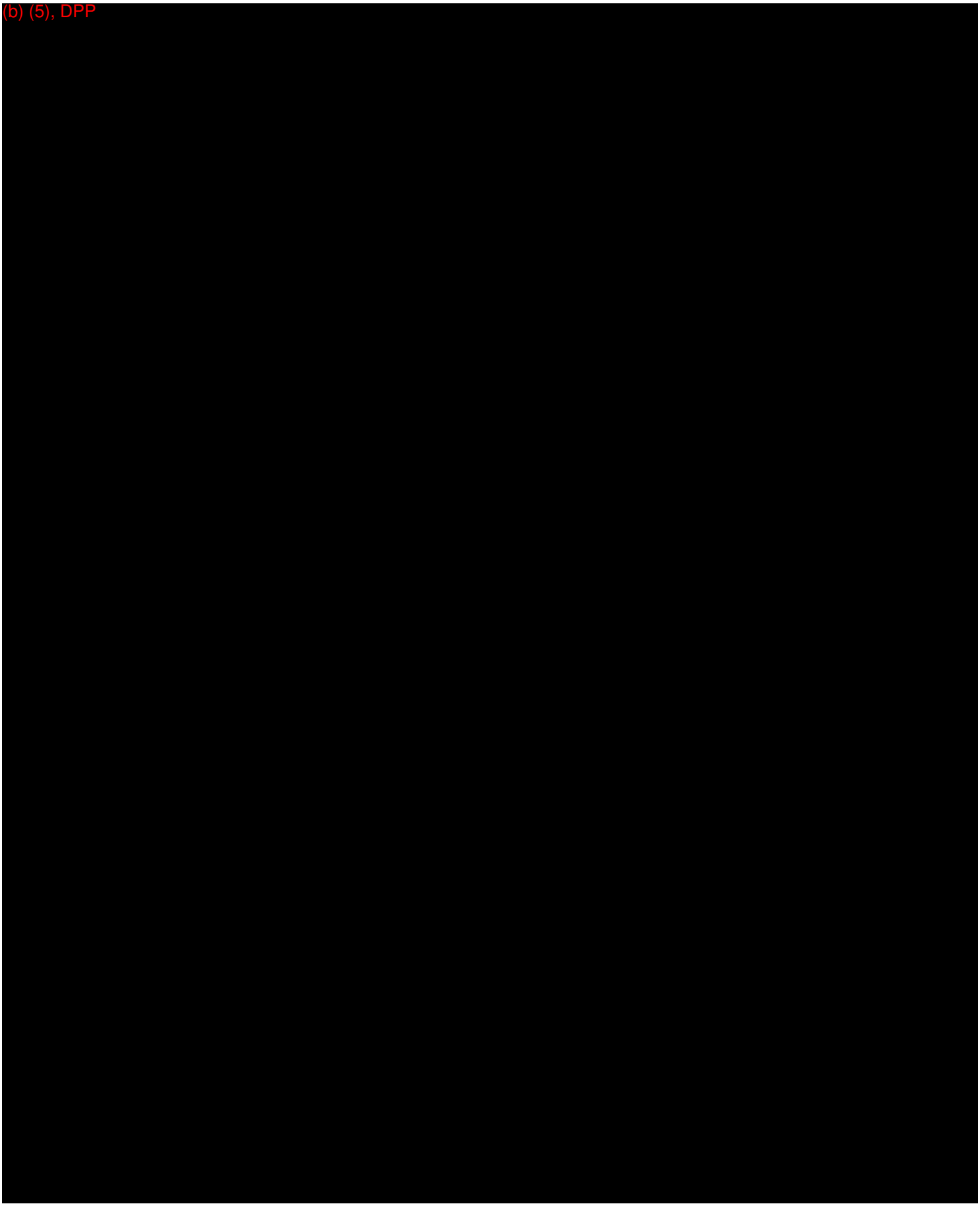
[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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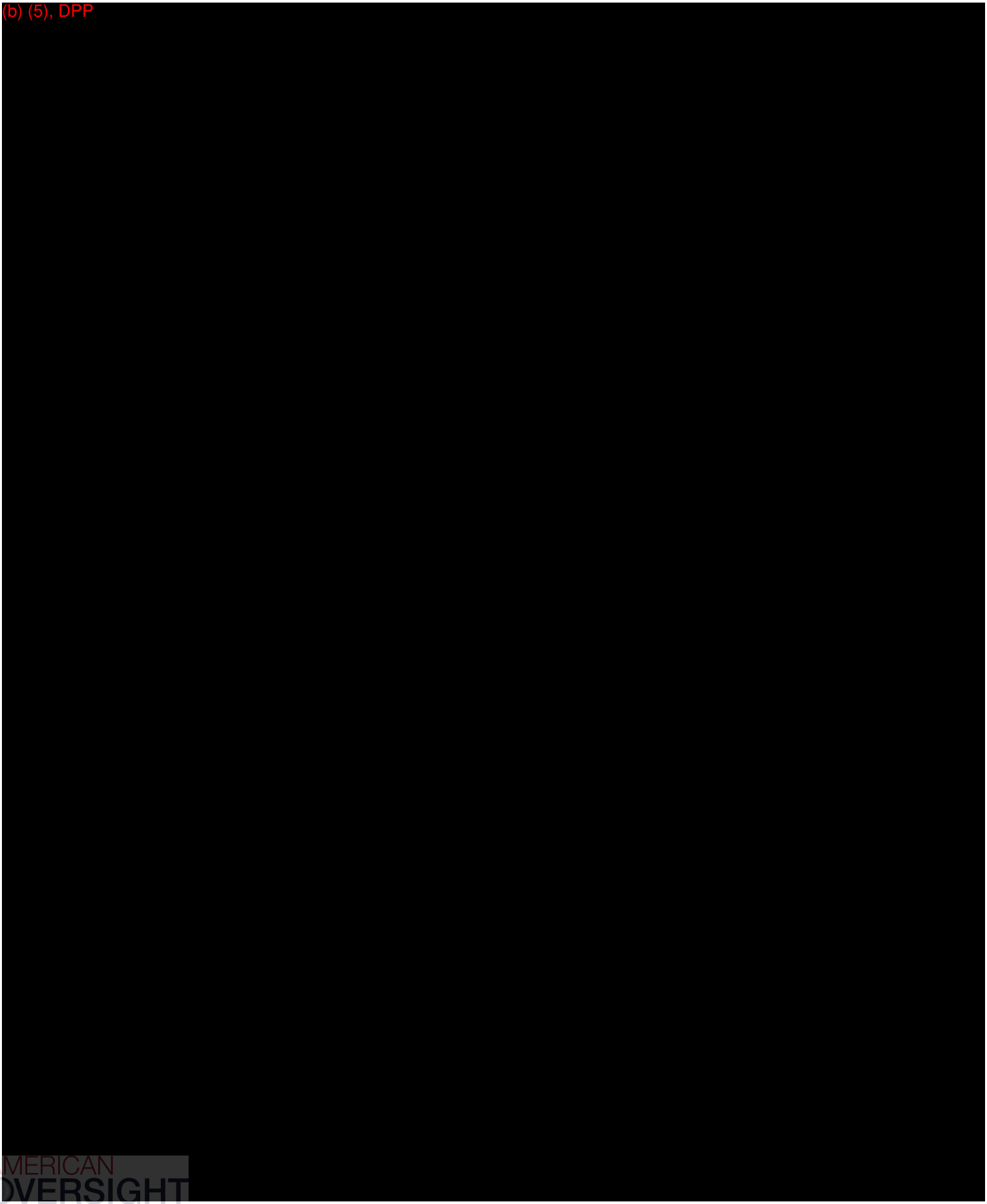
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Coronavirus Press Conference with the President and Vice President
Friday, March 27th - 5:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP



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(b) (5), DPP



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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS
Subject: FW: DRAFT EMAIL FOR SP: CEP, Funding, DGAC
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 12:07:00 PM

I think he (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Mr. Secretary:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Regards,
Brandon

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 11:51 AM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: DRAFT EMAIL FOR SP: CEP, Funding, DGAC

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 11:29 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: DRAFT FOR SP: CEP

Brandon and Anne,
Here is a draft email – (b) (5), DPP
[redacted]
Lindsay

Mr. Secretary,

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Thank you.

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From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Van Doren, Terry (McConnell)
Subject: FW: draft FNS overview.04.08.20
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 12:10:49 PM
Attachments: FNS overview.04.08.20.docx

FYI-initial draft (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

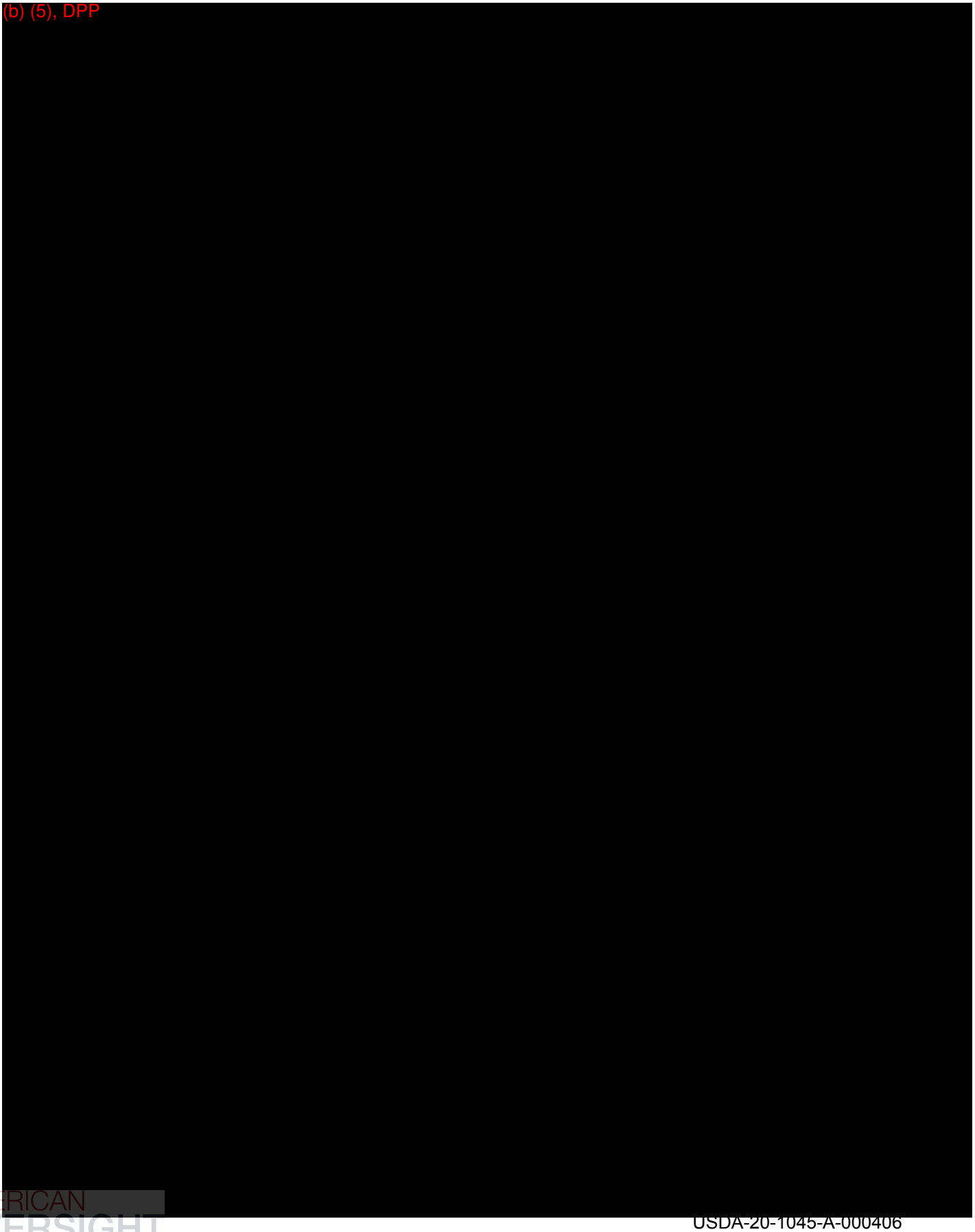
From: Veronica Wong <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 11:57 AM
To: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: draft FNS overview.04.08.20

Please see attache

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Overview of FNS COVID Funding

(b) (5), DPP



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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: DRAFT FOR SP: CEP
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 11:32:00 AM

I recommend (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 11:29 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: DRAFT FOR SP: CEP

Brandon and Anne,
Here is a draft email – (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
Lindsay

Mr. Secretary,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thank you.

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov); Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: D-SNAP Letter - Rep Wilson (FL) - updated FNS COVID letter
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 12:34:00 PM
Attachments: D-SNAP Letter_Final.pdf

From: Wolf-Johnson, Max <Max.Wolf-Johnson@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: D-SNAP Letter

Thanks Veronica-

Please find attached an updated copy reflecting support from the FL delegation.

Best,

--
Max Wolf-Johnson
Legislative/ Press Assistant
Office of Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson

From: "Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 10:57 AM
To: "Wolf-Johnson, Max" <Max.Wolf-Johnson@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: D-SNAP Letter

Max,

Thank you for the email. The letter has been received and will be reviewed.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wolf-Johnson, Max <Max.Wolf-Johnson@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 5:10 PM
To: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Subject: D-SNAP Letter

Hello,

Please find attached a letter from Congresswoman Wilson (FL-24) to Secretary Perdue seeking approval for the state of Florida's pending request to activate D-SNAP.

I plan to share an updated copy tomorrow reflecting support from other members of Florida's congressional delegation.

Thanks,

Max Wolf-Johnson
Legislative Assistant
Office of Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to urge you to approve Florida's request to administer the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and to send additional Emergency Food Assistance Program resources to Florida regions in need.

South Florida has become an epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak in the United States. At the time of this writing, there are 3,764 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Miami-Dade and Broward counties alone and 7,773 throughout the state.

Both counties have alarmingly high poverty rates that at 12.6 and 16 percent, respectively, are above the national average, and thousands of Floridians will likely be in need of additional food assistance in the coming months.

Florida has already experienced a surge in applications for unemployment benefits. More than 74,000 people filed unemployment claims during the week of March 15 and the actual number of people seeking benefits is probably much higher given how overwhelmed the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity is due to high call volume and website traffic. Sadly, the number of people needing assistance will increase significantly as the virus continues to spread and businesses are forced to close their doors.

Florida also is likely to be disproportionally impacted by this public health crisis because of its sizable vulnerable population. People over the age of 65 make up 20 percent of the state's population and according to the CDC, are at heightened risk of severe illness. In addition, 16 5 percent of Floridians under the age of 65 are uninsured.

For these reasons, we ask that you approve the request submitted by Governor Ron DeSantis on March 22 to activate D-SNAP for the state of Florida. In this moment of crisis, the federal government must be a reliable resource for states and ensure that every possible policy option is exhausted.

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure the wellbeing of all Floridians.

Sincerely,

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

/s/
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Charlie Christ
Member of Congress

Val B. Demings
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Al Lawson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

Marco Rubio
United States Senator

Donna Shalala
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C.; Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Extreme Challenge: No WIC waivers on Substitutions Communicated; Tremendous Work Gathering UPCs
Date: Saturday, March 28, 2020 1:59:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Ralph & Gena:

Happy Saturday!

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

Thanks,
Brandon

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 1:54 PM
To: 'Jennifer Hatcher (FMI)' <jhatcher@fmi.org>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Hannah vL. Walker (FMI) <hwalker@fmi.org>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Extreme Challenge: No WIC waivers on Substitutions Communicated; Tremendous Work Gathering UPCs

Hi Jennifer –

I want to make sure that you received Pam's cell phone – I understand that she shared it with you directly earlier this week, but hasn't heard anything from FMI on this issue since that time. Her cell is (b) (6). Also, I believe y'all have worked with Lindsay Datlow in her office on other issues. Lindsay is closely tracking WIC waivers and can provide you quick responses on updates if y'all have any specific questions as we move forward. I have cc'd both Pam and Lindsay on this email to ensure you have both of their contact information at the ready. Lindsay will be sending you and Hannah a copy of all WIC waivers approved to-date later today.

We have approved roughly 45 WIC food package waiver requests from state agencies. About half of the approvals went out on Thursday and the other half went last night. Our teams continue to work through the night and over weekends to get these approved as expeditiously as possible. We will be uploading the waivers to the website as quickly as possible and I know they are working to catch up this weekend, but probably won't be caught up until early next week on posting. Please know that while you may only be recognizing the work from SNAP, the WIC team has approved almost 300 waivers in WIC, even with the more detailed requirements placed on them in the Families First Act.

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Unlike SNAP and child nutrition, the WIC flexibilities provided in the Families First Act specifically require that administrative waivers be granted only "if requested by a State agency", further require that the Secretary make certain specific determinations with regard to each waiver, and also place new reporting requirements on any State agency that uses such waivers. Our understanding is that Congress wrote this language very differently than SNAP and child nutrition because many see WIC as a nutritional food package, and not as general access to food. It would certainly be easier on USDA, the states, WIC operators and your members if we could grant nationwide waivers. Should Congress decide this is the appropriate means to grant waivers during COVID, USDA we will work swiftly to implement such language.

Our entire team remains available should you or your members need anything. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Regards,
Brandon
(b) (6)

From: Jennifer Hatcher (FMI) <jhatcher@fmi.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 10:34 AM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; SM.OSEC.feedingkids <feedingkids@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Hannah vL. Walker (FMI) <hwalker@fmi.org>
Subject: Extreme Challenge: No WIC waivers on Substitutions Communicated; Tremendous Work Gathering UPCs

Joby,
Sorry, my phone automatically populated your old address, so I am resending this and adding a couple more folks. I know Campbell is trying to find a way to do a statewide waiver for WIC. I am looping Lillie in as we have been talking regularly about challenges. And I know Brandon has not been able to find a way to do this within their normal authority.

I hate to be a pest on this, but this is an extreme burden for the grocery industry right now for absolutely no reason. The WIC directors want to make the substitutions (and have evidently requested several already, but we have not been notified of any approvals via email or the website); the stores want the substitutions; the clients will only get more rather than less product if there is a difference; there is no nutritional difference. Who should I work with at the White House to get an Executive Order on this? I am going to draft one now. Glad to go to our normal public liaison/intergovernmental contacts.

I got a letter response yesterday signed by the Secretary, but it did not address the issue at all, so I believe we need to talk to someone or I can lay this all out in a memo if you like.

Cell is (b) (6)

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Kudos to the folks managing SNAP – all is going well there, even though there are constant waiver applications. Andrea Gold and Shelly Pierce are fantastic.

I know you all are working 24/7 on issues and achieving lots of great results. This truly is the easiest fix if we can just find the right way to do this. At this point, I am thinking an Executive Order is the only way (until we can get a legislative fix.)

Jennifer Hatcher
Chief Public Policy Officer & Senior Vice President
FMI
Direct 202-220-0734
Cell (b) (6)
www.fmi.org



From: Jennifer Hatcher (FMI)
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 10:09 AM
To: SM. feedingkids <feedingkids@usda.gov>
Cc: Hannah vL. Walker (FMI) <hwalker@fmi.org>; Robert Rosado (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>; joby.young@mail.house.gov
Subject: Fwd: WIC waivers

Can someone call me on WIC waivers, (b) (6)? Clearly, we are not in the loop with regard to waivers for WIC. I know Campbell was looking into a statewide waiver. We are spending extraordinary time supplying UPCs to state WIC agencies. All we want to do is substitute different sizes, different brand or recipe in a category. No nutritional change. If we need to ask for an Executive Order on this, glad to do so. Everything is working well on SNAP. Thank you!

Jennifer Hatcher
FMI - The Food Industry Association

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Hannah vL. Walker (FMI)" <hwalker@fmi.org>
> **Date:** March 28, 2020 at 9:53:20 AM EDT
> **To:** "Widor, Sarah - FNS" <sarah.widor@usda.gov>, "Tvrdy, Joe - FNS" <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
> **Cc:** "Elizabeth Tansing (FMI)" <ETansing@fmi.org>, "Jennifer Hatcher (FMI)" <jhatcher@fmi.org>
> **Subject: WIC waivers**

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Good Morning Sarah and Joe,

I just wanted to touch base a on a few things. Joe, I apologize if you are not the correct person, but I don't know who handles WIC on your side.

I just checked the FNS website and I am not seeing any of the waivers we have heard through other sources that have been granted posted. On Thursday we heard from our TX folks that the state waiver had been granted, but it is not up on the website: https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/texas#wic

I would like to request again if we could please be informed when state WIC waivers are granted as we are with SNAP.

Second, we talked to several of our members yesterday about the WIC waiver process and state's trying to get info from us. We are hoping you can assist us with sending some direction to the states to help smooth out the process:

1. Could they please ask for a 1-time submission. Our folks are saying they are getting multiple requests from the same state for UPC data, and then again for another category. If they could put it all into one request, that could certainly help our guys get the info over as efficiently as possible.
2. Could you encourage states to borrow other states APL lists? We heard CT was using MA to see what they could easily enter.
3. Our manufacturers can share their national brand info and our retailers can share their store brands. However, they are often being told to submit significant data on nutrition etc even if it is already allowed in another state, or is simply a different size. We ask that they ask for UPCs and limit the extraneous requests.
4. We also are wondering if the processors can help. They would have all the APLs for the states they service and 2 have the majority of the states. Is there a way they could

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easily populate that data?

a. Apparently FIS allows folks access their APL site, could Conduent and Solutran do the same?

5. Is there a roll for the WIC shopper apps for sharing UPC?

As you can imagine, our guys are stretched pretty thin, and these requests are quite labor intensive, any help you could offer would be greatly appreciated.

Also, if we could get a national waiver on product categories that could greatly alleviate much of this stress.

Thanks for all you do, and I hope we can make some progress on these pieces.

Hannah

Hannah vL. Walker (FMI)
Vice President, Political Affairs
FMI
Direct 202-220-0630
www.fmi.org

363DE514



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From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC; Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: (b) (5),
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:53:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

FYI

From: Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:02 AM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (5), DPP,

Joby,

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

Many thanks,
Stephen

Stephen Alexander Vaden
General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Suite 107W
Washington, DC 20250
☎ **202-720-3351 (Office)**
stephen.vaden@ogc.usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: FW: Feeding America Letter
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:18:00 AM
Attachments: Feeding-America-COVID-Relief-Package-4-letter.pdf

Have y'all seen this letter? Withheld (b)(6) info is Censky alias email address

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 7:58 AM
To: Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Summers, Bruce - AMS <Bruce.Summers@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: Feeding America Letter

Greg and Brandon,

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6)
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

April 6, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
S-230 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
S-221 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-222 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and McCarthy:

On behalf of Feeding America and our network of member food banks, thank you for your work on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Together, these two laws will help our network meet the increase in need for charitable food assistance and connect people with aid from the federal nutrition programs. We face an unprecedented increase in demand, and swift additional legislative action will be key to our ability to help Americans weather this crisis. In many areas, our food banks are concerned that they will not have enough food on hand. While we are grateful for the generous investments in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), our network will need additional assistance in the coming months. It is also clear that no amount of charitable intervention will be enough to meet the need without an accompanying increase in benefits in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Summary of Recommendations:

- Increase SNAP benefits by at least 15 percent for as long as the economy is weak, not just during the public health emergency, to provide effective economic stimulus and critical food assistance.
- Increase the SNAP minimum monthly benefit from $16 to $30.
- Increase TEFAP food and funding.

Current Impact on Feeding America Network

Food banks in many areas are already struggling to keep up with demand, with individuals in some communities waiting hours for emergency food distributions. With more than 10 million people having filed for unemployment benefits during the last wo weeks, we believe the urgent need for food assistance will continue to increase. Feeding America has analyzed the potential impact of the pandemic and we predict up to an additional 17.1 million people could experience food insecurity, a 46 percent increase from the 37 million who were food insecure prior to the outbreak of the pandemic.

In order to help quantify the need for resources across our network, Feeding America conducted a pulse survey of our food banks on April 2. Every one of our 200 member food banks reported a significant increase in the need for food assistance in their communities, with an average 60 percent increase in demand. Operating costs for food banks have also increased as volunteers stay home in accordance with federal recommendations.

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Food banks reported concerns about finding and accessing additional food in the immediate short term. 20 percent of food banks are concerned about running out of food in the next two to four weeks. 45 percent of food banks will distribute all TEFAP food on hand within the next four weeks. Food banks are struggling to find shelf stable food to purchase for immediate food distribution as the supply chain adjusts.

The additional TEFAP food provided by Congress in recent legislation will help to fill this gap, but it is not expected to arrive until July. We are working closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help fill this gap, and request your support in urging them to work proactively to provide short-term food assistance for food banks experiencing a food shortfall until additional TEFAP food starts arriving.

We also surveyed our network regarding how easily they can distribute food during the pandemic while also meeting the federal regulatory requirements for TEFAP food. Even while nearly half will distribute all food on hand in the coming weeks, over seventy-four food banks report experiencing difficulty in safely complying with TEFAP program requirements due to COVID-19, a number we expect to increase as the pandemic continues and more areas of the country experience significant disruption.

Food banks are struggling to help millions of people access emergency food assistance for the first time while trying to register them for TEFAP. This process requires lengthy client interaction that could expose staff, volunteers, or the people we serve to the disease as they collect data. States can request permission for a disaster household distribution program under which USDA may waive these requirements. Unfortunately, this process has been unpredictable, and we urge either a legislative or administrative fix to this challenge.

Recommendations for Future Legislation

As you craft future legislation, we urge you to include additional funding for federal nutrition programs like SNAP and TEFAP during the pandemic and any economic downturn that follows. We remain concerned about our ability to identify enough resources to offset the increased food needs and distribution challenges, despite the incredible generosity of individuals and companies. For people who need economic support, increasing benefits and expanding access to SNAP during the pandemic and economic recovery can provide necessary food resources while also providing an economic stimulus to our nation's food retailers.

For every meal provide by our food banks, SNAP provides nine – there is simply no way that our network can make up for the unparalleled strength of SNAP to increase food security and stimulate local economies. Households typically spend their monthly benefits quickly, making SNAP a particularly effective stimulus in providing quick support to local economies. According to an analysis by Moody's Analytics of SNAP benefits during the recession in 2009, every dollar in SNAP helped generate more than $1.70 in economic activity. Similarly, the Congressional Budget Office rated an increase in SNAP benefits as one of the most cost-effective ways to boost economic growth and create jobs in a weak economy. Given the importance of SNAP, we also oppose the implementation of any pending rules that would limit SNAP eligibility and benefits.

Specifically, we urge you to include the following provisions in future legislation:

SNAP:

- Increase SNAP benefits for all recipients by increasing the thrifty food plan by at least 15 percent for as long as the economy is weak to help promote economic stimulus and push against the economic downturn. This will provide critical food resources for families and

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

relieve some of the pressure on our network.

- Increase the SNAP minimum benefit from $16 to $30 to help individuals impacted by COVID-19, particularly seniors, for the duration of the economic downturn.

Increase TEFAP food and funding:

- Given the unique challenges our network will face to distribute food in accordance with recommendations to reduce spread of the virus, we expect to need additional food and funding in TEFAP. The investment of $600 million in TEFAP food and $250 million in TEFAP storage and distribution will not be enough to meet the demand. Therefore, we request an additional $500 million for future food needs. We are also supportive of USDA market support purchases, but in some cases, these foods may be difficult for food banks to distribute using no-touch distribution models. Therefore, we request $500 million in additional funding for TEFAP storage and distribution to assist with costs, including those incurred when distributing USDA market support purchases and disaster household food distribution programs.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Kate Leone
Chief Government Relations Officer
Feeding America

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Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) are Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: FNS Updates
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 10:22:00 AM

Campbell –

This is his third kudos for FNCS. We have conveyed to staff each time through leadership calls and an all employee email..(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks,

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 8:55 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: FNS Updates

Please convey to your team my gratitude for their extraordinary efforts. They are literally fulfilling our motto.

-SP

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 11:08:14 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: FNS Updates

Sir –

A few updates:

1. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Please let me know if you would like additional information on any of the above.

Regards,
Brandon
(b) (6) [redacted] (cell)

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Withheld info is Secretary Purdue alias email address

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Food banks press Congress to boost SNAP — CalFresh goes online — Peterson vows emergency plan for next crisis
Date: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:34:00 PM

Sir –

Below is the article from yesterday I mentioned on the call. I have highlighted the relevant section.

Thanks,
Brandon

From: POLITICO Pro's Morning Agriculture <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:50 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Food banks press Congress to boost SNAP — CalFresh goes online — Peterson vows emergency plan for next crisis

Apr 30, 2020 View in browser

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BY **HELENA BOTTEMILLER EVICH**

With help from Liz Crampton

QUICK FIX

— Feeding America is launching an ad campaign urging Congress to include an across-the-board food stamp benefit increase in the next Covid-19 relief package as more and more Americans file for unemployment amid the coronavirus outbreak.

— California's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, CalFresh, is now operational for online purchases at Walmart and Amazon, a major tipping point for the multibillion program and could help low-income families stay fed while social distancing.

— House Agriculture Chairman Collin Peterson is vowing to

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come up with a plan so the agriculture industry isn't upended from another pandemic in the future.

HAPPY THURSDAY, APRIL 30! Welcome to Morning Ag, where your host recently joined Today, Explained to talk in depth about the disrupted food supply chain. You can listen to the conversation here, as well as on Apple Podcasts and Spotify. Send tips to hbottemiller@politico.com and @hbottemiller, and follow us @Morning_Ag.

Sign up for POLITICO Nightly: Coronavirus Special Edition, your daily update on how the illness is affecting politics, markets, public health and more.

DRIVING THE DAY

FOOD BANKS PRESS CONGRESS TO BOOST SNAP: The nation's largest network of food banks, Feeding America, has a message for Capitol Hill: We can't feed the tidal wave of newly unemployed Americans alone.

First in MA: The network is launching a $500,000 monthlong digital ad campaign targeting a handful of key senators as it tries to build pressure to boost SNAP benefits in the next round of coronavirus aid. The campaign kicks off this week.

Feeding America says its food banks and pantries are "facing an unprecedented moment in time" as 26 million Americans have newly lost their jobs due to the pandemic. The scale of the food bank system is massive, but SNAP still feeds way more people. The group estimates that for every meal its members provide, federal nutrition benefits spent at grocery stores provide three.

The ask: Anti-hunger groups want a 15 percent increase in SNAP benefits during the increase in unemployment. Such a move would bump up benefits by about $25 per person per month, or about $100 per month for a family of four, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

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The target list: At first, the ad buy will focus on senators representing New York, Colorado, North Dakota, and Iowa, but other states may be added in the coming weeks. You can watch a version of the ad targeting North Dakota here (it's no coincidence that Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.) chairs the crucial agriculture approps subcommittee in the Senate).

Democrats ask for the same. On Wednesday, Sens. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) and nearly two dozen others wrote to Senate leadership asking to raise benefits by 15 percent as well as increase the monthly minimum SNAP benefit from $16 to $30 for all households, something that would particularly impact single Americans who might only qualify for the minimum benefit.

CALFRESH GOES ONLINE: California, the largest recipient of SNAP benefits, is officially online. Gov. Gavin Newsom on Wednesday said online EBT purchases can be made with Amazon and Walmart, although Newsom anticipates more businesses will participate.

"We want to expand those partnerships," he said.

California is the biggest state to join the ranks of online SNAP purchasing. The most recent data from USDA, which is from January and well before the coronavirus disaster, indicated that California was serving 3.7 million people in CalFresh. The next largest state was New York with 2.7 million. Of course, these numbers are expected to be much higher now.

The flood to online SNAP: Recipients in Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, New York, Oregon and Washington also have the ability to use their benefits to buy food online, mostly through Amazon and Walmart.

More coming soon: Arizona, the District of Columbia, Idaho, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas, West Virginia and Vermont also have all been green-lighted and their programs should be coming online soon, per USDA.

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Instacart hits K street for a piece of the pie: Former Rep. Luke Messer (R-Ind.), now with Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath, registered to lobby for Instacart on USDA's online SNAP pilot program. It's the second lobbying firm Instacart has hired in recent months, per POLITICO Influence.

WHAT DOES SUSTAINABILITY MEAN TO YOU? In the midst of a global pandemic, sustainability is quickly evolving. What will a business and policy agenda look like as we work to fight off coronavirus? How can we restart the economy while addressing long-term challenges like climate change and workers' rights? The Long Game newsletter answers these complex questions and more with insightful interviews and analysis of sustainability issues across all industries. Subscribe today.

PETERSON VOWS TO DRAFT EMERGENCY PLAN FOR FUTURE CRISES: The Minnesota Democrat said Wednesday that he will personally see to it that the agriculture industry does not suffer from a national emergency like the coronavirus again. "I can tell you as chairman of the ag committee — this is not going to happen again on my watch," Peterson said during a press conference in Worthington, Minn., on how pork producers are being hurt by the pandemic.

"We're going to have a way to respond to emergencies," Peterson said. "Whatever it is we're not going to go through with a situation where we're caught flat footed."

Peterson said he had formed a local task force to help pork producers deal with a massive backlog of hogs caused by meat processing plant closures. Before President Donald Trump issued an executive order on Tuesday to keep plants open, Peterson had struck a deal with a shuttered JBS plant in Minnesota to ease the burden by having workers euthanize up to 13,000 hogs daily. With fewer places to send hogs ready to be slaughtered, farmers must euthanize the animals themselves — which is a near impossible task, the chairman said.

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Expansion of executive order: Peterson added that he had a conversation with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue on Wednesday morning in which the secretary floated the idea of having the federal government cover the costs of "depopulating" hogs if the backlog remains a problem.

POLITICO Pro is here to help you navigate these unprecedented times. Check out our new **Covid-19 Coverage Roundup**, which provides a daily summary of top Covid-19 news coverage from across all 16 federal policy verticals as well as premium content, such as DataPoint graphics. Please sign up at our settings page to receive this unique roundup sent directly to your inbox every weekday afternoon.

ROW CROPS

— The Congressional Hispanic Caucus wants Trump to issue an emergency safety standard for meatpacking plants following his executive order to keep the sites operating amid the pandemic. POLITICO's Laura Barrón-López has the details.

— After a call with meat industry executives on Wednesday, Trump said leaders are "so happy" with his executive order mandating that plants stay open. "They're all gung-ho, and we solved their problems," he said. The Associated Press has more.

— The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture is urging the Trump administration to "promptly" procure and distribute personal protective equipment for food and agriculture workers. Read the letter.

— **Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) and Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.) are leading an effort to allow SNAP benefits to be used in restaurants,** with backing from restaurant industry heavyweights. More from Eater.

— **California has expanded a program to connect surplus produce to families in need.** The program will move some 20 million

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pounds of fresh food in May, officials said. More from a local report.

— An Arkansas food bank event ran out of food on Tuesday and had to turn away people in need, CNN reported.

— Belgian's potato industry is urging the world to eat more french fries to avert massive waste as farmers struggle to sell their crop meant for restaurants and other food service businesses. More from POLITICO Europe.

POLITICO Pro Covid-19 Briefing: Economic Recovery & Small Business Relief . Don't miss this live reporter conference call for POLITICO Pro subscribers today. Get insight from Pro financial services editor Mark McQuillan and financial services reporter Zach Warmbrodt on how to avoid an economic crisis and whether Paycheck Protection Program loans are having their intended impact. In addition, Pro health care editor Adriel Bettelheim will give insight and analysis on the latest government efforts to contain the spread of the virus and the phased approach to reopening the country. Register now.

ON THE CALENDAR

— 12 p.m. PETA holds a rally in front of the White House to demand that meatpacking plants remain closed due to the coronavirus outbreaks.

— 1 p.m. USDA's U.S. Codex Office holds a meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission's Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods via conference call.

— 1 p.m. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service holds a meeting of the Plant Variety Protection Board via conference call.

— 1:15 p.m. Thompson Hine holds a webinar on international trade and the coronavirus.

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— 2:30 p.m. The GreenBiz Group hosts a webcast discussion on "Coronavirus and the Clean Economy," focusing on impacts on the markets for renewable energy, clean transportation and sustainable food systems.

Send your calendar items and cancellations to agcalendar@politico.com.

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 4 of 4
USDA-20-1045-A-000432

Withheld info is Purdue and Censky alias email addresses

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Food stamps, farm aid stall Senate stimulus talks
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 7:31:23 PM

From: POLITICO Pro Agriculture <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Reply-To: POLITICO subscriptions <reply-fe971c727160017c75-553241_HTML-887167241-1376319-339366@politicoemail.com>
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 at 7:14 PM
To: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: Food stamps, farm aid stall Senate stimulus talks

Food stamps, farm aid stall Senate stimulus talks

By Catherine Boudreau, Ryan McCrimmon

03/23/2020 07:13 PM EDT

Senate negotiations over the $1.6 trillion coronavirus stimulus package are hung up partly by a partisan tug-of-war over how to help farmers and ranchers impacted by the outbreak and provide more food assistance for low-income Americans.

Senate Democrats blocked the stimulus plan twice on Monday as they seek a 15 percent increase in funding for the $60 billion a year Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, in exchange for provisions that would expand the Trump administration's ability to send direct payments to cattle ranchers and other farmers, according to aides familiar with the negotiations.

The provisions would restore tens of billions of dollars to an obscure Depression-era financial institution used for stabilizing the farm economy, as well as raise the Agriculture Department's annual borrowing limit for the program from $30 billion to $50 billion. President Donald Trump used the institution, known as the Commodity Credit Corporation, to fund the trade bailout for farmers targeted by retaliatory tariffs in 2018 and last year.

Senate Democrats are wary of creating an even bigger "slush fund" for the Trump administration to dole out payments to agricultural producers without guardrails, according to a Democratic aide. The aide said there's a "general mistrust" of how USDA designed the trade mitigation program, which critics said unfairly benefited wealthier farmers and the multinational meatpacking giant JBS over smaller producers.

The debate spilled over to the Senate floor on Monday, with Republicans from major cattle-producing states like Kansas, Nebraska and North Dakota accusing Democrats of suddenly backing down from a previously bipartisan agreement to help the agriculture industry, which had already been reeling from Trump's trade war with China.

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"We were told by our Democratic colleagues that they wanted to make certain the money couldn't just be spent on the livestock side," Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) said. "And so … we changed the language to make certain that the secretary of agriculture could use CCC funds not only for livestock producers but also the crop side of agriculture."

"They're objecting to it," Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.), who spearheaded the effort to boost aid to cattle producers, said of the Democrats. "I urge my colleagues to get on board and support our farmers, our ranchers and our food supply. Support rural America."

Senate Agriculture ranking member Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), who contends USDA has unfairly distributed trade aid , responded that there is bipartisan interest in making sure all segments of the agriculture industry benefit from the stimulus, as well as increasing the amount of food assistance for low-income Americans.

"I understand the concerns about livestock. But about half of the country's receipts are what we broadly call specialty crops," Stabenow said, referring to products like nuts, fruits and vegetables. She added that Michigan tart cherry growers haven't received any help from the administration's trade bailout for farmers, despite unfair practices by competitors overseas.

The latest version of Senate Republicans' stimulus plan, S. 3548 (116) , released on Sunday included more than $15 billion for food stamps — but Democrats and anti-hunger advocates said it only accounted for previously enacted SNAP changes and the anticipated rise in claims as businesses close and workers are laid off.

The provision allowing USDA to borrow more money to support farmers was also left out of the House Democrats' competing stimulus package, a draft of which was circulated Monday afternoon. The legislation did include extra assistance for small and mid-sized dairy producers.

It's not the first time the obscure CCC has tripped up high-stakes spending talks: House Democrats last year tried to freeze funding for the trade bailout ahead of a government shutdown deadline, saying there should be a "robust debate" on the cost of Trump's trade war and greater transparency. But they backed down following complaints from farm-state members on both sides of the aisle.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue has repeatedly said USDA won't offer any more direct aid in 2020, arguing that the effort was meant to offset trade disruptions but wasn't intended to be a commodity price support program. On the other hand, top lawmakers have called for more bailout funds in 2020 even before the coronavirus started spreading rapidly in the U.S., citing years of low prices and other long-term headwinds in the industry. And even Trump had hinted that there would be another bailout later this year.

Spokespeople for USDA did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

To view online:
https://subscriber.politicopro.com/agriculture/article/2020/03/food-stamps-farm-aid-stall-senate-stimulus-talks-1901007

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From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: FOR MANAGERS: COVID-19 Managers Guidance & Data Calls
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 9:19:00 PM
Attachments: USDA COVID19 planning 031220.docx

Attachment included previously at pages 308-312

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 9:12 PM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Cc: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Mike - OHS, Washington, DC <mike.oconnor@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR MANAGERS: COVID-19 Managers Guidance & Data Calls

Michawn-
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]
Thanks.
Jessica

Jessica Fantinato
Director
Office of Homeland Security
United States Department of Agriculture

Office: 202.720.2582
Mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]

USDA Operations Center:
202.720.5711 and OpsCenter@dm.usda.gov

From: Censky, Stephen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Stephen.Censky@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 8:55 PM
To: Censky, Stephen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Stephen.Censky@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC

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<Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Brand, Bette - RD, Washington, DC <bette.brand@usda.gov>; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC <Mindy.Brashears@usda.gov>; Hubbard, Jim - OSEC, Washington, DC <jim.hubbard@usda.gov>; Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC <Scott.Hutchins@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ted.McKinney@usda.gov>; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>; Angle, Scott - REE-NIFA, Washington, DC <scott.angle@usda.gov>; Barbre, Martin - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <martin.barbre@usda.gov>; Brodziski, Mark - RD, Washington, DC <mark.brodziski@usda.gov>; Christiansen, Victoria C -FS <victoria.christiansen@usda.gov>; Denton, Angilla - RD, Washington, DC <angilla.denton@usda.gov>; Fordyce, Richard - FSA, Washington, DC <richard.fordyce@usda.gov>; Hamer, Hubert - NASS <hubert.hamer@usda.gov>; Isley, Ken - FAS, Washington, DC <ken.isley@usda.gov>; Jacobs-Young, Chavonda - ARS <c.jacobsyoung@usda.gov>; Kiecker, Paul - FSIS <paul.kiecker@usda.gov>; Lammers, Bruce - RD, Washington, DC <Bruce.Lammers@usda.gov>; Lohr, Matthew - NRCS, Washington, DC <Matthew.Lohr@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Rupe, Chad - RD, Washington, DC <chad.rupe@usda.gov>; Shea, Kevin - APHIS <kevin.a.shea@usda.gov>; Stephenson, Robert - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <robert.stephenson@usda.gov>; Summers, Bruce - AMS <Bruce.Summers@usda.gov>; Weinberg, Marca - ERS <marca.weinberg@usda.gov>; Croushorn, Ron - FAS, Washington, DC <Ron.Croushorn@usda.gov>; Fernandez, Claudette - FS <Claudette.Fernandez@usda.gov>; Nash, Douglas - APHIS <douglas.nash@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>; Park, Joon <joon.park@usda.gov>; Reed, Jeremy Todd - FSIS <jeremy.reed@usda.gov>; Baker, Marsha – OSEC, Washington, DC <Marsha.Baker@usda.gov>; Gutman, Theodore H -FS <theodore.gutman@usda.gov>; Horder, Lilia - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <lilia.horder@usda.gov>; Judkins, Tonya - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <tonya.judkins@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Pagett, Riley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Riley.Pagett@usda.gov>; Perry, Andrew - OBPA, Washington, DC <andrew.perry@usda.gov>; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Tobin, Andrew - OE, Washington, DC <andrew.tobin@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Beatty, Mike - OPPE, Washington, DC <mike.beatty@usda.gov>; Cullo, Diane - OTR, Washington, DC <diane.cullo@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Soles, Scott - OCFO, Washington, DC <Scott.Soles@usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>; Washington, Gary S - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <gary.s.washington@usda.gov>; Westhill, Devon -

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

OSEC, Washington, DC <Devon.Westhill@usda.gov>; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC <David.Wu@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR MANAGERS: COVID-19 Managers Guidance & Data Calls
Importance: High

All:

As you are aware, the coronavirus situation is constantly evolving. This is a MANAGERS ONLY communication-and should NOT be shared. Because things are rapidly changing we ask that you not share this information broadly until we receive and approve your plans, as outlined below.

While keeping with the imperative to ensure mission continuity and the continued delivery of USDA's services to the American people, USDA intends to move toward a posture to maximize telework where feasible while maintaining regular operations. This enhanced posture would begin on Tuesday, March 17 for areas with documented community spread of COVID-19 including, but not limited to, the National Capital Region, Washington State, California Bay Area and New York City. All other areas of the nation would begin this enhanced posture on Thursday, March 19.

The attached guidance is geared toward this group of senior leaders. USDA will be releasing a similar more paired down guidance to all employees first thing tomorrow morning. This guidance will not change the Visitor and Food Service Guidance issued on Friday night – USDA facilities should remain open, as it may be that many employees will not be able to telework in some locations in order to ensure mission-critical functions and services can continue. As such, USDA facilities, pursuant to the Visitor and Food Service Guidance, should limit visitors to mission-critical, essential and time-sensitive visits only by scheduling and screening visitors, to the extent possible in order to protect our employees.

Before we finalize this attached guidance to expand telework there are items we must receive from Mission Areas:

1. Mission areas are required to submit the attached provided excel template for their operations in the National Capital Region, Washington State, California Bay Area, New York City area, and other documented areas of community spread **by 2pm on Monday, March 16, 2020 –** *template attached.* The template should be submitted to Mary Pletcher (mary.pletcher@usda.gov) and Maureen Gardner (maureen.gardner@usda.gov).

2. For all other locations, Mission areas are required to submit the attached provided template **by 12pm on Wednesday, March 18, 2020** – *template attached.* The template should be submitted to Mary Pletcher (mary.pletcher@usda.gov) and Maureen Gardner (maureen.gardner@usda.gov).

These plans are telework and mission continuity related, and will be in addition to your Pandemic Plans. Supervisors, Agency Heads, and Mission Area Leaders must ensure and be confident that plans submitted will not negatively impact the delivery of our services to the American people. Proposed expanded telework flexibilities outlined in plans are not approved until the Mission Area plans are approved by OSEC.

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Even though USDA will be issuing final guidance to all employees in the morning, all telework plans need to be approved by the Department before they go into effect on Tuesday. OSEC will work as quick as possible to approve these plans.

At this time **USDA is NOT closing ANY operations**. Authorization to increase telework doesn't mean we will be shutting functions down unless absolutely necessary and approved by the Department. If the operation or program requires people to be present in person then mission areas need to make a plan to spread out office coverage (for example 10 people telework one day while 10 people remain in the office and then the scenario can switch). If you are requesting to close an operation or divert a program to another location, this must be approved by the Department via the Operational Facility Guidance that was issued last week. No offices are to close and no programs are to shutdown without Departmental approval.

OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS/DEADLINES/DATA CALLS

WHAT AGENCIES ARE DOING: By 12pm on Monday, March 16th, please send one or two sentences about what steps agencies are taking to ensure mission continuity to michawn.rich@usda.gov . This will be going in an external press release on Monday or Tuesday.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS: By 12pm on Monday, March 16th, please send any legislative authorities a mission area may need in the immediate near term for meeting our critical stakeholder needs to evan.lee@usda.gov

PANDEMIC PLANS: We need each mission area to turn in their pandemic plans to Homelandsecurity@usda.gov by COB Friday March 20. Please see FSIS example for template reference.

IT CAPACITY TESTS: The REE IT capacity test will continue as scheduled tomorrow. However, all other mission areas will be canceled. We ask that you NOT notify your employees of this until the updated guidance comes out from the agency to all employees.

NEW HIRES: We are asking CHCOs what their plans are to onboard new hires in an enhanced telework environment by March 27. The department intends to keep onboarding new hires despite the current circumstances.

POSITIVE CASES: Should your mission areas end up with an employee that tests positive for COVID-19 please continue to refer to the Playbook for guidance on how to handle that and how to report it up the chain.

SHAREPOINT LINK: Please be reminded of the Managers SharePoint site where all guidance that have been released to date is located.

Thanks and Best Regards,
Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture

From: Censky, Stephen - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 8:39 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Courtney Knupp <courtney.knupp@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Brand, Bette - RD, Washington, DC <bette.brand@usda.gov>; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC <Mindy.Brashears@usda.gov>; Hubbard, Jim - OSEC, Washington, DC <jim.hubbard@usda.gov>; Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC <Scott.Hutchins@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ted.McKinney@usda.gov>; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>; Angle, Scott - REE-NIFA, Washington, DC <scott.angle@usda.gov>; Barbre, Martin - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <martin.barbre@usda.gov>; Brodziski, Mark - RD, Washington, DC <mark.brodziski@usda.gov>; Christiansen, Victoria C -FS <victoria.christiansen@usda.gov>; Denton, Angilla - RD, Washington, DC <angilla.denton@usda.gov>; Fordyce, Richard - FSA, Washington, DC <richard.fordyce@usda.gov>; Hamer, Hubert - NASS <hubert.hamer@usda.gov>; Isley, Ken - FAS, Washington, DC <ken.isley@usda.gov>; Jacobs-Young, Chavonda - ARS <c.jacobsyoung@usda.gov>; Kiecker, Paul - FSIS <paul.kiecker@usda.gov>; Lammers, Bruce - RD, Washington, DC <Bruce.Lammers@usda.gov>; Lohr, Matthew - NRCS, Washington, DC <Matthew.Lohr@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Rupe, Chad - RD, Washington, DC <chad.rupe@usda.gov>; Shea, Kevin - APHIS <kevin.a.shea@usda.gov>; Stephenson, Robert - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <robert.stephenson@usda.gov>; Summers, Bruce - AMS <Bruce.Summers@usda.gov>; Weinberg, Marca - ERS <marca.weinberg@usda.gov>; Croushorn, Ron - FAS, Washington, DC <Ron.Croushorn@usda.gov>; Fernandez, Claudette - FS <Claudette.Fernandez@usda.gov>; Nash, Douglas - APHIS <douglas.nash@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>; Park, Joon <joon.park@usda.gov>; Reed, Jeremy Todd - FSIS <jeremy.reed@usda.gov>; Baker, Marsha – OSEC, Washington, DC <Marsha.Baker@usda.gov>; Gutman, Theodore H -FS <theodore.gutman@usda.gov>; Horder, Lilia - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <lilia.horder@usda.gov>; Judkins, Tonya - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <tonya.judkins@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Pagett, Riley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Riley.Pagett@usda.gov>; Perry, Andrew - OBPA, Washington, DC <andrew.perry@usda.gov>; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Tobin, Andrew - OE, Washington, DC <andrew.tobin@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Beatty, Mike - OPPE, Washington, DC <mike.beatty@usda.gov>; Cullo, Diane - OTR, Washington, DC <diane.cullo@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Soles, Scott - OCFO, Washington, DC <Scott.Soles@usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>;

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Washington, Gary S - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <gary.s.washington@usda.gov>; Westhill, Devon - OSEC, Washington, DC <Devon.Westhill@usda.gov>; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC <David.Wu@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR MANAGERS: Important COVID-19 Update

All:

There are a few items below I'd like to share with you today intended for 2 different audiences – all employees and managers- which are called out below.

Please note this email is being sent to Subcabinet members, Mission Area chiefs, COOs, Administrators, and Senior Advisors. As you are aware this is a constantly evolving situation and as we have more information we will be sure to share it.

FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

ALL EMPLOYEE EMAIL: The email at the bottom of this email thread just went to all employees via our internal email system. This email and the 2 attachments above provide new guidance on our new visitor policy, visitor screening questions, and our food service posture. It also summarizes manager guidance documents that have been shared with you over the last week on travel, the playbook, as well as offers guidance on telework, school closures, and reasonable accommodation flexibilities. As you are aware, USDA all employee emails do not currently go to all employees. Because of this we ask that you copy and paste the information at the bottom of this email and share it with all of your employees.

FOR MANAGERS

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS GUIDANCE & BEST PRACTICES:
Linked is a guidance document for internal communication, as it related to coronavirus, with your employees. The document outlines the process for approval of internal communications, gives guidance on who you should forward internal communications to, and suggests several best practices. Questions? Contact Ryann DuRant at ryann.durant@usda.gov.

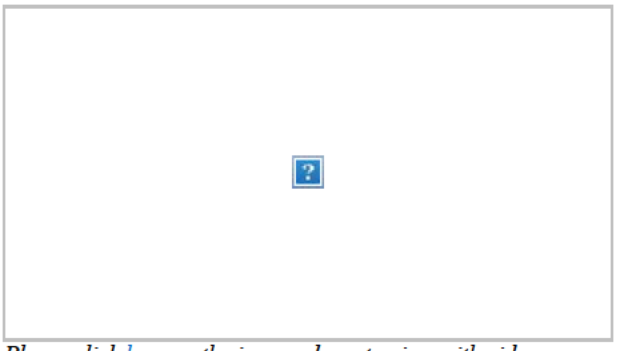
IT INFASTRUCTURE CAPACITY TEST- As you are aware beginning Monday March 16th mission areas will be starting to "stress test their IT networks" all throughout next week. The schedule and scope for each mission area is attached. Because this is a managers only communication USDA does not intend to share this with all employees as mission areas are in charge of communicating with their employees about their own individual stress tests. Questions? Contact Gary Washington at gary.s.washington@usda.gov

IT INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY TEST COMMUNICATION GUIDANCE:
For any field offices looking to put up signs on their doors for stakeholders during the telework capacity testing day, consider using the following text: "Our office is engaging in a telework capacity test today March (insert date). However, we are ready to help you! For immediate assistance, please contact (insert name(s) from facility) at (insert phone AND

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

email)."

For any emails to Mission Area/Agency employees regarding telework capacity testing, consider using the following text in the body of the email: "These tests will help determine the employee's ability to connect via the Virtual Private Network (VPN), work seamlessly from alternate locations, determine the quality of user experience when remotely connected to the network, and asses the ability of the Customer Help Desk to provide effective technical assistance to users while also working remotely. Below is a video from USDA's Chief Information Officer Gary Washington. We encourage you to watch for helpful telework guidance."



Please click here or the image above to view with video.

**You can enlarge the photo as necessary and use the following video link:*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BXfK9QWswo&feature=youtu.be

Thanks and Best Regards,
Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Hello fellow USDA colleagues,

New developments as they relate to coronavirus are happening daily. USDA employees are already the hardest working and most efficient in the federal workforce – but balancing that commitment to mission with the worry over the impact of the coronavirus on you and your family can be difficult.

That's why I wanted to provide you with **ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE** on measures we are taking, effective Monday, March 16th.

- **RESTRICTING VISITORS TO ALL USDA FACILITIES:** Effective Monday, March 16th, we are no longer allowing visitors into USDA facilities who have not been screened and approved. Visitors will not be granted permission into our facilities unless they have been cleared through our screening processes. Every visitor to a USDA office or facility

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

should be asked a set of three questions. If any of the conditions apply, the visitor should not be allowed to enter our USDA offices and asked to return at an appropriate time or conduct a meeting virtually. This gives our offices out in the field the flexibility they need to move toward more scheduled visits, to the extent possible, in order to safely interact with our customers and best serve them. See attached memo for additional guidance.

- **RECONSIDER IN-PERSON MEETINGS:** Effective Monday, March 16th, all USDA employees are encouraged to move in-person meetings, both with internal USDA employees and with external stakeholders, to virtual meetings. We take these steps while continuing to conduct the regular and ongoing work of USDA. To the extent possible, we encourage employees to work with our stakeholders to schedule necessary meetings by teleconference or videoconference. If a visitor has a mission-critical, essential, and time-sensitive reason to meet with an employee in person, these visitors must be screened and approved through the outlined process. See attached memo for additional guidance.
- **CLOSING FOOD SERVICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC:** Effective Monday, March 16th, all USDA-controlled food service at USDA facilities will be closed to the general public and visitors. Buffet and self-service style food service will not permitted to continue at any USDA facility. Pre-packaged, 'grab and go' foods, vending items, and made-to order food service options may continue. All USDA-controlled food service at USDA facilities may remain open to USDA employees and USDA contractors only. See attached memo for additional guidance.
- **PREPARE FOR TELEWORK, IF NEEDED:** All employees in telework eligible positions should start getting telework ready. This means working with your supervisor to finalize telework agreements, getting in the practice of bringing all necessary materials – including your laptop – home with you each night, and testing network and telework capabilities.

I also want to provide you with an update of actions taken by USDA over the past week to protect your health and ensure continued customer service. In an effort to make sure you have the information and guidance you need, here are some key actions you should know about:

1. **We issued guidance to employees on how to mitigate the spread of coronavirus** through health and hygiene measures like washing your hands for 20 seconds and staying home from work until you are fever-free for at least 24 hours. USDA's "Be Prepared" website has links to this important information and is updated regularly.

2. Speaking of websites, **we created an external website** that provides clear answers for frequently asked questions by our customers, stakeholders, and the general public.

3. **We issued travel guidance**, restricting official travel to only mission-critical and asking employees not to travel on official business to high-risk countries or areas. We are advising employees not to travel on personal time to these high-risk countries and areas as well.
    a. Employees returning from high-risk areas whether business or personal will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days before returning to work.

    b. The Department of State has advised U.S. citizens to reconsider travel abroad due to the global impact of COVID-19. Many areas throughout the world are now experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks and taking action that may limit traveler mobility, including quarantines and broader restriction. Even countries,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

jurisdictions, or areas where cases have not been reported may restrict travel without notice. We are strongly encouraging USDA employees to keep this global travel advisory front of mind.

4. **For employees who may be parents or caregivers impacted by school closings, we told managers to allow alternate and flexible work schedules, the use of unscheduled leave, and telework for telework-eligible individuals.** Employees and supervisors should work together to ensure normal work performance and productivity can be maintained.

5. **We also provided guidance on the available flexibilities,** like alternate and flexible work schedules, the use of unscheduled leave, and telework for telework-eligible individuals, **for employees considered to be at a higher risk of coronavirus.** The CDC considers those with chronic health conditions, older adults, and pregnant women to be higher risk individuals.

6. **We gave guidance to supervisors and managers on what to do in the workplace if an employee or a visitor tests positive for the coronavirus**. This "Playbook" gives step-by-step instructions to follow if you encounter one of these situations.

7. Additionally, **we created a clear process for our managers across the country to request a change in the operational status of a facility.** This streamlined, enterprise-wide view of decision making is also incorporated into the "Playbook" for easy reference.

8. We gave flexibility to states to ensure low-income children are fed when schools are closed by announcing the availability of waivers and issuing them to states that need them.

9. Agencies worked hard to quickly put in place Mission Continuity Plans to ensure we can still deliver critical functions for our nation's food supply, like food safety inspections.

10. And one last thing – **we provided instructions to agencies on ensuring employees are telework ready in the event they are asked to work remotely**. Starting today, you should get into the practice of bringing your laptop, power cords, and any necessary documents home with you each night.

The health and well-being of our employees is our priority. Thank you for your service to USDA and to our customers. Thank you for patience as we work together to respond to COVID-19.

We will continue to provide you with updates and reliable information as we have it.

Thank you,
Deputy Secretary Censky

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

FOR NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION ONLY:

Following the above food service guidance, we've made the decision to close our food service to the general public and visitors since we normally have outside groups and tourists from across the country and the world utilizing our cafeteria, especially now during cherry blossom season. At the Headquarters Complex, this includes the USDA South Building Cafeteria, Dunkin Donuts, Green Olive, Claudia's, Kadai Café and all self-service canteens and vending machines. While these remain open for USDA employees, Ag Connections café will be closed for all food service for all persons. For specific information for closings of food service in the USDA headquarters complex, please see the attached guidance memo.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: FOR MANAGERS: COVID-19 Managers Guidance & Data Calls
Date: Monday, March 16, 2020 10:14:00 AM
Attachments: USDA COVID19 planning 031220.docx

Attachment included previously at pages 308-312

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 9:12 PM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Cc: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Mike - OHS, Washington, DC <mike.oconnor@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR MANAGERS: COVID-19 Managers Guidance & Data Calls

Michawn-
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]
Thanks.
Jessica

Jessica Fantinato

Director
Office of Homeland Security
United States Department of Agriculture

Office: 202.720.2582
Mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]

USDA Operations Center:
202.720.5711 and OpsCenter@dm.usda.gov

From: Censky, Stephen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Stephen.Censky@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 8:55 PM
To: Censky, Stephen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Stephen.Censky@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<David.Wu@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR MANAGERS: COVID-19 Managers Guidance & Data Calls
Importance: High

All:

As you are aware, the coronavirus situation is constantly evolving. This is a MANAGERS ONLY communication-and should NOT be shared. Because things are rapidly changing we ask that you not share this information broadly until we receive and approve your plans, as outlined below.

While keeping with the imperative to ensure mission continuity and the continued delivery of USDA's services to the American people, USDA intends to move toward a posture to maximize telework where feasible while maintaining regular operations. This enhanced posture would begin on Tuesday, March 17 for areas with documented community spread of COVID-19 including, but not limited to, the National Capital Region, Washington State, California Bay Area and New York City. All other areas of the nation would begin this enhanced posture on Thursday, March 19.

The attached guidance is geared toward this group of senior leaders. USDA will be releasing a similar more paired down guidance to all employees first thing tomorrow morning. This guidance will not change the Visitor and Food Service Guidance issued on Friday night – USDA facilities should remain open, as it may be that many employees will not be able to telework in some locations in order to ensure mission-critical functions and services can continue. As such, USDA facilities, pursuant to the Visitor and Food Service Guidance, should limit visitors to mission-critical, essential and time-sensitive visits only by scheduling and screening visitors, to the extent possible in order to protect our employees.

Before we finalize this attached guidance to expand telework there are items we must receive from Mission Areas:

1. Mission areas are required to submit the attached provided excel template for their operations in the National Capital Region, Washington State, California Bay Area, New York City area, and other documented areas of community spread **by 2pm on Monday, March 16, 2020 –** *template attached.* The template should be submitted to Mary Pletcher (mary.pletcher@usda.gov) and Maureen Gardner (maureen.gardner@usda.gov).

2. For all other locations, Mission areas are required to submit the attached provided template **by 12pm on Wednesday, March 18, 2020** – *template attached.* The template should be submitted to Mary Pletcher (mary.pletcher@usda.gov) and Maureen Gardner (maureen.gardner@usda.gov).

These plans are telework and mission continuity related, and will be in addition to your Pandemic Plans. Supervisors, Agency Heads, and Mission Area Leaders must ensure and be confident that plans submitted will not negatively impact the delivery of our services to the American people. Proposed expanded telework flexibilities outlined in plans are not approved until the Mission Area plans are approved by OSEC.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Even though USDA will be issuing final guidance to all employees in the morning, all telework plans need to be approved by the Department before they go into effect on Tuesday. OSEC will work as quick as possible to approve these plans.

At this time **USDA is NOT closing ANY operations**. Authorization to increase telework doesn't mean we will be shutting functions down unless absolutely necessary and approved by the Department. If the operation or program requires people to be present in person then mission areas need to make a plan to spread out office coverage (for example 10 people telework one day while 10 people remain in the office and then the scenario can switch). If you are requesting to close an operation or divert a program to another location, this must be approved by the Department via the Operational Facility Guidance that was issued last week. No offices are to close and no programs are to shutdown without Departmental approval.

OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS/DEADLINES/DATA CALLS

WHAT AGENCIES ARE DOING: By 12pm on Monday, March 16th, please send one or two sentences about what steps agencies are taking to ensure mission continuity to michawn.rich@usda.gov . This will be going in an external press release on Monday or Tuesday.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS: By 12pm on Monday, March 16th, please send any legislative authorities a mission area may need in the immediate near term for meeting our critical stakeholder needs to evan.lee@usda.gov

PANDEMIC PLANS: We need each mission area to turn in their pandemic plans to Homelandsecurity@usda.gov by COB Friday March 20. Please see FSIS example for template reference.

IT CAPACITY TESTS: The REE IT capacity test will continue as scheduled tomorrow. However, all other mission areas will be canceled. We ask that you NOT notify your employees of this until the updated guidance comes out from the agency to all employees.

NEW HIRES: We are asking CHCOs what their plans are to onboard new hires in an enhanced telework environment by March 27. The department intends to keep onboarding new hires despite the current circumstances.

POSITIVE CASES: Should your mission areas end up with an employee that tests positive for COVID-19 please continue to refer to the Playbook for guidance on how to handle that and how to report it up the chain.

SHAREPOINT LINK: Please be reminded of the Managers SharePoint site where all guidance that have been released to date is located.

Thanks and Best Regards,
Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture

From: Censky, Stephen - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 8:39 PM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Courtney Knupp

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<courtney.knupp@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Brand, Bette - RD, Washington, DC <bette.brand@usda.gov>; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC <Mindy.Brashears@usda.gov>; Hubbard, Jim - OSEC, Washington, DC <jim.hubbard@usda.gov>; Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC <Scott.Hutchins@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ted.McKinney@usda.gov>; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>; Angle, Scott - REE-NIFA, Washington, DC <scott.angle@usda.gov>; Barbre, Martin - FPAC-RMA, Washington, DC <martin.barbre@usda.gov>; Brodziski, Mark - RD, Washington, DC <mark.brodziski@usda.gov>; Christiansen, Victoria C -FS <victoria.christiansen@usda.gov>; Denton, Angilla - RD, Washington, DC <angilla.denton@usda.gov>; Fordyce, Richard - FSA, Washington, DC <richard.fordyce@usda.gov>; Hamer, Hubert - NASS <hubert.hamer@usda.gov>; Isley, Ken - FAS, Washington, DC <ken.isley@usda.gov>; Jacobs-Young, Chavonda - ARS <c.jacobsyoung@usda.gov>; Kiecker, Paul - FSIS <paul.kiecker@usda.gov>; Lammers, Bruce - RD, Washington, DC <Bruce.Lammers@usda.gov>; Lohr, Matthew - NRCS, Washington, DC <Matthew.Lohr@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Rupe, Chad - RD, Washington, DC <chad.rupe@usda.gov>; Shea, Kevin - APHIS <kevin.a.shea@usda.gov>; Stephenson, Robert - FPAC-BC, Washington, DC <robert.stephenson@usda.gov>; Summers, Bruce - AMS <Bruce.Summers@usda.gov>; Weinberg, Marca - ERS <marca.weinberg@usda.gov>; Croushorn, Ron - FAS, Washington, DC <Ron.Croushorn@usda.gov>; Fernandez, Claudette - FS <Claudette.Fernandez@usda.gov>; Nash, Douglas - APHIS <douglas.nash@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>; Park, Joon <joon.park@usda.gov>; Reed, Jeremy Todd - FSIS <jeremy.reed@usda.gov>; Baker, Marsha – OSEC, Washington, DC <Marsha.Baker@usda.gov>; Gutman, Theodore H -FS <theodore.gutman@usda.gov>; Horder, Lilia - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <lilia.horder@usda.gov>; Judkins, Tonya - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <tonya.judkins@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Pagett, Riley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Riley.Pagett@usda.gov>; Perry, Andrew - OBPA, Washington, DC <andrew.perry@usda.gov>; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Tobin, Andrew - OE, Washington, DC <andrew.tobin@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Beatty, Mike - OPPE, Washington, DC <mike.beatty@usda.gov>; Cullo, Diane - OTR, Washington, DC <diane.cullo@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Soles, Scott - OCFO, Washington, DC <Scott.Soles@usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>; Washington, Gary S - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <gary.s.washington@usda.gov>; Westhill, Devon -

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OSEC, Washington, DC <Devon.Westhill@usda.gov>; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC <David.Wu@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR MANAGERS: Important COVID-19 Update

All:

There are a few items below I'd like to share with you today intended for 2 different audiences – all employees and managers- which are called out below.

Please note this email is being sent to Subcabinet members, Mission Area chiefs, COOs, Administrators, and Senior Advisors. As you are aware this is a constantly evolving situation and as we have more information we will be sure to share it.

FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

ALL EMPLOYEE EMAIL: The email at the bottom of this email thread just went to all employees via our internal email system. This email and the 2 attachments above provide new guidance on our new visitor policy, visitor screening questions, and our food service posture. It also summarizes manager guidance documents that have been shared with you over the last week on travel, the playbook, as well as offers guidance on telework, school closures, and reasonable accommodation flexibilities. As you are aware, USDA all employee emails do not currently go to all employees. Because of this we ask that you copy and paste the information at the bottom of this email and share it with all of your employees.

FOR MANAGERS

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS GUIDANCE & BEST PRACTICES:
Linked is a guidance document for internal communication, as it related to coronavirus, with your employees. The document outlines the process for approval of internal communications, gives guidance on who you should forward internal communications to, and suggests several best practices. Questions? Contact Ryann DuRant at ryann.durant@usda.gov.

IT INFASTRUCTURE CAPACITY TEST- As you are aware beginning Monday March 16th mission areas will be starting to "stress test their IT networks" all throughout next week. The schedule and scope for each mission area is attached. Because this is a managers only communication USDA does not intend to share this with all employees as mission areas are in charge of communicating with their employees about their own individual stress tests. Questions? Contact Gary Washington at gary.s.washington@usda.gov

> **IT INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY TEST COMMUNICATION GUIDANCE:**
> **For any field offices looking to put up signs on their doors for stakeholders during the telework capacity testing day, consider using the following text:** "Our office is engaging in a telework capacity test today March (insert date). However, we are ready to help you! For immediate assistance, please contact (insert name(s) from facility) at (insert phone AND email)."

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For any emails to Mission Area/Agency employees regarding telework capacity testing, consider using the following text in the body of the email: "These tests will help determine the employee's ability to connect via the Virtual Private Network (VPN), work seamlessly from alternate locations, determine the quality of user experience when remotely connected to the network, and asses the ability of the Customer Help Desk to provide effective technical assistance to users while also working remotely. Below is a video from USDA's Chief Information Officer Gary Washington. We encourage you to watch for helpful telework guidance."



Please click here or the image above to view with video.

**You can enlarge the photo as necessary and use the following video link:*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BXfK9QWswo&feature=youtu.be

Thanks and Best Regards,
Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Hello fellow USDA colleagues,

New developments as they relate to coronavirus are happening daily. USDA employees are already the hardest working and most efficient in the federal workforce – but balancing that commitment to mission with the worry over the impact of the coronavirus on you and your family can be difficult.

That's why I wanted to provide you with **ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE** on measures we are taking, effective Monday, March 16th.

- **RESTRICTING VISITORS TO ALL USDA FACILITIES:** Effective Monday, March 16th, we are no longer allowing visitors into USDA facilities who have not been screened and approved. Visitors will not be granted permission into our facilities unless they have been cleared through our screening processes. Every visitor to a USDA office or facility should be asked a set of three questions. If any of the conditions apply, the visitor should

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not be allowed to enter our USDA offices and asked to return at an appropriate time or conduct a meeting virtually. This gives our offices out in the field the flexibility they need to move toward more scheduled visits, to the extent possible, in order to safely interact with our customers and best serve them. See attached memo for additional guidance.

- **RECONSIDER IN-PERSON MEETINGS:** Effective Monday, March 16th, all USDA employees are encouraged to move in-person meetings, both with internal USDA employees and with external stakeholders, to virtual meetings. We take these steps while continuing to conduct the regular and ongoing work of USDA. To the extent possible, we encourage employees to work with our stakeholders to schedule necessary meetings by teleconference or videoconference. If a visitor has a mission-critical, essential, and time-sensitive reason to meet with an employee in person, these visitors must be screened and approved through the outlined process. See attached memo for additional guidance.
- **CLOSING FOOD SERVICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC:** Effective Monday, March 16th, all USDA-controlled food service at USDA facilities will be closed to the general public and visitors. Buffet and self-service style food service will not permitted to continue at any USDA facility. Pre-packaged, 'grab and go' foods, vending items, and made-to order food service options may continue. All USDA-controlled food service at USDA facilities may remain open to USDA employees and USDA contractors only. See attached memo for additional guidance.
- **PREPARE FOR TELEWORK, IF NEEDED:** All employees in telework eligible positions should start getting telework ready. This means working with your supervisor to finalize telework agreements, getting in the practice of bringing all necessary materials – including your laptop – home with you each night, and testing network and telework capabilities.

I also want to provide you with an update of actions taken by USDA over the past week to protect your health and ensure continued customer service. In an effort to make sure you have the information and guidance you need, here are some key actions you should know about:

1. **We issued guidance to employees on how to mitigate the spread of coronavirus** through health and hygiene measures like washing your hands for 20 seconds and staying home from work until you are fever-free for at least 24 hours. USDA's "Be Prepared" website has links to this important information and is updated regularly.

2. Speaking of websites, **we created an external website** that provides clear answers for frequently asked questions by our customers, stakeholders, and the general public.

3. **We issued travel guidance**, restricting official travel to only mission-critical and asking employees not to travel on official business to high-risk countries or areas. We are advising employees not to travel on personal time to these high-risk countries and areas as well.
    a. Employees returning from high-risk areas whether business or personal will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days before returning to work.
    b. The Department of State has advised U.S. citizens to reconsider travel abroad due to the global impact of COVID-19. Many areas throughout the world are now experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks and taking action that may limit traveler mobility, including quarantines and broader restriction. Even countries, jurisdictions, or areas where cases have not been reported may restrict travel

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without notice. We are strongly encouraging USDA employees to keep this global travel advisory front of mind.

4. **For employees who may be parents or caregivers impacted by school closings, we told managers to allow alternate and flexible work schedules, the use of unscheduled leave, and telework for telework-eligible individuals.** Employees and supervisors should work together to ensure normal work performance and productivity can be maintained.

5. **We also provided guidance on the available flexibilities,** like alternate and flexible work schedules, the use of unscheduled leave, and telework for telework-eligible individuals, **for employees considered to be at a higher risk of coronavirus.** The CDC considers those with chronic health conditions, older adults, and pregnant women to be higher risk individuals.

6. **We gave guidance to supervisors and managers on what to do in the workplace if an employee or a visitor tests positive for the coronavirus**. This "Playbook" gives step-by-step instructions to follow if you encounter one of these situations.

7. Additionally, **we created a clear process for our managers across the country to request a change in the operational status of a facility.** This streamlined, enterprise-wide view of decision making is also incorporated into the "Playbook" for easy reference.

8. We gave flexibility to states to ensure low-income children are fed when schools are closed by announcing the availability of waivers and issuing them to states that need them.

9. Agencies worked hard to quickly put in place Mission Continuity Plans to ensure we can still deliver critical functions for our nation's food supply, like food safety inspections.

10. And one last thing – **we provided instructions to agencies on ensuring employees are telework ready in the event they are asked to work remotely**. Starting today, you should get into the practice of bringing your laptop, power cords, and any necessary documents home with you each night.

The health and well-being of our employees is our priority. Thank you for your service to USDA and to our customers. Thank you for patience as we work together to respond to COVID-19.

We will continue to provide you with updates and reliable information as we have it.

Thank you,
Deputy Secretary Censky

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FOR NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION ONLY:

Following the above food service guidance, we've made the decision to close our food service to the general public and visitors since we normally have outside groups and tourists from across the country and the world utilizing our cafeteria, especially now during cherry blossom season. At the Headquarters Complex, this includes the USDA South Building Cafeteria, Dunkin Donuts, Green Olive, Claudia's, Kadai Café and all self-service canteens and vending machines. While these remain open for USDA employees, Ag Connections café will be closed for all food service for all persons. For specific information for closings of food service in the USDA headquarters complex, please see the attached guidance memo.

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From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Ken Barbic (Ken.Barbic@usda.gov)
Subject: FW: For senior advisor meeting
Date: Friday, May 8, 2020 12:32:00 PM

Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>
Subject: For senior advisor meeting

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: For senior advisor meeting
Date: Friday, May 8, 2020 12:32:37 PM

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>
Subject: For senior advisor meeting

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: FW: fyi - Incoming Cong Letter Sen Casey plus 27 Members SNAP delivery options
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:29:00 AM
Attachments: 5.11.20 Letter to USDA re SNAP Delivery.pdf

(b) (5), DPP ?

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 12:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: fyi - Incoming Cong Letter Sen Casey plus 27 Members SNAP delivery options

Short answer is (b) (5), DPP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 9:43 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Subject: fyi - Incoming Cong Letter Sen Casey plus 27 Members SNAP delivery options

Wanted everyone to be aware of this letter just received from Sen Casey plus 27 Senators, bipartisan, including RM Stabenow with specific questions.

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write today to inquire about the actions USDA is taking to expand the delivery options available to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented rise in unemployment and a subsequent increase in demand for food assistance. At the same time, social distancing guidelines and stay at home orders have made it challenging – and unsafe – for many individuals to travel to purchase food. This is especially true for seniors and immunocompromised individuals who are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19, as well as individuals with disabilities and families who lack reliable transportation. We believe that no individual or family should be disadvantaged simply because they rely on SNAP benefits to access the food they need.

We appreciate USDA's work to expedite the process through which states and retailers are able to participate in the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot. For participating states, this innovative program provides an opportunity to increase and streamline delivery options, and the Department's efforts to rapidly expand the pilot is one important component of the work that is needed to expand SNAP recipients' access to delivery services. We thank you for developing the simplified template for states to enroll as well as for your work to increase participation from additional retailers. In addition to these efforts to expand the Online Purchasing Pilot, we believe that it is also critical to further expand and maximize the alternative mechanisms that exist to facilitate delivery for SNAP participants.

During this public health and economic crisis, it is vital that USDA do everything it can to continue to further expand delivery and curbside pickup options for SNAP recipients. These tools not only benefit and protect SNAP participants, but they are also essential for the economic benefits that SNAP purchases provide to businesses, farmers and local communities. We ask that you respond to the following questions by May 15, 2020.

1. Have you taken any steps to expand the ability of authorized SNAP retailers to access mobile/wireless Point of Sale (POS) devices for the purpose of delivery and curbside pickup?

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a. How are you working with States and authorized retailers to provide them with information regarding the option to offer delivery services to SNAP participants if they have mobile/wireless POS devices?
b. Have you taken any steps to help retailers interested in offering delivery service to acquire mobile POS or identify partners with delivery capabilities?
c. How are you working with retailers exempt from the requirement to pay for their EBT equipment and service (farmers markets, direct marketing farmers, military commissaries, non-profit buying cooperatives) to expand delivery or access to mobile devices?

2. What steps have you taken to notify SNAP recipients of the options that currently exist for online ordering, delivery and pickup options?
   Are you able to compile a centralized list of the retailers that provide these options, or work with the states to compile them by state?
3. How is USDA working to authorize direct to consumer retailers (that have delivery capabilities) to accept SNAP benefits?
   a. How long is it taking to authorize additional retailers who have become interested in authorization as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?
   b. What barriers have you encountered to expediting this process as interest in authorization continues to grow?
4. Many SNAP participants, especially in rural areas, lack reliable access to internet services. Has USDA issued any guidance or best practices for retailers about how to protect SNAP participants from fraud while also offering alternatives to online ordering such as placing orders over the phone?
5. Many older adults do not have experience shopping for groceries online, and low-income older adults who order groceries for delivery or pick up do so less frequently than those of higher incomes. Has USDA has provided guidance to retailers on providing easy to follow instruction or support for SNAP participants who may not have previous experience shopping online?
6. How are you working to expand the technical support available to farmers, farmers markets and food hubs to offer delivery services to SNAP participants?
   a. How many, and which, states currently utilize USDA funding to support farmers and farmers markets in accessing mobile/wireless POS devices and services? How many states include requirements for no-cost wireless equipment for exempt entities in their EBT state processing contracts?
   b. What funding do you have available for FY20 to support mobile/wireless POS equipment and services for farmers markets and direct market farmers through the state agencies?
7. What funding sources and technical assistance are available to support mobile/wireless POS equipment through the States for non-exempt retailers during the COVID-19 pandemic?
8. What steps are you taking to simplify the process and identify cost-saving solutions to expedite the adoption of mobile/wireless POS processing capacity for all retailers?
9. As interest and demand continues to grow for SNAP delivery services, how is USDA engaging with other federal agencies around recommended health precaution and protection for retailers, consumers and delivery workers?

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We thank you for your immediate attention to these questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

/s/ Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Robert Menendez
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

/s/ Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

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/s/ Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

/s/ Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

/s/ Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

/s/ Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

/s/ Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Patty Murray
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

/s/ Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

/s/ Jack Reed
United States Senator

/s/ Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

/s/ Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	FW: hill FNS implementation document
Date:	Thursday, March 19, 2020 12:39:00 PM
Attachments:	HR 6201 Implementation 031920.pdf

Lillie and Ashley, Should have included you on this. Wanted to make sure you know this is going out to the Hill soon.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Ken - OSEC Washington DC Barbic (Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov) <Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Alec - OC 20174 Washington DC Varsamis (alec.varsamis@usda.gov) <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Subject: hill FNS implementation document
Importance: High

Campbell, Ken, Evan, Alec,

Anne has asked me to share the attached FNS document with the hill to provide an outline of upcoming FNS guidance related to the just passed bill.

Once I send to the hill, we should assume it will be shared more broadly, so I'm sharing with you all before I hit send.

Veronica

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USDA Implementation of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act
Food and Nutrition Service

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service administers 15 nutrition assistance programs that leverage American's agricultural abundance to ensure children and low-income individuals and families have nutritious food to eat. Many of these programs are administered by States and local providers in partnership with USDA.

Provision	FNS Action	State Action
SNAP	Call on 3/19 with SNAP State program administrators, state EBT directors, and their EBT vendors	
Section 1101: P-EBT	Guidance and template for application to be released	State plans would need to be submitted; state capacity to implement this provision would vary greatly based on state resources and existing infrastructure; must serve both existing SNAP households (days to weeks) and new households (weeks to months on new cards)
Section 1102: Funds for Puerto Rico, American Samoa, CNMI	With OMB, apportion funds to the territories (in process)	Available as needed due to increases in the demand for benefits
Section 2301: SNAP flexibility for low-income jobless worker	Self-executing memo to be released to states	States will implement provision effective April 1, 2020
Section 2302: Additional SNAP flexibilities – Max allotments	Guidance and template for application to be released	Days to a week (depending on state infrastructure)
Section 2302: Additional SNAP flexibilities - Simple waivers/standard requests	Waivers that were already pending will be cleared, templates will be provided for waivers that are likely to be used by multiple states	Days to weeks (depending on state infrastructure)
Section 2302: Additional SNAP flexibilities - Complex waivers/unique requests	Regional offices will work closely with States to provide technical assistance in developing and submitting complex requests	Weeks (depending on state infrastructure and request)
Child Nutrition	*Question and Answer* document coming and future webinar	
Sections 2102 and 2102: Nationwide Waivers	Templates for nation-wide known requests and CACFP (non-congregate) waivers to be released; additional nation-wide waivers to be developed based on feedback from states; state specific waivers remain an option	For nation-wide waivers, states will notify to opt in and can begin in days to weeks (depending on States, schools, and site sponsors)
WIC	*Question and Answer* document coming and future webinar, as needed	
Section 2203: Physical Presence	Template for application to be released, for approval state-by-state	Days, states can begin immediately
Section 2204: Administrative Requirements Waiver under WIC	Template for application to be released, for approval state-by-state	Days, states can begin immediately, depending on the type of change

As of 3/19/20, all materials are pending with OMB and will be distributed upon being cleared.

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Release 1045-464 12654
USDA-20-1045-A-000464

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov); Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	FW: Letter for Secretary Perdue from Ranking Member Conaway
Date:	Friday, March 27, 2020 5:25:00 PM
Attachments:	03272020 Perdue Online Pilot Expansion.pdf

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 5:25 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Letter for Secretary Perdue from Ranking Member Conaway

FYI.

From: "Tiller, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Tiller@mail.house.gov>
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 at 5:16 PM
To: Veronica Wong <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: Letter for Secretary Perdue from Ranking Member Conaway

Hi, Veronica –

Please see the attached letter from Ranking Member Conaway to Secretary Perdue.

Thank you,

Jennifer

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As Congress works through multiple phases of aid to help our fellow Americans in this unprecedented time, I want to applaud both the expedient work of Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) and the States tasked with implementing myriad flexibilities associated with COVID-19. These flexibilities allow States to work closely with their impacted communities in easing requirements of program participation.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves a wide variety of individuals, both young and old. It serves veterans. It serves the disabled. It serves individuals, couples, and large families alike. The needs of these populations are wide-ranging and require various programmatic adaptations to meet those needs, particularly in a time of crisis. And those needs are met through one of the most successful public-private partnerships: State agencies and retailers.

That being said, I urge you to explore additional flexibilities to make certain SNAP recipients are offered sustainable solutions to any access issues they may be experiencing across States. As an example, in 2014, the Farm Bill mandated a pilot be conducted to test the feasibility and implications of allowing retailers to accept SNAP benefits through online transactions. As you know, this was no small undertaking, and five years after the signing of the 2014 Farm Bill, the first pilot was implemented in the State of New York. I am pleased to see that six States - Alabama, New York, Washington, Oregon, Alabama and Iowa – are operating these pilots.

On March 10, 2020, on a call with FNCS political and career personnel, my staff inquired as to the likelihood of a nationwide expansion of these integral pilots. At the time, it was relayed that this was not viable. I ask that USDA reconsider this position. I ask this while recognizing—for the existing pilots—it took years to ensure these transactions had the same security and privacy as other types of tender. It is also evident that the requirements set forth by USDA require patience and collaboration between State agencies, processors, retailers, and consumers. But I believe it is a worthwhile effort given the gravity of the challenges facing our nation's most vulnerable citizens.

As this crisis continues to unfold and as Congress potentially considers additional rounds of legislation, I think calls to increase benefits remain premature when access is the more prevalent issue. I welcome your feedback and again thank your team for their tireless work.

Sincerely,

K. Michael Conaway
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	OES-FRONT
Cc:	Randall, Kiev - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov); Tonya - FNS Young (tonya.young@usda.gov); Lindsay - FNS Datlow (Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov); Stagno, Laura - FNS; Wesley - OSEC Washington DC Gwinn (wesley.gwinn@usda.gov); Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject:	FW: Letter from Rep. Kennedy to Sec. Perdue
Date:	Sunday, March 15, 2020 10:44:00 AM
Attachments:	3-13-2020 Rep. Kennedy Letter to USDA on SNAP and TEFAP Coronavirus.pdf

Oes, please see attached incoming letter to Usda.

From: Fins, Eric <Eric.Fins@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 10:20 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Daniels, David <David.Daniels@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Letter from Rep. Kennedy to Sec. Perdue

Veronica – attached is a letter from Rep. Kennedy to Secretary Perdue. Can you confirm receipt when you get a chance? Thanks!

Eric

Eric S. Fins
Legislative Director / Counsel
Office of Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy, III
304 Cannon House Office Building | Washington, DC 20515

202-225-5931
Kennedy.house.gov

To sign up for Congressman Kennedy's eNewsletter, please click here.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III
4TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DIGITAL COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2104

434 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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(202) 225-5931

DISTRICT OFFICES:
29 CRAFTS STREET
SUITE 375
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(617) 332-3333

8 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 200
ATTLEBORO, MA 02703
(508) 431-1110

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I am writing with urgent concern about the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on critical food assistance programs funded and managed by the Department of Agriculture (USDA). Specifically, I am concerned about current proposed rules limiting participation in food assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the need to expand and frontload monthly benefits to help families prepare for potential food shortages. I also urge the USDA to implement unique solutions through programs like The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and partnerships with public and private entities to operate food delivery networks in the event traditional options have limited or no availability.

During 2019, the USDA developed three separate rules that would cumulatively remove millions of Americans from SNAP benefits altogether, and significantly reduce benefits for millions more. Together, these three rules (*Revision of the Categorical Eligibility in SNAP*, *Standardization of State Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowances*, and *Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents*) would devastate and compound the economic uncertainty and instability families face on a daily basis, and that's before the impacts of the coronavirus hit food supply chains and economic markets. The USDA's own analysis admits they would significantly reduce eligibility for food assistance programs. I urge you to immediately cease and desist the implementation of these rules.

I also urge you to expand and frontload benefits to recipients of food assistance programs. Families that rely on SNAP and other assistance programs face income insecurity that puts financial limitations on the amount of food and products they can purchase in advance. However, with concerns about food supply chains and availability, these families are in even more danger of being unable to afford shelf-stable products to store in advance of any major food supply disruption. Additional funds provided upfront before any potential pandemic or disruptions occur, in addition to an expansion of families eligible for assistance, if only temporarily, would ensure families are able to remain safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. This also includes working directly with states to waive certain requirements or expand alternatives for programs like school lunches, especially if individual schools or entire school districts close for extended periods. I applaud USDA for taking the first step by approving waivers allowing meal sponsors to serve grab and go meals as opposed to congregate feeding. USDA can and should go

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further by expanding eligibility to any area with school closures and allow for these sponsors to provide multiple meals at a time. These measures would not only ensure children have access to meals during this crisis, but also minimize physical visits to meal sites which is critical to support social distancing practices.

To be sure, Congress plays an integral role in this process. We are working with our colleagues on additional supplemental emergency funding for SNAP and other food assistance programs that would provide more significant funding and authorities to the USDA as needed to backfill FY2021 funds spent early, but also provide assurances to beneficiaries that additional funding is coming and available.

Finally, we call your attention to the TEFAP program as well as partnerships with public and private entities to expand access to food delivery networks. In worst case scenarios, the coronavirus risks major disruptions to traditional food supply through grocery stores. When our nation has faced previous health epidemics or economic recessions, disaster assistance to SNAP beneficiaries has helped those families address uncertainties. However, those funds are only helpful if beneficiaries can use them at locations that accept them. Coronavirus poses both health and economic catastrophe. With the potential of supermarkets closing or going without stocked shelves, and other traditional food retailers closing for extended periods of time, we must ensure families are able to access food through alternative food delivery networks. Such networks could include food banks, but also partnerships that with private entities that provide direct delivery services to households.

On a normal day, nearly 40 million Americans already struggle to place enough food on their family table. The pending coronavirus pandemic is like nothing the U.S. has faced in over a generation. This virus has the potential to be a disastrous health pandemic, but also potential economic devastation. We must ensure all Americans, regardless of income, can weather the storm.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent issues. I stand ready to work with you and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov)
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	FW: Letter from Rep. Rush - COVID FNS - SNAP flexibilities
Date:	Wednesday, March 25, 2020 3:11:00 PM
Attachments:	Letter to Sec. Perdue RE Coronavirus SNAP benefits.pdf image007.png image008.png image009.png image010.png

Noah, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]. Thanks.

From: Pandya, Nishith <Nishith.Pandya@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 11:40 AM
To: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Subject: Letter from Rep. Rush

Attached please find a letter from Rep. Rush to Sec. Perdue.

Thank you.

Mr. Nishith Pandya | Legislative Director
Congressman Bobby L. Rush (IL-01)
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1301
(p) 202.225.4372 (f) 202.226.0333
Nishith.Pandya@mail.house.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

BOBBY L. RUSH
1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN: ENERGY
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
HEALTH

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

WASHINGTON:
2188 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1301

CHICAGO:
11750 SOUTH WESTERN AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60643-4732

RUSH.HOUSE.GOV

March 25, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington DC 20250-0002

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I am writing to urge you and your staff to work expeditiously to exercise the flexibilities granted to you in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (PL 116-127) to provide emergency assistance to individuals and families already experiencing the strain of this pandemic.

Nearly 2 million Illinoisans already depend on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs. Illinois is also among the states that has issued a Stay-In-Place order to prevent the spread of this virus, resulting in thousands of people losing work hours — if not their jobs altogether — until at least April 7th. This need for food assistance will only increase as more and more Illinoisans feel the economic impact caused by COVID-19 and the necessary consequences of temporarily putting lives over livelihood.

To ensure that state and local organizations are able to respond effectively to the evolving situation on the ground and that those in need are able to access critical benefits, I urge you to provide the maximum flexibility and support to the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS),which oversees federal nutrition programs in Illinois. Specifically, there are two requests for which I request your immediate action:

- **Enhanced use of telephonic signatures for SNAP applications.** With the state operating under a Stay-In-Place order, SNAP participants are being encouraged to use phone and online methods to apply for and manage benefits. Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are an important partner in supporting SNAP outreach and application assistance and can help the state assist SNAP applicants over the phone, especially as IDHS experiences higher demand. However, USDA requires states to store audio files with telephonic signatures, and IDHS does not currently have the capacity to retrieve these telephonic signatures from CBOs. I urge USDA to waive the requirement that states store telephonic signatures, allowing CBOs to store them instead.
- **Approve the implementation of a disaster household food distribution program**. Across Illinois, food banks are working tirelessly to ensure that emergency food programs remain accessible and safe. With declines in product and volunteers coupled with increased demand, food banks require the utmost flexibility to be able to respond to the evolving circumstances in their communities. I urge USDA to approve IDHS's request to

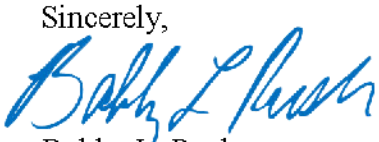
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

implement a disaster household food distribution program, allowing our emergency food system to respond to our community's needs swiftly and safely.

Congress acted quickly to provide the authority the U.S. Department of Agriculture requires to ensure that Americans impacted by this pandemic have the food resources they need. On behalf of families in Illinois, I urge you to also act quickly to ensure that all Americans have the food they need during this difficult time.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. Should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Talero, Andres - OES, Washington, DC; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	FW: Letter from Senator Blumenthal to USDA FNS re Nutrition Waivers and Guidance
Date:	Thursday, March 19, 2020 2:53:00 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png image006.png 2020 03 19 Letter to USDA FNS re Nutrition Waivers and Guidance (002) PDF.pdf

Please add this incoming letter to (b) (5), DPP Thanks.

From: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 2:50 PM
To: SM.OSEC.AGSEC.OES <SM.OSEC.AGSEC.OES@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Letter from Senator Blumenthal to USDA FNS re Nutrition Waivers and Guidance

Please process, thanks.

From: Craig, Danisha (Blumenthal) <Danisha_Craig@blumenthal.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 2:43 PM
To: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Cc: Smith, Emily (Murphy) <Emily_Smith@murphy.senate.gov>; Kalonia, Maya (Blumenthal) <Maya_Kalonia@blumenthal.senate.gov>
Subject: Letter from Senator Blumenthal to USDA FNS re Nutrition Waivers and Guidance

To whom it may concern,

Please see attached letter to Secretary Sonny Perdue and Administrator Pam Miller requesting immediate guidance regarding the implementation of just-approved Families First Coronavirus Response Act, as well as swiftly approving Connecticut's nutrition waiver submissions.

Thanks,
Danisha

Danisha Craig
Legislative Correspondent & Deputy Scheduler

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal
706 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2823
Fax: (202) 224-9673
http://blumenthal.senate.gov



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Pam Miller
Administrator of the U.S. Department
of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service
3120 Braddock Place 7th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Secretary Perdue and Administrator Miller:

As Americans face the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, it is imperative that everyone has access to enough food to meet their nutritional needs, while being able to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidance of having a two-week supply of food. It is essential that the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provide the state of Connecticut with immediate guidance and clarification on the implementation of provisions of H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. USDA FNS must also swiftly approve Connecticut's nutrition waiver submissions. Officials at the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) have so far received little to no direction from USDA FNS and are waiting for waivers to be approved to continue their important work of preventing hunger during this unprecedented time.

On March 18, the United States Senate sent the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to President Trump's desk. This legislation includes additional aid for families and food banks. Specifically, this measure provides $400 million for the Commodity Assistance Program for the emergency food assistance program (TEFAP). TEFAP provides low-income Americans, including older Americans, with emergency food, often through distribution at local food banks. We are concerned and saddened that USDA FNS has yet to provide any information regarding the implementation of these provisions and how much assistance Connecticut will receive. Connecticut DSS officials stand ready to work with USDA FNS to ensure that Americans in need receive essential aid in a timely manner.

Connecticut DSS has submitted seven waivers to USDA and only three have been approved. Connecticut is still waiting on the following waivers to be approved: 1) to issue supplemental benefits to all existing SNAP households for up to a full month's benefits 2) to waive the eligibility requirements for students in higher education enrolled more than half time 3) to extend certification periods by 90 days and waive periodic reports for 90 days 4) flexibility around Fair Hearings timeframes. While we appreciate the flexibility provided by FNS recently

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regarding the Quality Control process, it does little to ensure individuals and families receiving SNAP assistance have enough food in their homes to sustain them through this tumultuous period. Nor does it alleviate the burdens that state offices are feeling in attempting to meet the demands of processing new applications and recertifications with a severely depleted workforce.

The waivers regarding supplemental benefits and student requirements are vital to ensuring that people are not left without benefits at a time when some grocery stores have struggled to keep up with demand and maintain stocked shelves. Timely approval is also important to ensuring that as newly unemployed individuals apply for benefits to feed their families, local resources and phone lines are not overburdened.

As we have all seen over the past few weeks and even days, COVID-19 is moving rapidly and indiscriminately through communities across the country. As such, we implore USDA FNS to urgently approve pending nutrition waivers and provide Connecticut and their state partners with much needed guidance and clarification regarding the implementation of measures within H.R. 6201. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and respectfully request a response by March 26, 2020. People should not have to jeopardize the health of themselves or their families to keep food on the table. Lives are on the line.

Sincerely,

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate

CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senate

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Letter to Secretary Perdue re SNAP delivery options - Casey +
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 9:37:00 AM
Attachments: 5.11.20 Letter to USDA re SNAP Delivery.pdf

Chris, (b) (5), DPP, ACP [redacted]

Thanks.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write today to inquire about the actions USDA is taking to expand the delivery options available to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented rise in unemployment and a subsequent increase in demand for food assistance. At the same time, social distancing guidelines and stay at home orders have made it challenging – and unsafe – for many individuals to travel to purchase food. This is especially true for seniors and immunocompromised individuals who are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19, as well as individuals with disabilities and families who lack reliable transportation. We believe that no individual or family should be disadvantaged simply because they rely on SNAP benefits to access the food they need.

We appreciate USDA's work to expedite the process through which states and retailers are able to participate in the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot. For participating states, this innovative program provides an opportunity to increase and streamline delivery options, and the Department's efforts to rapidly expand the pilot is one important component of the work that is needed to expand SNAP recipients' access to delivery services. We thank you for developing the simplified template for states to enroll as well as for your work to increase participation from additional retailers. In addition to these efforts to expand the Online Purchasing Pilot, we believe that it is also critical to further expand and maximize the alternative mechanisms that exist to facilitate delivery for SNAP participants.

During this public health and economic crisis, it is vital that USDA do everything it can to continue to further expand delivery and curbside pickup options for SNAP recipients. These tools not only benefit and protect SNAP participants, but they are also essential for the economic benefits that SNAP purchases provide to businesses, farmers and local communities. We ask that you respond to the following questions by May 15, 2020.

1. Have you taken any steps to expand the ability of authorized SNAP retailers to access mobile/wireless Point of Sale (POS) devices for the purpose of delivery and curbside pickup?

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a. How are you working with States and authorized retailers to provide them with information regarding the option to offer delivery services to SNAP participants if they have mobile/wireless POS devices?
b. Have you taken any steps to help retailers interested in offering delivery service to acquire mobile POS or identify partners with delivery capabilities?
c. How are you working with retailers exempt from the requirement to pay for their EBT equipment and service (farmers markets, direct marketing farmers, military commissaries, non-profit buying cooperatives) to expand delivery or access to mobile devices?

2. What steps have you taken to notify SNAP recipients of the options that currently exist for online ordering, delivery and pickup options?
   Are you able to compile a centralized list of the retailers that provide these options, or work with the states to compile them by state?
3. How is USDA working to authorize direct to consumer retailers (that have delivery capabilities) to accept SNAP benefits?
   a. How long is it taking to authorize additional retailers who have become interested in authorization as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?
   b. What barriers have you encountered to expediting this process as interest in authorization continues to grow?
4. Many SNAP participants, especially in rural areas, lack reliable access to internet services. Has USDA issued any guidance or best practices for retailers about how to protect SNAP participants from fraud while also offering alternatives to online ordering such as placing orders over the phone?
5. Many older adults do not have experience shopping for groceries online, and low-income older adults who order groceries for delivery or pick up do so less frequently than those of higher incomes. Has USDA has provided guidance to retailers on providing easy to follow instruction or support for SNAP participants who may not have previous experience shopping online?
6. How are you working to expand the technical support available to farmers, farmers markets and food hubs to offer delivery services to SNAP participants?
   a. How many, and which, states currently utilize USDA funding to support farmers and farmers markets in accessing mobile/wireless POS devices and services? How many states include requirements for no-cost wireless equipment for exempt entities in their EBT state processing contracts?
   b. What funding do you have available for FY20 to support mobile/wireless POS equipment and services for farmers markets and direct market farmers through the state agencies?
7. What funding sources and technical assistance are available to support mobile/wireless POS equipment through the States for non-exempt retailers during the COVID-19 pandemic?
8. What steps are you taking to simplify the process and identify cost-saving solutions to expedite the adoption of mobile/wireless POS processing capacity for all retailers?
9. As interest and demand continues to grow for SNAP delivery services, how is USDA engaging with other federal agencies around recommended health precaution and protection for retailers, consumers and delivery workers?

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We thank you for your immediate attention to these questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

/s/ Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Robert Menendez
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

/s/ Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

/s/ Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

/s/ Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

/s/ Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

/s/ Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

/s/ Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Patty Murray
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

/s/ Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

/s/ Jack Reed
United States Senator

/s/ Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

/s/ Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	FW: Letter to Secretary Perdue regarding pandemic response needs for Organic Sector
Date:	Monday, April 20, 2020 6:56:00 PM
Attachments:	Sec Perdue pandemic response letter from organic sector.docx

Had overlooked this one but Sally maybe already forwarded.

Joby Young

Chief of Staff
United States Department of Agriculture

From: Patty Lovera (b) (6) @organicfarmersassociation.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 6:55 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) @gmail.com
Subject: Letter to Secretary Perdue regarding pandemic response needs for Organic Sector

Hi Joby.

Attached is a letter from the National Organic Coalition, the Organic Farming Research Foundation and the Organic Farmers Association regarding how the pandemic response can best address the needs of the organic agriculture sector.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need more information

Thank you.

Patty

--
Patty Lovera
Policy Director
Organic Farmers Association
(office) (b) (6)
(mobile) (b) (6)
www.organicfarmersassociation.org

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We are writing to make recommendations about emergency actions that your agency can take to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the organic sector. We offer our recommendations with full understanding that all sectors of agriculture are now in crisis and that we must all work together to address these challenges.

We are deeply concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on organic farmers, farmworkers, businesses, certifiers and inspectors, and consumers. We are mindful of the need to protect the health and safety of all who are involved in organic agriculture, certification, and compliance. We also seek to advocate for responsible actions that will protect the integrity of the USDA organic seal during this difficult time.

Because of the annual organic certification process and the need to protect the integrity of the USDA organic seal during this time of extreme market disruption, some of our concerns and recommendations may be unique from those raised by other sectors of agriculture.

Support for Organic Farmers

The recently enacted CARES Act includes a $9.5 billion emergency fund:

> "to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus by providing support for agricultural producers impacted by coronavirus, including producers of specialty crops, producers that supply local food systems, including farmers markets, restaurants, and schools, and livestock producers, including dairy producers."

As you make plans to implement this section of Act, we would like to point out that organic farmers represent a significant percentage of the farmers in each of the specialty crop, livestock and dairy, and local food supply categories prioritized by Congress. Therefore, it is critical that organic farmers be included in any emergency response actions taken to implement this provision of the Act. The following financial assistance recommendations would be extremely helpful for the organic sector:

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- While it is certainly a blunt instrument, providing direct payments to farmers including organic farmers, to keep them solvent during this critical production season in the face of lost or disrupted marketing channels, may be the most direct way to bolster our nation's food supply. While the awful human health implications of the pandemic may peak and subside over the next couple of months, the long-term food security implications of a year of lost markets for U.S. farmers could have even longer lasting impacts on our society. In making direct payments, it is critical that the criteria used to distribute those payments be more fine-tuned to support the diversity and richness of U.S. agriculture than was reflected in the recent trade mitigation payments, and that more reasonable payment limitations govern those payments to ensure that more farmers get help with these funds.

- Most organic and small farms have not traditionally accessed food purchasing programs run by the agency using Commodity Credit Corporation funding. As you develop new purchasing programs to both aid farms and procure food for emergency feeding or other nutrition programs, we urge you to make the procurement process flexible enough to work for organic and small farms, not just large conventional operations. This should include purchases of a diverse set of crops, not just commodity crops.

- As farmers innovate to respond to the social distancing recommendations related to the pandemic, USDA should provide financial assistance for farms setting up virtual platforms to facilitate the sale of their products, as well as "on-farm" stands, curbside pickup, and other direct to consumer "no-touch" distribution channels that minimize interaction. In the same way as restaurants across the nation have shifted to take-out pick up options, farmers too are shifting to this model. But farmers need some financial assistance to facilitate this shift.

- Increase organic certification cost-share assistance for certified organic farms and handlers and provide immediate payment to organic operations. Consider making payments directly to organic certification agencies to cover their costs of certifying organic operations so that organic farmers and handlers do not have to bear that cost during these extreme times of market disruption.

- Dairy is one of the leading sectors of organic. Unfortunately, organic dairy farmers have been slow to embrace the new Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program because it is perceived as only being relevant to conventional dairy farmers. However, historically major declines in conventional dairy prices have resulted in downward pressure on organic dairy prices as well. Therefore, we urge you to re-open the 2020 sign-up period for the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program to allow new participants in the program. In addition, reopening the sign-up period would allow existing DMC participants to reconsider their coverage decisions for 2020 given the extraordinary and unforeseen dairy market collapse related to the pandemic.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Addressing the Challenges of Organic Certification in the Face of Social Distancing Requirements

As part of the organic certification process, organic operations must undergo an annual on-site inspection. This process has been challenging for organic farmers, handlers, certification agencies, and organic inspectors in the face of the social distancing requirements needed to slow the spread of COVID-19.

All organic stakeholders are seeking to protect human health, but also to maintain the integrity of the organic seal. The two goals may seem in conflict, but they don't need to be. Organic accredited certification agencies (ACAs) have been in communication with USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) to develop mechanisms to maintain the integrity of the organic certification process while also protecting the safety of farmers, handlers, certifiers, and inspectors. In some cases, this has involved performing the record review aspects of an organic inspection virtually. In other cases, the on-farm inspections have been delayed somewhat. In other cases, inspectors have performed on-site inspections in person, but using social distancing protocols, or have used virtual techniques to do some of the actual site inspections.

Therefore, we are urging you to provide technical and financial assistance to organic operations so they can maintain their certifications during the pandemic by providing required records to certification agencies through virtual platforms. Smaller organic ACAs could also benefit from financial assistance in this regard.

Relaxing USDA Nutrition Program Rules to Give Low Income Consumers Greater Access to Nutritious Food During the Pandemic

- Allow Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payments to be made online directly to farms and CSAs.

- Provide waivers and direction to States to broaden their WIC-approved food lists to allow WIC participants to purchase organic foods.

- Issue an emergency waiver to all States to allow food banks to skip the normal paperwork and recordkeeping requirements for gathering information from each customer. These paperwork procedures are greatly slowing down the food distribution process at already overburdened food banks, making it difficult to maintain social distancing protocols.

- Support the ability of food banks and other emergency feeding programs to purchase organic products directly from farmers at market prices.

Move Critical Rulemaking Forward to Protect Organic Integrity

Two rulemakings that are critical to the organic sector are in the final stages of clearance. In your communications with the Office of Management and Budget, we urge you to underscore the importance of moving these Congressionally mandated rulemakings along without delay.

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- The rulemaking to improve organic enforcement, both domestically and internationally, (aka the "strengthening organic enforcement" rule) is critical for the economic viability of the U.S. organic sector. The 2018 Farm Bill required USDA to complete the rulemaking by December 19, 2020, but the proposed rule is still under review by OMB. This rulemaking must move forward.

- The final rule on Origin of Livestock (OOL), to close loopholes with regards to the organic standards related to the transitioning of conventional dairy cows into organic dairy operations, is another critical regulation for the organic sector. Through the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations process, Congress mandated that USDA complete OOL final rule by June 17, 2020.

We acknowledge that some of the following recommendations overlap with policy issues in other federal agencies, as well as the White House. As the chief advocate for U.S. agriculture in the Administration, we want to make you aware of our multi-faceted concerns and to urge your inter-agency advocacy on these matters.

Farms, Farmers Markets, Farm Stands, and Community Support Agriculture (CSA) Operations Should be Deemed as Essential

Our country's ability to produce food for its citizens has not been in question anytime in recent history. But the decision by some States to deem traditional retail grocery stores as essential, but to declare non-traditional food marketing venues as non-essential undermines thousands of farmers who market through those channels. As consumers turn more to local sources of food during the pandemic crisis, it is critical that these marketing channels be deemed essential. For many parts of the country spring and summer are critical marketing seasons for farmers who serve local markets, and for consumer desiring the fresh and healthy produce. To cut off consumers from these markets, by allowing local and state governments to deem them as non-essential, is counterproductive. Of course, these marketing venues should be required to institute social distancing protocols, just as retail grocery stores are doing. In fact, farmers markets across the country have already established these procedures and are sharing best practices with each other.

We realize that at the Department of Homeland Security has issued some general recommendations about what should be considered essential industries and that food and agriculture are on that list. However, we are concerned that that DHS advisory does not explicitly include local marketing venues, such as farmers markets, farm stands, and community supported agriculture (CSA) operations. As a result, many local and state governments are shutting down those venue. We urge you to advocate for a revision to the DHS recommendation with your colleagues at the DHS. In addition, we urge you to advocate with the President, to urge that the federal declarations of essentiality of all food production and marketing venues be enforced with more rigor.

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Farm Labor Accommodations Are Critical to Continuing Production of Organic Food During the Pandemic

- Establish a program to provide relief workers for sick farmers and farmworkers.

- In order to ensure uninterrupted food, crop, and commodity production, recognize all H-2A, as well as any other non-immigrant visa petitions involving an agricultural worker, visa consular processing functions as "essential" and direct the U.S. Consulates to treat all agricultural worker appointments as emergency visa services.

- Provide farmworkers who are currently employed on a farm with the same payments as any other workers without questions about their status as citizens, and make farmworkers eligible for paid sick leave, SNAP, health coverage, childcare, and workmen's compensation.

The New Emergency Response Program Administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA) Should Include Farmers and Agricultural and Food Cooperatives

- The Small Business Administration (SBA) is maintaining that farms and agricultural businesses are ineligible for emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) programs. They are maintaining that only aquaculture enterprises, agricultural cooperatives, and nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance. It is imperative that farmers be able to access SBA disaster assistance as these programs can help fill the void that many farm businesses are currently feeling due to COVID-19.

- In addition, the SBA should clarify that agricultural cooperatives and consumer food cooperatives are eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) during the pandemic emergency. Many of these cooperatives are under a great deal of economic stress as result of the pandemic and short-term access to the PPP will allow these cooperatives to maintain their staff so that they are able to serve their farmer and consumer owners during the emergency.

We thank you in advance for your efforts to respond quickly to the needs of organic farmers and businesses in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Abby Youngblood, Executive Director, National Organic Coalition
Kate Mendenhall, Executive Director, Organic Farmers Association
Brise Tencer, Executive Director, Organic Farming Research Foundation

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Letter to Secretary Perdue regarding suggested COVID-19 clarifications
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 9:30:00 AM
Attachments: CAMI USDA Letter .pdf

Pam/Shiela –

This looks like it might (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks!
Brandon

From: Marie Sanderson (b) (6) [redacted]@guidepost-strategy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Letter to Secretary Perdue regarding suggested COVID-19 clarifications

HI Brandon- hope you are staying safe and healthy during this crazy time. By way of background I was policy director at RGA when the Secretary was Governor and before that was Policy Director for Gov Haley Barbour. I approach the below issue from working for states for many years.

I wanted to flag the attached letter send by the CAMI (The Center for Accountability, Modernization, and Innovation). As you know, the OPM clarified that state contractors are permitted to support state governments in the administration of federally-funded entitlement programs. Considering the current situation and governors' need to create the appropriate contingency plans for circumstances in which a state-administered entitlement program is incapacitated, CAMI thinks it would be both important and valuable for USDA to clarify that governors have the option to utilize contractors to administer these programs.

CAMI recommends that the USDA issue clarification to governors and some suggestions are in this letter. If you need any technical assistance at all or want to visit- please don't hesitate to reach out. We are very aware how busy you are at this crazy time for our country and are happy to do some of the legwork.

My best,
Marie

Marie Sanderson
Partner
GuidePostStrategies
(b) (6) [redacted]@GuidePost-Strategy.com
PO Box 28249

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Washington, DC 20038
(b) (6)

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **The Center for AMI** <team@thecenterforami.org>
Date: Wed, Mar 18, 2020 at 1:54 PM
Subject: Letter to Secretary Perdue regarding suggested COVID-19 clarifications
To: <agsec@usda.gov>, <brandon.lipps@osec.usda.gov>

Please find attached a letter to Secretary Perdue from the Center for Accountability, Modernization and Innovation (CAMI) regarding suggested clarifications to assist in the COVID-19 response.

Best Regards,

The Center for Accountability, Modernization and Innovation

--
Generra Peck
Executive Director
The Center for Accountability, Modernization and Innovation (CAMI)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Center for Accountability, Modernization, and Innovation
Washington, DC

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

The Center for Accountability, Modernization, and Innovation (CAMI) is a nonprofit organization that was created to promote innovative solutions to public policy challenges. As the entire nation is grappling with the significant challenges associated with the novel coronavirus, states could well face additional challenges implementing federally-funded entitlement programs as their workforces face significantly increased workloads and potentially fewer staff being available during the crisis. We are reaching out to you today because we believe it is essential that the states are aware of the full range of options available to them as they contend with these pressures.

Specifically, earlier this year, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) clarified that state contractors are permitted to support state governments in the administration of federally-funded entitlement programs. Considering the current situation and governors' need to create the appropriate contingency plans for circumstances in which a state-administered entitlement program is incapacitated, we think it would be both important and valuable for USDA to clarify that governors have the option to utilize contractors to administer these programs.

Indeed, because the OPM guidance may not be familiar to state governments, CAMI recommends that the USDA issue the following clarification to governors.

This language regards the support of government and government contractor worker. As a means of protecting physical facilities (as part of facility security protocol), the following language is needed:

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"To help state governments with the delivery of entitlement services, governors and state administrators should be aware that contractors can administer federally funded entitlement programs in accordance with OPM's Intergovernmental Personnel Act clarification dated November 27, 2019. Considering the current crisis and the need to give states the ability to take appropriate actions, all Governors should be aware that if the administration of an entitlement program is incapacitated (where adequate numbers of state workers are not available or a state has a surge in requests), they have the option to utilize contractors to administer these programs in accordance with OPM's guidance."

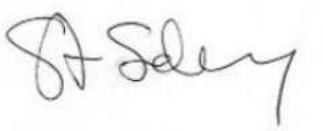
AND

"To protect the security of facilities and reduce potential contamination, Federal agency essential services-related contractors and government agencies must prohibit employees who test positive,have symptoms or know they have been exposed to the virus from entering secured facilities. These employees will be reimbursed for sick time for an appropriate quarantine period. This action should be incorporated into standard contractual security protocols as a means to prevent additional spread of the virus and/or a possible facility shutdown. This assurance will also provide employees with important assurances that they will not be penalized for doing so."

CAMI believes that these clarifications are necessary to ensure the continued delivery of federally-funded benefits, which families are relying on more than ever during this difficult time. We believe this clarification is essential to the whole of government approach the Administration is pursuing in response to this outbreak.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and would welcome the opportunity to speak further about this clarification at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Stan Soloway
Chairman of the Board

CC: Brandon Lipps, Deputy Undersecretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services
Office of the Vice President
Members of the COVID-19 Task Force
Office of Personnel Management
Office of Management and Budget

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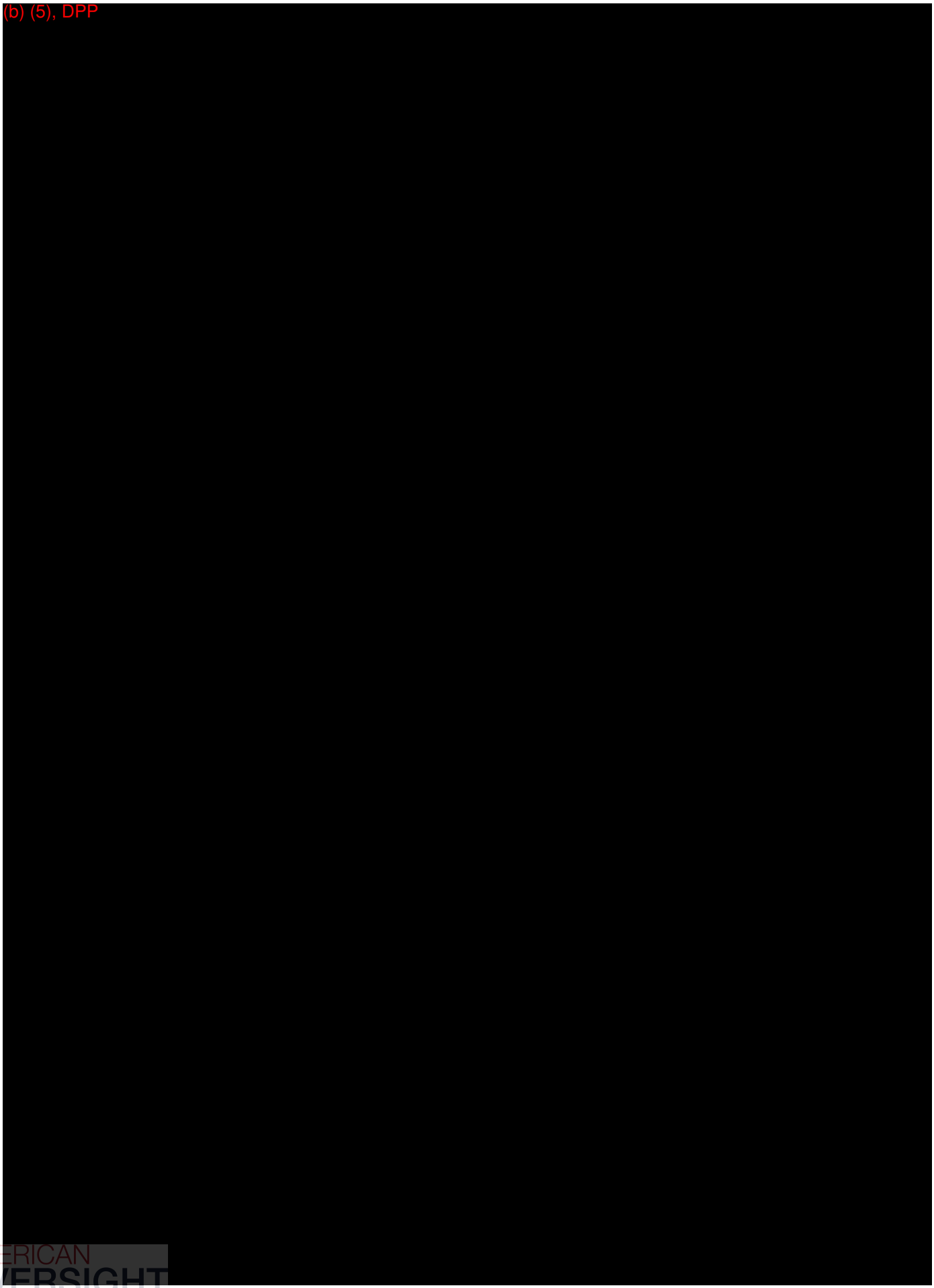
From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Michawn Rich (michawn.rich@usda.gov)
Subject: FW: (b) (5), DPP
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:06:00 AM

Hey, good morning. (b) (5), DPP ?

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 7:22 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (5), DPP

Sir - (b) (5), DPP

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

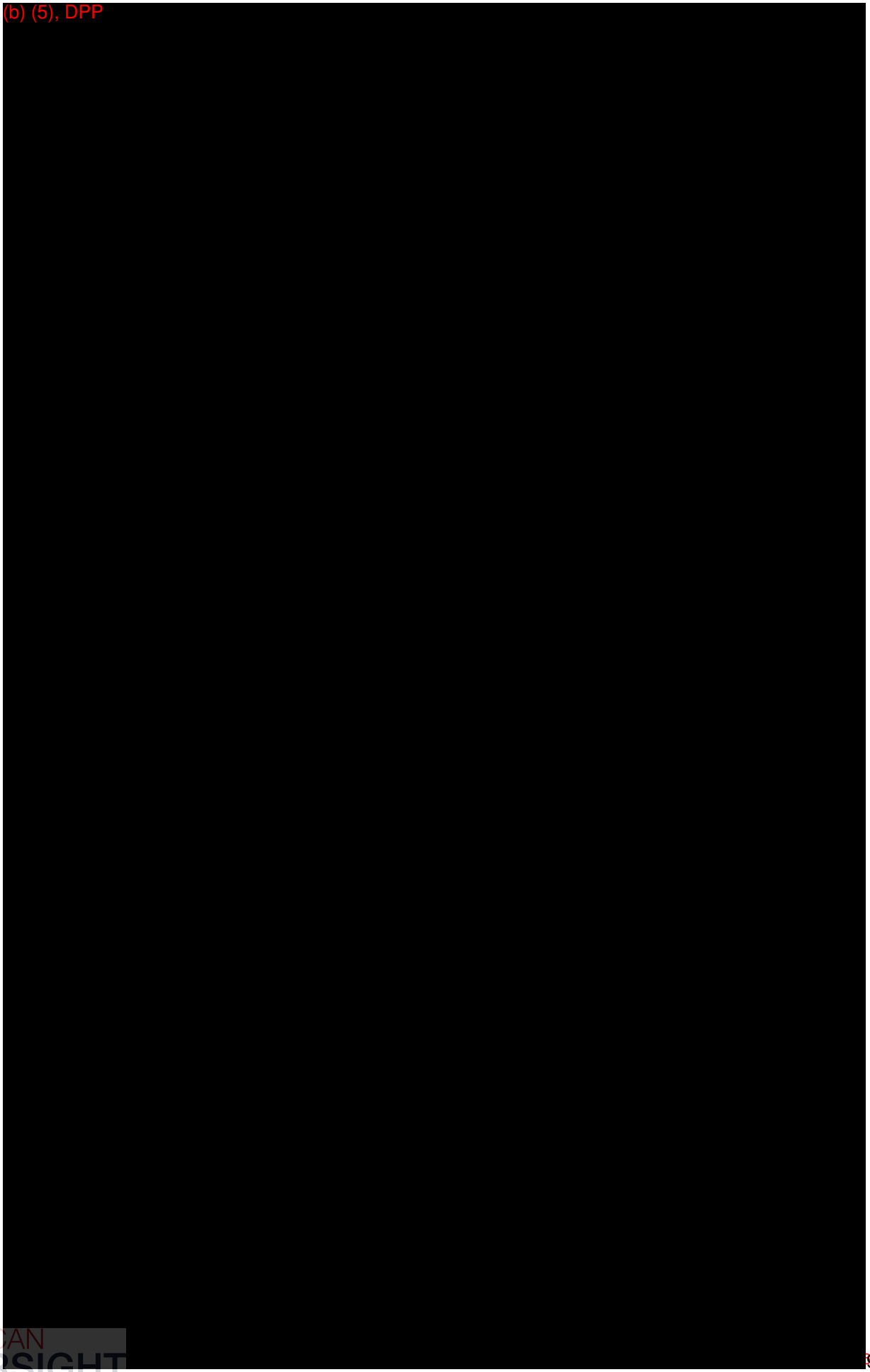
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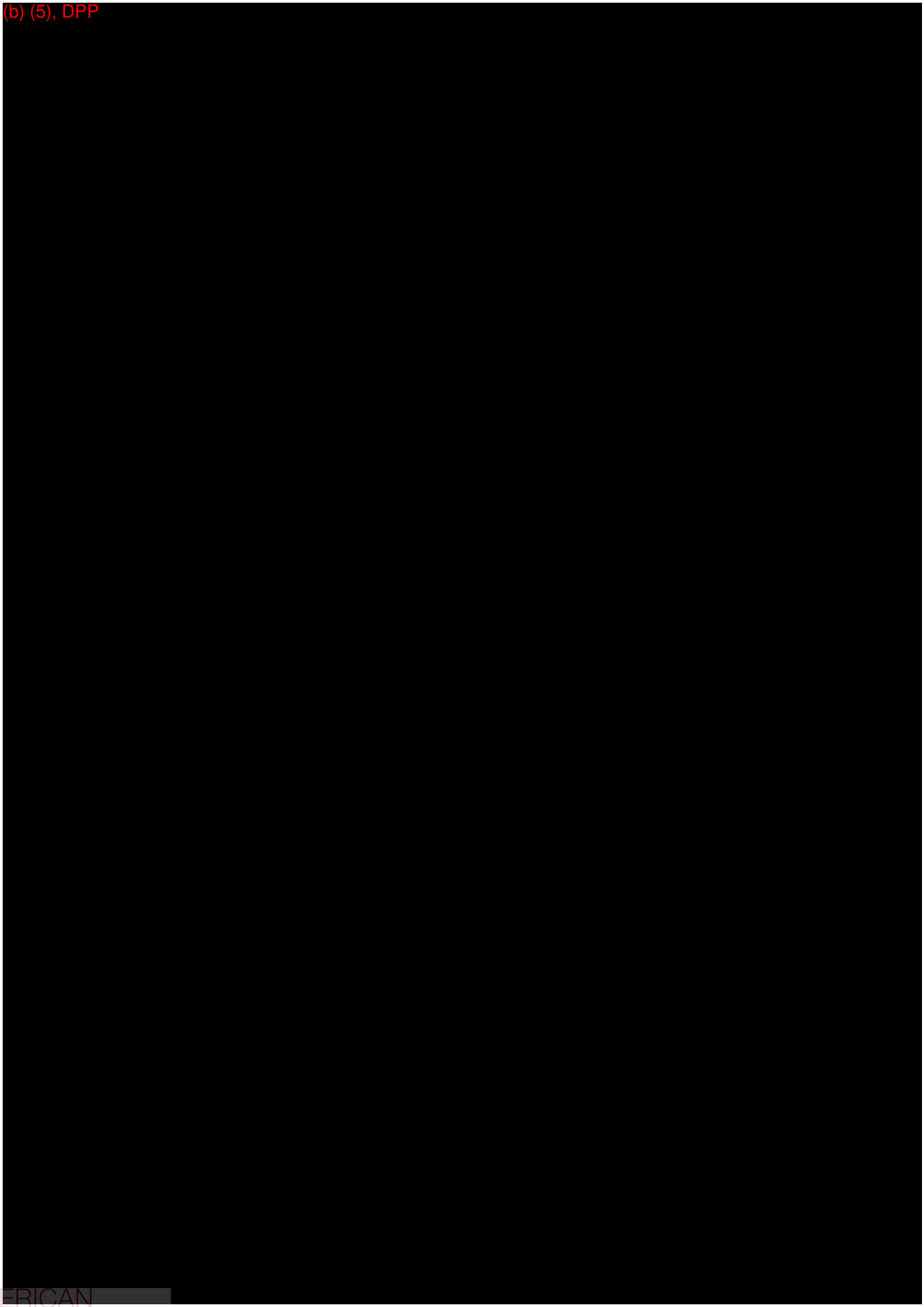
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[redacted]

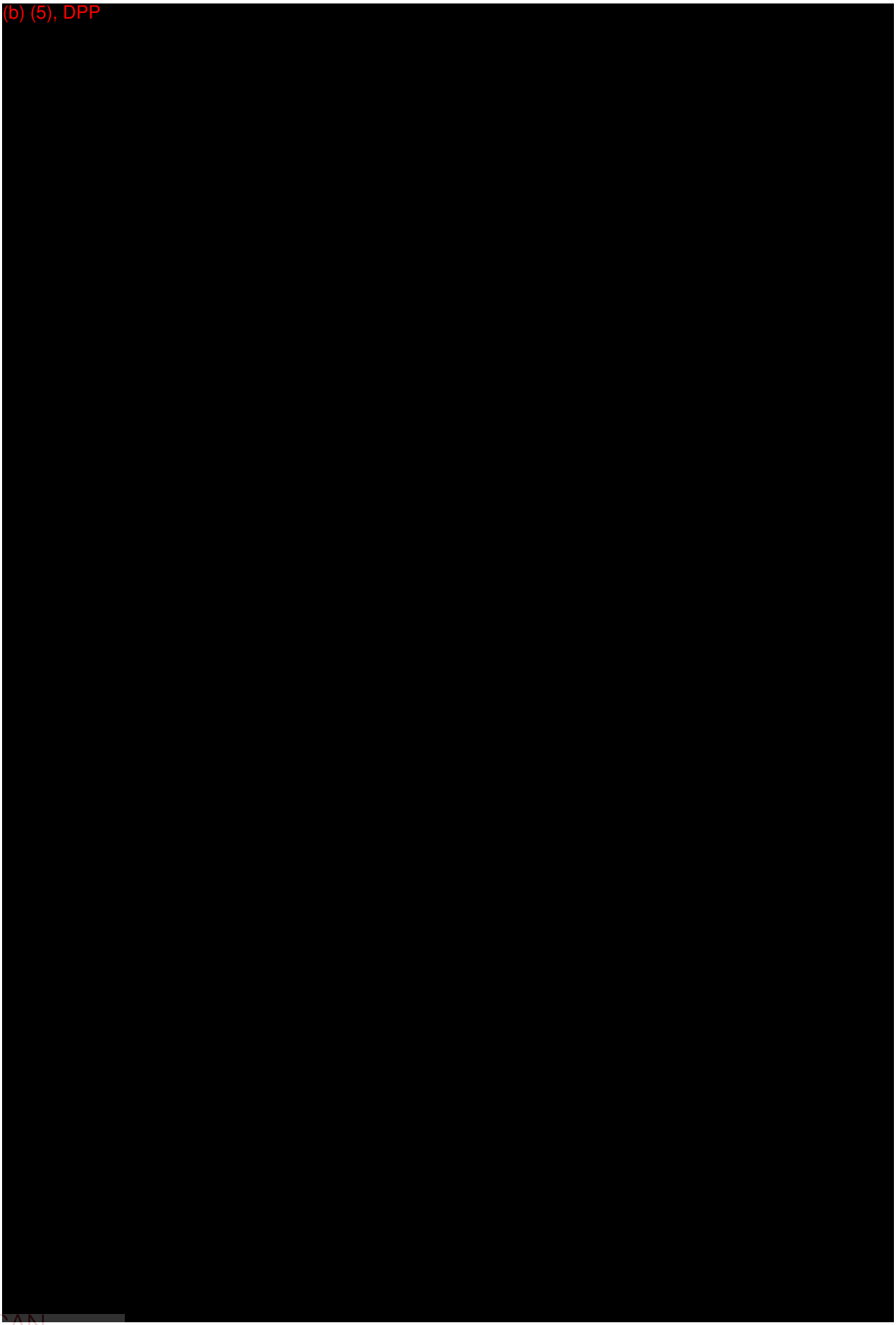
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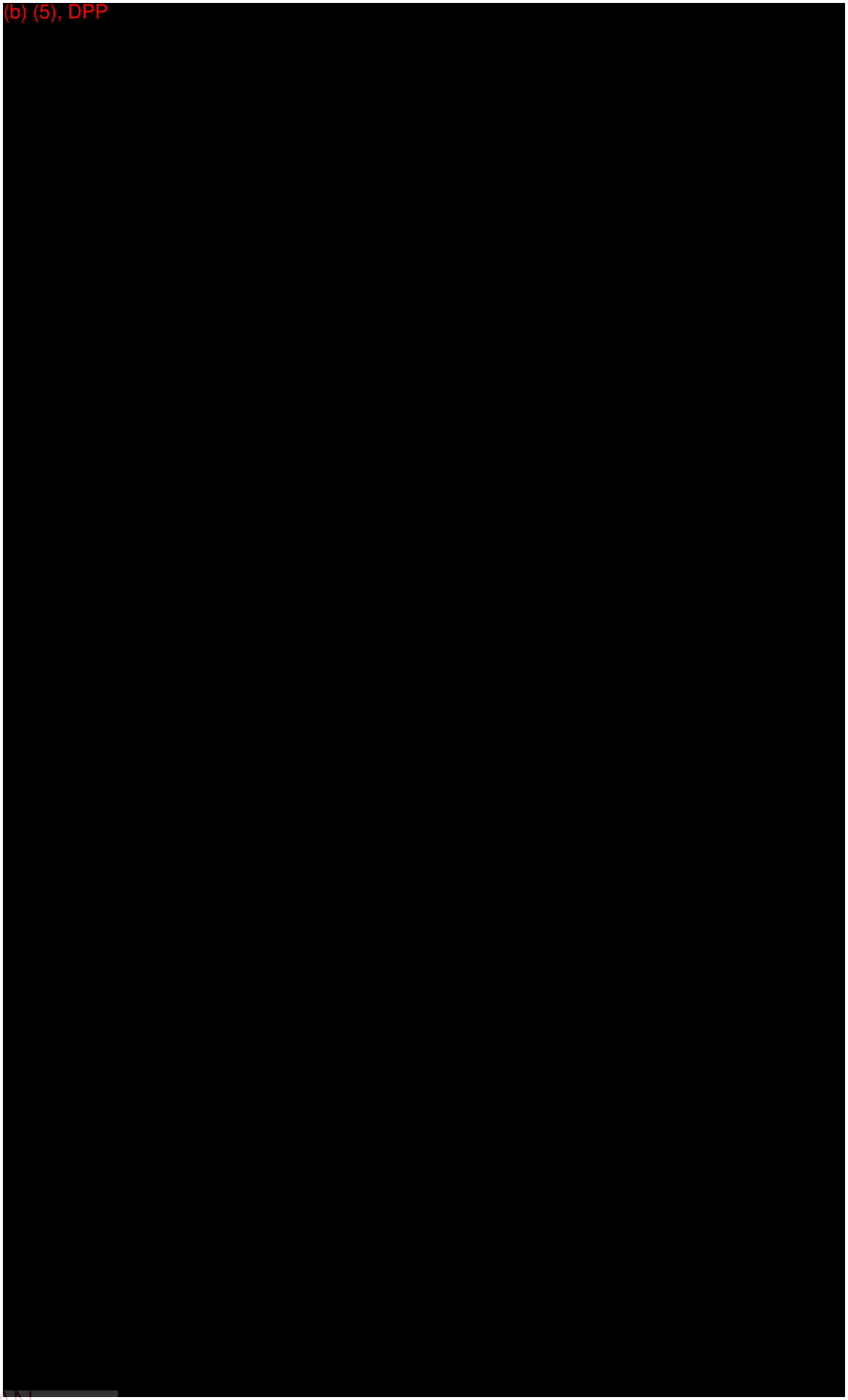
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(b) (5), DPP

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



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(b) (5), DPP

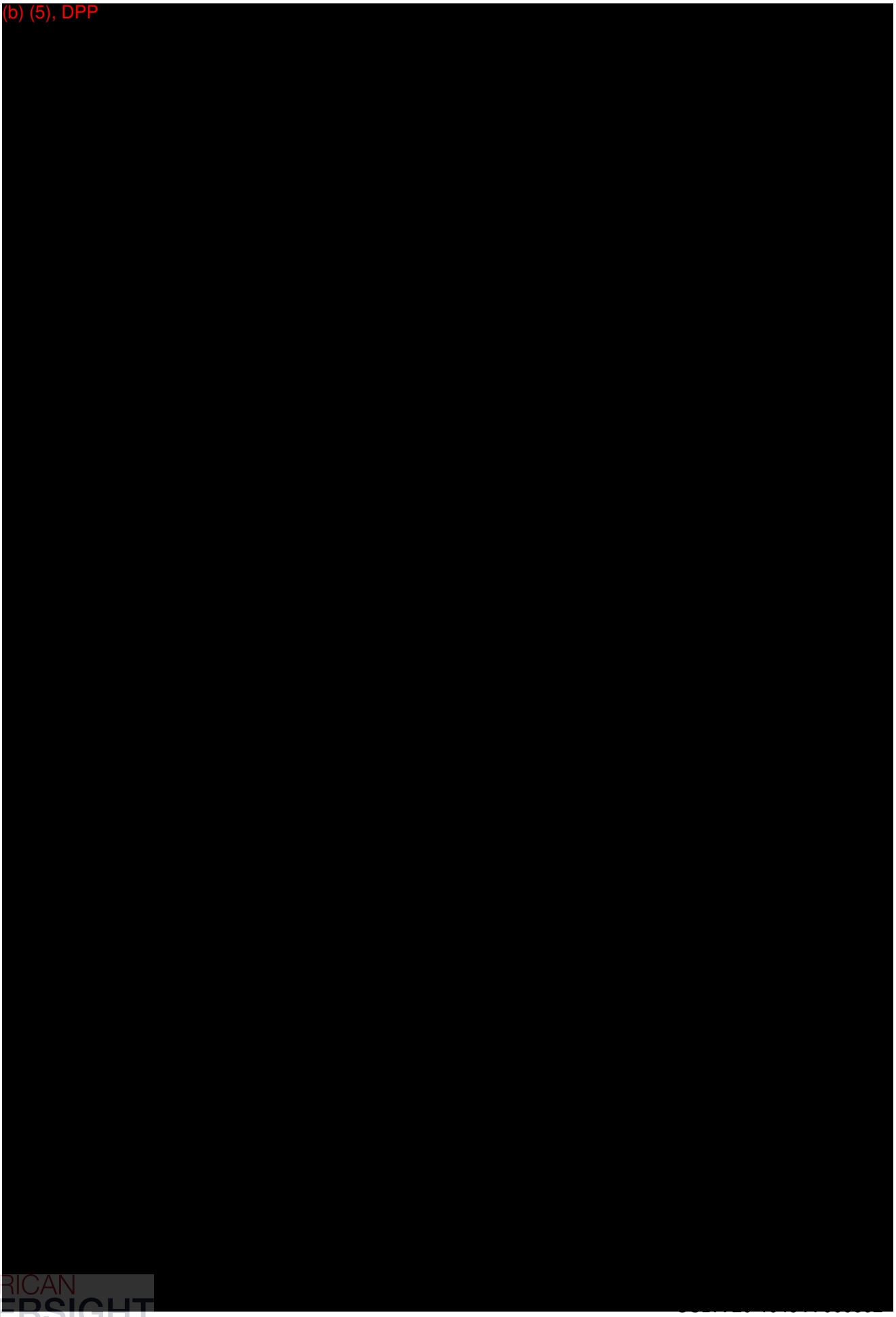
[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: (b) (5),
Date: Friday, May 8, 2020 2:41:33 PM

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (5), DPP

Please send us any edits by 3pm – highlight your edits.

Thanks!

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

- [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

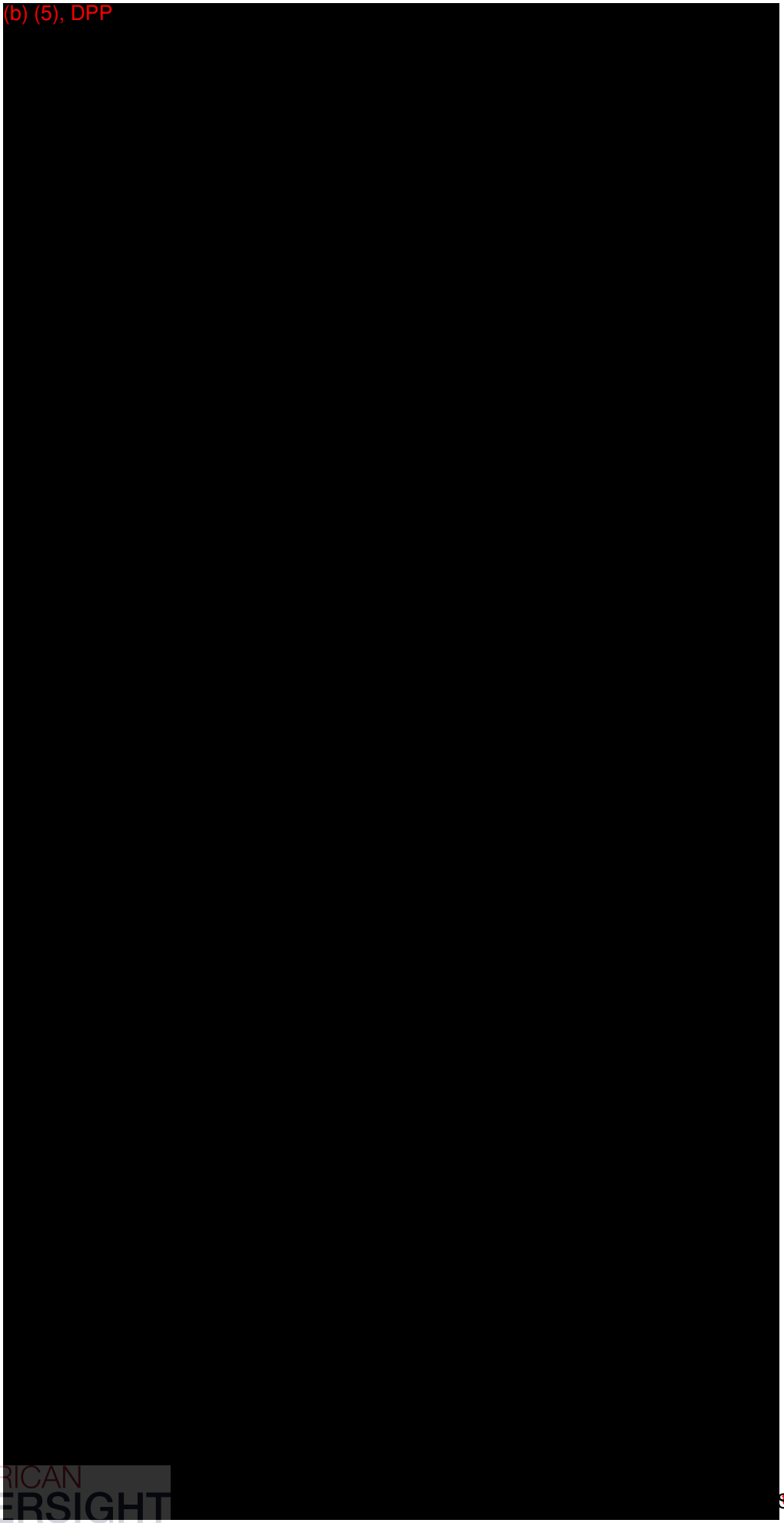
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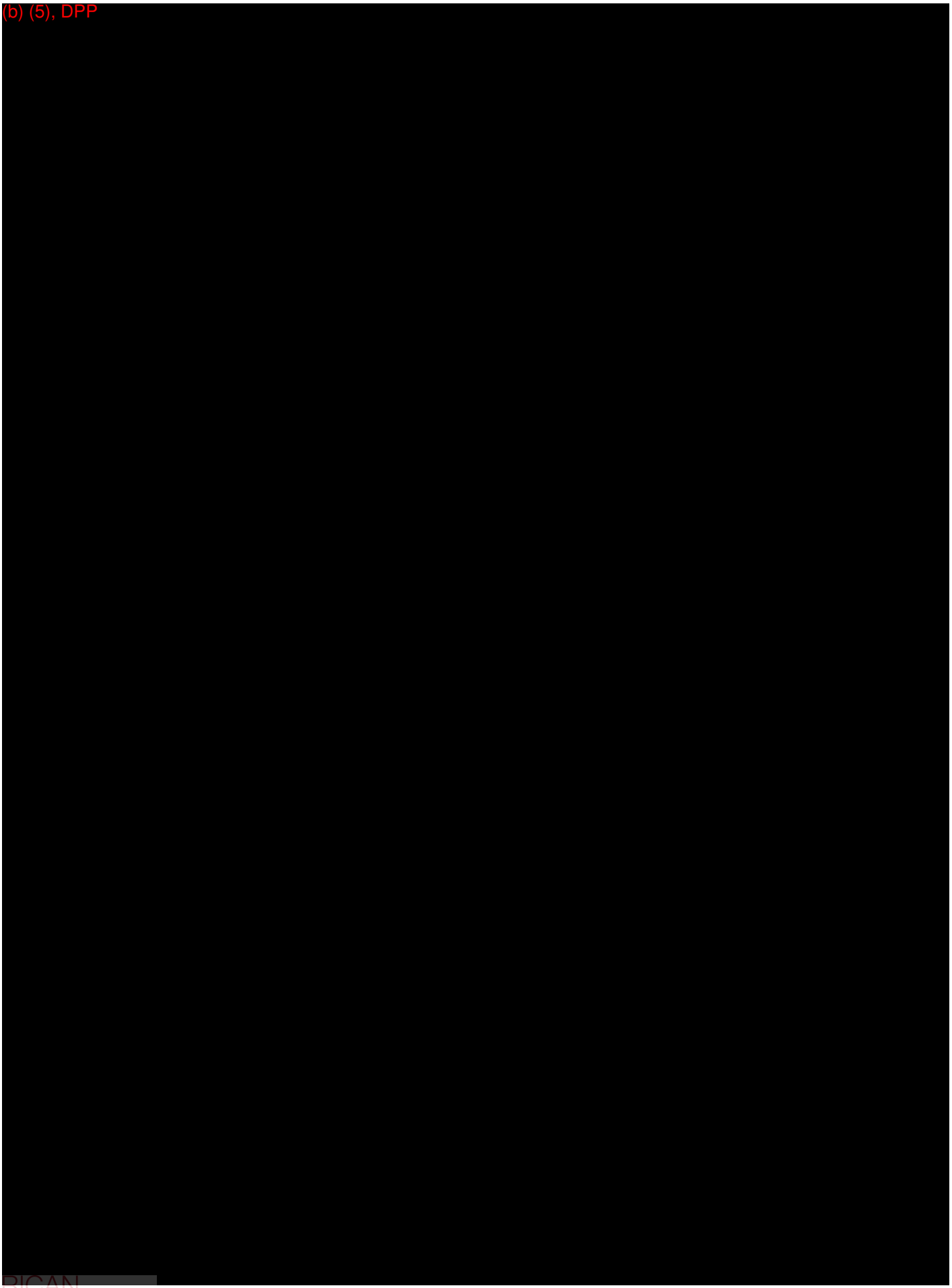
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(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Meghan Rodgers
Deputy Communications Director

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-5555
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rob_Childers@menendez.senate.gov
Cc: kiev randall; Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov)
Subject: FW: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:21:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png
20200324 SNAP Online Pilot Program COVID Final Signed.pdf

Rob,

Thank you for the email. The letter has been received and will be reviewed.

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Childers, Rob (Menendez) <Rob_Childers@menendez.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:06 AM
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot

Chris and Kiev,

Please find attached a letter from Senators Menendez, Booker and Congressman Pascrell to Secretary Perdue regarding USDA's pilot program that allows SNAP recipients to use their benefits online.

Best,
Rob

Robert T.J. Childers, Jr.
Legislative Assistant • U.S. Senator Bob Menendez
Office 202.224.4744 • 528 Hart Senate Office Building

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 26, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We write to you regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the ability for recipients to use SNAP benefits to purchase SNAP eligible products online. As you are aware, there is currently a pilot program that allows SNAP recipients to use their benefits to purchase SNAP products online in Alabama, Iowa, New York, Oregon and Washington. The State of New Jersey was selected in April 2019 by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) as eligible to participate in the SNAP online purchasing pilot program though has not yet been formally admitted to the pilot program. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, we request that USDA immediately allow New Jersey SNAP recipients to participate in this pilot program.

As you are aware, the COVID-19 virus has been classified as a pandemic. The State of New Jersey has declared a state of emergency and the Governor has issued an order to "shelter in place" that bans public gatherings and closes nonessential businesses. The order excepts trips made to grocery stores. Unfortunately, many SNAP recipients live in "food deserts" and may be many miles from the nearest grocery store so a trip that involves public transit or even an extended walk presents an increased risk. Furthermore, with schools closed in the state, parents are now full-time caregivers and a trip to a grocery store with or without a child becomes an extra burden and health risk. Thus, we believe that SNAP recipients should have the same opportunity as all New Jerseyans to be able to shop for groceries online and avoid unnecessary health risks.

Allowing New Jerseyans to use their SNAP benefits for online purchases will protect them and all New Jerseyans as we continue to fight the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We request that USDA make this authorization immediately in order to protect New Jersey SNAP recipients. We look forward to your response no later than March 30, 2020.

Sincerely,

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Bill Pascrell Jr.
Member of Congress

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS
Subject: FW: COVID - Sen Menendez - SNAP online pilot
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 11:39:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png

Sorry forgot to copy you all.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 11:39 AM
To: kiev randall <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov) <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; karla whalen <karla.whalen@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: COVID - Sen Menendez - SNAP online pilot

Kiev, Anthony and Karla,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Childers, Rob (Menendez) <Rob_Childers@menendez.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 11:35 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot

Ok, so just to clarify, New Jersey needs to fill out this form despite being selected in April 2019 to eventually participate in the pilot? I want to ensure that this request is expedited and isn't held up because New Jersey hasn't submitted a form. Once I get clarification from you, I'll pass this information along to the state and get the ball rolling.

Best,
Rob

From: "Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 at 11:23 AM
To: Rob Childers <Rob_Childers@menendez.senate.gov>
Cc: "Randall, Kiev - FNS" <kiev.randall@usda.gov>, "Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot

Rob,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The form is available at the partner web site DUS Lipps mentioned, https://partnerweb.usda.gov/_layouts/15/FNS.PartnerWeb.LoginPages/PartnerWeb_Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f_layouts%2f15%2fAuthenticate.aspx%3fSource%3d%252F&Source=%2F.

Regards,
Veronica

From: Childers, Rob (Menendez) <Rob_Childers@menendez.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot

Veronica, thank you for the response. On the current FNS call, Brad said there was some sort of application process that a state can submit to participate in the SNAP online purchase program. Can you please elaborate on that so I can advise the New Jersey government how they can be more proactive?

Best,
Rob

From: "Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 10:22 AM
To: Rob Childers <Rob_Childers@menendez.senate.gov>
Cc: "Randall, Kiev - FNS" <kiev.randall@usda.gov>, "Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot

Rob,

Thank you for the email. The letter has been received and will be reviewed.

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Childers, Rob (Menendez) <Rob_Childers@menendez.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:06 AM
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot

Chris and Kiev,

Please find attached a letter from Senators Menendez, Booker and Congressman Pascrell to Secretary Perdue regarding USDA's pilot program that allows SNAP recipients to use their benefits online.

Best,
Rob

Robert T.J. Childers, Jr.
Legislative Assistant • U.S. Senator Bob Menendez
Office 202.224.4744 • 528 Hart Senate Office Building



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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wesley - OSEC Washington DC Gwinn (wesley.gwinn@usda.gov); Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov); Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot - COVID FNS incoming letter
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:37:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png
sen booker menedez NJ snap online pilot covid draft reply vw.03.26.20.docx

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Online pilot draft letter for NJ members I drafted this morning. (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov) <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot - COVID FNS incoming letter

Noah, (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov) <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov) <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot - COVID FNS incoming letter

Noah, incoming COVID FNS letter – snap online pilot request. (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot

From: Childers, Rob (Menendez) <Rob_Childers@menendez.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:06 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot

Chris and Kiev,

Please find attached a letter from Senators Menendez, Booker and Congressman Pascrell to Secretary Perdue regarding USDA's pilot program that allows SNAP recipients to use their benefits online.

Best,
Rob

Robert T.J. Childers, Jr.
Legislative Assistant • U.S. Senator Bob Menendez
Office 202.224.4744 • 528 Hart Senate Office Building



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DRAFT Response to Sen Booker/Menendez (NJ)

(b) (5), DPP



Sincerely,

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Subject: FW: New Online Pilot States-DC and NC
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 8:44:00 AM

Fyi – OC is sending out this press release at 9:30 this morning. So, I will send the hill committee notification momentarily.

DC and North Carolina Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

USDA is expanding access to innovative online food purchase program

(Washington, D.C., April 17, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced approval of the District of Columbia (DC) and North Carolina's requests to provide online purchasing of food to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Households. This approval will allow the State and Federal District to expedite the implementation of online purchasing with currently authorized SNAP online retailers with a target start date to be announced at a later time. DC's SNAP participation is over 100,000 individuals, more than 66,000 households, and totals nearly $200 million annually in federal funding. North Carolina's SNAP participation is over 1.2 million individuals, almost 600,000 households, and totals nearly $1.7 billion annually in federal funding. This announcement further demonstrates President Trump's whole of America approach to fighting the coronavirus pandemic by ensuring those affected are fed.

Background:

The SNAP online pilot is currently operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. Nebraska joined the pilot on April 1, 2020. The authorized retailers working with all pilot states are Amazon and Walmart, while Wrights Market and ShopRite are working with Alabama and New York respectively. On April 8, it was announced that Arizona and California would be joining, and on April 11 announced Florida and Idaho.

Though the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is receiving interest to expand the SNAP online pilot program, the responsibility is on state agencies, their third-party processor, and any retailers who wish to participate. To ease the process, FNS put together a simplified template for states who wish to enter the online pilot which is provided as an attachment to this letter.

USDA continues to provide significant technical assistance to interested states to ensure that plans are thorough and appropriate preliminary testing is conducted. If not done properly and judiciously, there is a risk to the State's entire benefit system. Each State, its EBT processor and retailers present their own mix of challenges so FNS is providing customer service based on each of their specific needs.

FNS will continue to work with interested states in advancing their participation in this pilot. Until States are prepared to operate the pilot, USDA recommends States utilize other options that retailers may already provide, such as Pay at Pick-up (also known as "Click and Collect"), where SNAP cardholders can shop online and then pay for their purchase using their EBT card at pick-up. Grocery

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pickup is already an option that these retailers offer beyond SNAP so they are already thinking through how they can provide a safe environment to do so with the growing concerns around social distancing.

During these challenging times, FNS is working hand-in-hand with state program leadership, to provide support and guidance to adapt to the challenges of this public health emergency. USDA intends to use available program flexibilities and contingencies to continue to serve our program participants. For up to date information and to learn more about flexibilities being used in FNS nutrition programs, please visit the FNS website.

#

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lillie Brady; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Nick/Matt/Sam: External Outreach Assignments
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 4:30:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

How are we (b) (5), DPP ?

Or alternatively (b) (5), DPP ?

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
United States Department of Agriculture

From: Ziegler, Matthew - OSEC, Washington, DC <Matt.Ziegler@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Westcott, Nick - OSEC, Washington, DC <nick.westcott@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Barke, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <sam.barke@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Nick/Matt/Sam: External Outreach Assignments

Updates:

- (b) (5), DPP

Matt Ziegler
Advance Lead – Office of the Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2020 2:02 PM

To: Westcott, Nick - OSEC, Washington, DC <nick.westcott@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Ziegler, Matthew - OSEC, Washington, DC <Matt.Ziegler@usda.gov>; Barke, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <sam.barke@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Nick/Matt/Sam: External Outreach Assignments

Updates:
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Ashley Willits
(b) (6) [redacted]

From: Westcott, Nick - OSEC, Washington, DC <nick.westcott@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 1:53:14 PM
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Ziegler, Matthew - OSEC, Washington, DC <Matt.Ziegler@usda.gov>; Barke, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <sam.barke@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Cc: Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Nick/Matt/Sam: External Outreach Assignments

Update from stakeholder calls today (3/24):

- (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

Also a more specific ask from American Herbal Products:

We have scheduled a webinar for our members on Thursday (March 26 1:00-3:00 pm) that includes

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two sessions for which we have not yet identified speakers: Financial planning for business disruptions (focus on SBA and any new resources just established by Congress or the Administration); and Supply chain logistics. Please let us know if there is anyone there at USDA who can speak on either of these issues (~15-20 minute speaking sessions). I understand this is very short notice; it's possible we will schedule another COVID-19-focused webinar in another week of two.

American Herbal Products POC:
Michael McGuffin, President
Phone: (b) (6) [redacted]
Email: mmcguffin@ahpa.org

Nick Westcott
Director of Advance
Office of the Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Ziegler, Matthew - OSEC, Washington, DC <Matt.Ziegler@usda.gov>; Barke, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <sam.barke@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Westcott, Nick - OSEC, Washington, DC <nick.westcott@usda.gov>
Cc: Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Nick/Matt/Sam: External Outreach Assignments

Thank you, all! Talk to you soon.

From: Ziegler, Matthew - OSEC, Washington, DC <Matt.Ziegler@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Barke, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <sam.barke@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Westcott, Nick - OSEC, Washington, DC <nick.westcott@usda.gov>
Cc: Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Nick/Matt/Sam: External Outreach Assignments

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Matt Ziegler
Advance Lead – Office of the Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:16 PM
To: Barke, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <sam.barke@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Westcott, Nick - OSEC, Washington, DC <nick.westcott@usda.gov>; Ziegler, Matthew - OSEC, Washington, DC <Matt.Ziegler@usda.gov>
Cc: Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Nick/Matt/Sam: External Outreach Assignments

Thanks, Sam J.

Nick/Matt/Ashley – can you send me your stuff, por favor?

From: Barke, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <sam.barke@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 12:37 PM
To: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Westcott, Nick - OSEC, Washington, DC <nick.westcott@usda.gov>; Ziegler, Matthew - OSEC, Washington, DC <Matt.Ziegler@usda.gov>
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Nick/Matt/Sam: External Outreach Assignments

Ahead of the call, I wanted to share the most common supply chain issues that were shared with me.

- (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
- [redacted]

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- (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

Thanks!
-Sam

Sam J. Barke
Office of the Secretary
Uni[redacted]artment of Agriculture
C: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 5:39 PM
To: Barke, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <sam.barke@usda.gov>; Westcott, Nick - OSEC, Washington, DC <nick.westcott@usda.gov>; Ziegler, Matthew - OSEC, Washington, DC <Matt.Ziegler@usda.gov>
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Nick/Matt/Sam: External Outreach Assignments

Good Q. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks, y'all.

From: Barke, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <sam.barke@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 5:32 PM
To: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Westcott, Nick - OSEC, Washington, DC <nick.westcott@usda.gov>; Ziegler, Matthew - OSEC, Washington, DC <Matt.Ziegler@usda.gov>
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>

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Subject: RE: Nick/Matt/Sam: External Outreach Assignments

Sorry, to clarify, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

Thanks.

Sam J. Barke
Office of the Secretary
Uni[redacted]artment of Agriculture
C: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 5:21 PM
To: Westcott, Nick - OSEC, Washington, DC <nick.westcott@usda.gov>; Ziegler, Matthew - OSEC, Washington, DC <Matt.Ziegler@usda.gov>; Barke, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <sam.barke@usda.gov>
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: Nick/Matt/Sam: External Outreach Assignments

Nick/Matt/Sam,

Attached are your external affairs assignments. Please make contact with the companies listed in your respective section.

Bright yellow indicates where we need you to find a government affairs contact.

If there are any notes worth flagging/sharing, please be prepared to discuss on our check-in call on Monday (invite was just sent).

Purpose of your outreach: *To increase connectivity with Food Supply Chain stakeholders and increase USDA's awareness of food supply chain issues that are emerging.*

Thanks for increasing our connectivity to stakeholders. Welcome to USDA's COVID External Affairs team!

Let's have a short (15 min) call on Monday afternoon to answer any questions that come up & information share.

LB & AW, listed out a couple contacts for us to make at the bottom. LB, thanks for taking the first crack at getting this document going.

Thanks all,
Blake

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- **Scripts (feel free to modify: Below is meant to be a general example)**
    - **Calls:** Hi _____, I'm _____. Our Chief of Staff asked me to call you to check in on Food Supply Chain issues. Is your organization experiencing any food supply chain issues that our team should be aware of?
    - **Email (if there's no phone number or they don't answer your call):**
        - Hi____, I work on USDA's External Affairs team. Our Chief of Staff asked me to check in with you to make sure USDA is aware of any Food Supply Chain issues your organization is experiencing. Do you have a few minutes to chat? My cell phone is: ____. Thank you

usda logo

Blake Rollins
Deputy Chief of Staff

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (b) (6) (cell)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld (b)(6) info is Secretary Purdue alias email address

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: PELOSI AND SCHUMER -- to President Trump on Coronavirus Response: Put Health and Safety of American People Before Corporate Needs
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 10:06:09 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Sir, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Ken

From: Speaker Pelosi <Speaker.Pelosi@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2020 6:49 PM
Subject: PELOSI AND SCHUMER -- to President Trump on Coronavirus Response: Put Health and Safety of American People Before Corporate Needs



Contact: Drew Hammill (Pelosi), 202-226-7616
Justin Goodman (Schumer), Press@schumer.senate.gov

March 8, 2020

Pelosi, Schumer to President Trump on Coronavirus Response: Put Health and Safety of American People Before Corporate Needs

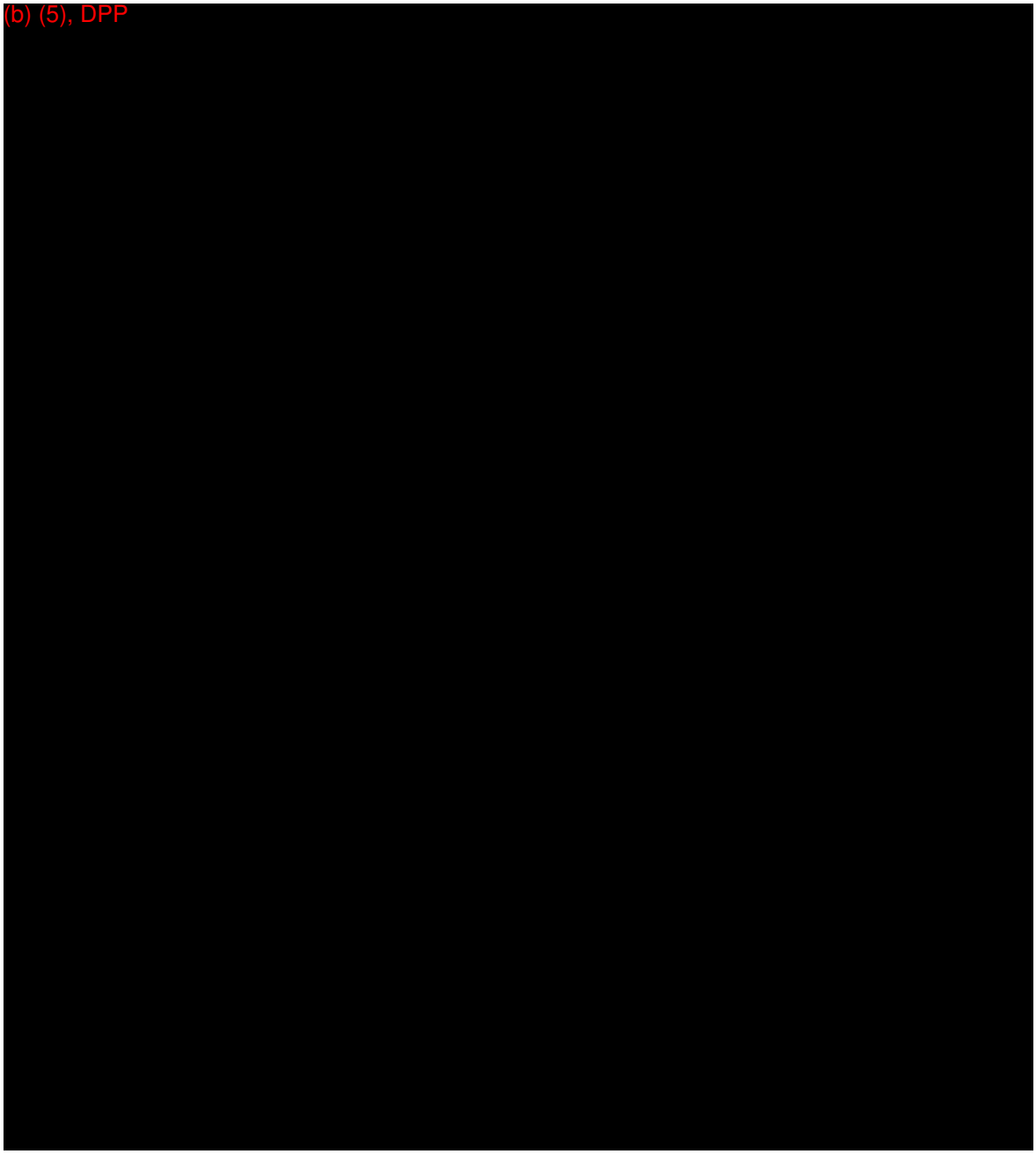
Dem Leaders Say Any Proposal to Address Outbreak's Impact on Economy Must Include Paid Sick Leave for Workers, Among Other People-Focused Initiatives

Washington, D.C. – House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer released the following joint statement today urging President Trump to prioritize the needs of American workers and their families before the needs of major corporations in the government's response to the coronavirus outbreak:

"We are hoping to work with the administration on a coordinated, government-wide plan to respond to the coronavirus. We are pleased that we passed an emergency response bill on an overwhelming, bipartisan basis that provided a significant increase in resources beyond the administration's request.

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“However, President Trump continues to manufacture needless chaos within his administration and it is hampering the government’s response to the coronavirus outbreak. In light of reports that the Trump administration is considering new tax cuts for major corporations impacted by the coronavirus, we are demanding that the administration prioritize the health and safety of American workers and their families over corporate interests.



“The administration must move more quickly and seriously to address the severe impacts of the coronavirus on the financial security of America’s families.”

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# # #

Press Release Link:
https://www.speaker.gov/newsroom/3820-0
www.Speaker.gov – Twitter – YouTube – Flickr – Facebook – Instagram – Medium – The Gavel

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From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Perishable Product Waste - Industry Wide Discussion
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:49:00 PM

FYSA

Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: McGregor, Brian - AMS <Brian.McGregor@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>
Cc: Blanton, Bruce - AMS <Bruce.Blanton@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Perishable Product Waste - Industry Wide Discussion

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:23 PM
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>
Cc: Blanton, Bruce - AMS <Bruce.Blanton@usda.gov>; McGregor, Brian - AMS <Brian.McGregor@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Perishable Product Waste - Industry Wide Discussion

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Cc: Blanton, Bruce - AMS <Bruce.Blanton@usda.gov>; McGregor, Brian - AMS <Brian.McGregor@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Perishable Product Waste - Industry Wide Discussion

(Minus Jon)

+Kristi

I don't think (b) (5), DPP houghts? [redacted]

From: Jon Samson (b) (6) @trucking.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:13 PM
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>
Cc: Blanton, Bruce - AMS <Bruce.Blanton@usda.gov>; McGregor, Brian - AMS <Brian.McGregor@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Perishable Product Waste - Industry Wide Discussion
Importance: High

Good afternoon!
I hope this finds you all safe and healthy…and sane. Apparently I didn't already have enough going on, so I am bringing the entirety of the food supply chain to discuss what can be done to address the

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perishable food waste we are currently seeing, specifically in the milk and produce industries. If you all would like to be looped into this call I would be happy to do so. Still trying to figure out timing but will most likely be tomorrow or Thursday.

Thanks!

Jon Samson

From: Jon Samson
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 11:53 AM
To: 'Kathy Fulton' (b) (6) @ALANaid.org>; Megan Costello (b) (6) @gcca.org>; Lowell Randel (b) (6) @gcca.org>; Jon Eisen (b) (6) @ifdaonline.org) <(b) @ifdaonline.org>; 'Stephanie K. Harris (FMI)' (b) (6) @fmi.org>; 'Marjorie DePuy (FMI)' (b) (6) @fmi.org>; 'Rick B. Stein (FMI)' <(b) @fmi.org>; 'Heather C. Garlich (FMI)' (b) (6) @fmi.org>; Matt Mika (b) (6) @tyson.com>; Paul Schlegel (b) (6) @fb.org>; Max Fisher <(b) (6) @ngfa.org>; Abigail Struxness <(b) (6) @betterseed.org>; Allison Rivera <(b) (6) @beef.org>; Andrew Walmsley (b) (6) @fb.org>; Ashley Peterson (b) (6) @chickenusa.org>; Buddy Allen (b) (6) @acsa-cotton.org>; Chris Bliley (b (b) @growthenergy.org>; D Grady (b) (6) @idfa.org>; Dalton Henry (b) (6) @uswheat.org>; David Elrod (b) (6) @chickenusa.org>; David Hovermale (b) (6) @nopa.org>; Devin Mogler <(b) (6) @gpreinc.com>; Harrison Kircher (b) (6) @chickenusa.org>; Jacob Westlin (b) (6) @wheatworld.org>; Jamison Cruce (b) (6) @usarice.com>; Jane DeMarchi (b) (6) @betterseed.org>; (b) (6) @omnicotton.com' (b) (6) @omnicotton.com>; John Hollay (b) (6) @unitedfresh.org>; Josh Tonsager (b) (6) @wheatworld.org>; Justin Louchheim (b) (6) @tfi.org>; Kent Bacus <(b) (6) @beef.org>; Kevin Brinkley <(b) (6) @pcca.com>; Lauren Krogman (b) (6) @cotton.org>; Laurie Bryant (b) (6) @micausa.org>; Lowell Randel (b) (6) @gcca.org>; Matt Foley (b) (6) @affi.com>; Matt Spencer (b) (6) @uspoultry.org>; Max Fisher (b) (6) @ngfa.org>; Megan Costello <(b) (6) @gcca.org>; Meredith Allen (b) (6) @staplcotn.com>; Michael Formica <(b) (6) @nppc.org>; Michael Symonanis <(b) (6) @ldc.com>; Nancy Foster (b) (6) @nara.org>; Peter Friedman (b) (6) @agtrans.org>; Peter Tabor <(b) @petfoodinstitute.org>; Reece Langley (b) (6) @cotton.org>; Robbie Boone <(b) (6) @fccouncil.com>; Robbie Minnich (b) (6) @cotton.org>; Sanjay Gummalla (b) (6) @affi.com>; Sarah Doese (b) (6) @ncga.com>; Spencer Young <(b) (6) @agtrans.org>; Steve Sothmann (b) (6) @meatinstitute.org>; Tal Coley (b) @americanhort.org>; Tom Madrecki <(b) (6) @consumerbrandsassociation.org>; Tracey Chow <(b) (6) @wga.com>; Travis Arp (b) @usmef.org>; Tyler Rushforth (b) (6) @trucking.org>; Virginia Houston (b) (6) @betterseed.org>; (b) (6) @nppc.org' (b) (6) @nppc.org>; 'Sarah Wellman' (b) (6) @werner.com>; Sara Arsenault (b) (6) @nasda.org>; Gary Langston (b) @intrucking.org>; cherie milkhauler.org ((b) (6) @milkhauler.org) (b) (6) @milkhauler.org>; Paul Bleiberg (b) (6) @nmpf.org) <(b) (6) @nmpf.org>; (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org' (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>; (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org' (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>; Zumwalt, Bryan (b) (6) @consumerbrandsassociation.org>; 'Hoshauer, Danyelle' <(b) (6) @ffa.org>; (b) (6) @restaurant.org' (b) (6) @restaurant.org>
Subject: Perishable Product Waste - Industry Wide Discussion

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Importance: High

Good afternoon, everyone,

As many of you are aware by now, the minimization or closure of restaurants, schools, etc. have caused a significant surplus in the perishable food supply. I know many of you are working internally with members to alleviate the pressure, but I was hoping to get a more National look on the entire supply chain. I have included a substantial list including growers, manufacturers, distributors, retailers, carriers, warehousing, charitable and logistics organizations. At minimum, I think it would be very beneficial to share what is currently taking place within your respective industries, share contacts and information connecting everyone and potentially find a path for a larger group effort.

I made an attempt to include as many relevant groups as possible, but by no means do I think I have included them all. If you have additional contacts that you think would be beneficial to add please let me know. Conversely, if you are not interested in participating in this discussion please reach out and I will remove you.

Lastly, dealing with anything perishable means time is of the essence, so I hope to hold this call ASAP. Please let me know if you are NOT available during portions of the next two days (wed, thur) and I will do my very best to accommodate as many folks as possible.

Thanks to all and I look forward to the discussion!

Jon Samson
Executive Director
Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference of ATA
(b) (6)

Disclaimer

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Potential (b) (5), DPP
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 7:45:00 PM
Attachments: Current Needs FY 2020 Supplemental Funding Requests Post Phase II and III_41320.pdf
Economic Stimulus and Infrastructure FY 2020 Supplemental Proposals.pdf

---

Ladies:

Here are the materials for tomorrow covid 19 check in with SP at 1030am. It looks like (b) (5), DPP

Thanks for fitting us in!
KMT

From: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 6:19 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC <leslie.barrack@usda.gov>
Subject: Potential (b) (5), DPP

Info withheld under (b)(6) is Purdue and Censky alias email addresses

Sir:

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6)
[redacted]
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture
COVID Supplemental Funding - ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND INFRASTRUCTURE Proposals
(Dollars in Thousands)

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture
COVID Supplemental Funding - ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND INFRASTRUCTURE Proposals
(Dollars in Thousands)

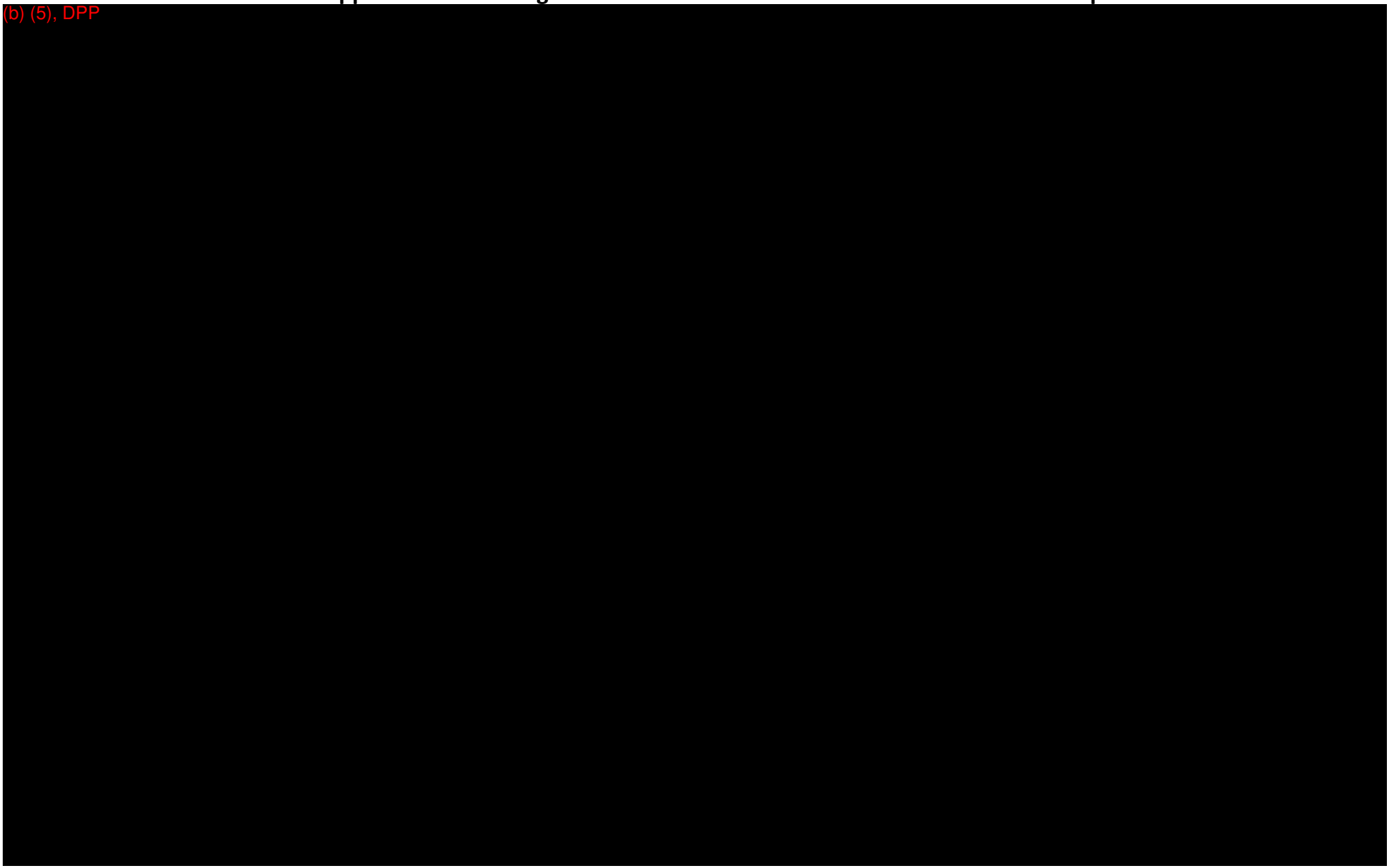
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

COVID Supplemental Funding - ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND INFRASTRUCTURE Proposals

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

COVID Supplemental Funding - ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND INFRASTRUCTURE Proposals

(b) (5), DPP

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

COVID Supplemental Funding - ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND INFRASTRUCTURE Proposals

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

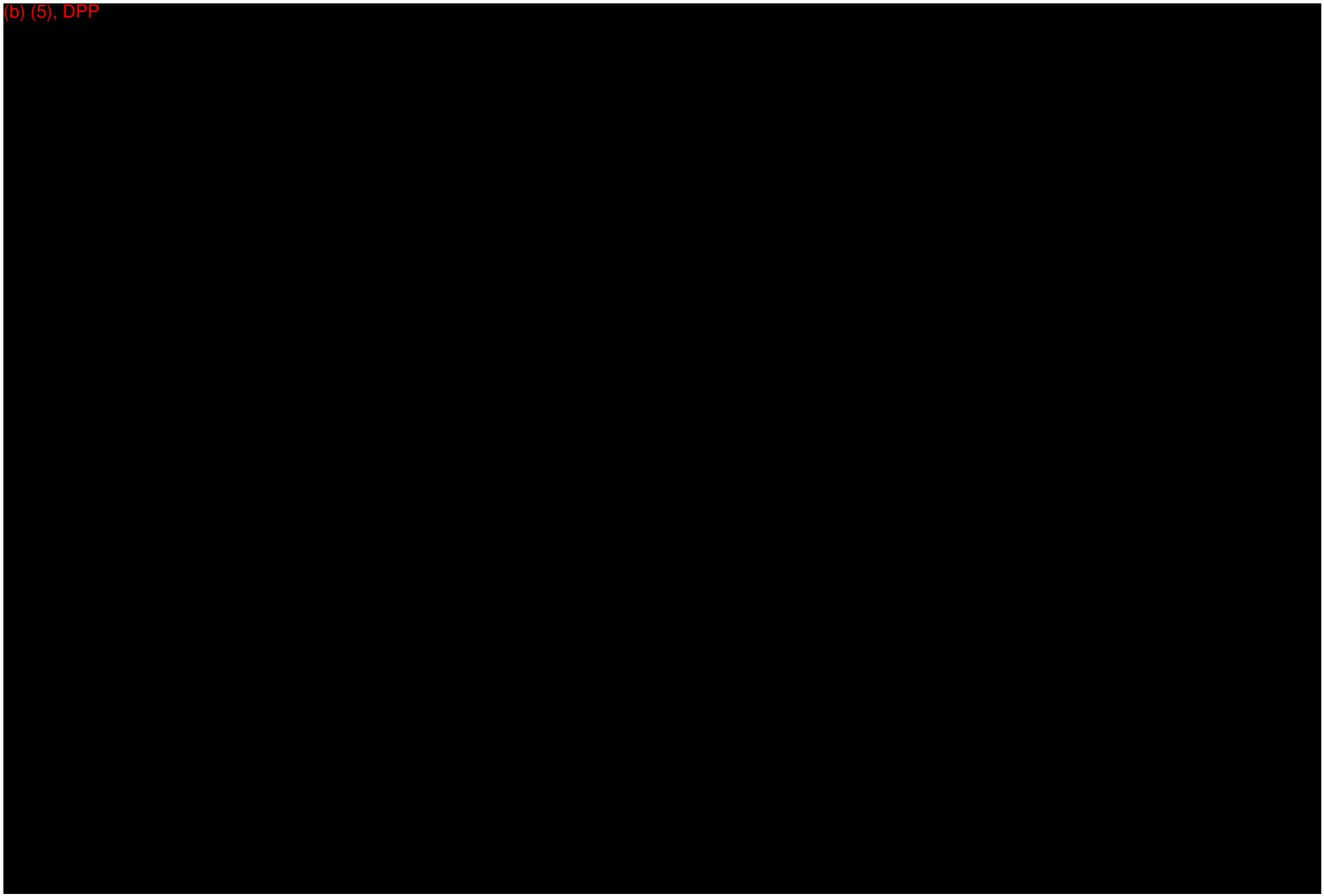
(b) (5), DPP



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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture
COVID Supplemental Funding
(Dollars in Thousands)

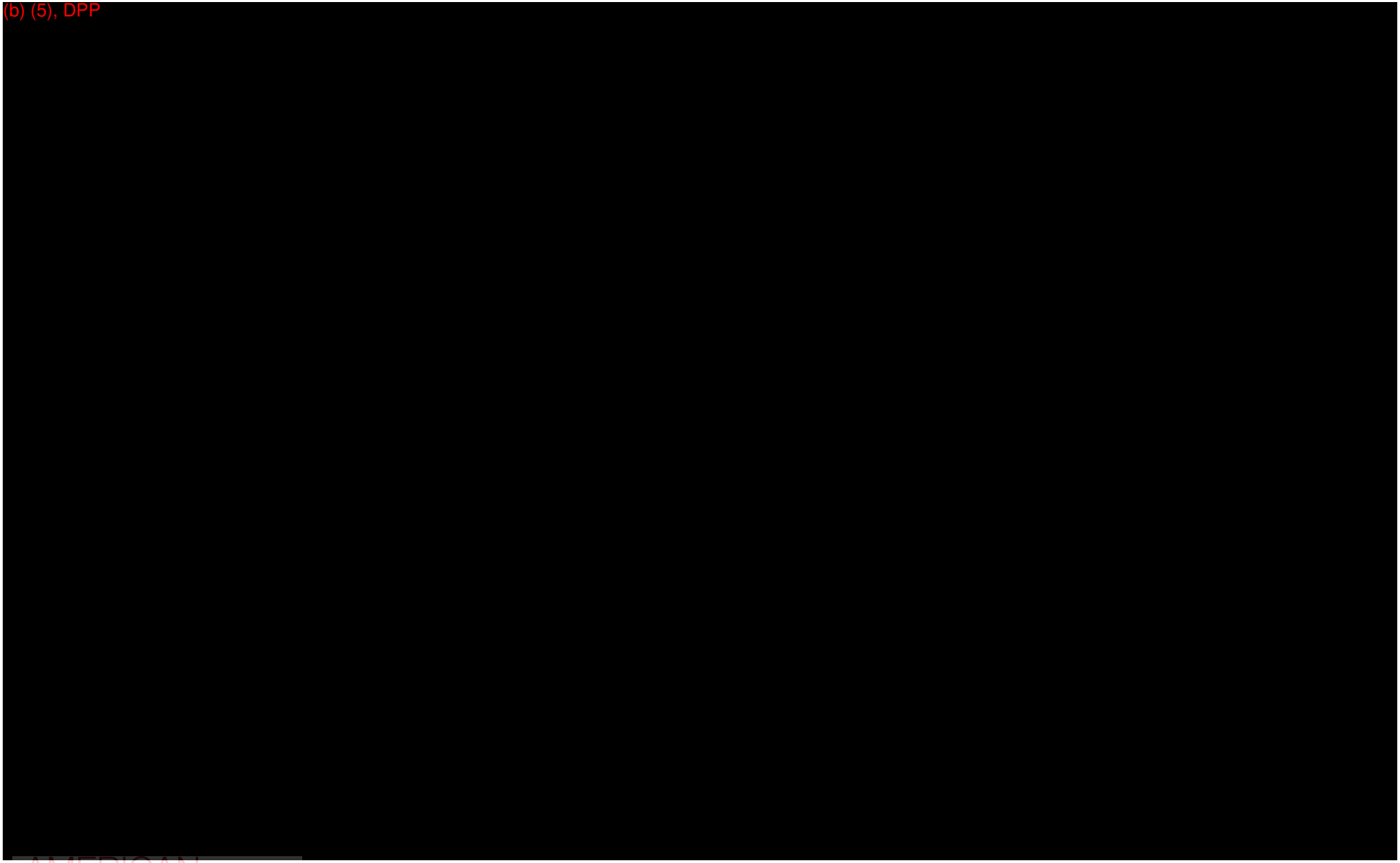
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture
COVID Supplemental Funding
(Dollars in Thousands)

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture
COVID Supplemental Funding
(Dollars in Thousands)

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1045-A 000553
USDA-20-1045-A-000553

United States Department of Agriculture
COVID Supplemental Funding
(Dollars in Thousands)

(b) (5), DPP



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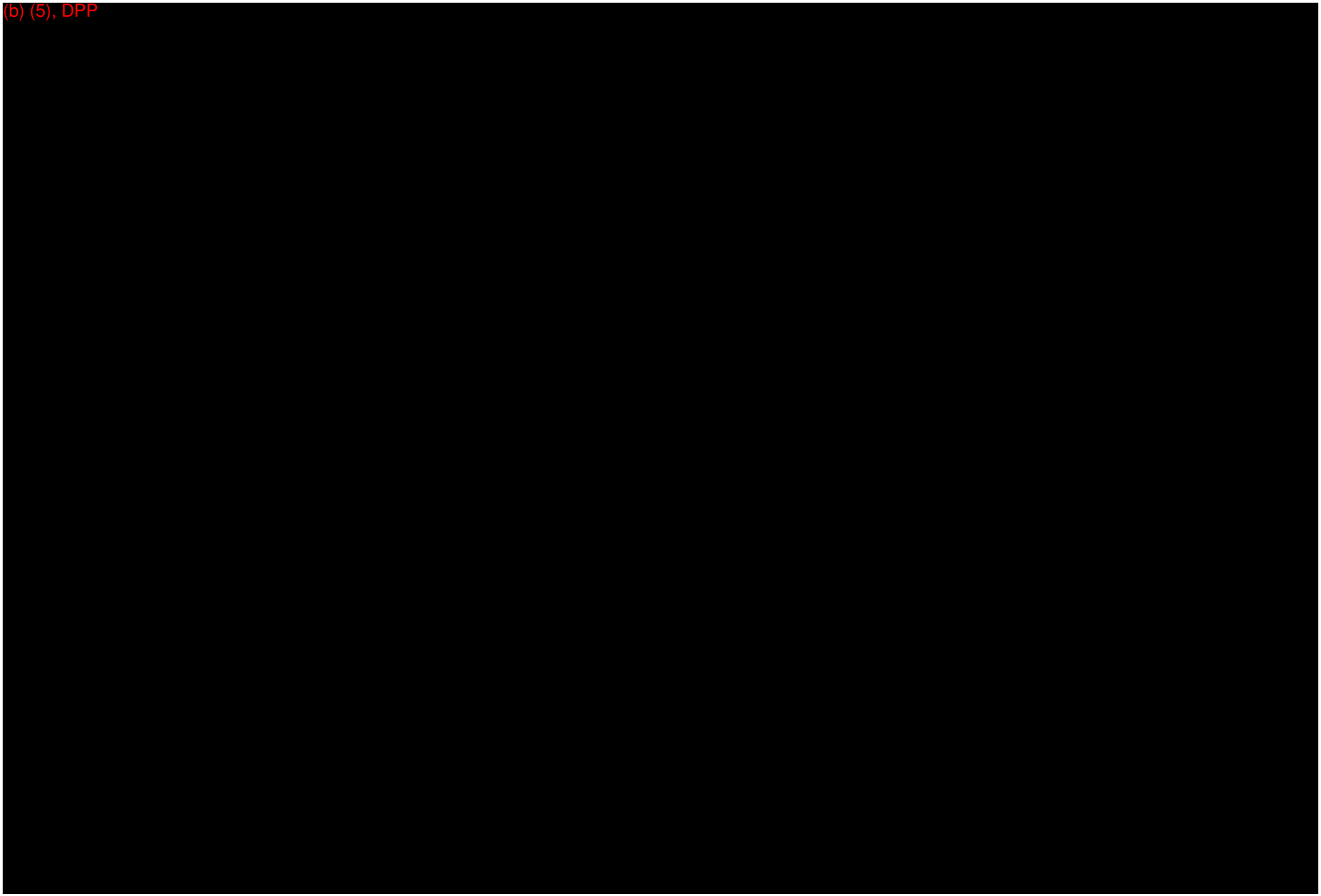


AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

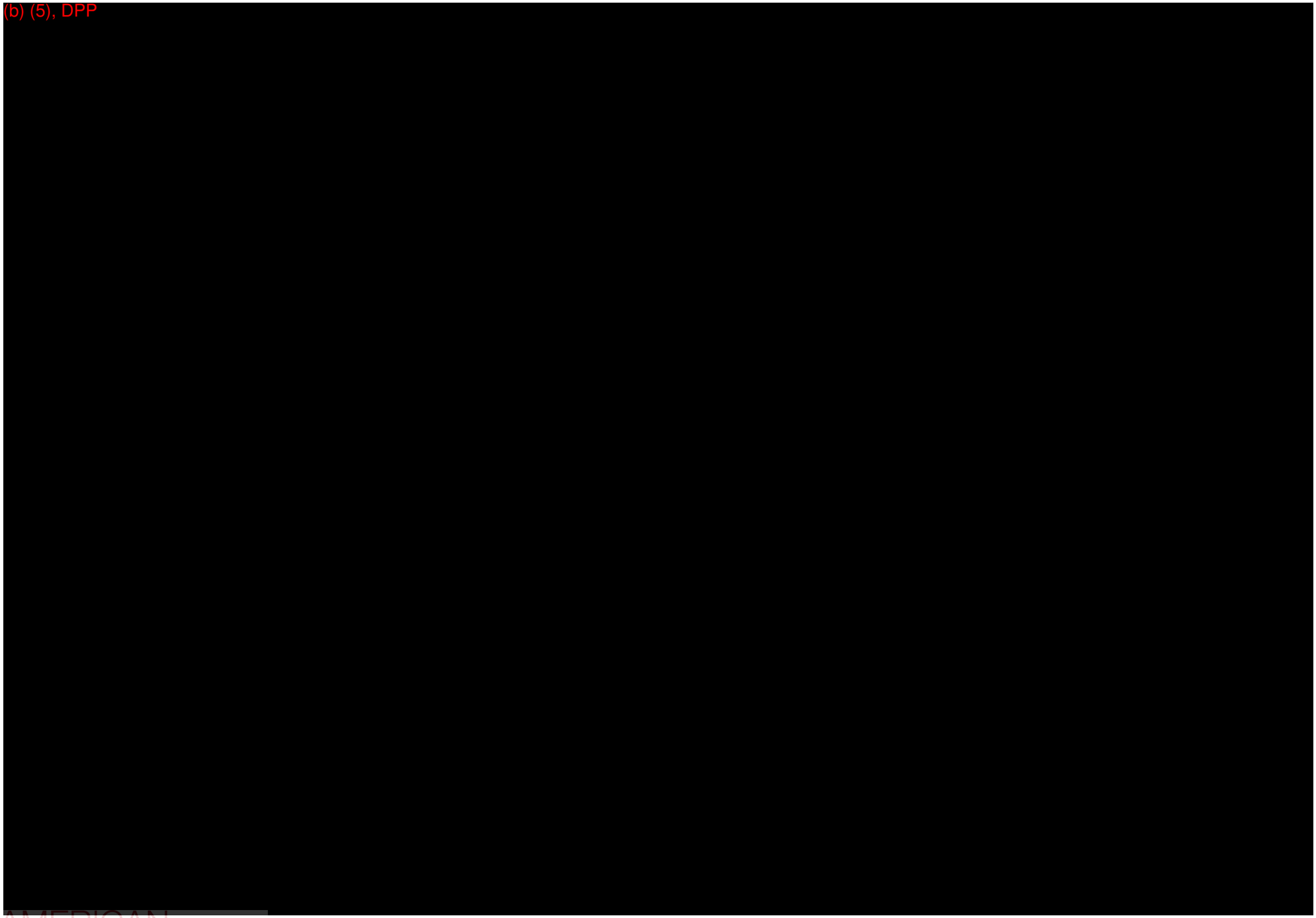
(b) (5), DPP



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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



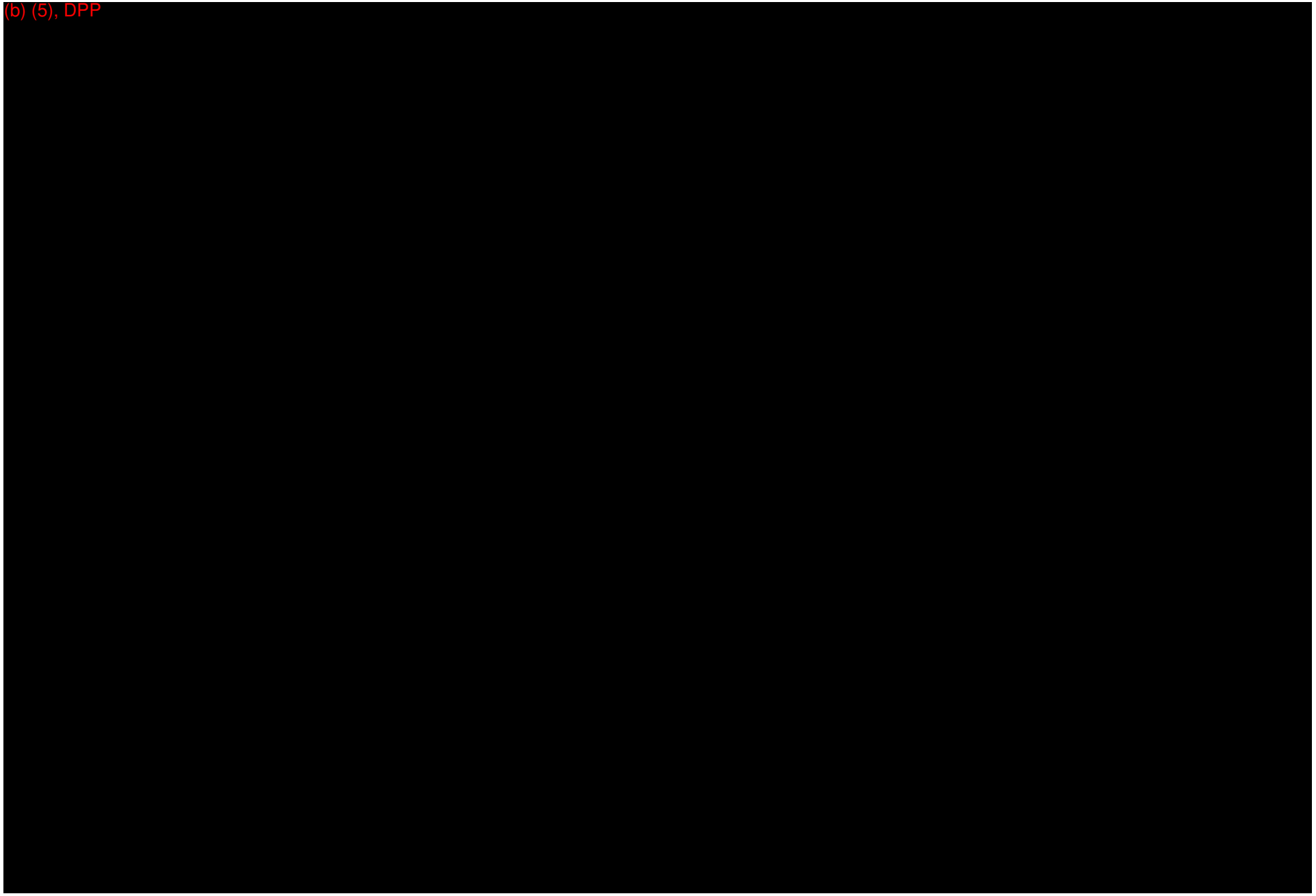
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(b) (5), DPP

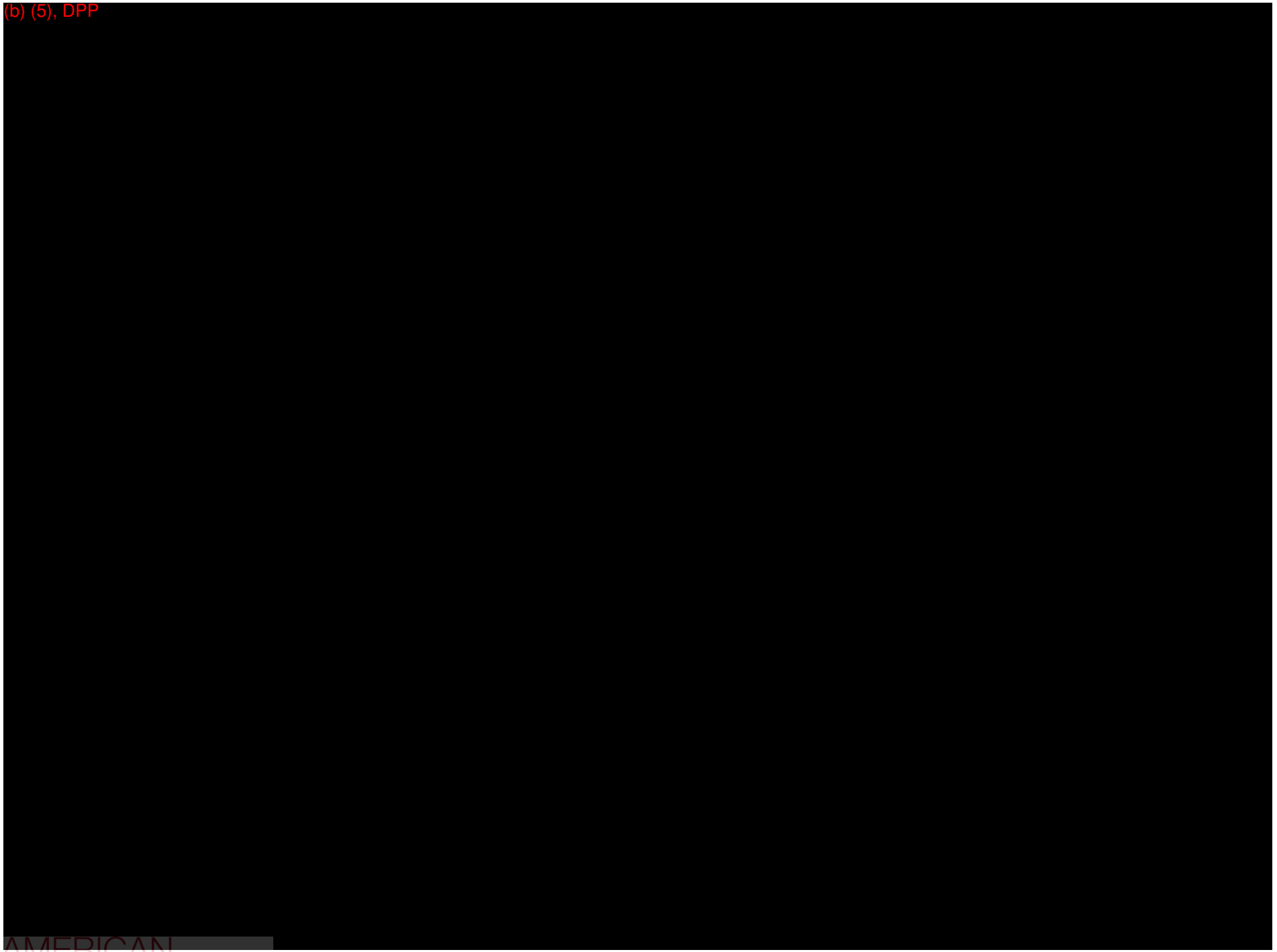


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(b) (5), DPP



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Funding Needs through December to Maintain Services/Programs

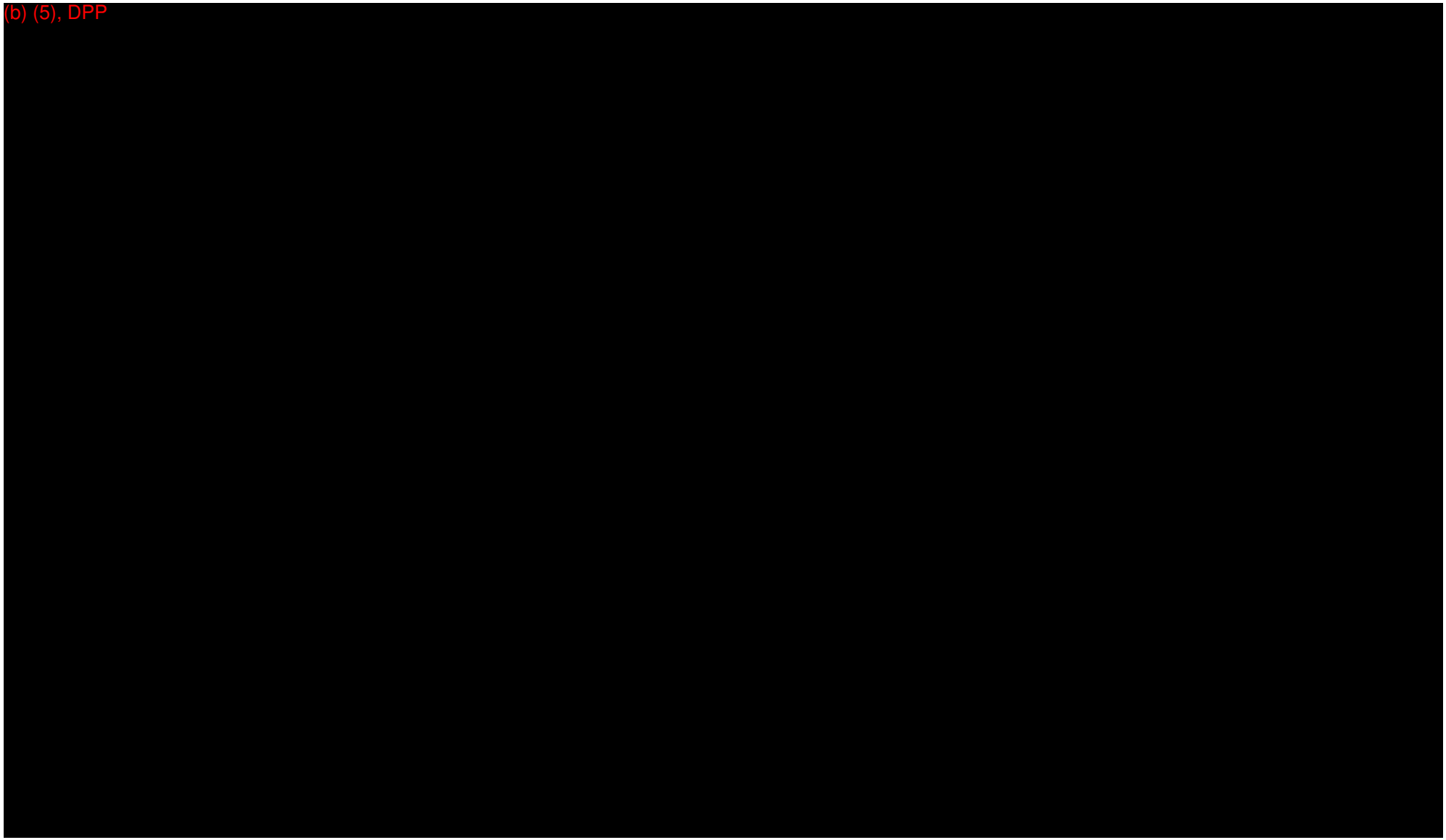
Dollars in thousands

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP



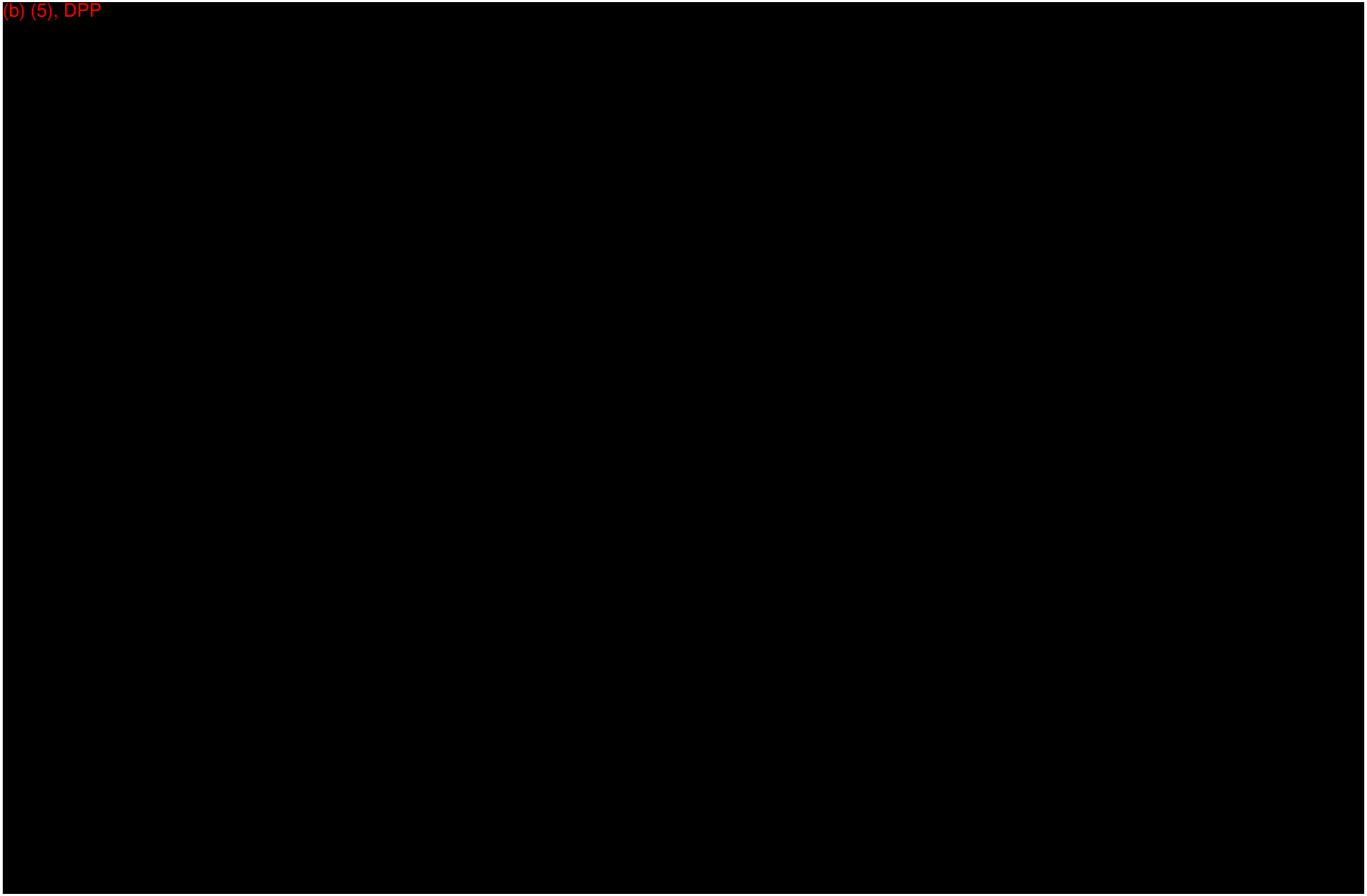
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(b) (5), DPP

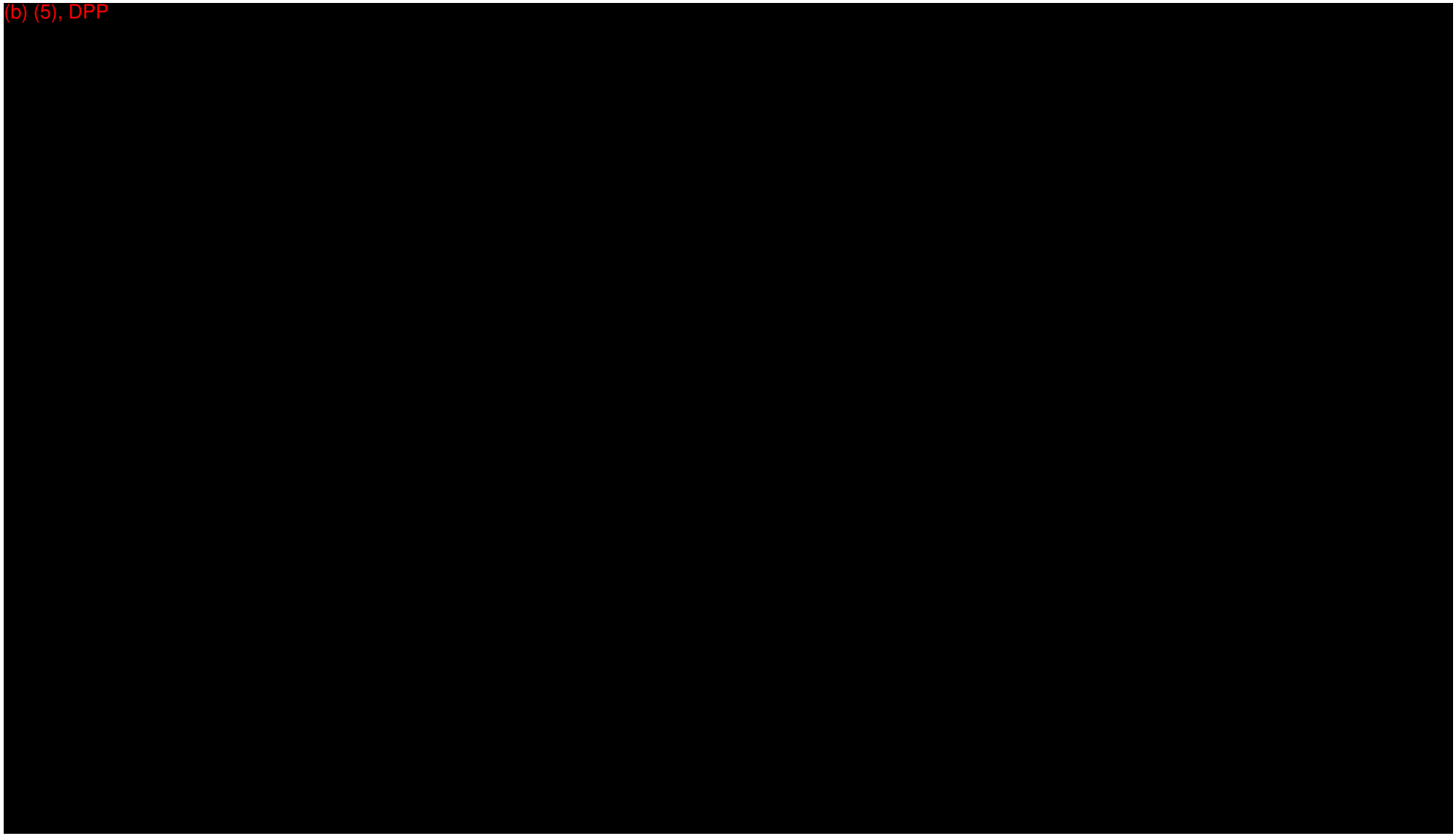
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(b) (5), DPP



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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC
Cc: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Puerto rico
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:26:00 PM
Attachments: PRNAP FFRCA.CARES Plan FNS Approval final.05.15.20.pdf

---

Leslie,

On Puerto Rico, Anne says:

> On SNAP for Puerto Rico, they run NAP, which is a block grant program. Puerto Rico has to provide a plan of what they will do with the funds provided in FFCRA and CARES. After a lot of technical assistance, FNS approved their plan for both FFCRA and CARES on May 15, see attached. From there, the funds could be obligated.
>
> Aside from SNAP, FNS has been working to help Puerto Rico setup school feeding sites and potentially expanding Meals to You.

This is general, so if let us know if there is specific follow-up.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC <leslie.barrack@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 12:13:22 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Weekly Obligation Reporting Covid 4/17/20

Veronica,
Can you check on PR funding for COVID? See note from Dianne below about an op-ed.

Leslie Barrack
Deputy Director,
Office of Budget and Program Analysis
Room 126W Whitten Building
202-720-6112 (office)
(b) (6) (mobile)

From: Nellor, Dianne (Appropriations) <Dianne_Nellor@appro.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 12:02 PM
To: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC <leslie.barrack@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Weekly Obligation Reporting Covid 4/17/20

Hi Leslie. Can you ask FNS where they are on funding for PR? I'm trying to hold back an op-ed on

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

this……yikes!

From: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC <leslie.barrack@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 7:15 PM
To: Foley, Martha <Martha.Foley@mail.house.gov>; O'Brien, Tom <Tom.O'Brien@mail.house.gov>; Nellor, Dianne (Appropriations) <Dianne_Nellor@appro.senate.gov>; Ulmer, Morgan (Appropriations) <Morgan_Ulmer@appro.senate.gov>
Cc: Jones, Diem-Linh <Diem-Linh.Jones@mail.house.gov>; Masucci, Justin <Justin.Masucci@mail.house.gov>; Layman, Joseph <Joseph.Layman@mail.house.gov>; Yates, Perry <Perry.Yates@mail.house.gov>; Staples, Randy <Randy.Staples@mail.house.gov>; Dent, Elizabeth (Appropriations) <Elizabeth_Dent@appro.senate.gov>; Carroll, Patrick (Appropriations) <Patrick_Carroll@appro.senate.gov>; Erlebacher, Rachel (Appropriations) <Rachel_Erlebacher@appro.senate.gov>; Wojciechowski, Adrienne (Appropriations) <Adrienne_Wojciechowski@appro.senate.gov>; Stalter, Dawn - OBPA, Washington, DC <Dawn.Stalter@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Weekly Obligation Reporting Covid 4/17/20

I am resending the Obligation report for this week. I have removed the obligations previously reported for AMS. AMS did an accounting transaction to move the funds within their accounting system which made the balances appear obligated. We are working to fix this in our future reports.

We also have added an explanation column to explain the status of obligations and when you can expect to see obligations begin for several of the programs. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Leslie Barrack
Deputy Director,
Office of Budget and Program Analysis
Room 126W Whitten Building
202-720-6112 (office)
(b) (6) (mobile)

From: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Foley, Martha <Martha.Foley@mail.house.gov>; 'O'Brien, Tom' <Tom.O'Brien@mail.house.gov>; 'Nellor, Dianne (Appropriations)' <Dianne_Nellor@appro.senate.gov>; 'Ulmer, Morgan (Appropriations)' <Morgan_Ulmer@appro.senate.gov>
Cc: 'Jones, Diem-Linh' <Diem-Linh.Jones@mail.house.gov>; Masucci, Justin <Justin.Masucci@mail.house.gov>; 'Layman, Joseph' <Joseph.Layman@mail.house.gov>; 'Yates, Perry' <Perry.Yates@mail.house.gov>; 'Staples, Randy' <Randy.Staples@mail.house.gov>; 'Dent, Elizabeth (Appropriations)' <Elizabeth_Dent@appro.senate.gov>; Carroll, Patrick (Appropriations) (Patrick_Carroll@appro.senate.gov) <Patrick_Carroll@appro.senate.gov>; 'Erlebacher, Rachel (Appropriations)' <Rachel_Erlebacher@appro.senate.gov>; 'Wojciechowski, Adrienne (Appropriations)' <Adrienne_Wojciechowski@appro.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Weekly Obligation Reporting Covid 4/17/20

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Here is the May 8 obligation report. Agencies are working to obligate these funds and also to correct previous obligations to the correct accounts now that the apportionments are processed and allotted. Please let me know if any questions. Thanks.

Leslie Barrack
Deputy Director,
Office of Budget and Program Analysis
Room 126W Whitten Building
202-720-6112 (office)
(b) (6) (mobile)

From: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Foley, Martha <Martha.Foley@mail.house.gov>; 'O'Brien, Tom' <Tom.O'Brien@mail.house.gov>; 'Nellor, Dianne (Appropriations)' <Dianne_Nellor@appro.senate.gov>; 'Ulmer, Morgan (Appropriations)' <Morgan_Ulmer@appro.senate.gov>
Cc: 'Jones, Diem-Linh' <Diem-Linh.Jones@mail.house.gov>; Masucci, Justin <Justin.Masucci@mail.house.gov>; 'Layman, Joseph' <Joseph.Layman@mail.house.gov>; 'Yates, Perry' <Perry.Yates@mail.house.gov>; 'Staples, Randy' <Randy.Staples@mail.house.gov>; 'Dent, Elizabeth (Appropriations)' <Elizabeth_Dent@appro.senate.gov>; Carroll, Patrick (Appropriations) (Patrick_Carroll@appro.senate.gov) <Patrick_Carroll@appro.senate.gov>; 'Erlebacher, Rachel (Appropriations)' <Rachel_Erlebacher@appro.senate.gov>; 'Wojciechowski, Adrienne (Appropriations)' <Adrienne_Wojciechowski@appro.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Weekly Obligation Reporting Covid 4/17/20

Here is the weekly obligation report as of May 1. Please let me know if any questions.

Leslie Barrack
Deputy Director,
Office of Budget and Program Analysis
Room 126W Whitten Building
202-720-6112 (office)
(b) (6) (mobile)

From: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Foley, Martha <Martha.Foley@mail.house.gov>; 'O'Brien, Tom' <Tom.O'Brien@mail.house.gov>; 'Nellor, Dianne (Appropriations)' <Dianne_Nellor@appro.senate.gov>; 'Ulmer, Morgan (Appropriations)' <Morgan_Ulmer@appro.senate.gov>
Cc: 'Jones, Diem-Linh' <Diem-Linh.Jones@mail.house.gov>; Masucci, Justin <Justin.Masucci@mail.house.gov>; 'Layman, Joseph' <Joseph.Layman@mail.house.gov>; 'Yates, Perry' <Perry.Yates@mail.house.gov>; 'Staples, Randy' <Randy.Staples@mail.house.gov>; 'Dent, Elizabeth (Appropriations)' <Elizabeth_Dent@appro.senate.gov>; Carroll, Patrick (Appropriations) (Patrick_Carroll@appro.senate.gov) <Patrick_Carroll@appro.senate.gov>; 'Erlebacher, Rachel

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(Appropriations)' <Rachel_Erlebacher@appro.senate.gov>; 'Wojciechowski, Adrienne (Appropriations)' <Adrienne_Wojciechowski@appro.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Weekly Obligation Reporting Covid 4/17/20

Here is the weekly obligation report for last Friday, April 24th. Please let me know if any questions.

Leslie Barrack
Deputy Director,
Office of Budget and Program Analysis
Room 126W Whitten Building
202-720-6112 (office)
(b) (6) (mobile)

From: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Foley, Martha <Martha.Foley@mail.house.gov>; O'Brien, Tom <Tom.O'Brien@mail.house.gov>; Nellor, Dianne (Appropriations) <Dianne_Nellor@appro.senate.gov>; Ulmer, Morgan (Appropriations) <Morgan_Ulmer@appro.senate.gov>
Cc: Jones, Diem-Linh <Diem-Linh.Jones@mail.house.gov>; Masucci, Justin <Justin.Masucci@mail.house.gov>; Layman, Joseph <Joseph.Layman@mail.house.gov>; Yates, Perry <Perry.Yates@mail.house.gov>; Staples, Randy <Randy.Staples@mail.house.gov>; Dent, Elizabeth (Appropriations) <Elizabeth_Dent@appro.senate.gov>; Carroll, Patrick (Appropriations) (Patrick_Carroll@appro.senate.gov) <Patrick_Carroll@appro.senate.gov>; Erlebacher, Rachel (Appropriations) <Rachel_Erlebacher@appro.senate.gov>; Wojciechowski, Adrienne (Appropriations) <Adrienne_Wojciechowski@appro.senate.gov>
Subject: Weekly Obligation Reporting Covid 4/17/20

Attached is the weekly obligation reporting for COVID spending as of last Friday. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Leslie Barrack
Deputy Director,
Office of Budget and Program Analysis
Room 126W Whitten Building
202-720-6112 (office)
(b) (6) (mobile)

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USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

300 Corporate Blvd
Robbinsville, NJ
08691-1598

May 15, 2020

Honorable Eddie A. Garcia Fuentes
Secretary
Department of the Family
PO Box 11398
San Juan, PR 00910-1398

Dear Secretary Garcia Fuentes:

We have completed our review of the NAP Relief Comprehensive Plan Amendment, submitted on April 29, 2020, and the CARES and Family First Act Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) Plan final revision, submitted on May 14, 2020. The final revision included recommended modifications and edits for further consideration by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). FNS is approving both the NAP Relief Comprehensive Plan Amendment and CARES/Family First NAP Plan, herein incorporated into one document.

The Amendment and Plan include the following activities approved by FNS:

- The June NAP Relief 2 benefit will be issued in May.
- The CARES and Family First Funding of $295 million will be distributed in June and July by issuing the maximum allotment to all households.
- All elderly households' benefits will increase by an additional amount of $16 in June and July.
- The three month certification period extension waiver will be extended by one month, until the end of July, to align with the funding.
- The Department of Family will hire 40 temporary in-takers to support technicians during the process of approval of all new NAP Covid-19 applications.

FNS will continue to work with PR ADSEF for further clarification of some of the administrative costs items listed in the Plan and corresponding budget. Only costs that align with efforts related to the COVID-19 public health emergency and incurred during the grant performance period will be allowed.

While this letter extends FNS' approval for the Plan, please note all costs incurred in connection with this grant award must be necessary, reasonable, allocable, properly supported, and incurred during the grant award's stated period of performance.

FNS will continue to provide technical assistance on implementing policies and procedures for program operations. Changes to program operations and implementation of waivers and program flexibilities are subject to approval by FNS.

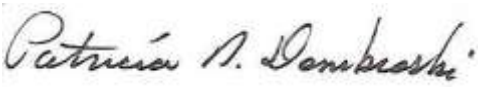
We appreciate your leadership and ADSEF's efforts in ensuring that the vulnerable

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population in Puerto Rico is able to access this vital nutrition assistance program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (609) 259-5025 or David Gagliardi at David.Gagliardi@usda.gov or (609) 259-5028.

Sincerely,



Patricia N. Dombroski
Administrator
Mid-Atlantic Region

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer and Lender

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov)
Subject: FW: Rapid Response 8627559 Greenaway EIA
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:18:00 PM
Attachments: Cover Letter 8627559 Greenaway EIA.pdf
FNCS 8627559 Greenaway EIA Zach.pdf
FNCS 8627559 Greenaway EIA Zach.docx

Stakeholder draft response.

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 6:26 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>; ONeill, Stephen - OBPA, Washington, DC <Stephen.ONeill@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Lester, Susan - OSEC, Washington, DC <Susan.Lester@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: Rapid Response 8627559 Greenaway EIA

All—Please (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Thank you,
Zach

Zach Jacobs
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Reverend Doulas Greenaway
President and CEO
National WIC Association
2001 S Street, NW
Suite 580
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Reverend Greenaway:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Secretarial Correspondence Report
OES Writer: Zach Jacobs

Begin Date: 3/25/20
End Date:
Control Number: 8627559
Letter Subject: WIC
Correspondent Name Rev. Greenaway
Summary:
Mission Area: FNCS

Review Phase:

OSEC: _____ Senior Advisor OSEC

FNCS : _____

If required/ necessary:

OGC: _____ (name of reviewer)

OCR: _____ (name of reviewer)

OBPA: _____ (name of reviewer)

: _____ (name of reviewer)

Version (circle):

Draft 1 ☐

Draft 2 ☐

Final ☐

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

National WIC Association

2001 S Street NW, Suite 580
Washington, DC 20009-1165
202 232 5492 202 387 5281
www.nwica.org

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

On March 18, the President signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to address the ongoing public health emergency related to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. As states and localities impose new restrictions on the public and urge social distancing to reduce exposure and the spread of COVID-19, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) must take swift action to assure continued nutrition assistance for at-risk, low-income pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children.

The National WIC Association (NWA) is the non-profit education arm and advocacy voice of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the nearly 7 million pregnant and postpartum women and young children served by WIC, and the 12,000 service provider agencies who are the front lines of WIC's public health nutrition services. WIC's nutritious food package, nutrition education, and breastfeeding support improve birth outcomes and early childhood development, leading to healthier communities. For nearly four decades, NWA has worked to build bipartisan and broad-based support for WIC's programmatic goals and public health mission.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act included key provisions related to flexibilities in WIC service delivery. NWA writes today to urge USDA to take immediate action to sustain WIC services and assure opportunities for redemption of WIC foods throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. Multiple State WIC Agencies have already reported clinic closures, disrupting appointment schedules and jeopardizing ongoing access to benefits for WIC participants and new applicants. NWA urges USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to swiftly issue blanket waivers to all 89 State WIC Agencies to resolve these significant barriers to ongoing WIC service delivery throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency:

Certifications

Under existing law, WIC's physical presence requirement (42 U.S.C. § 1786(d)(3)(C)) establishes that participants – including infants and children – must be physically present in order to complete certification and be eligible for benefits. This requirement impacts not only new applicants, but also participants as they shift into new categories (i.e., a pregnant woman seeks certification as a postpartum or breastfeeding woman) or certification periods, which is most applicable for child participants (age 1-4). The physical presence requirement is an important provision that helps establish an interpersonal connection and trust between WIC staff and participants.

Beth Beachy, Illinois, Chair
Berry Kelly, South Carolina, Chair-Elect
Rita Arni, Missouri, Chair Emeritus
Barbara Riley, Ohio, Secretary
Melinda Morris, Colorado
Rev. Douglas A. Greenaway, Washington, DC, CEO

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Supp Response 2 of 3
USDA-20-1045-A-000582

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act rightfully recognizes the barrier that the physical presence requirement poses to participants throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency and allows for exceptions to physical presence and deferment of anthropometric tests and bloodwork. FNS must swiftly issue a blanket waiver to establish remote certification procedures throughout the duration of the public health emergency, allowing local agencies the flexibilities they need to onboard or retain participants while also assuring the health and safety of both participants and clinic staff.

NWA recommends that FNS grant waivers that seek long-term extensions of the certification period of up to 180 days, automatic recertification of participants as they change categories (i.e., an infant ages into the child category), digital or electronic transmission of proof documents to complete the certification process, and waiver of income documentation for recertifications. NWA also urges FNS to adopt a uniform nutrition risk code for the public health emergency and relax the separation-of-duties provision to streamline remote certifications. These initial steps are critical to ensuring a workable remote certification process, which is the most significant barrier to serving participants throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Remote Service Delivery

One of the primary challenges of the public health emergency will be continued issuance of benefits to WIC participants. FNS has already clarified that State WIC Agencies have flexibility to issue up to three months of benefits for a certified participant. The majority of State Agencies have transitioned to electronic-benefit transfer (EBT) systems, which simplify remote benefit issuance procedures and permit state agencies to centralize benefit issuance and reduce the burden on local agency staff. Technical assistance, regulatory relief, and extended benefit issuance is especially critical for State Agencies operating offline EBT systems (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Ohio, Texas, and Wyoming) and those still utilizing paper voucher systems. NWA recommends that FNS issue a blanket waiver to permit State Agencies to issue benefits for the remainder of a participant's certification period.

In addition to certifications and benefits issuance, WIC agencies will have to adapt the existing clinic-based model to meet the needs of participants in a period of prolonged social distancing. Even before the public health emergency, State WIC Agencies have proactively developed strategies to leverage online platforms and telehealth tools to deliver nutrition education and breastfeeding support directly to participants and their families. These technology investments will become increasingly critical as clinics are closed for prolonged periods, and FNS should earmark significant funding to support State WIC Agency projects to enhance remote certifications, nutrition education, and breastfeeding services.

Throughout the public health emergency, WIC may face substantial staffing shortages or difficulties in administering the program as clinics close, staff are instructed to work from home, or staff (particularly those working in county health departments) are pulled from WIC to work on the broader public health response to COVID-19. Regulatory flexibility to enhance Nutrition Services & Administration (NSA) funding is essential to adequately staffing WIC, ensuring continued access to WIC's technology infrastructure (including remote access to management information systems), and exploring new strategies to remotely engage participants in WIC's public health programming. NWA recommends that FNS implement a variety of strategies to bolster NSA funding throughout the emergency, including raising or eliminating the cap on spend-forward authority and permitting a certain percentage of unused food funds to be redistributed to the NSA grant.

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Redemption of WIC Benefits

Participants have also faced challenges procuring supplemental foods or infant formula due to stocking shortages, illness, or concern about exposure. State WIC Agencies are proactively engaging retail and vendor partners to resolve supply chain deficiencies, earmark stock for WIC participants, and ensure participants can redeem the full benefit in stores. NWA has advised State WIC Agencies to work collaboratively with their retail partners to suspend vendor monitoring visits for the duration of the public health emergency. NWA further recommends that FNS approve state waiver requests to permit substitutions for both foods and infant formula (i.e., liquid or powder), while also expanding the value of benefits, using regulatory flexibility to increase the value of the Cash Value Benefit to ensure increased access to nutritious foods such as vegetables and fruits throughout the public health emergency.

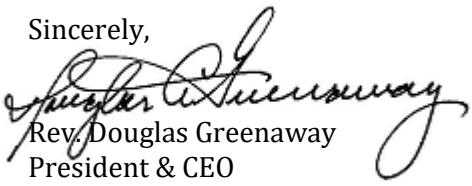
As the public health emergency continues, FNS must seriously consider how to meet participant needs should participants be unable to conduct shopping in a traditional retail setting. Under current regulations, State WIC Agencies also have authority to establish home delivery or direct distribution models. State WIC Agencies do not have the authority under current regulations to permit redemption of WIC foods through online platforms, as redemption must be conducted in the presence of a cashier. FNS should waive this provision and adopt more expansive interpretations that would permit State WIC Agencies to move forward with online purchasing and other models of food delivery that are more applicable to the current circumstances.

Conclusion

In light of the public health risks posed by COVID-19, we urge USDA to leverage all possible tools to empower State WIC Agencies in swiftly addressing the public health emergency. FNS must support State WIC Agency efforts to develop remote certification procedures through video technology, streamline benefit issuance and clinic procedures, and resolve challenges to the redemption of WIC foods in the retail setting. NWA writes in partnership and encourages continued dialogue between FNS and the WIC service provider community.

As communities promote social distancing, close clinics, and face a higher number of confirmed cases, NWA encourages USDA to embrace flexibility, clarity, and creativity in order to properly serve WIC families in a rapidly changing environment. We look forward to collaborating with your offices to do right by WIC providers and the families that they serve.

Sincerely,



Rev. Douglas Greenaway
President & CEO
National WIC Association

cc: The Honorable Robert C. Scott
The Honorable Virginia Foxx
The Honorable Pat Roberts
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
USDA Deputy Undersecretary Brandon Lipps
FNS Administrator Pam Miller
NWA Board of Directors

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	FW: Rapid Response: FNCS 8629849; 8629856; 8629873; 8629943
Date:	Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:13:00 PM
Attachments:	FNCS 8629856 Conaway snap online vw edits.03.31.20.docx FNCS 8629849 Reschenthaler +15 vw edits.03.31.20.docx

---

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:06 PM
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Cc: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov) <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Rapid Response: FNCS 8629849; 8629856; 8629873; 8629943

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>; ONeill, Stephen - OBPA, Washington, DC <Stephen.ONeill@usda.gov>; Norman, Jackie - OBPA, Washington, DC <jackie.norman@usda.gov>; Tucker, William - OBPA, Washington, DC <william.tucker@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Lester, Susan - OSEC, Washington, DC <Susan.Lester@usda.gov>
Subject: Rapid Response: FNCS 8629849; 8629856; 8629873; 8629943

Good afternoon,

Attached is a zip file that includes FOUR letters (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thank you,
Zach

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Zach Jacobs

Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Guy Reschenthaler
U.S. House of Representatives
531 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Reschenthaler:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Dwight Evans
U.S. House of Representatives
1105 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Evans:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
1722 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Fitzpatrick:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Brendan F. Boyle
U.S. House of Representatives
1133 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Boyle:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Madeline Dean
U.S. House of Representatives
129 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dean:

(b) (5), DPP



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon
U.S. House of Representatives
1535 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Scanlon:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Chrissy Houlahan
U.S. House of Representatives
1218 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Houlahan:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Dan Meuser
U.S. House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Meuser:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Scott Perry
U.S. House of Representatives
1207 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Perry:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Lloyd Smucker
U.S. House of Representatives
127 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smucker:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Fred Keller
U.S. House of Representatives
1717 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Keller:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable John Joyce, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
1337 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Joyce:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Mike Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kelly:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Connor Lamb
U.S. House of Representatives
1224 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lamb:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Mike Doyle
U.S. House of Representatives
306 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Doyle:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Glenn "G.T." Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
400 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Thompson:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway
Ranking Member
House Agriculture Committee on Agriculture
1010 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Conaway:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Remote citizen access to SNAP benefits
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:01:00 AM

I [redacted] (b) (5), DPP ?

From: Hulver, Tracy <Tracy.Hulver@us.idemia.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:56 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Remote citizen access to SNAP benefits

Dear Secretary Lipps:

I wanted to quickly send you an email regarding IDEMIA's state-issued Mobile Driver's Licenses (mDLs) and how they can be utilized to assist citizens in identity proofing and authenticating remotely. Although strong identity verification and authentication are required for individuals to sign-up and be approved for SNAP benefits, at times like these, it becomes even more imperative to have the capability of providing these services without requiring the citizen to appear in-person.

Per your press release on August 21 last year, enabling states to leverage modern technologies in their efforts to deliver Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits with improved customer service and integrity is increasing in importance. By leveraging a state-issued mDL or Mobile ID the citizen can remotely prove their identity, be issued a digital credential on behalf of the state where they reside, and subsequently use that credential to securely access digital services. The benefit of this, especially with the COVID-19 changes to operating procedures, is that the citizen can accomplish this without leaving their homes.

IDEMIA currently provides the physical driver's licenses to 35 states as well as PIV and CAC cards used by the federal government. We also run TSA Pre-Check for DHS and have additional numerous federal and state contracts.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you or your team if you have 15 minutes. I can demonstrate this capability remotely via WebEx if so desired.

Regards and stay safe,

Tracy Hulver
Senior Director | Business Development | Digital Identity

M. [redacted] (b) (6)
E [redacted] (b) (6) @us.idemia.com

11951 Freedom Drive, 18th Floor
Reston, VA 20190

Join us on

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From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: RR: 8634569 Schatz +3
Date: Friday, May 8, 2020 7:04:00 PM
Attachments: Clearance Folder.zip
FPAC 8634569 Schatz +3 ZLD2.docx
FPAC 8634569 Schatz +3.pdf
image001.png

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 7:00 AM
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Cc: Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Subject: RR: 8634569 Schatz +3

Attached.

Hailey Ghee
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 205-9982
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schatz:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hirono:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
U.S. House of Representatives
1433 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Gabbard:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Ed Case
U.S. House of Representatives
2443 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Case:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

In light of national pandemic pressures we write to request your immediate assistance through the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stabilization (CARES) Act for Hawai‘i’s agriculture producers. The CARES Act provides $9.5 billion for USDA assistance to producers impacted by Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and explicitly prioritizes:

- specialty crops;
- livestock; and
- producers that supply farmers markets, restaurants, and schools.

Many of Hawai‘i’s producers fall into one or more of these categories, and we request your personal attention to ensure that our state’s farmers and ranchers are not inadvertently excluded due to the unique circumstances of our geography and year-round growing season. Below we highlight vulnerabilities that are unique to our agricultural industry, provide specific suggestions for administration of the $9.5 billion, and request additional measures that the agency can take to help producers weather the pandemic and evolve operations to be stronger and more resilient.

HAWAI‘I AGRICULTURE

Hawai‘i's agriculture is unique in that the majority of operations are small, family-run farms. According to 2017 data, 66 percent of Hawai‘i’s estimated 7,328 farms (4,868 farms) were under 10 acres each and another 23 percent (1,693 farms) were between 10 and 49 acres. For comparison, in 2018 the average U.S. farm size was 443 acres. Additionally, the majority of our farms are diversified with specialty crops. Our state leads the U.S. in acres producing macadamia nut, papaya, passion fruit, taro, bananas, coffee, pineapple, and ginger root. Hawai‘i also has a cattle ranching industry that contributes strong, healthy calves to the national supply chain of beef.

Across the board, our producers face higher costs than their mainland counterparts, including agricultural land, shipping, employee wages and salaries, utilities, and other operating expenses. Due to the higher value of agricultural real estate, the average farm asset value in Hawai‘i – including market value of land, buildings, and equipment – is nearly double that of a U.S.

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mainland farm ($1.5 million vs. $0.79 million). This means that the cost of doing business for farms is significantly higher in Hawai‘i than on the mainland, so federal assistance is all the more important.

Despite our unique attributes, Hawai‘i’s agricultural producers are experiencing some of the same negative pressures as that of their mainland counterparts. In 2017, producers saw a 15 percent decrease in revenues, totaling $563.8 million, primarily due to reduced crop sales. Between higher fixed costs and declining sales, Hawai‘i’s producers were facing significant challenges even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Production costs aside, COVID-19 is now causing additional disruptions due to the importance of the hospitality industry to the state’s economy. Commercial air service on March 30, 2020, was 98.5 percent lower than March 30, 2019, and major hotel operators are projecting occupancies below 20 percent for upcoming months – or a 61.2 percent decrease in occupancy from last year. Hawai’i agriculture relies heavily on tourism demand for locally produced foods in higher-end markets. Local farmers and ranchers are facing an immediate economic crisis as their sales plummet from closed restaurant, hotel, school, and farmers’ market channels in reaction to COVID-19. As social distancing and stay-at-home orders have become the norm to combat the spread of COVID-19, the hospitality industry has reached lows not seen since the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Quantifying the economic harm at this early stage is difficult, but it is anticipated that Hawai‘i will be one of the most impacted states by the coronavirus due to its reliance on visitor spending. The University of Hawai‘i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) projects real visitor spending to decline by 17 percent in the second quarter and forecasts an additional 4,000 job losses by the third quarter. According to the Hawai‘i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, to date 194,000 unemployment claims, representing roughly 29 percent of the total workforce, have been filed for March and April.

Hawai‘i’s local farm production is feeling immediate impacts, and the problem is likely to get worse over time. Recovery will be long and difficult, and local agricultural producers need strong, immediate, direct federal support to remain in business. We believe that “recovery” should mean more than just survival; it should mean growth and adaptation so that farmers and ranchers can stand strong against future disasters. Accordingly, we propose the below as ways to assist our agricultural producers.

Administration of the $9.5 Billion Fund

> ***Small Producer Grants***. With mounting expenses, a collapse of demand from typical markets such as restaurants and schools, and cancelled contracts for produce already delivered, Hawai‘i’s agricultural producers need immediate help. Fresh produce is going bad; calves cannot be shipped to the mainland to finish; inventories of less perishable

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items such as coffee and macadamia nuts are backing up in storage; our pig farmers are no longer able to collect food waste from schools and restaurants to use as feed. Food is going to waste in the fields, inviting unwanted pests and disease which exacerbates current difficulties. Increasing farmers' load of debt could easily push their margins too far, and so we request that you consider either grants or loan forgiveness for small agricultural producers, including grants to incentivize the donation of food waste to local livestock farmers for feed.

Grants to Organizations Facilitating Direct Farm to Consumer Delivery. A number of organizations in Hawai'i have stepped up in assisting the delivery of farm produce to consumers. One such organization noted that they had received over 2,500 new sign-ups during just one week. With this surge in demand comes the need to secure additional labor and infrastructure, including transportation, cold storage, leases and utilities, etc. As such, we request that you provide grants to organizations that are working around the clock to ensure that fresh farm produce is provided direct-to-consumer.

Loan Forgiveness for our Next Generation of Farmers. The average age of a farmer in Hawai'i is 60 years old. We are in need of ways to incentivize a new generation of farmers to carry our agricultural industry through the coming decades. A number of Hawai'i's young farmers participate in the Rural Youth 4H Program where during any typical year, they could take out a loan through the Rural Youth Loan Program, raise their livestock, and then sell the livestock at the local fair to help pay back the loan. Due to COVID-19, there will not be local fairs and therefore, no marketplace for these youth to sell their livestock. We ask that you provide loan forgiveness to these youth so that they may continue to pursue a future in agriculture.

Flexibility in Implementation. The diversity of Hawai'i's agriculture, together with the unique opportunities and challenges of a year-round growing season, mean that typical policy assumptions about large-scale, monocrop agriculture with a winter season may inadvertently exclude or make things more difficult for Hawai'i producers. In addition to quick action, we request that you build significant flexibility for the unique agricultural producers of every state as you develop the rule to disburse this funding.

Technical Assistance. Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are skilled experts when it comes to agricultural production, but many need support with the paperwork necessary to access government programs. The current circumstances amplify this need because of the increased reliance on web-based services, together with the new and unfamiliar programs established under the CARES Act. We urge you to provide technical assistance through both the Farm Service Agency and Rural Development for farmers and to distribute grants competitively for local service organizations and Land Grant extension agents to augment the outreach and support.

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Adaptation Micro-Grants. Small-scale agricultural producers are often in a good position to reconfigure operations for different crops. This is especially true in climates that enjoy a year-long growing season. Even under the most optimistic scenarios, however, this will mean months without cash flow. Hawai'i's small agricultural producers that once grew crops targeted for high-end markets, such as microgreens for hotel chefs, now need to shift their production to produce targeted for individual consumers, such as lettuces. Loan forbearance/deferral is a partial solution, but micro-grants would complete the package, and provide farmers and ranchers the resources to accommodate current and future demand. We suggest micro-grants for amounts from $15,000 to $25,000, depending on need and the scale of the applicant's operations.

Additional Measures to Support Farmers

Supply of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for the Agricultural Industry. While the agricultural industry is considered essential workforce, workers all throughout the food supply chain from the fields to the grocery stores are concerned about their individual exposure and risk to COVID-19. These individuals are providing critical services in ensuring that Americans have food on their table. We request that you consider facilitating the supply of appropriate PPE to members of the agricultural industry.

Support for Farmworkers. With revenues in sharp decline, Hawai'i producers struggle to support their employees' paychecks and healthcare premiums. We request that you work with the Small Business Administration and the Department of Labor to confirm the agricultural producers' eligibility for programs created in the CARES Act.

Loan Forbearance and Deferral. Debt servicing is a fixed cost common to almost all agricultural producers, but under the present circumstances loan payments sap liquidity that farmers and ranchers need to tap new markets and reconfigure their businesses. We urge you to consider a program of loan forbearance and deferral to give farmers and ranchers a window to adjust their operations. We suggest an initial period of six months, with the option to renew for a further six months.

Expansion of Weather Disaster Programs. We understand that USDA is reticent to activate its disaster loan, crop insurance, and non-insured crop assistance programs at this time. These well-established programs are familiar to farmers, USDA employees, and Farm Credit System lenders –and will therefore have fewer administrative challenges related to implementation. While we understand concerns about weather disaster in the coming months, the historic and extraordinary scope of the COVID-19 crisis requires flexible thinking, and we request your careful consideration of using your authority as secretary to activate existing USDA response programs.

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Increased Funding for the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment (RTCP) Program. Hawai'i's isolation creates a structural challenge unique to our producers. That is why Congress established and funds the RTCP program. As Hawai'i's producers innovate new markets to recover from the COVID pandemic, this program will become increasingly important. We request that, within existing rules and regulations, you make additional resources available for this program.

Micro-grants for Food Security Program (2018 Farm Bill). This program was designed to help increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food in Hawaii, Alaska, the U.S. territories, and the Compact of Free Association states, through small-scale gardening, herding, and livestock operations in food insecure communities (7 U.S. Code § 7518). The Agricultural Marketing Service is required to follow 2 CFR 200 compliance and risk management procedures. However doing so eliminates the very people the program is intended to help. We therefore request a one-time rule change to allow local departments of agriculture to weigh in on program implementation.

Flexible Payment Systems. Even before the current crisis, SNAP beneficiaries faced challenges accessing farmers markets and other farmer-direct products, which have been exacerbated with COVID-related restrictions. In Hawai'i some of the challenges our constituents face are: (1) limited internet access, (2) social distancing guidelines and stay-at-home orders, (3) limited or no public transportation, (4) language barriers for whom English is a second language, and (5) cyber security needs for financial transactions and personally identifying information. We request you quickly develop regulatory flexibility to ensure SNAP beneficiaries have access to farmer-direct products.

Food Hubs. Food hubs are key to helping Hawai'i's small-scale farms diversify their markets and grow their businesses. The combination of aggregation, distribution, and marketing services makes it possible for Hawai'i's farmers to gain entry into new larger-volume markets that boost their incomes and production. We request that, within existing rules and regulations, you make additional resources available to strengthen existing and establish new food hubs.

Organic Certification. USDA supports producers' transition to organic production through its National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP). At a time when many producers will be re-examining their business plans, we believe it makes sense to provide additional resources through the NOCCSP. While not every producer will choose this option, some may transition as they examine local demand for fresh, locally grown food. We request that, within existing rules and regulations, you make additional resources available for the NOCCSP.

Increased Funding and Use of Commodity Purchases. The COVID-19 pandemic has undermined the market for agricultural producers across the nation. In order to help all

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producers rebuild, we request, within existing rules and regulations, you make additional resources available for the following USDA commodity purchase programs:

- Commodity Supplemental Food Program;
- School and Child Nutrition Food Programs;
- Food Purchase Program; and
- McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

In conclusion, we ask for your serious consideration of these proposals to ensure that Hawai'i farmers and ranchers continue to be a vibrant part of the state's economy, and to protect Hawai'i's food sustainability.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator



MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator



TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress



ED CASE
Member of Congress

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Linehan, Corey (Coons)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: SNAP emergency allotments and Extended Recertification and Periodic Reporting - Sen Coons
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 8:50:00 AM

Corey,

Thank you for the email. Yes, Delaware received its notice for the SNAP emergency allotment. The hill notice from Thursday is below.

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 5:17 PM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments and Extended Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Recertification

Attached is **one additional state** SNAP flexibility Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201. This is in addition to the 3 states notified earlier today for a total of 41 already granted.**

USDA has granted **Vermont** a waiver through May 31, 2020 through the authority granted to the Secretary. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Emergency Allotment

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FNS is approving Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**

March and April Approvals: Delaware, Ohio

This is in addition to the 11 states noticed yesterday.

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris



Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Ken - OSEC Washington DC Barbic (Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov)
Cc: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: SNAP Pilot Release - california announcement tomorrow
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:51:00 PM
Attachments: FNS SNAP Pilot CA 4.6.20.docx

Ken,

Tomorrow USDA will announce California is being added to the SNAP online purchasing pilot program. This will allow SNAP recipients to buy groceries online at Walmart and Amazon. SP will announce this update on his FNS media call 12:30-1:15.

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 2:54 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; Moore, Larry - OC, Washington, DC <larry.moore@usda.gov>
Subject: SNAP Pilot Release

The attached is approved by the Secretary. We will send this tomorrow following the press call at 1:15pm ET

Thanks,

Alec Varsamis
Acting Press Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
Desk: 202.619.8592

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

California Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

USDA is expanding access to innovative online food purchase program

(Washington, D.C., April 8, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced approval for California's request to provide online purchasing of food to SNAP Households in the State of California. This approval will allow the State to expedite the implementation of online purchasing with currently authorized SNAP online retailers with a target start date later this month. California's SNAP participation is over 4 million individuals, more than 2.2 million households, and totals more than $6 billion annually in federal funding. This announcement further demonstrates President Trump's whole of America approach to fighting the coronavirus pandemic by ensuring those affected are fed.

"We are expanding new flexibilities and innovative programs to make sure Americans across this country have safe and nutritious food during this national emergency," said Secretary Perdue. "Enabling people to purchase foods online will go a long way in helping Americans follow CDC social distancing guidelines and help slow the spread of the coronavirus. USDA is mandated with the noble goal of feeding Americans when they need it most, and we are fulfilling that mission with new innovative programs during this national emergency."

Background:

The SNAP online pilot is currently operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. Nebraska joined the pilot on April 1, 2020. Maryland and New Jersey remain non-operational pilot states. The authorized retailers working with all pilot states are Amazon and Walmart, while Wrights Market and ShopRite are working with Alabama and New York respectively. Dash's Market, Fresh Direct, Hy-Vee, and Safeway are authorized retailers, which are not currently operational.

Though the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is receiving interest to expand the SNAP online pilot program, the responsibility is on state agencies, their third-party processor, and any retailers who wish to participate. To ease the process, FNS put together a simplified template for states who wish to enter the online pilot which is provided as an attachment to this letter.

USDA continues to provide significant technical assistance to interested states to ensure that plans are thorough and appropriate preliminary testing is conducted. If not done properly and judiciously, there is a risk to the State's entire benefit system. Each State, its EBT processor and retailers present their own mix of challenges so FNS is providing customer service based on each of their specific needs.

FNS will continue to work with interested states in advancing their participation in this pilot. Until States are prepared to operate the pilot, USDA recommends States utilize other options that retailers may already provide, such as Pay at Pick-up (also known as "Click and Collect"), where SNAP cardholders can shop online and then pay for their purchase using their EBT card at pick-up. Grocery pickup is already an option that these retailers offer beyond SNAP so they are already thinking through how they can provide a safe environment to do so with the growing concerns around social distancing.

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During these challenging times, FNS is working hand-in-hand with state program leadership, to provide support and guidance to adapt to the challenges of this public health emergency. USDA intends to use available program flexibilities and contingencies to continue to serve our program participants. For up to date information and to learn more about flexibilities being used in FNS nutrition programs, please visit the FNS website.

##

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) @gmail.com
Subject: FW: SP Disaster Household Distribution AD
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:12:00 AM
Attachments: Louisiana March 25, 2020 Disater TEFAP.pdf
Pennsylvania -- Disaster Household Distribution Request -- March 20 2020.docx

---

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 9:40 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: SP Disaster Household Distribution AD

Did you want (b) (5), DPP ?

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 9:36 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: SP Disaster Household Distribution AD

(b) (5), DPP

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 9:29 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: SP Disaster Household Distribution AD

Campbell –

(b) (5), DPP

Thanks!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

STATE/ITO REQUEST FOR DISASTER HOUSEHOLD FEEDING

National Emergency Declaration – COVID-19

Subject to FNS' approval of this request, States and ITOs may provide donated foods from current inventories, either at the distributing or recipient agency level, to a disaster organization, for distribution to households in need of food assistance due to COVID-19. Such distribution may continue for the period that FNS has determined to be necessary (duration listed below) to meet the needs of such households. However, households receiving disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) benefits are not eligible to receive disaster household food assistance.

States and ITOs should consult with their FNS Regional Office and refer to 7 CFR 250.69 to review the requirements related to approval of disaster organizations, prohibition of dual participation with Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP), required household information, reporting and recordkeeping, replacement of USDA Foods used for disaster household distribution, and reimbursement of transportation costs associated with disaster household distributions. Per 7 CFR 250.69, provide the following information:

1. DATE: March 25, 2020

2. STATE/ITO: Louisiana

3. NAME OF STATE/ITO CONTACT: Mack B. Williams

4. CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS: mwilliams@ldaf.state.la.us

5. CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: 225-922-1313

6. CONTACT PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 5825 Florida Boulevard, Suite 4002; Baton Rouge, LA 70806

7. DATE REQUESTED TO BEGIN DISASTER HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION: March 25, 2020

8. DATE REQUESTED TO CEASE DISASTER HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION: May 1, 2020

9. DESCRIPTION OF DISASTER SITUATION/NEED FOR DISASTER HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION:

   Agencies have TEFAP inventory to distribute. Customary procedures of taking applications as well as social distancing make it cumbersome and near impossible to meet being that many volunteers are needed to build the food boxes. Granting a temporary waiver so that disaster food boxes can be distributed will not only decrease the time/effort to provide meals, but also reach out to increased households affected by layoffs, furloughs, and other job losses. Also, requesting that a 2 month supply be issued at the time of distribution to carry each household forward since this waiver request may not be long in duration.

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10. APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REQUIRING ASSISTANCE: 1,200,000 (roughly 25% of state)

11. APPROXIMATE QUANTITY AND TYPES OF FOOD NEEDED:

    Rice, Pasta, canned vegetables, canned fruit, and protein items (frozen or canned).
    All quantities needed.

12. THE NUMBER AND LOCATION OF DISTRIBUTION SITES:
    50+ distribution sites estimated between all of the 5 member food banks.
    Shreveport, Monroe, Alexandria, Baton Rouge, New Orleans (Acadiana area).

    With many pantries shuttering, the existing open pantries for each food bank will expand their distribution dates and times. Specific locations TBD.

CLEARANCE			
REQUESTING STATE/ITO OFFICIAL	**TITLE**	**SIGNATURE**	**DATE**
Louisiana	**Food Distribution Program Administrator**	Mark B. Williams	**3-25-2020**
APPROVING FNS OFFICIAL	**TITLE**	**SIGNATURE**	**DATE**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

STATE/ITO REQUEST FOR DISASTER HOUSEHOLD FEEDING

National Emergency Declaration – COVID-19

Subject to FNS' approval of this request, States and ITOs may provide donated foods from current inventories, either at the distributing or recipient agency level, to a disaster organization, for distribution to households in need of food assistance due to COVID-19. Such distribution may continue for the period that FNS has determined to be necessary (duration listed below) to meet the needs of such households. However, households receiving disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) benefits are not eligible to receive disaster household food assistance.

States and ITOs should consult with their FNS Regional Office and refer to 7 CFR 250.69 to review the requirements related to approval of disaster organizations, prohibition of dual participation with Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP), required household information, reporting and recordkeeping, replacement of USDA Foods used for disaster household distribution, and reimbursement of transportation costs associated with disaster household distributions. Per 7 CFR 250.69, provide the following information:

1. DATE:
   March 20, 2020

2. STATE/ITO:
   Pennsylvania, Department of Agriculture

3. NAME OF STATE/ITO CONTACT:
   Caryn Long Earl

4. CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:
   cearl@pa.gov

5. CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:
   717.772.2688

6. CONTACT PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
   Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
   Bureau of Food Assistance
   2301 N. Cameron Street, Room 401
   Harrisburg, PA 17110

7. DATE REQUESTED TO BEGIN DISASTER HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION:
   March 20, 2020

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

8. DATE REQUESTED TO CEASE DISASTER HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION:
Distributions requested to last for 1 month. Depending on approval date, approximate end date is April 20, 2020. If necessary, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) will request to extend the Disaster Household Feeding Program for an additional period of time.

9. DESCRIPTION OF DISASTER SITUATION/NEED FOR DISASTER HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION:
On Friday, March 6, 2020, Pennsylvania announced it had found its first two cases of COVID-19 and Governor Tom Wolf signed an emergency disaster declaration. One week later, as confirmed cases continued to climb, Gov. Wolf made the decision to close schools across Pennsylvania for two weeks. Since that time, as more suspected cases of COVID-19 have been announced in additional counties throughout the Commonwealth, retailers have seen consumers swarm grocery stores in an attempt to secure all items deemed necessary to be quarantined for the recommended period of two weeks. Simultaneously, the emergency food assistance network throughout Pennsylvania has seen unprecedented demand for its services from those who can no longer afford to access food supplies through commercial channels. While more than 1.5 million Pennsylvanians were at risk of hunger prior to the beginning of this crisis, the need for emergency food assistance has been amplified due to hourly-wage and other gig economy employees suddenly being out of work, school children losing access to daily school breakfasts and lunches in areas where their schools don't meet the 50% threshold to offer open SFSP and Seamless Summer programs, college students being out of school with no access to meal plans, and seniors who are suddenly seeing their retirement savings dwindling and have no way to access food.

As congregate feeding sites are not an option due to the nature of the virus, PDA is requesting approval to operate the Disaster Household Feeding Program. In order to maintain that ability to continue serving traditional clientele in all 67 counties, PDA is asking for approval to use TEFAP Bonus and Trade Mitigation products only for this program. By only working with the 18 entities to whom we directly ship these TEFAP product to, we will retain the ability for the counties to use TEFAP Entitlement -- supplemented by food provided by our State Food Purchase Program – to continue serving those who already relied on us prior to this crisis. Meanwhile, we will use on-hand supplies of TEFAP Bonus and Trade Mitigation to target those who are newly in need of emergency food due to the fallout from the spread of COVID-19.

10. APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REQUIRING ASSISTANCE:
We anticipate serving approximately 772,500 individuals per month, targeting those who find themselves newly in need of assistance because of unanticipated circumstances arising from the spread of the COVID-19. (Please see accompanying spreadsheet for more information.)

11. APPROXIMATE QUANTITY AND TYPES OF FOOD NEEDED:
PDA and the 18 organizations to which we have USDA Foods directly shipped will utilize existing inventory of TEFAP Bonus and Trade Mitigation foods. These foods include, but are not limited to: frozen meats, canned meats, canned vegetables, canned fruits, canned soups, dried and canned beans, rice, nuts, cereal, juice, shelf stable milk, fresh apples, fresh oranges, fresh potatoes, boxed pasta, canned tomato sauce, and eggs. In total, approximately 450,000 cases of food would be

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needed to support this effort and usage will be monitored regularly. Currently, PDA has sufficient product in inventory.

To provide a balanced food package, these USDA Foods will be mixed with purchased and donated foods already on-hand at these locations. These foods will be packed into food boxes for ease of distribution.

The frequency of these distributions will vary, as we will be partially relying on our existing network of partners to distribute these foods according to their normal frequencies. In a state as large as Pennsylvania, distribution frequencies vary anywhere from once per week to once per month.

12. THE NUMBER AND LOCATION OF DISTRIBUTION SITES:
Total planned sites (at this time) include 2,116 sites – 1,630 traditional distribution locations (food pantries, cupboards, etc.) and 486 mobile and/or pop-up sites. (See attached spreadsheet for more information.)

Our 18 direct-ship partner organizations will be responsible for collecting information from their sites on inventories distributed and number of people served. This information will be required to be reported to PDA on a monthly basis. Upon completion of the Disaster Household Feeding Program, PDA will complete the FNS 292A form to request reimbursement.

Participants will not be required to complete an application or to sign any forms. The goal will be to limit exposure between staff/volunteers and recipients. No income requirements will be in place and no financial information will be gathered from recipients. (D-SNAP is not currently operating in Pennsylvania, but if this changes, all sites will be required to collect names and addresses of individuals served as well as an attestation from the household representative to certify that they are not receiving D-SNAP.)

A statement will be posted at all distribution sites communicating that the sale or exchange of USDA foods is strictly prohibited. Additionally, the And Justice For All poster will be required to be displayed at all feeding sites.

The disaster feeding program will be communicated to Pennsylvania residents through the PDA Communications Office. Information will be posted on the PDA website, PDA social media, and press releases will be sent to a variety of news outlets. In addition, all 18 direct-ship partner organizations will be required to provide public communications about this program in the counties they respectively serve. These communications will all include messaging noting that these Disaster Household Distributions are targeted to those who themselves newly in need of assistance because of unanticipated circumstances arising from the spread of the COVID-19.

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CLEARANCE			
REQUESTING STATE/ITO OFFICIAL	**TITLE**	**SIGNATURE**	**DATE**
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture/Caryn Long Earl	**Director, Bureau of Food Assistance**		**3/20/2029**
APPROVING FNS OFFICIAL	**TITLE**	**SIGNATURE**	**DATE**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Structure
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:09:57 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Meghan, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

From: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 11:28 AM
To: Kristi Boswell <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Subject: Structure

Ok, this is what was in my head as we chatted. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Ken Barbic

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Assistant Secretary – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile: (b) (6)
Office: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Student status/food assistance prompt approval request
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:03:00 AM

Is it accurate to say (b) (5), DPP ?

From: Gordon, Robert (DHHS) <GordonR3@michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Student status/food assistance prompt approval request

Dear Brandon,

Thank you for your help a while back. FNS has been responsive to most of our needs.

However,I am writing to request prompt approval for a waiver request submitted a week ago regarding student status. We have many full-time students who have previously gotten SNAP based on working 20 hours a week. They can't work anymore, and they are now being denied SNAP. This makes no sense—they are in far greater need, not less, because of COVID-19. Their only recourse is to withdraw from school, which is not desirable, and which also requires a denial and a new application, wasting the precious time of caseworkers who are trying to meet record needs.

We have been told that FNS National is not approving requests of this kind. I hope that is untrue or can change, and that you can promptly approve our request. Thank you.

Robert
517 242 0165

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From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Summary of USDA provisions in Phase 3 supplemental
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 9:04:00 AM
Attachments: USDA COVID-19 Supp Phase III Summary FINAL 3.25.20 v3.docx
image001.png

What went to SP

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 9:16 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Subject: Summary of USDA provisions in Phase 3 supplemental

Info withheld under (b)(6) is Purdue and Censky alias email addresses

Sir,

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

Stay tuned!
Ken

Ken Barbic

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Assistant Secretary – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile: (b) (6)
Office: (b) (6)

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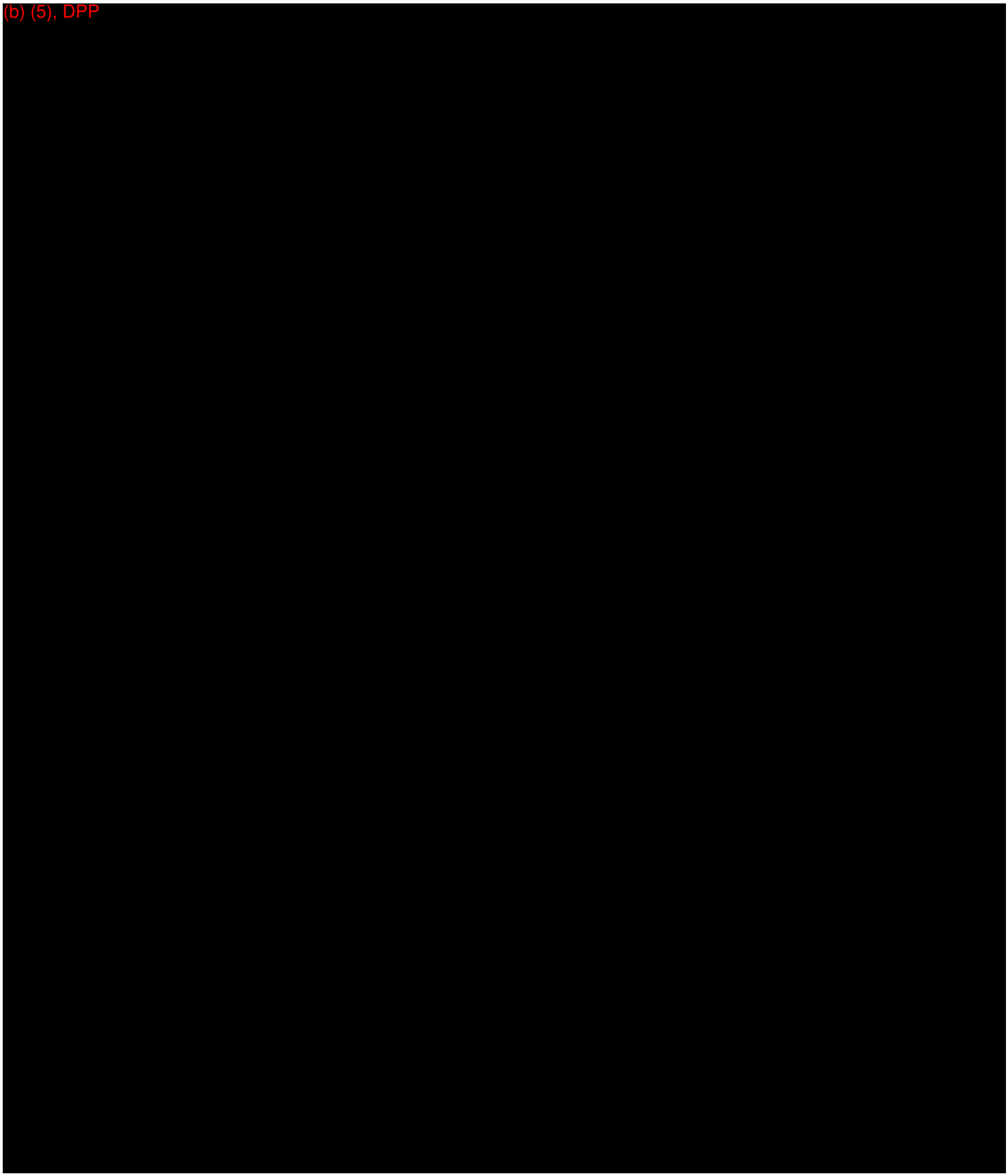
Pre-decisional/Deliberative

COVID-19 Supplemental Phase III
FINAL

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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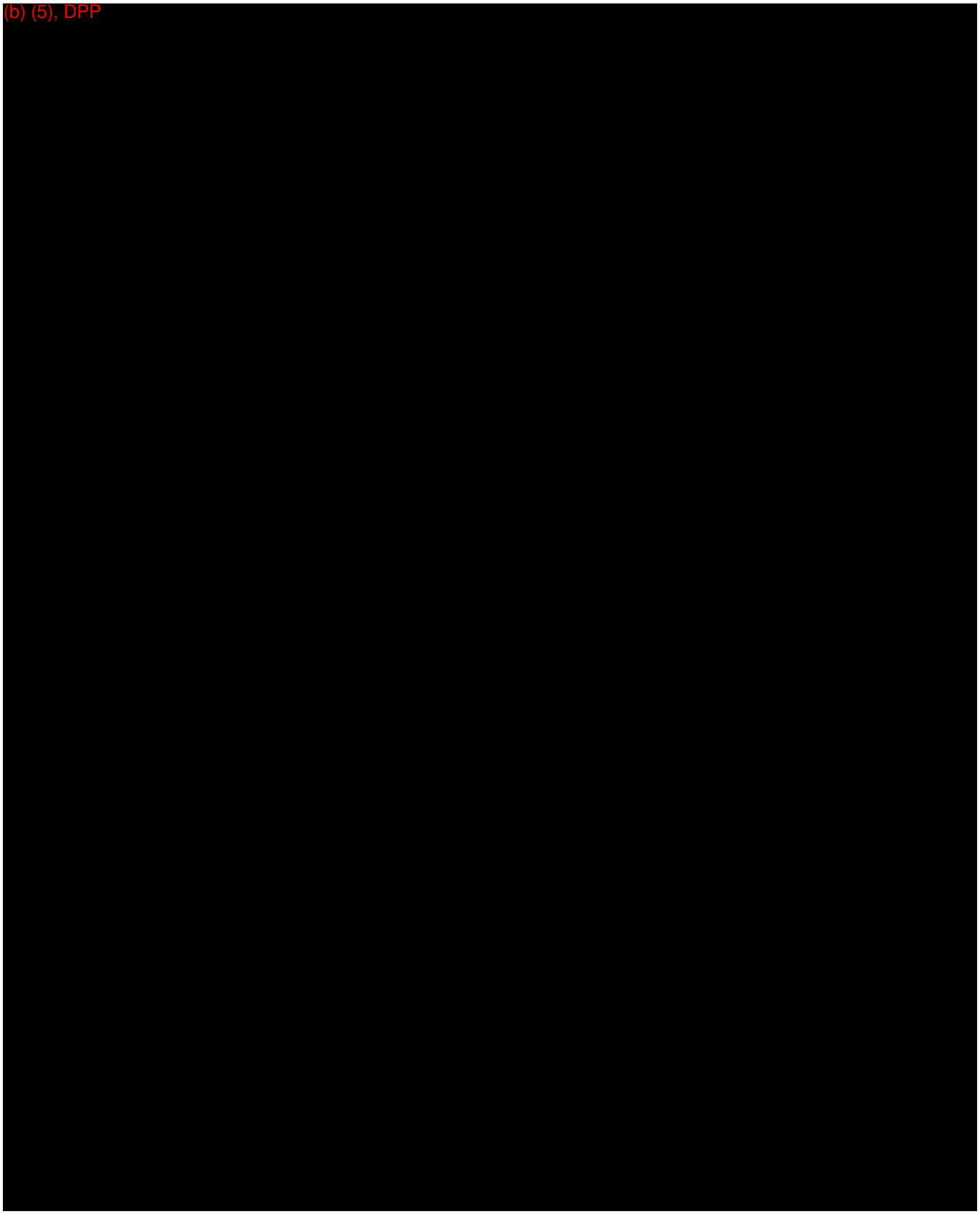


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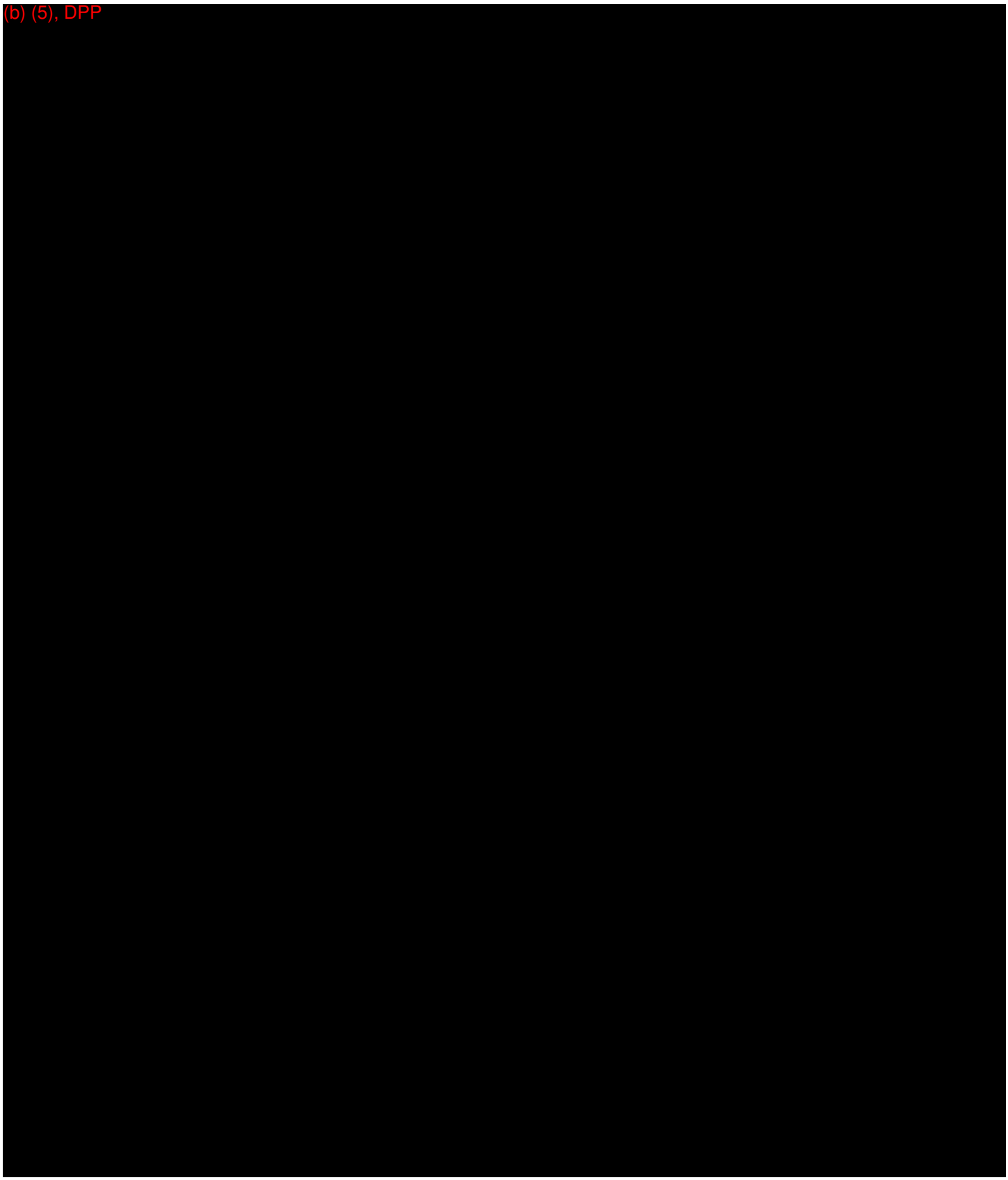
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

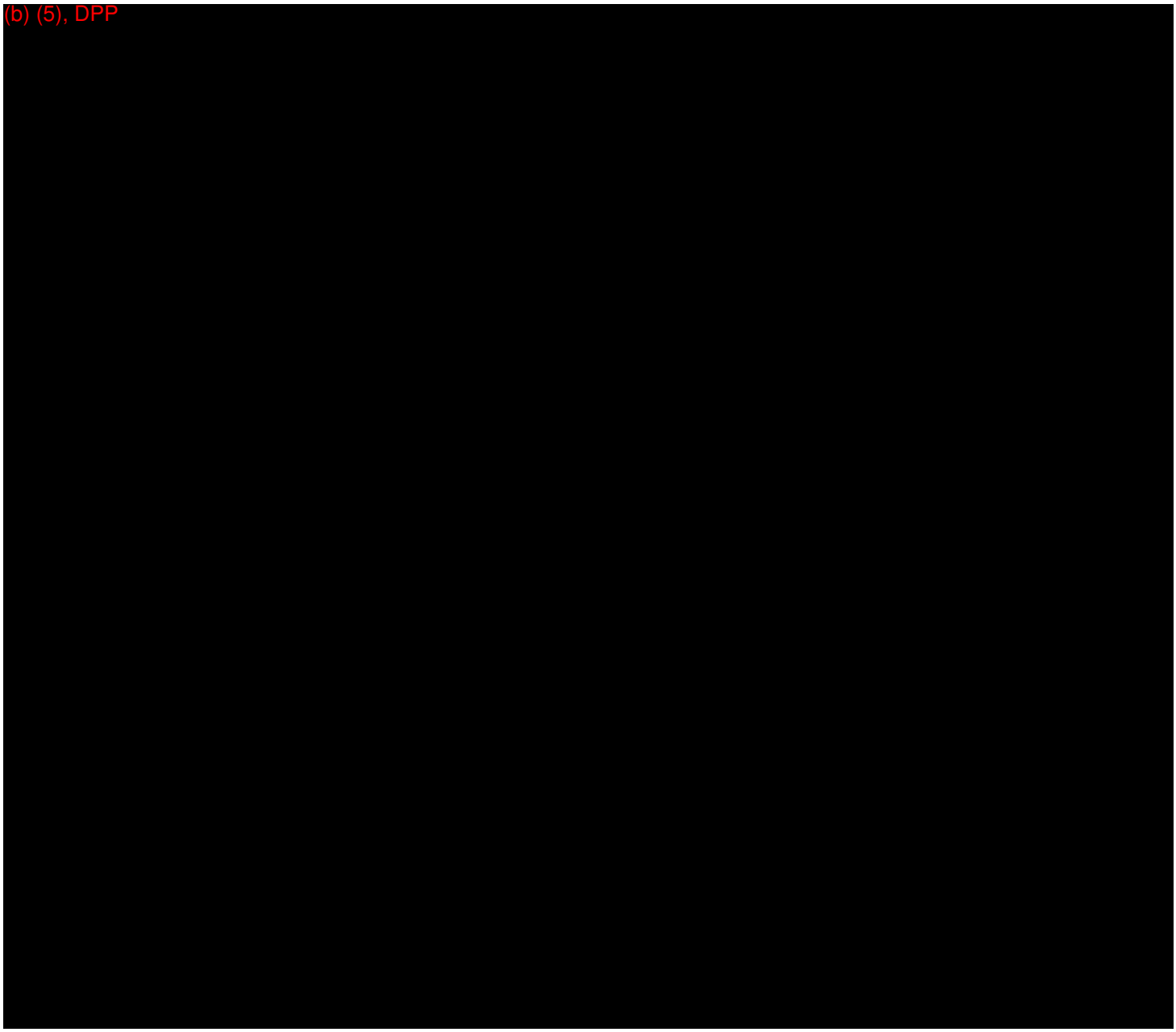
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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) @gmail.com
Subject: FW: Talking Points for 3pm with NACo
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 1:43:00 PM
Attachments: 2020.03.25 Talking Points on response.docx

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 11:06 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Talking Points for 3pm with NACo

They are also attached to the meeting invite.

Format is 10 min opening, then q and a.

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

National Association of Counties
Monthly Human Services Call
COVID Updates

Call Info:

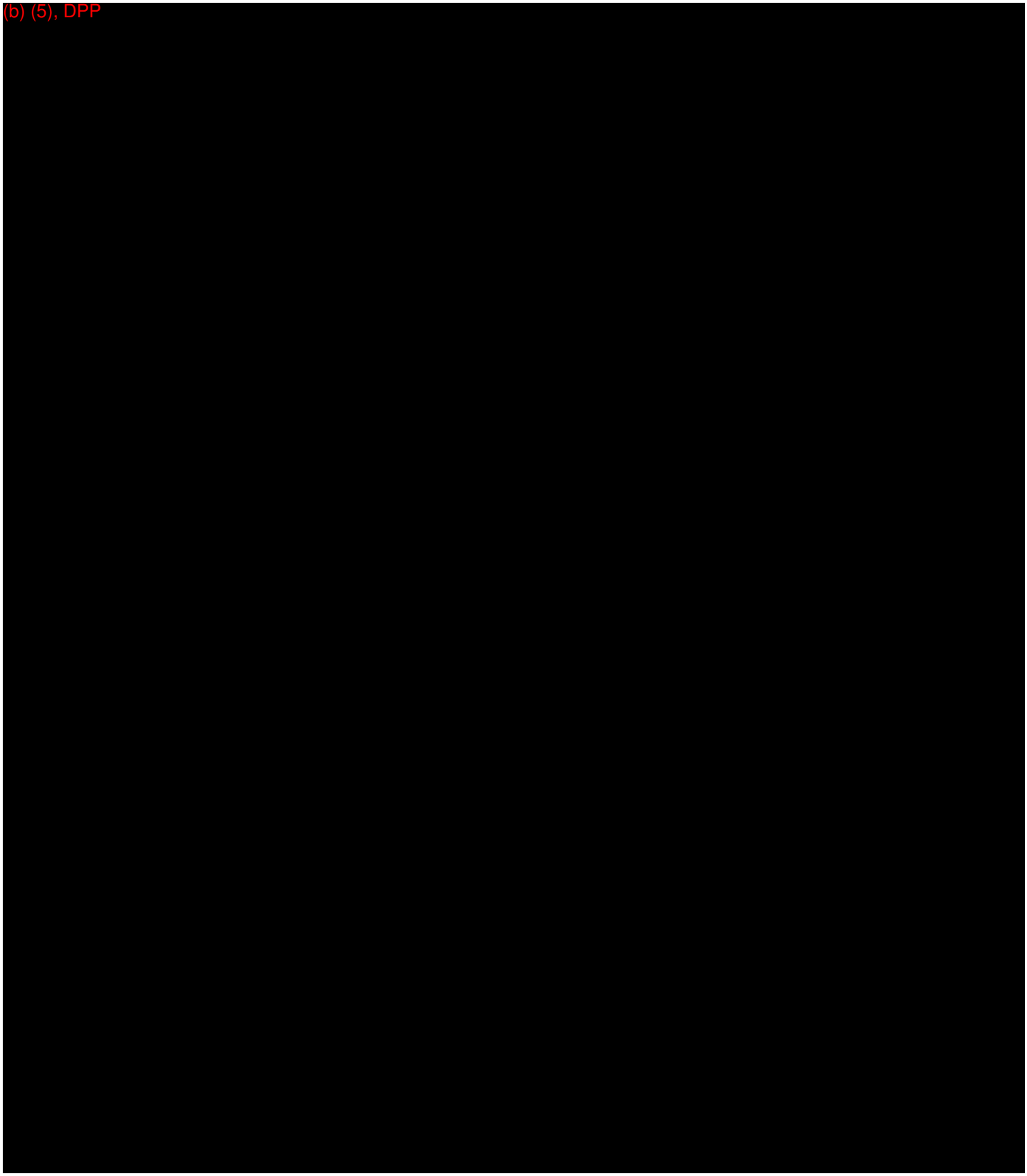
(b) (6) [redacted]; Access Code: (b) (6) [redacted] (click in meeting invite, will dial automatically)

NACo Moderator: Rachel Merker, Associate Legislative Director of Human Services and Education

Deputy Under Secretary Lipps

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	FW: Thank you / Meeting Request: Pamela Miller
Date:	Friday, April 24, 2020 4:38:00 PM
Attachments:	screencapture-fns-usda-gov-partners-2020-04-22-11_14_34.png image002.png

---

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Thank you / Meeting Request: Pamela Miller

From: Rose Afriyie (b) @mrelief.com>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 4:36 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: Thank you / Meeting Request: Pamela Miller

Good afternoon Chris,

Great chatting with you this afternoon. This note is to request a meeting with Pamela Miller.

The key topic of this meeting is to determine: What it would take for our organization mRelief to be listed on the USDA's partners site: https://www.fns.usda.gov/partners

I have included additional context to serve as a brief in preparation for this meeting.

Kind regards,
Rose Afriyie

Context:

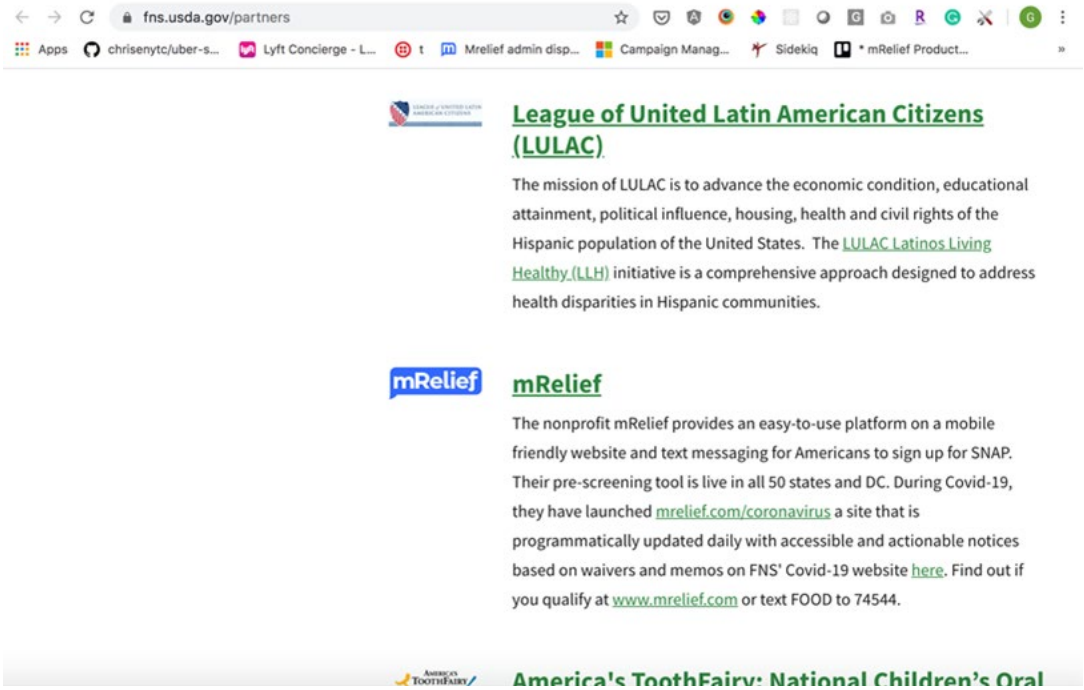
We know that 26 million unemployed Americans who were not looking for SNAP in previous months will now be exploring their eligibility. Our organization mRelief is a nonprofit that provides a mobile website and text messaging friendly tool to help Americans find out if they qualify and identify the best path to sign up for SNAP in all 50 states and DC. Our website is powered by public datasets including:

- BBCE Data that we worked with the USDA Chief Data Officer to publish on data.gov here and this site
- The Websites for States that do not participate in BBCE
- FNS' SNAP State By State Covid-19 Waivers page here

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

We have had a number of conversations across the agency this week and are being considered for an opportunity today to further amplify our reach. In the long term, compliant per USDA standards, we would like to make a formal request to Pam Miller to include USDA's logo on the footer of our site to reference the amazing public resources that power our site.

In the near term, we were wondering if you would consider adding us to the USDA partners website (https://www.fns.usda.gov/partners) below (and also see attached).



Thanks so much for considering this request,
Rose

--

Rose Afriyie
Co-Founder of mRelief
(b) @mrelief.com
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: The Hagstrom Report | Monday 04.13.2020
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 5:30:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 12:13 AM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: The Hagstrom Report | Monday 04.13.2020

Info withheld under (b)(6) is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address.

From: The Hagstrom Report
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 12:13:13 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: The Hagstrom Report | Monday 04.13.2020

Web Version

TheHagstromReport

The Hagstrom Report

Monday, April 13, 2020 | Volume 10 Number 95

- Age, lack of hospitals make rural Americans vulnerable to coronavirus
- Feeding America, IDFA, NMPF urge Perdue to buy dairy products
- USDA allows school fruit, vegetable snacks in home delivery
- Florida, Idaho join SNAP online project
- NPR: Trump administration trying to reduce H-2A wages
- NFTC: Tariff relief should be part of next coronavirus bill
- USDA asks meat inspectors to supply their own masks

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- CFTC extends comment periods, but Dems say not long enough
- United Fresh encourages members to use Main Street lending program
- Food, beverage industries establish coronavirus website
- FERN: USDA forecasts lower prices, commodity stockpiles
- Farm-to-table connection to restaurants cut off
- Mexico forbids beer production amid coronavirus pandemic
- USDA won't appeal ABAWD ruling for now
- Richardson, Yoho, Royce candidates to head USAID

2020 0330 COVID19-SpreadMap



Blue and green areas indicate lower potential death rates from COVID-19; yellow, orange and red indicate higher potential death rates. (Carsey School of Public Policy)

Age, lack of hospitals make rural Americans vulnerable to coronavirus

More than 26% of the nonmetropolitan population is 60 or older, compared to 21% of the metropolitan population, making rural Americans more likely to die from COVID-19, the University of New Hampshire Carsey School of Public Policy said in a brief.

Lack of hospital beds, particularly for intensive care, is also a factor, noted senior demographer Kenneth Johnson, who is also a professor of sociology at the University of New Hampshire and an Andrew Carnegie fellow.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Release 1045-A-000648
USDA-20-1045-A-000648

▪ University of New Hampshire Carsey School of Public Policy — An Older Population Increases Estimated COVID-19 Death Rates in Rural America

Feeding America, IDFA, NMPF urge Perdue to buy dairy products

Feeding America, the International Dairy Foods Association, and the National Milk Producers Federation together asked Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to buy dairy products "to bring balance to the dairy industry and to get ahead of rising food insecurity brought on by record jobless claims" amid the coronavirus pandemic

"Together, our organizations are advocating for government purchases of dairy products to bring balance to the dairy industry and to get ahead of rising food insecurity brought on by record jobless claims," the letter said.

"Food banks in many areas are struggling right now to keep up with demand, with individuals in some communities waiting hours for emergency food distributions. With more than 10 million people having filed for unemployment benefits in March, we believe the urgent need for food assistance will continue to increase," the leaders of the three groups wrote.

"Feeding America has analyzed the potential impact of the pandemic and we predict up to an additional 17.1 million people could experience food insecurity, a 46% increase from the 37 million who were food insecure prior to the pandemic.

"We ask USDA to look at how to strengthen existing partnerships with additional investment as you identify how to provide support to U.S. producers impacted by major shifts in demand toward more home-based food consumption. We also ask you to support innovative partnerships that can quickly and efficiently move fluid milk and other dairy products into the food bank system as time is of the essence."

The letter followed Feeding America's April 1 statement that it will need $1.4 billion in additional resources over the next six months, a 30% increase to the baseline six-month operating costs of 200 member food banks nationwide.

The request also followed a statement last week by Perdue that USDA had bought dairy products last year and found that it took all year to place it because food banks did not have enough cold storage space to handle it.

▪ Feeding America, dairy industry letter to Perdue

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

▪ Feeding America — Map the Meal Gap: Food Insecurity in The United States



USDA allows school fruit, vegetable snacks in home delivery

The Agriculture Department's Food and Nutrition Service has approved a request from the United Fresh Produce Association to allow schools to use their Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program dollars as part of alternative meal delivery.

This also allows multiple servings to be distributed at once for schools giving out a week's worth of meals, United Fresh said in an email to its members.

▪ USDA Food and Nutrition Service — Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program During COVID-19



Florida, Idaho join SNAP online project

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced Saturday that USDA has approved Florida and Idaho's request to provide online purchasing of food through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by households in their states.

USDA said the target date for Florida and Idaho to participate with authorized SNAP online retailers is later this month.

Florida's SNAP participation is nearly 3 million individuals, about 1.5 million households, and totals nearly $4 billion annually in federal funding. Idaho's SNAP participation is nearly 150,000 individuals, more than 67,000 households, and totals nearly $200,000 annually in federal funding.

The SNAP online pilot is already operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington state. California and Arizona have been authorized to start later this month.

Amazon and Walmart are authorized to work with all the pilot states, while Alabama is also working with Wright's Markets and New York is also working with ShopRite.

▪ USDA Food and Nutrition Service — Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program: Online Purchasing Pilot



NPR: Trump administration trying to reduce H-2A wages

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

New White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows is working with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to see how to reduce wage rates for foreign guest workers on American farms, in order to help U.S. farmers struggling during the coronavirus, *NPR* reported Friday.

The issue of wage levels for guest workers who come into the country under the H-2A program has been the subject of debate for a long time.

▪ *NPR* — White House Seeks To Lower Farmworker Pay To Help Agriculture Industry

NFTC: Tariff relief should be part of next coronavirus bill

"Tariff relief should be part of the next COVID stimulus package," National Foreign Trade Council Vice President Vanessa Sciarra wrote in an opinion article released Friday.

SciarraVanessa

Vanessa Sciarra

Sciarra, vice president for legal affairs/trade and Investment policy, noted that "members of Congress in both houses and both parties have recently called on the administration to consider such relief as an integral piece of the country's economic recovery."

"After seeking input from industry on specific types of relief that would be helpful, [Senate Finance Committee] Chairman [Chuck] Grassley, [R-Iowa] and 11 other members of the Senate Finance Committee have provided some excellent suggestions as a starting point," she wrote.

"In addition to encouraging use of a duty deferral program and a moratorium on new tariffs, these senators recommend granting tariff relief broadly for medical devices, pharmaceutical products and other health and safety products, including relief from any 301 tariffs that may be imposed on those products. A further recommendation is to automatically extend the duration of granted 301 exclusions for at least a year to avoid the need for people to re-apply for the tariff relief."

Although the article does not mention agricultural products, the council provides a link to the Tariffs Hurt the Heartland website, which notes that other countries have responded to the Trump administration's tariffs by imposing tariffs on U.S. farm products, and that the export of those products is down 37%.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

▪ National Foreign Trade Council *View From the Council* — Tariff Relief Will Help our Economy During the Coronavirus Crisis
▪ Tariffs Hurt the Heartland

USDA asks meat inspectors to supply their own masks

The Agriculture Department has asked meat inspectors, who are federal employees, to supply their own masks to ward off the coronavirus mask, Bill Tomson of *Agri-Pulse* reported.

▪ *AgriPulse* — USDA meat inspectors told to find or make their own masks

CFTC extends comment periods, but Dems say not long enough

Commodity Futures Trading Commission Chairman Heath Tarbert has extended the comment period on certain regulations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but Rostin Behnam and Dan Berkovitz, the Democratic commissioners, said the comment period is not long enough

“These extensions reflect my commitment to providing market participants with additional flexibility during this pandemic,” Tarbert said in a news release.

“Commenters on recently proposed rules will now have at least 90 days, and in many cases more, to provide feedback that we value tremendously as we seek to finalize rules,” he said. “I respectfully disagree with those who insist our important policy work could or should be put on pause.”



Heath Tarbert

“One of our swap data reporting proposals, for instance, would give the commission a more panoramic view into systemic risk by requiring for the first time the reporting of uncleared margin data. Our position limits proposal could help prevent corners and squeezes.

“Now more than ever, our markets and the everyday Americans who rely on them are counting on us to get the job done. With the hard work of the CFTC’s talented and dedicated staff, we can strike the right balance to accommodate the current circumstances. These extensions get that balance right,” Tarbert said.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Release 000352
USDA-20-1045-A-000652

"Five open comment periods are extended by today's action," Behnam said. "However, the comment periods for three of the five rules are extended for a mere two days. That is not an extension at all. Instead, it is essentially an announcement that the commission will not be extending these deadlines."

"For two of these rules, the comment period opened on February 20, so the entire comment period has essentially spanned the COVID-19 pandemic," Behnam said.

BehnamRostin

Rostin Behnam

"Market participants deserve an opportunity to comment outside of current market conditions, and better rules would result. Importantly, the COVID-19 pandemic itself may impact views on the proposed rules, and the CFTC should adjust comment periods to allow for consideration of these evolving impacts."

"Similarly, today's action extends the comment period for position limits by a mere 16 days. Prior position limits proposals have garnered hundreds of public comments totaling thousands of pages. Producing these comments presumably takes months of work and careful thought by market participants and other stakeholders. Extending the deadline to May 15 as market and public health uncertainty continues is not sufficient," Behnam said.

"At a minimum, the commission should extend all pending comment periods by 60 days," Berkovitz said. "The two-week and two-day extensions granted by the commission today are inadequate."

- Commodity Futures Trading Commission — CFTC Extends Certain Comment Periods in Response to COVID-19
- — Dissenting Statement of Commissioner Rostin Behnam Regarding CFTC's Extension of Currently Open Comment Periods in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- — Dissenting Statement of Commissioner Dan M. Berkovitz Regarding the Extension of Open Comment Periods

BerkovitzDan1

Dan Berkovitz

United Fresh encourages members to use Main Street lending program

The United Fresh Produce Association is encouraging its members to use the

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Treasury Department's new Main Street Business Lending Program for medium sized businesses.

The program will enable up to $600 billion in new financing for businesses with up to 10,000 employees or $2.5 billion in 2019 annual revenues. The program will offer four-year loans with principal and interest payments deferred for one year.

"This is an important step to assist many of our members who do not qualify for small business loans," United Fresh said in an email to members.

- Treasury Department — Treasury and Federal Reserve Board Announce New and Expanded Lending Programs to Provide up to $2.3 Trillion in Financing
- United Fresh Produce Association — Main Street New Loan Facility Fact Sheet



Food, beverage industries establish coronavirus website

The Food and Beverage Issue Alliance, which is composed of 58 trade associations, has established a coronavirus website with links to protocols on what to do when an employee or customer tests positive, how to wear a face mask, and how to achieve physical distancing in food manufacturing plants.

- Food and Beverage Issue Alliance
- — Food Industry Recommended Protocols When Employee/Visitor/Customer Tests Positive for COVID-19
- — Proper Usage of Face Masks/Coverings to Protect Against COVID-19
- — Emergency Prevention Measures to Achieve Physical (Social) Distancing in Food Manufacturing Facilities as Related to COVID-19



FERN: USDA forecasts lower prices, commodity stockpiles

"In its first assessment since the coronavirus was declared a pandemic, the government forecast lower prices for U.S. crops and livestock as a worldwide economic slowdown, the result of aggressive efforts to squash the virus, weakens the global appetite for food," Chuck Abbott of the *Food & Environment Reporting Network* said in an analysis last week.

"The notable exceptions are wheat and rice, where panic buying has driven up prices for the food grains," the USDA's monthly World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report said, according to the *FERN* analysis.

- *Food & Environment Reporting Network* — Coronavirus lands haymaker on U.S. farm sector

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Farm-to-table connection to restaurants cut off

The coronavirus pandemic has upended the lives of small farmers, who spent decades building a local, sustainable agricultural system by selling to restaurants and institutions, Kim Severson of *The New York Times* has written.

▪ *The New York Times* — The Farm-to-Table Connection Comes Undone

Mexico forbids beer production amid coronavirus pandemic

The Mexican Health Ministry has forbidden breweries to operate amid the coronavirus pandemic, overruling the Mexican Agriculture Ministry, *Mexico News Daily* reported.

▪ *Mexico News Daily* — Breweries may not operate: health minister overrules Agriculture Ministry

USDA won't appeal ABAWD ruling for now

In the face of the economic emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agriculture Department has delayed a decision on appealing a court ruling that stopped its plan to impose stricter job requirements for able-bodied adults without children (ABAWDs) to get Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, *The New York Times* said.

"People need food and that's what U.S.D.A. does," Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said in a statement to *The New York Times*.

▪ *The New York Times* — Trump Backs Off Tougher Food Stamp Work Rules for Now

RichardsonJamesA

YohoTed R-FL

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Jim Richardson *Rep. Ted Yoho, R-Fla.* *Former Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif.*

Richardson, Yoho, Royce candidates to head USAID

Devex reported that candidates to succeed Mark Green as administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development include:

- Jim Richardson, the director of the State Department's Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources
- Rep. Ted Yoho, R-Fla., who is not running for re-election
- Former House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce, R-Calif.

- *Devex* — Who will succeed Mark Green at USAID?

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld info is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: This week"s talking points
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 9:04:00 PM
Attachments: COVID WH TPs 4.20.20.docx
GENERAL CORONAVIRUS TALKERS 4.20.20.docx

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 6:14 PM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: This week's talking points

Good afternoon everyone –

Attached are this week's talking points – let me know if there are any questions.

Thanks,
Meghan

Meghan Rodgers
Acting Communications Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-5555
Cell: (b) (6)

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(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

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Withheld info is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address.

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: This weeks talking points
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 9:51:00 PM
Attachments: GENERAL CORONAVIRUS TALKERS 5.4.20.docx
WH COVID TP"s 5.4.20.docx

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 6:45 PM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; Susmann, Jacqueline - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jacqueline.Susmann@usda.gov>; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Subject: This weeks talking points

Hey everyone –

Attached are the talking points this week. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Meghan

Meghan Rodgers
Acting Communications Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-5555
Cell: (b) (6)

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From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: This week"s TPs
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 7:33:00 PM
Attachments: GENERAL CORONAVIRUS talkers 4.27.20.docx
COVID WH TPs 4.27.20.docx

Withheld info is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address.

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:01 PM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: This week's TPs

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Meghan

Meghan Rodgers
Acting Communications Director
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Withheld info is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address.

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: This week"s TP"s
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 6:19:00 PM
Attachments: GENERAL CORONAVIRUS TALKERS 4.13.20.docx
COVID WH TPs 4.13.20.docx

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 4:40 PM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: This week's TP's

Hey everyone –

Attached are this week's talking points – please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Meghan

Meghan Rodgers
Acting Communications Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-5555
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: update on USDA FNS state waivers - COVID-19
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 2:37:00 PM

Fyi – I sent this update this afternoon to the authorizers and appropriators regarding approved state waivers re: COVID-19

I'll be teleworking for a bit (b) (6), but remain just a phone call away this week.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 2:24 PM
Subject: update on USDA FNS state waivers - COVID-19

This email is to update you on USDA approved Food and Nutrition Service state waivers related to COVID-19.

Child Nutrition - Congregate Feeding

All 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico now have approved Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and/or Seamless Summer Options (SSO) congregate feeding waivers. In total USDA issued 58 waivers, with 6 states needing two waivers because of unique configurations within these states like their SFSP program is run out of one Department and their SSO program run out of another. The six states are Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas.

SNAP – Quality Control

USDA is allowing States to conduct telephone interviews instead of face-to face-interviews for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC) purposes. States must notify FNS in advance if they choose to implement this flexibility and must follow all other requirements for the QC interview as specified in SNAP regulations. A notification may be done through email, letter, or oral affirmation that they plan to use this flexibility.

This flexibility applies to any QC case reviews conducted in March, April and May 2020. States already have the option to use telephonic for certification/recertification purposes.

16 states are now using this QC flexibility: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Wyoming.

This website link with this state waiver information will be updated as needed:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19

Veronica

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Updated Summary of Functions
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 9:26:41 AM
Attachments: USDA COVID19 planning 031220.docx

Attachment included previously at pages 308-312

Well, hell – meant to send to Kailee

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Subject: Updated Summary of Functions

Updated summary doc with OCIO

From: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 10:56 PM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Cc: O'Connor, Mike - OHS, Washington, DC <mike.oconnor@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Request for information - DUE tomorrow (3/11) COB

Plus OCIO in the doc.
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Jessica Fantinato
USDA Office of Homeland Security

From: Washington, Gary S - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <gary.s.washington@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 9:46 PM
To: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC
Cc: O'Connor, Mike - OHS, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Request for information - DUE tomorrow (3/11) COB

Please see the attached

Gary Washington
U.S. Dept of Agriculture
Chief Information Officer
Office of Chief Information Officer
202-720-8833
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 8:41 PM
To: Washington, Gary S - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <gary.s.washington@usda.gov>
Cc: O'Connor, Mike - OHS, Washington, DC <mike.oconnor@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for information - DUE tomorrow (3/11) COB

Gary-
Need your input for this document ASAP. Going to OSEC tomorrow….

Jessica Fantinato

Director
Office of Homeland Security
United States Department of Agriculture

Office: 202.720.2582
Mobile: (b) (6)

USDA Operations Center:
202.720.5711 and OpsCenter@dm.usda.gov

From: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:22:54 PM
To: Washington, Gary S - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <gary.s.washington@usda.gov>; Horder, Lilia - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <lilia.horder@usda.gov>; Williams, Duane - OO, Washington, DC <duane.williams1@usda.gov>; Carroll, Chad - OSEC, Washington, DC <chad.carroll@usda.gov>
Cc: O'Connor, Mike - OHS, Washington, DC <mike.oconnor@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Request for information - DUE tomorrow (3/11) COB

As discussed at the MAC.
Please provide the response for your area.
Thanks.

Jessica Fantinato
USDA Office of Homeland Security

From: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Marklund, Chris - OSEC; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; O'Connor, Mike - OHS, Washington, DC
Subject: Request for information - DUE tomorrow (3/11) COB

MA Chiefs of Staff-
(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

Please send your response to Mike and I by COB tomorrow.
Thanks.
Jessica

Jessica Fantinato

Director
Office of Homeland Security
United States Department of Agriculture

Office: 202.720.2582
Mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]

USDA Operations Center:
202.720.5711 and OpsCenter@dm.usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld info is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address.

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Updated Talking Points
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 2:19:00 PM
Attachments: WH COVID TP"s 5.11.20.docx
GENERAL CORONAVIRUS TALKERS 5.11.20.docx

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 1:56 PM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: Updated Talking Points

Good afternoon everyone –

Attached are talking points for the week of May 11th. Let me know if you need anything else.

Meghan

Meghan Rodgers
Deputy Communications Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-5555
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Westcott, Nick - OSEC, Washington, DC; Matthew - OSEC Washington DC Ziegler (Matt.Ziegler@usda.gov); Miller, Henry - OSEC, Washignton, DC
Subject:	FW: USDA COVID Response Timeline
Date:	Thursday, May 14, 2020 12:16:00 PM
Attachments:	image001.png USDA COVID Response Timeline - HM edits_MDB.docx

Good work guys

From: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 7:58 PM
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Ness, Torie - OSEC, Washington, DC <Torie.Ness@usda.gov>; Duvall, Zellie - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zellie.Duvall@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>
Cc: Westcott, Nick - OSEC, Washington, DC <nick.westcott@usda.gov>; Miller, Henry - OSEC, Washignton, DC <Henry.Miller2@usda.gov>; Ziegler, Matthew - OSEC, Washington, DC <Matt.Ziegler@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA COVID Response Timeline

Pre-decisional/deliberative

Hey folks –

The advance team (bless 'em!) helped put the COVID response data we pulled together last week into a really helpful timeline. **Please note this document is for INTERNAL USE ONLY for now**. Wanted to share as I think it could be helpful to all of us. Also, if you note things to add, that's great – please send to the advance team for future versions.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Mary Dee Beal
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.0907
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Attachment included previously at pages 308-312.

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: USDA COVID19 essential service planning
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020 8:55:56 PM
Attachments: USDA COVID19 planning 031220.docx

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

See if this works for a start.

Reb

From: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 8:39 PM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA COVID19 planning 031220

For your review.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:19:00 PM

Can I have a copy of the Michigan emergency allotment?

From: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture) <Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

Do you have a copy of the MI plan you could share?

> On Mar 24, 2020, at 2:53 PM, Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> All,
>
> This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
>
> FNS is approving two month SNAP Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**
>
> **March and April Approvals:** Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina
>
> **April and May Approvals:** Tennessee
>
> Guidance and templates for states to use in their requests were provided on Friday, March 20.
>
> State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.
>
> State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.
>
> Regards,
>
> Veronica Smith Wong

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - HI SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 8:08:24 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving SNAP **Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.**

March and April Approval: Hawaii

All 53 SNAP state agencies (50 states plus DC, Guam and USVI) have received emergency allotments.

The State agency that requested this flexibilities received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - NH Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 10:00:23 AM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

New Hampshire has received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state(s) will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State(s) will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State(s) will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State(s) will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov)
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - SNAP Recertification Periods and Reporting Extended - COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 10:39:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

From: Clark, Fred (Agriculture) <Fred_Clark@ag.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP Recertification Periods and Reporting Extended - COVID-19

Veronica,

Can you give me a ballpark number of how many COVID-19 related nutrition program waivers USDA has approved?

Does not need to be an exact number.

Just want to be armed for conversations with folks who believe Government has not done enough to date.

Thanks!

Fred Clark

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:Veronica.Wong@usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC Veronica.Wong@usda.govto
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Recertification Periods and Reporting Extended - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is extending the current flexibility on **SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through June 30, 2020 under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.**

For the **46 state agencies** that already requested and received approvals for certification period extensions through May 31, 2020, this adjustment provides an additional month of flexibility. If a State agency elects to implement this adjustment, it must notify its respective FNS Regional Office, and any State notifications will be relayed to the FNS Certification Policy Branch.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Clark, Fred (Agriculture)
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - SNAP Recertification Periods and Reporting Extended - COVID-19
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 11:45:00 AM

Fred,

Some of the stats below maybe helpful:

- Providing more than 227 million pounds of food – valued at $243 million through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), with another $850 million available from the FFCRA and Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Stimulus (CARES) Act.
- Increasing the purchasing power of SNAP households by $2 billion a month, a 40% increase, by maximizing benefits;
- Launching Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) to provide the value of school breakfast and lunch to families eligible for free and reduce-price lunch;
- Issuing Disaster Household Distributions, food targeted to meet specific needs when traditional channels of food are unavailable, to 16 States and territories, and 29 tribes;
- Providing more than one million meals a week to rural children through public-private partnership Meals to You;
- Allowing states to serve free meals to children in *all* areas across more than 38,000 feeding sites nation-wide;
- Maximizing flexibilities, such as parent-pickup and meal times requirements, for the free meals provided through schools and other providers;
- Increasing access to online purchasing by expanding the online purchasing pilot to cover half of all SNAP households;
- Debuting "Meals for Kids" interactive site finder – to help families find meals for children while schools are closed; and
- Providing over 1,500 administrative flexibilities in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to allow for social distancing.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Clark, Fred (Agriculture) <Fred_Clark@ag.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP Recertification Periods and Reporting Extended - COVID-19

Veronica,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Can you give me a ballpark number of how many COVID-19 related nutrition program waivers USDA has approved?

Does not need to be an exact number.

Just want to be armed for conversations with folks who believe Government has not done enough to date.

Thanks!

Fred Clark

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:Veronica.Wong@usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC Veronica.Wong@usda.govto
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Recertification Periods and Reporting Extended - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is extending the current flexibility on **SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through June 30, 2020 under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.**

For the **46 state agencies** that already requested and received approvals for certification period extensions through May 31, 2020, this adjustment provides an additional month of flexibility. If a State agency elects to implement this adjustment, it must notify its respective FNS Regional Office, and any State notifications will be relayed to the FNS Certification Policy Branch.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov); Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Lindsay - FNS Datlow (Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov); Stagno, Laura - FNS
Subject: FW: USDA fns - WV SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 8:12:00 AM

All, I sent the below notice to the hill on Saturday but failed to copy FNS in the transmission, so this is for your records. Tahnks.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA fns - WV SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot

All,

Today USDA will announce West Virginia has been added to the SNAP online purchasing pilot.

Regards,
Veronica

West Virginia Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

(Washington, D.C., April 18, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced approval of West Virginia's requests to provide online purchasing of food to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Households. This approval will allow the State to expedite the implementation of online purchasing with currently authorized SNAP online retailers with a target start date to be announced at a later time.West Virginia's SNAP participation is nearly 300,000 individuals, almost 150,000 households, and totals nearly $400 million annually in federal funding. This announcement further demonstrates President Trump's whole of America approach to fighting the coronavirus pandemic by ensuring those affected are fed.

Background:

The SNAP online pilot is currently operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. Nebraska joined the pilot on April 1, 2020. The authorized retailers working with all pilot states are Amazon and Walmart, while Wrights Market and ShopRite are working with Alabama and New York respectively. On April 8, it was announced that Arizona and California would be joining, and on April 11 announced Florida and Idaho.Then on April 17, it was announced that North Carolina and the District of Columbia would also be joining.

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov)
Subject:	FW: USDA FNS Update - 5 state waivers SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date:	Wednesday, March 25, 2020 1:54:00 PM
Attachments:	AZ-SNAP-COV-041-Approval.pdf AR-SNAP-COV-040-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf CO - SNAP -COV042 -ExtendCertPeriods-Approval .pdf WV - SNAP - COV-044 - Extended Cert Periods - Approval.pdf IA - SNAP - COV-043 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf

When you get time, please notify the state delegations on this. You are welcome to do one email to all 5 state delegations. I have notices the committees. Thanks.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update - 5 state waivers SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

To that end, attached are **5 state** SNAP waivers Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201. This is in addition to the 33 states already granted.**

USDA has granted **Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, and West Virginia** a waiver through May 31, 2020 through the authority granted to the Secretary. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 25, 2020

Janee Harvey
Division Administrator, Adult, Children and Family Services
Department of Human Services
1305 East Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

RE: SNAP – Iowa Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Harvey:

This letter transmits approval of the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-043) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

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Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-043

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Iowa

5. **Region:** Midwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

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March 25, 2020

Linda Watts
Commissioner
Bureau for Children and Families
Department of Health and Human Resources
350 Capitol Street, Room 730
Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3711

RE: SNAP – West Virginia Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Commissioner Watts:

This letter transmits approval of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-044) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-044

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** West Virginia

5. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

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March 25, 2020

Teri Chasten
Deputy Director/SNAP Manager
Department of Human Services
1575 Sherman Street
Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: SNAP – Colorado Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Chasten:

This letter transmits approval of the Colorado Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-042) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

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Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-042

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Colorado

5. **Region:** Mountain Plains

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

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8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

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March 25, 2020

Larry Crutchfield
Assistant Director
Division of County Operations
Department of Human Services
700 Main Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

RE: SNAP – Arkansas Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Crutchfield:

This letter transmits approval of the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-040) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

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Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-040

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Arkansas

5. **Region:** Southwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Food and Nutrition Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

March 25, 2020

Jeffrey W. Morely
Assistant Director
Division of Benefits and Medical Eligibility
Arizona Department of Economic Security
1789 West Jefferson
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: SNAP – Arizona Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Morely:

This letter transmits approval of the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-041) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Enclosure

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Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-041

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Arizona

5. **Region:** Southwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 3 of 7

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS
Subject: FW: USDA Food and Nutrition Alaska Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 9:06:00 AM

Alaska delegation notice

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 8:32 PM
To: McCarthy, Karen (Murkowski) <Karen_McCarthy@murkowski.senate.gov>; quinton_carroll@sullivan.senate.gov; truman.reed@mail.house.gov
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition Alaska Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Importance: High

Karen, Quinton, Truman,

This email is to inform you the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has **approved** a request from Alaska to allow meal service during school closures, should the need arise, to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

In submitting the recent waiver request to USDA, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development noted there were no cases of COVID-19 in Alaska, but the situation is evolving and program sponsors are preparing if school or child care closures occur. USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (also called non-congregate), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals while schools are temporarily closed.

The waiver is effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020.

All Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Washington state has also been approved under a similar waiver; more information on that notice here.

Thank you,

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lindsay - FNS Datlow (Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov); Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov)
Subject: FW: USDA Food and Nutrition Alaska Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 7:02:00 PM

I will (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: McCarthy, Karen (Murkowski) <Karen_McCarthy@murkowski.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 6:55 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Carroll, Quinton (Sullivan) <Quinton_Carroll@sullivan.senate.gov>; truman.reed@mail.house.gov
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Dietderich, Anna (Murkowski) <Anna_Dietderich@murkowski.senate.gov>; Dent, Elizabeth (Appropriations) <Elizabeth_Dent@appro.senate.gov>; Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Alaska Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Importance: High

Veronica, I just read a Politico article titled, "**Schools hamstrung over feeding students as coronavirus leads to closures"** that said the coronavirus waivers for Alaska, Washington, and California to provide school meals in a non-congregate setting and for free only apply to school districts that have 50% free/reduced price eligibility. Politico states:

> "USDA, on a state-by-state basis, said it will waive the requirement that students must eat in group settings. The department will also allow meals to be served at off-campus sites like libraries and churches. Washington and California have already received such approvals. But that allowance only covers school districts where more than 50 percent of students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals. Many districts have individual schools that are have high-poverty rates even if the entire area doesn't, so the policy could leave many needy students in a lurch."

Is the article incorrect? Or was the notification you sent out on Friday night (below) lacking a crucial detail? If it's correct, please provide the statutory or regulatory citation for the 50% limitation.

And please explain this quote in the same article, which we know will not help schools comply with CDC guidance about social distancing: "Over the weekend, the Agriculture Department, which manages school nutrition programs, said schools that are forced to close can switch to different programs used during summer months that serve low-income children." We know it won't help because FNS has told me over and over again that you can only approve reimbursement for non-congregate feeding in SFSP after a Presidential declaration of a disaster. Did Politico misquote someone at FNS?

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What the Sam Hill is going on over there at FNS?!?

Thanks,
Karen

Karen McCarthy | Senior Legislative Assistant
Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski | United States Senate
karen_mccarthy@murkowski.senate.gov
522 Hart Senate Office Building
202-224-6665
http://murkowski.senate.gov

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 8:32 PM
To: McCarthy, Karen (Murkowski) <Karen_McCarthy@murkowski.senate.gov>; Carroll, Quinton (Sullivan) <Quinton_Carroll@sullivan.senate.gov>; truman.reed@mail.house.gov
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition Alaska Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Importance: High

Karen, Quinton, Truman,

This email is to inform you the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has **approved** a request from Alaska to allow meal service during school closures, should the need arise, to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

In submitting the recent waiver request to USDA, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development noted there were no cases of COVID-19 in Alaska, but the situation is evolving and program sponsors are preparing if school or child care closures occur. USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (also called non-congregate), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals while schools are temporarily closed.

The waiver is effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020.

All Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Washington state has also been approved under a similar waiver; more information on that notice here.

Thank you,

Veronica

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Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS; Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov); Whalen, Karla - AMS
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: USDA Food and Nutrition California Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date: Saturday, March 7, 2020 8:26:00 PM

Kiev, Anthony and Karla,

I wanted to make you aware I have been notifying the state delegations when a school meal waiver is approved related to COVID. I have also shared all with the House and Senate Committees.

So far I have notified Washington, Alaska and California delegations on their respective waivers.

Below is the California notice I sent. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 8:00 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Evan.Dorner@mail.house.gov; matt.dernoga@mail.house.gov; Khaula.Kaiser@mail.house.gov; Kelvin.Lum@mail.house.gov; David.Schutt@mail.house.gov; Richie.O'Connell@mail.house.gov; Erin.Sandlin@mail.house.gov; Jaqueline.Serrano@mail.house.gov; David.Silberberg@mail.house.gov; Thomas.Rivera@mail.house.gov; Kayla.Rillo@mail.house.gov; Sheresh.Khan@mail.house.gov; Ben.goldeen@mail.house.gov; Jared.Henderson@mail.house.gov; michael.perez@mail.house.gov; sarah.jackson@mail.house.gov; Eric.Henshall@mail.house.gov; joe_petrzelka@feinstein.senate.gov; Iain.hart@mail.house.gov; Tigran.Agdaian@mail.house.gov; Diana.rios@mail.house.gov; Jessica.Ilaria@mail.house.gov; Jonathan_Bertran-harris@harris.senate.gov; ben.steinberger@mail.house.gov; logan.ferree@mail.house.gov; holly.hough@mail.house.gov; kevin.fox@mail.house.gov; Kathleen.devlin@mail.house.gov; emma.mehrabi@mail.house.gov; jonathan.gilbert@mail.house.gov; julian.sham@mail.house.gov; priscilla.kim@mail.house.gov; ngoc.nguyen@mail.house.gov; emily.richardson@mail.house.gov; kyle.lombardi@mail.house.gov; andrew.keyes@mail.house.gov; mike.stoever@mail.house.gov; morgan.leonard@mail.house.gov; ian.foley@mail.house.gov; Riya.mehta@mail.house.gov; anais.vorja@mail.house.gov; jessica.seigel@mail.house.gov; sabir.muhammad@mail.house.gov; debbie.jessup@mail.house.gov; austin.yager@mail.house.gov; cody.willming@mail.house.gov; zach.sorenson@mail.house.gov; rob.robilliarb@mail.house.gov; Sera.Alptekin@mail.house.gov; art.motta@mail.house.gov; adrienne.castro@mail.house.gov; nate.denthan@mail.house.gov; clay.boggs@mail.house.gov; hannah.cejas@mail.house.gov; kathleen.sengstock@mail.house.gov
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition California Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

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All,

This email is to inform you today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the State of California to allow meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (also called non-congregate), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals while schools are temporarily closed.

The state waiver is effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020. Here is the link to the USDA press release on the California waiver.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Libby.Foley@mail.house.gov
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: USDA Food and Nutrition Service UPDATE - COVID-19 - Rep McCollum
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 10:53:00 PM
Attachments: EmergencyAllotmentsGuidance.pdf
COVID-19 WIC State Agency Waiver Request_Print Response.pdf

Libby,

Thank you for your email Friday evening regarding state waiver templates.

First, I am hoping you or a colleague saw my below copied email Friday evening with an update on multiple provisions, including several templates. Additionally, USDA has issued 3 nationwide child nutrition waivers on the following:

1. waiving of the **noncongregate requirement across all child nutrition programs**
   -This waiver applies to the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program.

(2) waiving of the **meal service time requirements** across all child nutrition programs, and
   -This waiver applies to the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program.

(3) waiving of the **requirement for an educational or enrichment activity** when serving an afternoon meal or snack under the National School Lunch Program or Child and Adult Care Food Program.
   -This waiver applies to afterschool snacks in the National School Lunch Program and at-risk afterschool meals and snacks in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Foley, Libby <Libby.Foley@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 5:50 PM
To: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Subject: School nutrition standards--state waivers

Hi—

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I was on the FNS call earlier and I believe I heard about you all putting out waiver templates that would make it easier for states to apply for waivers. Is that happening? If Minnesota wanted to apply for a school nutrition waiver, is there any relevant info or docs. you could share with me? Thank you so much for the help, really appreciate it!

Libby

Libby Foley
Legislative Assistant
Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04)
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
P: 202-225-6631

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 8:31 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition Service UPDATE - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA 's Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services (FNCS) efforts to assist communities in feeding children during COVID-19.

General

With the approval of the H.R. 6201 this week, USDA's FNCS is working swiftly. We understand your communities are eager to take advantage of the range of flexibilities and new support in the bill. To that end FNS has begun rolling out new information and will continue to do so in the coming days.

SNAP Emergency Allotments

Importantly, FNS is providing states templates to use in making requests to USDA to help ease the administrative burden and increase the speed at which waivers and polices can be approved for implementation.

Tonight, guidance was provided to states interested in implementing **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201**, which provides for the issuance of emergency **SNAP allotments (supplements)** based on a public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act related to an outbreak of COVID-19 when a State has also issued an emergency or disaster declaration.

The template states may use is attached. States agencies have been provided a copy of this document and they may contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

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SNAP ABAWDs

USDA has provided state agencies information related to **Section 2301 of H.R. 6201**. This provision temporarily and partially suspends the time limit for **Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)** participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP).

States agencies have been provided a copy of this guidance document on this provision, linked here: https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/FFCRA-Impact-on-ABAWD-TimeLimit.pdf. State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

WIC Flexibilities

Tonight USDA provided the attached template for states to use for WIC flexibilities under **Section 2203 and Section 2204 of H.R. 6201.**

Section 2203 of H.R. 6201 allows states to waive the **physical presence requirements for WIC** during any portion of the emergency period through September 30, 2020. The approval to waive the physical presence requirement includes the ability to defer anthropomorphic and bloodwork requirements necessary to determine nutritional risk for the period the physical presence waiver is in effect per 42 U.S.C. 2203(a)(1)(B).

Sections 2204 of H.R. 6201 allows states to request to waive the **supplemental food substitutions** requirements set forth in 42 U.S.C. 1786(f)(11)(C)(ii). The approval to waive the requirement to adhere to the participant's specific supplemental food package includes the ability to substitute unavailable WIC supplemental foods for different foods.

Further, **Section 2204** allows states to waive the **minimum stocking requirements** set forth in 42 CFR 246.12(g)(3)(i). The approval to waive the minimum stocking requirements will include a waiver of onsite pre-authorization visits to check minimum stocking requirements.

USDA is sending this information to state partners tonight and will be available for completion by the states through partnerweb. Please d*o not have states complete the attached pdf version of the template. The template sample attached is for your awareness only*. State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Rural Feeding Partnership

This week USDA announced a collaboration to deliver nearly 1,000,000 meals to students in a limited number of rural schools closed due to COVID-19. You may read the public announcement here. Schools districts interested in participating may find this one page information sheet helpful.

Communication with States

To communicate and allow for direct questions from state program staff, FNS is also conducting webinars and information sessions. And, our USDA intergovernmental team will continue to push out information directly to states to ensure they have necessary resources.

The USDA Food and Nutrition Regional Offices are a vital part of our structure of responsiveness to

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local needs. States may work with their respective Regional Office for specific customer service and technical assistance. And subsequently local providers are encouraged to communicate with their state program leaders.

Thank you for this opportunity to update your team.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Food andNutrition Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

MEMORANDUM

TO: SNAP State Agencies

FROM: Jessica Shahin, Associate Administrator, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

DATE: March 20, 2020

The attached is guidance to States in implementing Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, which provides for the issuance of emergency allotments (supplements) based on a public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act related to an outbreak of COVID-19 when a State has also issued an emergency or disaster declaration.

Please be advised that the contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Any questions should be directed to Andrea Gold, Director, Retail Policy and Management Division.

Sincerely,

Jessica Shahin
Associate Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Attachment

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Request to Provide Emergency Allotments (Supplements) to SNAP Households

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

1. **Type of Request:** Initial

2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act

3. **State [specify]:**

4. **Proposed Alternative Procedures:**

   The State proposes to provide an emergency allotment to address temporary food needs to households to bring all households up to the maximum benefit due to pandemic related economic conditions for up to 2 months. Contingent upon the availability of funding and ongoing need, USDA may approve additional months of emergency issuance with an extension request from the State.

   These households are eligible for temporary emergency allotments because:

   - There is a public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and there is a State-wide emergency or disaster declaration (copy attached); and
   - Due to Covid-19 [check all that apply]:
     - Residents of the State are confirmed to have contracted Covid-19
     - Some or all areas of the State are containment or quarantine zones
     - Businesses have closed or significantly reduced their hours
     - The State's residents have experienced economic impacts due to job suspensions or losses
     - The State's residents have been directed to practice social distancing

   Issuing Emergency Allotments to Current SNAP Households:

   Supplemental emergency allotments would be issued in the following manner:

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In March, 2020

- On a single date [specify]: _____
- Over a series of days as follows: _____
- Staggered as follows: _____
- Other [please explain]:_____

In subsequent months, emergency allotments should be provided in accordance with the State's regular issuance schedule. If a State wants to use a different schedule, explain:

_____

_____

The State may provide the emergency allotment(s) without contacting the household. While individual notification is not required, States should notify clients consistent with SNAP requirements for mass changes, including notice that emergency allotments will be issued for up to 2 months. Should this schedule change and additional months are approved during the public health emergency, the State will provide a subsequent mass change notice at that time.

Other Requirements: [If applicable, STATE SHOULD ADDRESS ANY OTHER STATE-SPECIFIC NEEDS THEY MAY HAVE.]

All emergency allotments will be delivered on the household's EBT card.

The State's SNAP agency also agrees to complete the FNS-292 on a timely basis in accordance with requirements as well as all other normally recurring SNAP reporting included the FNS 46 and 388 reports, on a timely basis in accordance with requirements.

In addition, The State agency will submit weekly reports to FNS with the following information for the entire State:

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- The value of EA issued.
- The average issuance amount per household.
- The number of households issued EA

Justification for Request: Coronavirus COVID-19, as provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

5. **Affected Caseload:**

One month estimates for existing SNAP households under these procedures:

- Number of households receiving emergency allotments benefits: _____
- Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued for one month: $ _____
- Number of months requested (2 month limit) _____

USDA reserves the right to withdraw or otherwise modify this approval subject to availability of funding

6. **Anticipated Implementation Date:**

7. **Signature and Title of Requesting State Agency Official:**

_____

Signature

_____

Print Name and Title

8. **Date of Request:**

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Responder

Respondent 1

02:05
Time to complete

Waiver Request Details

1. WIC State Agency *

2. FNS Regional Office *

MARO

3. Do you wish to submit a request for a Physical Presence Waiver? [42 U.S.C. 2203(a)(1)(a)] *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Physical Presence Waiver Request [42 U.S.C. 2203(a)(1)(a)]

Following receipt of a physical presence waiver, a WIC State agency may defer anthropometric and bloodwork requirements necessary to determine nutrition risk. The Competent Professional Authority (CPA) should still attempt, to the best of his/her ability, to assess nutrition risk based on participant-provided and/or referral data, as this remains a statutory requirement for the program.

FNS requests that, within 2 weeks from the date of this request, the WIC State agency provide to the Regional Office specific details on how it plans to continue operations under the physical presence waiver, including but not limited to: securing WIC participant confidentiality, following

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 750 of 3751
USDA-20-1045-A-000756

rules regarding separation of duty and documentation/recordkeeping in the certification appointment.

4. Please summarize your request to waive physical presence requirements. *

5. Reason(s) for this Physical Presence request (please check all that apply) *

- [x] COVID-19 (general)
- [x] State or local travel restrictions
- [x] State or local shelter in place (or similar orders)
- [x] Other

6. What is the requested end date for this Physical Presence Waiver? *

3/20/2020

7. FNS recommends that all WIC State agencies that submit a Physical Presence Waiver request also submit an Administrative Flexibilities request to waive 7 CFR 246.12(r)(4).

This waiver will allow for mailing of food instruments or remote loading of EBT benefits for all WIC participants.

Would you like to submit this waiver request now? *

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

Administrative Flexibilities Waiver Request: Remote Issuance [42

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 357 of 3351
USDA-20-1045-A-000757

U.S.C. 2204(a)(1)]

A WIC State agency may request to modify or waive any qualified administrative requirement outlined in regulations that cannot be met by a State agency due to COVID-19 or that is necessary to provide assistance.

To request flexibilities related to the remote issuance of WIC benefits (e.g., mailing of food instruments, remote loading of EBT cards) (current requirements outlined at 7 CFR 246.12(r)(4)), please complete the fields below.

8. Please summarize how benefits will be issued/provided to participants. *

9. What is the requested end date for this Remote Issuance Waiver? *

3/20/2020

10. Do you wish to submit a request for an Administrative Flexibilities Waiver related to WIC food package or medical documentation requirements? [42 U.S.C. 2204(a)(1)] *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Administrative Flexibilities Waiver Request: Food Package [42 U.S.C. 2204(a)(1)]

A WIC State agency may request to modify or waive any qualified administrative requirement outlined in regulations that cannot be met by a State agency due to COVID-19 or that is necessary to provide assistance.

To request flexibilities related to food package requirements outlined at 7 CFR 246.10(e)(1-12) and medical documentation requirements at 246.10(d), please complete the fields below. Please submit each food item request separately.

11. WIC Food Item: *

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 750 of 2251
USDA-20-1045-A-000758

12. Flexibility/Substitution Requested: *

13. Reason(s) for this Food Package request (please check all that apply) *

- [x] Low stock
- [x] Other

14. What is the requested end date for this Food Package Waiver? *

3/20/2020

15. Do you wish to request flexibilities related to another food item?

- ( ) Yes, I'd like to add another food item.
- (•) No, I'm finished with this section.

16. Do you wish to submit a request for an Administrative Flexibilities Waiver related to minimum stocking requirements (MSRs) for WIC vendors? [42 U.S.C. 2204(a)(1)] *

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

Administrative Flexibilities Waiver Request: Minimum Stock [42 U.S.C.

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 750 of 759
USDA-20-1045-A-000759

2204(a)(1)]

A WIC State agency may request to modify or waive any qualified administrative requirement outlined in regulations that cannot be met by a State agency due to COVID-19 or that is necessary to provide assistance.

A WIC State agency may update its minimum stocking requirements (MSRs) at any time, as long as the MSR meets the federal mimimum requirements outlined at 7 CFR 246.12(g)(3)(i). To request to a waiver from these requirements, please complete the fields below.

17. Please summarize your request to waive federal minimum stocking requirements. *

18. Reason(s) for this Minimum Stocking Requirements request (please check all that apply) *

- [x] Low Stock
- [x] Other

19. What is the requested end date for this Minimum Stocking Requirements Waiver? *

3/20/2020

20. Do you wish to submit a request for an Administrative Flexibilities waiver for another purpose, not already specified? [42 U.S.C. 2204(a)(1)] *

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

Other Administrative Flexibilities Waiver Request [42 U.S.C. 2204(a)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 760 of 3251
USDA-20-1045-A-000760

(1)]

A WIC State agency may request to modify or waive any qualified administrative requirement outlined in regulations that cannot be met by a State agency due to COVID-19 or that is necessary to provide assistance.

If requesting a flexibility not previously covered in this template, please indicate the specific flexibility being requested (including the regulatory citation), the reason(s) for the request, and estimated period of flexibility in the fields below.

21. Please summarize your waiver request. *

22. Relevant Regulation(s): *

Please enter citation(s) you request to be waived, related to the above request.

23. Reason(s) for this request: *

24. What is the requested end date for this waiver? *

3/20/2020

25. Do you wish to submit an additional Administrative Flexibilities Waiver request? *

- ○ Yes, I'd like to add another.
- ◉ No, I'm finished with all requests.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 761 of 2761
USDA-20-1045-A-000761

Submitter Information

As a reminder, these requests may only be submitted by State agency WIC Directors.

Once submitted, you will receive email confirmation of your request.

26. Full Name: *

27. Title: *

28. Email Address: *

Please ensure that the email address entered is correct. A confirmation email outlining your submission will be sent to this address.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 760 of 2761
USDA-20-1045-A-000762

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov)
Cc:	Whalen, Karla - AMS; Randall, Kiev - FNS
Subject:	FW: USDA Food and Nutrition Washington Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date:	Monday, March 9, 2020 8:57:00 AM

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 9:32 PM
To: megan_thompson@cantwell.senate.gov; david_marten@cantwell.senate.gov; Shantanu.tata@mail.house.gov; emily.kolano@mail.house.gov; Ben.bruns@mail.house.gov; Jessica.mulligan@mail.house.gov; katie.allen@mail.house.gov; samuel.wilcoxson@mail.house.gov; jared.powell@mail.house.gov; hart_clements@murray.senate.gov; travis.martinez@mail.house.gov; Jennifer.cash@mail.house.gov; amanda.wyma-bradley@mail.house.gov
Cc: Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov) <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition Washington Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Importance: High

All,

This email is to inform you today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has **approved** a request from Washington to allow meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (also called non-congregate), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals while schools are temporarily closed.

The waiver is effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020. Here is the link to the press release on the Washington waiver.

All Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC; Bumbary-Langston, Inga - OGC, Washington, DC
Cc: Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC; Young, Benjamin - OGC, Washington, DC; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: (b) (5), DPP
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 6:05:00 PM
Attachments: (b) (5), DPP

Stephen/Inga/OGC:

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

Thanks,
KMT

Info withheld under (b)(6) is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address.

From: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 5:51 PM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Cc: Soles, Scott - OCFO, Washington, DC <Scott.Soles@usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>; Bumbary-Langston, Inga - OGC, Washington, DC <inga.bumbary-langston@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Washington, Gary S - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <gary.s.washington@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: (b) (5), DPP

Deliberative/Predecisional

All,

I'm sending this note only to a limited number of you. My concern about (b) (5), DPP, ACP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6)
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

Info withheld in "to:" field is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address.

From: HARDEN, GIL <GIL.HARDEN@oig.usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>; Bumbary-Langston, Inga - OGC, Washington, DC <inga.bumbary-langston@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Illenberg, Mike - OC, Washington, DC <mike.illenberg@usda.gov>; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>; Soles, Scott - OCFO, Washington, DC <Scott.Soles@usda.gov>; Moaney, Lynn - OCFO, Washington, DC <lynn.moaney@usda.gov>; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC <Mindy.Brashears@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Brand, Bette - RD, Washington, DC <bette.brand@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Hubbard, Jim - OSEC, Washington, DC <jim.hubbard@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (5), DPP

All,

Attached is a (b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

If you have questions or want to discuss further, don't hesitate to let me know.

Thanks,
Gil

Gil H Harden, CPA
Assistant Inspector General | Audit
USDA OIG Office of Audit
Desk: 202-720-8724 Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Bennett, Elizabeth T. EOP/WHO
Subject: FW: USDA provisions HEROES Act
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:06:13 PM
Attachments: HEROES.Act.USDA.Summary 5.12.20.docx

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

From: "Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC" <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 3:32 PM
To: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA provisions HEROES Act

Attached.

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

--
Evan B. Lee
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
c: (b) (6)

From: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:12 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA provisions HEROES Act

Hold on this for a moment.

--
Evan B. Lee
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
c: (b) (6)

From: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:08 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA provisions HEROES Act

Ripped this from the Speaker's summary.

Evan B. Lee

Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

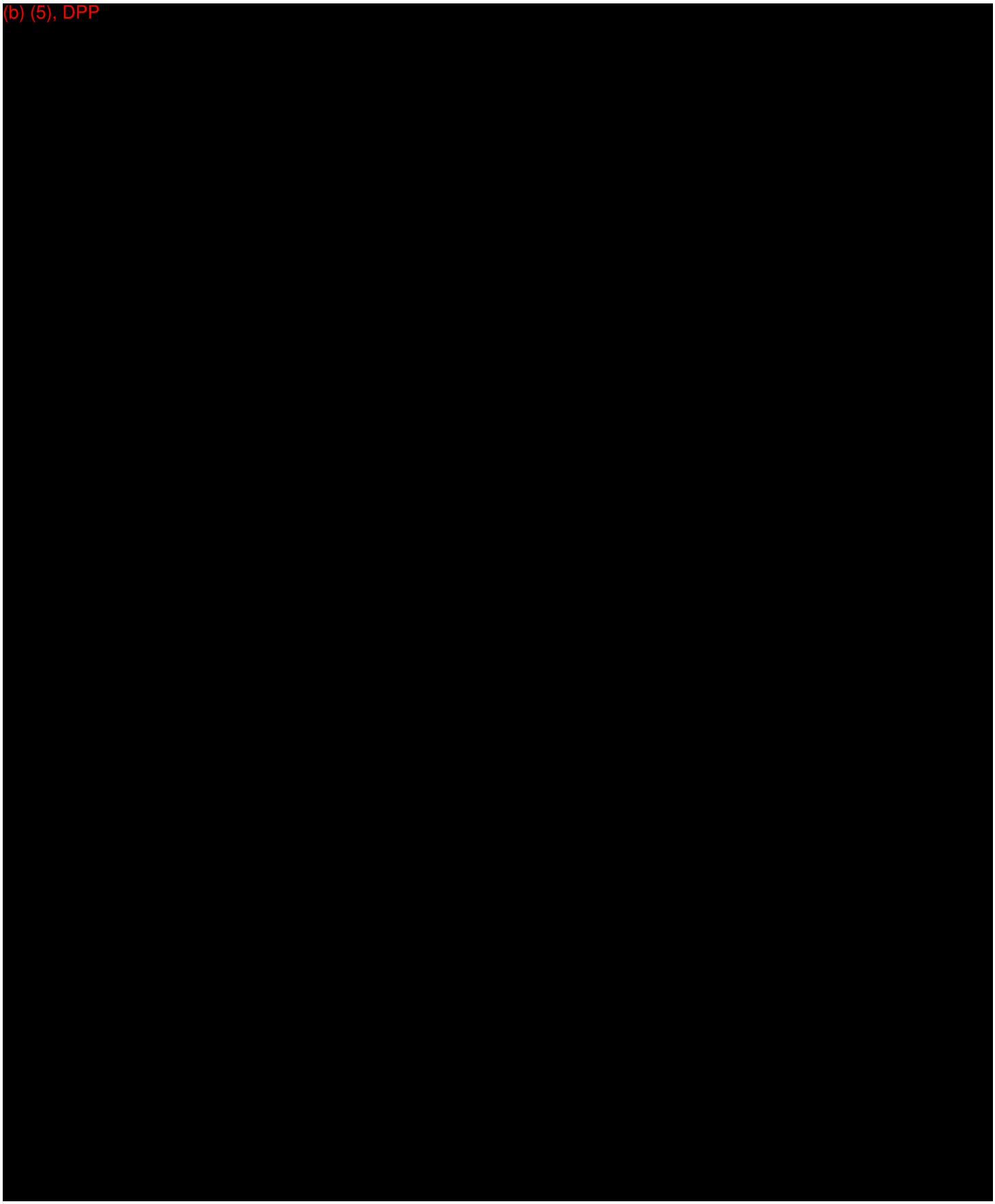
Predecisional/Deliberative

HEROES Act Summary
USDA Provisions

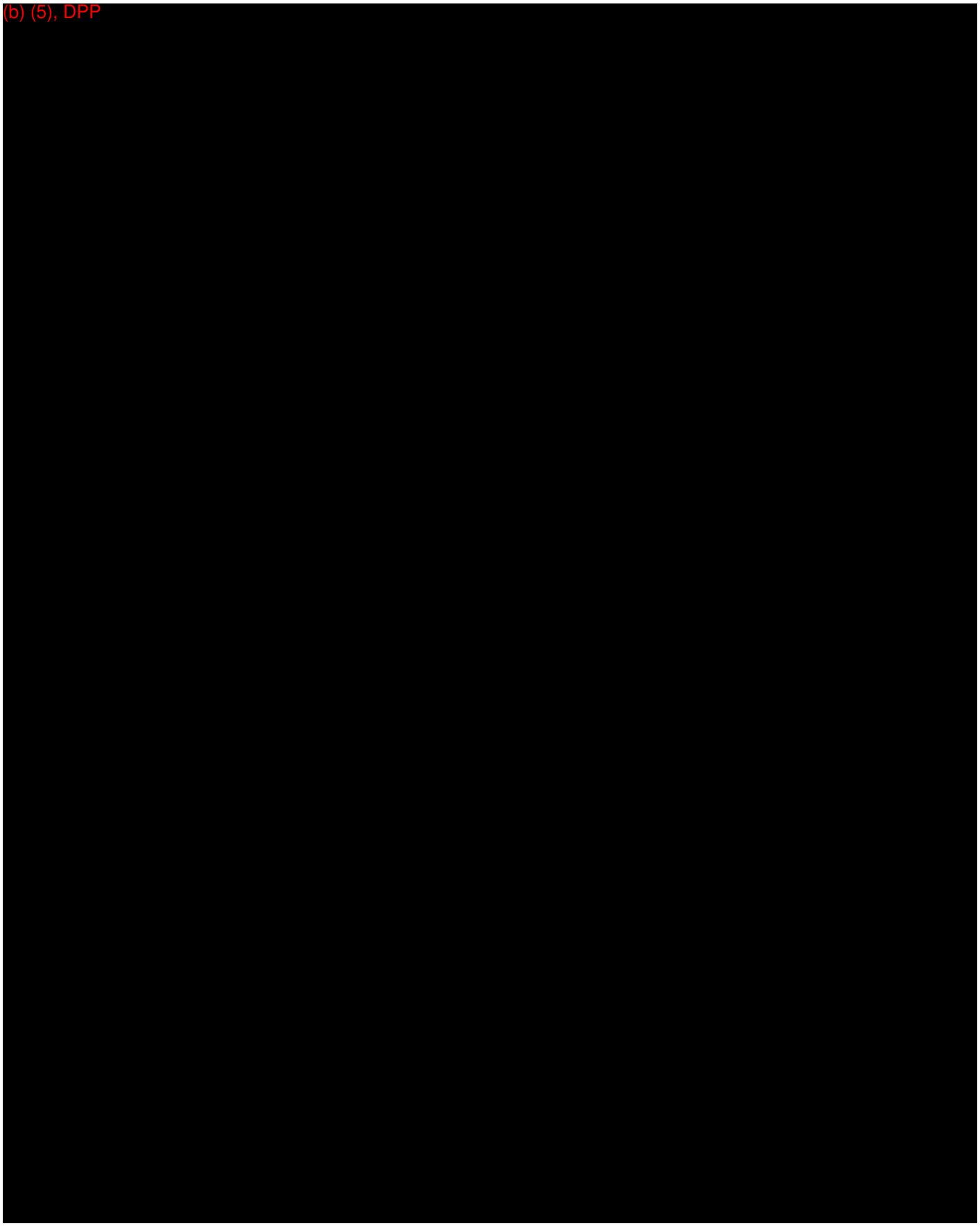
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lindsay - FNS Datlow (Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov); Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov)
Subject: FW: Vermont Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 5:53:00 PM

Hey guys,

Somewhere along the line I got cut out of the internal notices on the online pilot and p-ebt approvals. If I could get looped back in that will help me notice the hill.

Thanks!
V

From: USDA Office of Communications <feedback@oc.usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 5:47 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Vermont Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture USDA Office of Communications press@oc.usda.gov

Vermont Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

USDA is expanding access to innovative online food purchase program

(Washington, D.C., April 24, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced approval of a request from Vermont to provide online purchasing of food to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households. This approval will allow the State to expedite the implementation of online purchasing with currently authorized SNAP online retailers with a target start date to be announced at a later time. Vermont's SNAP participation is nearly 70,000 individuals, nearly 30,000 households, and totals nearly $100 million annually in federal funding. This announcement further demonstrates President Trump's whole of America approach to fighting the coronavirus pandemic by ensuring those affected are fed.

Background:

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The SNAP online pilot is currently operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. The authorized retailers working with all pilot states are Amazon and Walmart, while Wrights Market and ShopRite are working with Alabama and New York respectively. USDA previously announced Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, North Carolina, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, and Kentucky, Missouri, and Texas would also be joining. With these 16 states, more than half of all households receiving SNAP will have access to online purchasing.

Though the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is receiving interest to expand the SNAP online pilot program, the responsibility is on state agencies, their third-party processor, and any retailers who wish to participate. To ease the process, FNS put together a simplified template for states who wish to enter the online pilot which is provided as an attachment to this letter.

USDA continues to provide significant technical assistance to interested states to ensure that plans are thorough and appropriate preliminary testing is conducted. If not done properly and judiciously, there is a risk to the State's entire benefit system. Each State, its EBT processor and retailers present their own mix of challenges so FNS is providing customer service based on each of their specific needs.

FNS will continue to work with interested states in advancing their participation in this pilot. Until States are prepared to operate the pilot, USDA recommends States utilize other options that retailers may already provide, such as Pay at Pick-up (also known as "Click and Collect"), where SNAP cardholders can shop online and then pay for their purchase using their EBT card at pick-up. Grocery pickup is already an option that these retailers offer beyond SNAP so they are already thinking through how they can provide a safe environment to do so with the growing concerns around social distancing.

During these challenging times, FNS is working hand-in-hand with state program leadership, to provide support and guidance to adapt to the challenges of this public health emergency. USDA intends to use available program flexibilities and contingencies to continue to serve our program participants. For up to date information and to learn more about flexibilities being used in FNS nutrition programs, please visit the FNS website.

#

Department of Agriculture | 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250

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Sent by feedback@oc.usda.gov

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response - 7/20/2020

USDA-20-1045-A-000778

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Info withheld under (b)(6) is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address.

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: WRAP UP: March 24 Waivers, Accomplishments
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:29:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP

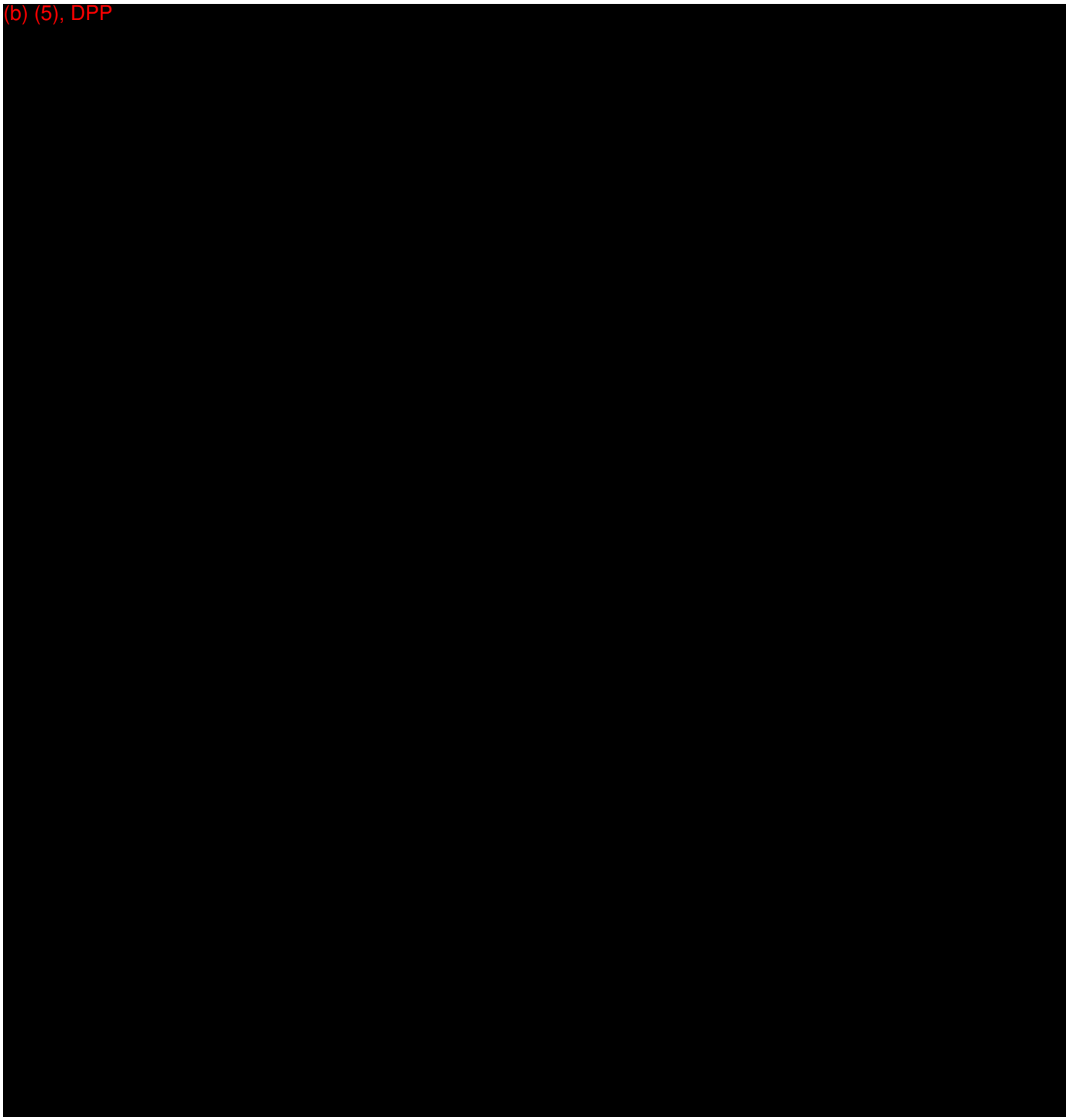
From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:27 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: WRAP UP: March 24 Waivers, Accomplishments

For internal purposes only. If you want to use any of the information below, please contact FNCS. Public materials can be found at https://www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Datlow, Lindsay - FNS
Cc:	Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject:	FW: Yesterday"s Call
Date:	Tuesday, March 24, 2020 11:44:00 AM
Attachments:	Secretary of Ag call 3.23.2020.docx

Lindsay –

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks!

From: Angela Olige <Angela.Olige@TexasAgriculture.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 11:39 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Yesterday's Call

Good morning, Brandon.

Differing perspective and levels of program knowledge has caused the telephone game to be rampant. To minimize that affect, three states on the call put together the notes of the call. If you can have someone to review and check our understanding and clarify any incorrect information, we would be most grateful. We want to achieve Secretary Purdue's objective of doing what is right and feeding everyone while protecting program integrity. We realize that when we overcome this challenge, there will be a need to report on what activities we did and who was served. We are absolutely dealing with the priority of serving children while keeping on our mind how to achieve and document program integrity.

Thank you in advance. We appreciate you and your staff.

Angela Olige
Assistant Commissioner
Texas Department of Agriculture
Angela.Olige@TexasAgriculture.gov
(512) 475-1028
"Wisdom is the principle thing so get wisdom.
And in all that you get, get understanding."

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 23, 2020

Notes from Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Brandon Lipps call.

- Do Right and Feed Everybody reiterated twice. Prevailing perspective
    - In closing, Secretary Purdue stated, paraphrased,
        - "Be as flexible as possible, use your people. Don't violate integrity or intention of rule.
- They are amazed by our efforts
- Brandon Lipps cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
- The Families First Coronavirus Relief Act gives USDA unprecedented flexibility to help states.
    - Secretary Perdue and Deputy Undersecretary Lipps said they are looking at additional nationwide waivers to send out to help states with administrative flexibilities
    - new authority and new nationwide waivers
    - specifically, for meal pattern flexibilities
- They are accepting state waiver requests to temporarily suspend area eligible requirements for SSO and SFSP
    - Submit a state waiver requests.
    - USDA cannot provide waiver eligibility for hungry college students at this time.
- These waivers should be approved within 24 hours
    - If we use the template.
        - *Unclear if this is the waiver template already in place or another template.*
- Non area eligible schools will be able to receive reimbursement for all meals claimed
    - How this will happen not clear at this time.
    - Some states are advising non-area eligible schools to count meals F/R/P using enrollment roster and "other" for meals served to unenrolled kids
    - Waivers for non-area eligible will be approved so long as the school is using "minimal program integrity" to ensure the right kids are being fed
- States must submit a separate waiver to allow parents to pick up meals on behalf of kids
    - Two waivers needed for no child present.
        - Physical absence of child – how will we verify who the meals are going to.
        - Meal time
- The 3/6 Q&A addresses home delivered meal where kids are not present not Grab-n-go
- Partnership with Baylor – go to www.mealstoyou.org
- USDA working on ensuring US food supply chain is fully functional during this pandemic crisis
    - Families First act: in relation to requests for waivers of meal pattern: we want kids fed even if disruption in food supply (Sec. Purdue)
- Pandemic SNAP- the value of a free breakfast and lunch will be put on current EBT cards and state Medicaid and Education agencies must work together to locate households not on SNAP but eligible for free and reduced price meals so they also receive temporary EBT cards
- If states choose this option, must submit a plan to be approved.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: Fwd: A Few FNCS Issues
Date: Saturday, March 28, 2020 10:34:42 PM

Forgot to send this earlier.

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From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 10:59:03 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: A Few FNCS Issues

Info withheld under (b)(6) are Purdue and Censky alias email addresses.

Concur with all recommendations!

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 10:42:47 AM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: A Few FNCS Issues

Sir:

Below are a few issues I wanted to run by you for clearance prior to proceeding. Please let us know if you are good or if you would like to discuss and we will set up a time.

Regards,
Brandon

1. **Issue:** (b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

Recommendation: (b) (5), DPP

2. **Issue:** (b) (5), DPP

Recommendation: (b) (5), DPP

3. **Issue:** (b) (5), DPP

Recommendation: (b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Additional Guidance Docs for OIRA Review - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 4:13:10 PM
Attachments: (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: ONeill, Stephen - OBPA, Washington, DC <Stephen.ONeill@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 4:07:10 PM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Cc: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>; Perry, Andrew - OBPA, Washington, DC <andrew.perry@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Additional Guidance Docs for OIRA Review - COVID-19

Good afternoon, Rebeckah. With your approval, (b) (5), DPP

Steve

From: Stewart, Kelly - FNS <kelly.stewart@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 3:54 PM
Subject: RE: Additional Guidance Docs for OIRA Review - COVID-19

Hi Andrew and Steve,

Please find attached two new SNAP documents for OIRA review. This completes our submissions for today.

Thank you!

Kelly

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: bill text summary FNCS provisions
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:19:52 PM

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:32:47 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: bill text

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:48 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: bill text

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

-
-
-
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-
-
-
-
-
-

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: bill text

What is your timeline? Do you want (b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:42 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: bill text

Thanks for the draft summary earlier. Can you put together summary of FNCS provisions in the bill draft released? (sorry if Evan or OBPA already asked this of you)

https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20200511/BILLS-116hr6800ih.pdf

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: California, Arizona to offer online purchasing for SNAP
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 1:47:54 PM

Decent story!

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From: POLITICO Pro Agriculture <politicoemail@politicopro.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 1:41:04 PM

To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Subject: California, Arizona to offer online purchasing for SNAP

California, Arizona to offer online purchasing for SNAP

By Liz Crampton

04/08/2020 01:40 PM EDT

California and Arizona have been approved to allow food stamp recipients to buy groceries online, Agriculture Department officials announced today.

Those states will be allowed to participate in an ongoing pilot program experimenting with giving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients the option to use their benefits to shop for groceries online.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said on a media call that letting California and Arizona into the pilot will allow nearly 5 million more people to use online shopping services that often include delivery. Offering online shopping for SNAP "goes a long way in helping Americans follow the CDC distancing guidelines," Perdue said.

As the coronavirus outbreak has spread, states and anti-hunger groups have requested that USDA expand the pilot nationwide to give low-income people a safe way to get food.

Only six other states offer online SNAP purchasing; some places like Alabama sped up its program's launch due to the pandemic.

California and Arizona are expected to launch their SNAP online programs by the end of the month, said Brandon Lipps, deputy undersecretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer services. It's up to state agencies, third party electronic benefit transfer processors and retailers to design SNAP online programs, he said.

USDA has put together a simplified template for other states to join the pilot, he added.

To view online:
https://subscriber.politicopro.com/agriculture/whiteboard/2020/04/california-arizona-to-offer-online-purchasing-for-snap-3979098

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020 4:31:28 PM

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Info withheld under (b)(6) is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address.

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:47:11 PM
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC <Mindy.Brashears@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities

Mr. Deputy Secretary –

I wanted to share the below with you for (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Regards,
Brandon

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>

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Subject: FW: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Importance: High

See below

From: Lowell Randel <lrandel@gcca.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Importance: High

Pam,

I hope you are doing well during these crazy times. I wanted to reach out and let you know of a concern that some of our members are raising about operations during the coronavirus outbreak. As counties and states start to "lockdown" or close operations, we feel that it is critical our members have the ability to keep operating. I know that at least the House relief package addresses food security and emergency SNAP and other feeding programs. If our member facilities are forced to stop operations, they will not be able to deliver food to support these programs. As you know, many of our members handle food that supports USDA food programs, so I thought I would raise the issue with you to get your thoughts.

I know this is a very crazy time, but I'd really appreciate your insights on what our industry can do to make sure our members can keep operating and supporting the food supply chain.

Thanks!

Lowell

Cell (b) (6) [redacted]

LOWELL RANDEL
VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL AFFAIRS
GLOBAL COLD CHAIN ALLIANCE
phone +1 703 373 4300 ext. 220
lrandel@gcca.org

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Coronavirus pushes New York City"s food pantries to "nothing short of a crisis"
Date: Saturday, March 21, 2020 4:06:08 PM

Info withheld under (b)(6) is Secretary Purdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses.

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 3:57:46 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Coronavirus pushes New York City's food pantries to 'nothing short of a crisis'

Sir –

A few updates in the FNCS space:

1 (b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

We will continue to keep you updated as we learn more. Let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Brandon

From: POLITICO Pro Agriculture <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Reply-To: POLITICO subscriptions <reply-fe971c727160017c75-553241_HTML-637937742-1376319-332804@politicoemail.com>
Date: Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 11:10 AM
To: Tyler Stephens <tstephens@fiercegr.com>
Subject: Coronavirus pushes New York City's food pantries to 'nothing short of a crisis'

Coronavirus pushes New York City's food pantries to 'nothing short of a crisis'

By Sally Goldenberg

03/21/2020 11:09 AM EDT

NEW YORK — The fast-spreading coronavirus is squeezing the city's food pantries and soup kitchens, with dozens closing across the five boroughs and crucial delivery volunteers staying inside as the number of homebound people in need of meals skyrockets.

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The Food Bank For New York City, which supplies more than 1,000 pantries and soup kitchens, said 118 of those in its network suspended service as of Friday evening.

A food policy official with the de Blasio administration said at least 40 of the nearly 600 facilities the city funds have closed — some of which overlap with the Food Bank's count.

The mayor's team is finalizing a plan to deliver 150,000 meals daily, a more than eight-fold increase from its current tally, but as a nervous public stockpiles food, supplies are tightening and prices are surging.

Late Friday afternoon, a produce vendor canceled a delivery of 400,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables expected to arrive at the doors of the Met Council on Jewish Poverty, a prominent philanthropic organization that supplies 40 food pantries throughout the city.

"We are now scrambling to find a different vendor, but there's no question that that's going to cost us significantly more," Met Council CEO David Greenfield told POLITICO, shortly after hearing the news.

The decades-old organization provides free kosher food to people of all faiths and was gearing up for a Passover distribution ahead of the April holiday when the virus took hold in the city. As of Friday evening, Mayor Bill de Blasio's office reported the coronavirus had infected 5,683 people and killed 43 in the city, and the count has been increasing by the hour.

Greenfield has been sounding the alarm this week about the one-two punch of rising food prices that puts his buyers in competition with behemoth corporations like Walmart and Costco, and a shortage of volunteers as people heed directives about leaving their homes. So far, Met Council has closed four of its 40 pantries and more of the seniors it serves are sheltering inside, he said.

"These low-income New Yorkers who are living hand to mouth, they're not able to stock up their pantries like you and I are," he said in an interview Thursday. "It's nothing short of a crisis."

Met Council is planning to package and deliver food from its Brooklyn warehouse on Sunday, since its regular pantries are too small for the "social distancing" guidelines in place to mitigate the spread of the virus.

In the past two weeks the organization spent $1.1 million more than it normally would to accommodate a 32-percent increase in demand and higher food prices, such as a 50-percent markup for canned tuna, Greenfield said. And that was before the cancellation of the massive

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produce order.

“We have people calling us, begging us, desperate, saying ‘I just lost my job, please give me food.’ What am I going to say? No?” he said.

Food providers like Met Council are seeking additional funds from state officials as they finalize their budget and they’re likely to seek relief from City Hall next.

City Council Speaker Corey Johnson said finding a solution to the problem is a “top priority.”

“The situation is dire,” he said Friday evening. “Time is of the essence.”

Lisa Hines-Johnson, chief operating officer at the city Food Bank, said Congress “took a much-needed step by passing the Families First Act,” which requires paid sick leave for certain employees isolated because of coronavirus. “Now we need them to focus on providing a strong safety net for low-income Americans,” she said.

Kate MacKenzie, who oversees food policy for the de Blasio administration, said City Hall is in talks with transit and delivery companies, such as Uber, Lyft and FedEx, to potentially get more meals delivered to low-income, homebound New Yorkers.

She said facilities that shut were lacking volunteers, and stressed she has seen no evidence of a food supply shortage.

“It’s a very fragile network in the best of times, and certainly this is taxing it,” she said in an interview Friday.

The challenge, she said, is getting food to people who are holed up in their apartments to avoid crowds, in keeping with city and state guidelines that have intensified over the week. While food shopping is considered a permissible outing, seniors and those with underlying health conditions are more vulnerable to the illness, for which there is no vaccine.

Governments generally set up large food distribution points in times of disaster, but MacKenzie said that is “out of the question right now.”

“Every time we think we’re close to a solution there’s another wrinkle that we need to solve for,” she said. The city will have a plan finalized early next week for ramping up home deliveries, she vowed: “We are sleeves rolled up thinking creatively to get people fed in ways that just we have never had to imagine before.”

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Covid-19 hits hog farmers, processors — Trump's school lunch rollback in limbo — More states want in on online SNAP
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 7:20:09 AM

Not enough coffee, I forwarded the wrong email before. Try this one:

Note (b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

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From: POLITICO Pro's Morning Agriculture <politicoemail@politicopro.com>

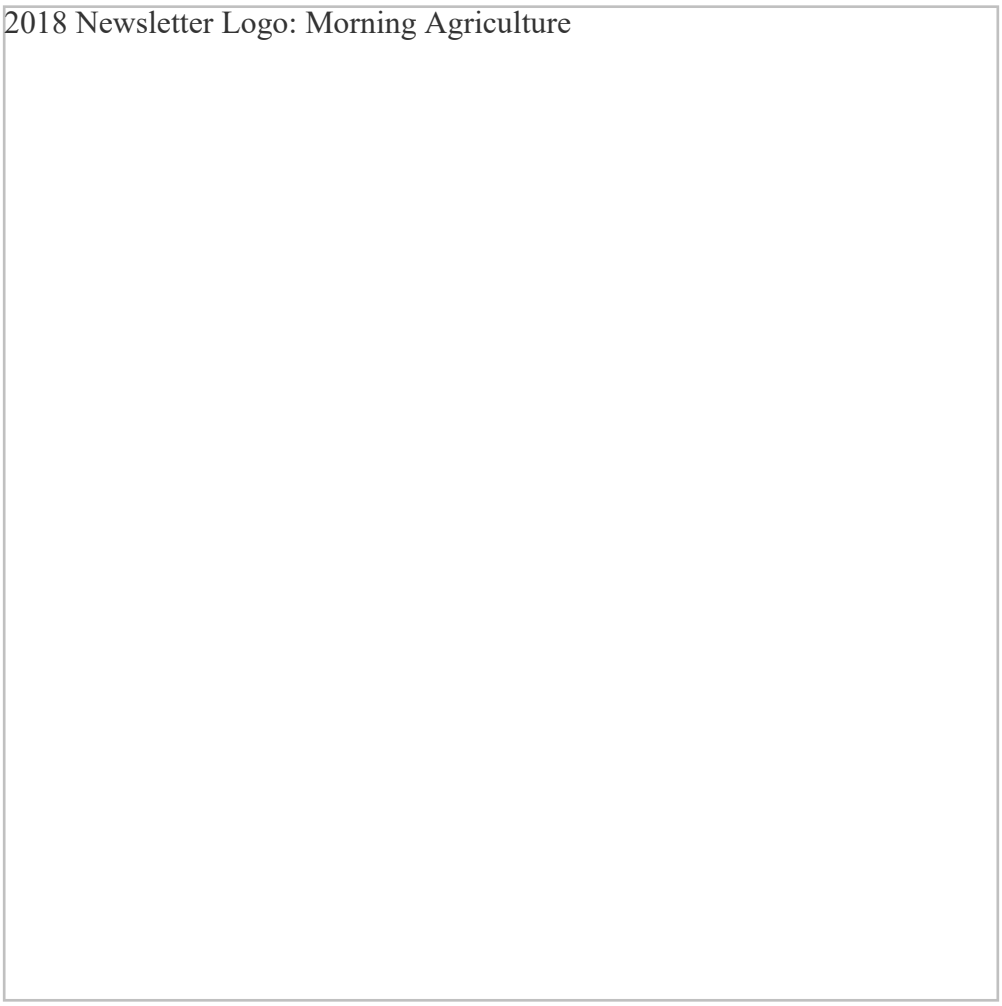
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 5:50:54 AM

To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Subject: Covid-19 hits hog farmers, processors — Trump's school lunch rollback in limbo — More states want in on online SNAP

Apr 15, 2020 View in browser

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BY **RYAN MCCRIMMON**

With help from Helena Bottemiller Evich

QUICK FIX

— The pork industry could see $5 billion fly out the window this year as processing plants shut down because of the coronavirus and hog prices plummet. The industry is asking for "equitable" treatment under federal stimulus programs.

— The Agriculture Department could be forced to start from scratch as the Trump administration tries to unwind Obama-era school nutrition requirements, after a federal court this week vacated USDA's 2018 rule to ease whole grain and sodium standards.

— Virginia senators asked USDA to approve the state's request to let low-income families use their nutrition benefits online. A growing number of states are

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trying to narrow the social distancing gap for food stamp recipients who lack e-commerce options for buying groceries.

HAPPY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15! Welcome to Morning Ag, and check out these very good dogs delivering wine and groceries while the humans are social distancing. Send tips to rmccrimmon@politico.com and @ryanmccrimmon, and follow us @Morning_Ag.

Sign up for POLITICO Nightly: Coronavirus Special Edition, your daily update on how the illness is affecting politics, markets, public health and more.

DRIVING THE DAY

CORONAVIRUS HITS HOG FARMERS, PORK PROCESSORS: The National Pork Producers Council said Tuesday that the loss of foodservice customers, a drop in pork exports and a series of slaughterhouse closures across the country is wreaking havoc on the industry, writes Pro Ag's Liz Crampton.

Farm economists with Kerns & Associates and Iowa State University estimate that hog farmers will lose nearly $37 per pig because of the market turmoil, adding up to about $5 billion for the rest of 2020. The shutdown of major processing sites like the Smithfield site in Sioux Falls, S.D., has caused a surplus of hogs, driving down their value.

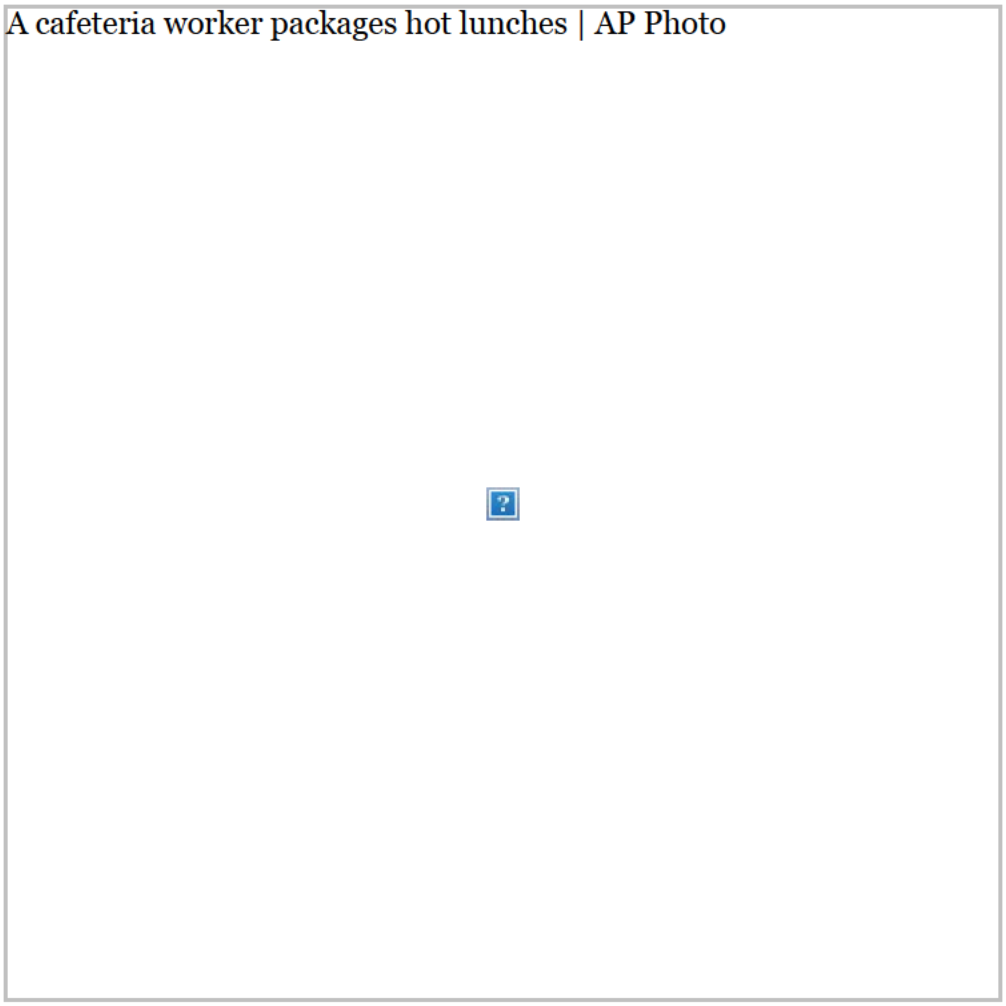
"We are taking on water fast. Immediate action is imperative, or a lot of hog farms will go under," said NPPC President Howard A.V. Roth. For example, the group is asking USDA to buy up more than $1 billion in pork products, helping to clear out the backed-up meat supply and to lift the financial pressure on producers. Those goods could be redirected to food banks, where demand is surging.

NPPC also wants "equitable" treatment for pork producers, without eligibility restrictions, under USDA's upcoming farm stimulus program, which the department is expected to unveil as soon as this week.

POLITICO Pro is here to help you navigate these unprecedented times. Check out our new **Covid-19 Coverage Roundup** , which provides a daily summary of top Covid-19 news coverage from across all 16 federal policy verticals as well as premium content, such as DataPoint graphics. Please sign up at our settings page

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response - 000855
USDA-20-1045-A-000808

to receive this unique roundup sent directly to your inbox every weekday afternoon.



A cafeteria worker packages hot lunches | AP Photo

TRUMP'S SCHOOL LUNCH ROLLBACK IN LIMBO: As school officials across the country scramble to serve meals to millions of students amid widespread closures, there's a looming regulatory question: What nutrition standards will they have to follow next year?

A federal court decision on Monday potentially turned the landscape upside down. The court ruled that USDA's 2018 rule to relax whole grain and sodium standards — which had been championed by former first lady Michelle Obama — violated the Administrative Procedure Act.

"This really puts the agency back at ground zero," said Karianne Jones, a lawyer at Democracy Forward, the legal watchdog group that represented the

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Center for Science in the Public Interest and Healthy School Food Maryland in their lawsuit against USDA.

Cooking from scratch: If USDA wants to keep its policy, the department will likely have to start the rulemaking over, including soliciting comments, a process that usually takes years, Jones said.

What's next? The government has 60 days to appeal the decision. A USDA spokesperson declined to comment on next steps, noting that the department doesn't weigh in on pending litigation.

MORE STATES WANT IN ON ONLINE SNAP: Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine are asking USDA to let Virginia join a handful of states where Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants can use their benefits to buy groceries online. In a letter to the department, the Democrats said the pandemic is the perfect time to expand the pilot program, created by the 2014 farm bill, to help low-income families stay fed while staying home.

The pilot program designated eight states to test online SNAP purchases through designated retailers like Amazon and Walmart. But amid the coronavirus outbreak, other states have been asking USDA to join the program, and the department has already signed off on several requests.

Using SNAP benefits online comes with some technical hurdles, hence the initial test run in just a few states. But it also could go a long way toward helping the 42 million Americans who rely on food stamps to avoid going out and risking infection. Lawmakers and anti-hunger advocates have asked USDA to rapidly expand the program and relax restrictions surrounding e-commerce options for SNAP users.

TRUMP TAPS FOOD, FARM GIANTS FOR ECONOMIC GROUPS: The president on Tuesday named major food and agriculture executives to several "economic revival" panels advising the administration on how to "chart the path forward toward a future of unparalleled American prosperity" following the coronavirus pandemic, according to a White House notice.

The agriculture panel includes leaders of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Sysco Corporation, Tyson Foods, Perdue Farms, Cargill, Archer Daniels Midland,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Corteva Agriscience, Tractor Supply Co., Seaboard Corp. and more.

There's also a separate food and beverage industry panel, featuring execs from Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Starbucks, McDonald's, Chick-fil-A, Wendy's, Waffle House, Papa John's and more, along with chef and restaurateur Wolfgang Puck. The Washington Post has more on the "economic revival industry groups."

New: POLITICO Pro Dashboard. Pro's new Dashboard is your personalized policy hub. Log in each day to get real-time updates on what's new and important across the news, tools and resources available within the Pro Edge platform. Get started today.

ROW CROPS

— Cash-strapped rural hospitals that were left out of a loan program in the coronavirus rescue package could run out of money just as the virus hits the heartland, writes Pro Health Care's Rachel Roubein. A third of rural hospitals are owned by local governments, which precludes them from receiving small business loans, and lawmakers are now seeking a legislative or regulatory fix.

— The coronavirus will cause the worst global recession since the Great Depression nearly a century ago, the International Monetary Fund predicted Tuesday in its annual World Economic Outlook. The global economy is expected to contract by 3 percent in 2020, Pro Trade's Adam Behsudi reports.

— The Treasury Department estimates 80 million Americans will receive their stimulus checks by today. So far, recipients are largely using the money to buy groceries and other essentials, according to Netspend, which processed nearly $1 billion in stimulus payments as of Monday. The Washington Post has the story.

— Cannabis companies in states where marijuana is legal should have access to federal stimulus loans, the United Food and Commercial Workers union wrote to the Small Business Administration last week. Pro Cannabis' Natalie Fertig has the details.

— House Ag Chairman Collin Peterson wants USDA to move faster to get

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farm products to food banks. Food waste continues to be a widespread problem, while food banks face surging demand. Read the Minnesota Democrat's letter to the department.

— Lilia McFarland Horder, former USDA acting chief of staff for departmental administration, has left the administration for Monument Advocacy and plans to register as a lobbyist, per POLITICO Influence.

DON'T MISS POLITICO DISPATCH: A fast, short, daily briefing featured in the "Covid-19 Essential Listening" section on Apple Podcasts. Go behind the scenes at POLITICO where journalists break news, work source as, and deliver critical reporting and analysis on this once in a century pandemic. Subscribe and start listening today.

ON THE CALENDAR

11 a.m. Crowell and Moring hosts a web discussion on "The COVID-19 Pandemic and Imports: How Companies Can Effectively Move Goods In a Changing Environment."

Noon The Environmental and Energy Study Institute hosts a webcast on "Coastal Historical Sites and Climate."

Noon The Cato Institute holds a webcast on "Trade in a Pandemic: Traditional issues, New Concerns, and Optimal Policy Responses."

Send your calendar items and cancellations to agcalendar@politico.com.

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Helena Bottemiller Evich @hbottemiller

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: DeLauro, Bishop Urge USDA Secretary to Ensure Families Have Food Security During Coronavirus Outbreak
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 7:46:06 PM
Attachments: image001.png

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From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 7:41:48 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: DeLauro, Bishop Urge USDA Secretary to Ensure Families Have Food Security During Coronavirus Outbreak

FYI

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 7:41 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: DeLauro, Bishop Urge USDA Secretary to Ensure Families Have Food Security During Coronavirus Outbreak

Info withheld under (b)(6) is Purdue and Censky alias email addresses.

Sir, (b) (5), DPP

Ken

From: Serio, Will <Will.Serio@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 7:23 PM
To: Serio, Will <Will.Serio@mail.house.gov>
Subject: DeLauro, Bishop Urge USDA Secretary to Ensure Families Have Food Security During Coronavirus Outbreak

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2020
CONTACT:
Will Serio (DeLauro), 202-225-3661
Jonathan Black (Bishop), 202-225-3631

DeLauro, Bishop Urge USDA Secretary to Ensure Families Have Food Security During Coronavirus Outbreak

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, **Congresswomen Rosa DeLauro (CT-03)** and **Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-02)** sent a letter to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue urging him to take action to ensure American families have food security during the ongoing coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19). Each year, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Child Nutrition programs provide millions of children and families with access to food.

DeLauro and Bishop request that Secretary Perdue:

- immediately suspend implementation of rule changes that would reduce SNAP benefits or affect eligibility;
- support Congressional action to expand SNAP benefits, which was done in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)*;
- waive the congregate meal requirement for schools outside of area eligibility; and,
- work with the Department of Education to develop plans that detail how students will receive access to Child Nutrition Programs before schools shutdown.

A signed copy of the letter can be found here, and the full text is below. DeLauro serves as Vice Chair of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, and Bishop is the Chair of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee.

March 9, 2020

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable George Ervin "Sonny" Perdue III
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

Ahead of your testimony tomorrow before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, we write to express our concerns regarding the impact of the current outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and urge you to take decisive action to ensure program access.

States and localities are beginning to employ social distancing strategies as a means of containing the virus. For some, this has meant temporary school closures which jeopardize access to school meals for students, including the nearly 22 million children who rely on free and reduced school lunches.

While we applaud USDA's recent efforts to accommodate schools in California and Washington, we believe more can be done, such as waiving the congregate meal requirement for schools outside of area eligibility. Additionally, USDA should work with the Department of Education to provide states with the resources and guidance to develop plans that detail how students will receive access to child nutrition programs *before* a school shuts down.

Furthermore, with regard to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), we urge you to immediately suspend any Department rulemaking that would reduce benefits or affect program eligibility. Enacting any such changes during this time will only exacerbate current economic anxiety and unnecessarily increase the burden on the very people who need assistance. Instead, as considerations of a broader economic stimulus package progresses, we strongly believe expanding the SNAP benefit will be a vital anti-recession tool, just as it was when Congress included a temporary benefit boost in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*.

We remain committed to working with you to ensure American families have the support they need at this uncertain time.

Sincerely,

_____
SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

_____
ROSA L. DeLAURO
Vice Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

###

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: DRAFT Event Brief // House Approps Call with SP (Tues. April 21 at 1pm)
Date: Sunday, April 19, 2020 8:43:45 PM

Please let me know what you need from me for prep. Thanks

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From: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 8:29:08 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: DRAFT Event Brief // House Approps Call with SP (Tues. April 21 at 1pm)

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

--
Evan B. Lee
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
c: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 8:26 PM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: DRAFT Event Brief // House Approps Call with SP (Tues. April 21 at 1pm)

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks again for all the work on these!

From: "Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC" <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Date: Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 5:51 PM
To: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>, Veronica Wong <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>

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Subject: RE: DRAFT Event Brief // House Approps Call with SP (Tues. April 21 at 1pm)

Attached are the correspondence summaries Jordan, Zellie and Torie wrote and the updated Member bios.

Sending the revised briefer to the group shortly.

--
Evan B. Lee
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
c: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: DRAFT Event Brief // House Approps Call with SP (Tues. April 21 at 1pm)

Evan, read through the document. I think (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Thanks again!

From: "Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC" <evan.lee@usda.gov>

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Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 at 9:34 AM
To: Kristi Boswell <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>, Dudley Hoskins <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>, Mary Beal <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>, Campbell Shuford <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>, Kyle Liske <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>
Cc: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: DRAFT Event Brief // House Approps Call with SP (Tues. April 21 at 1pm)

Hi All – the Secretary is holding a call with the House Appropriations full Committee next Tuesday at 1pm to provide an update on CARES Act implementation and USDA response to COVID-19. Attached is the draft event brief.

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Appreciate you all taking a look!

Evan B. Lee
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Feeding America Letter
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:39:14 AM
Attachments: Feeding-America-COVID-Relief-Package-4-letter.pdf
image001.png
image003.png

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)

From: Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:15:41 AM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Feeding America Letter

Sharing with you. (b) (5), DPP

Greg Ibach
Under Secretary
Marketing & Regulatory Programs

United States Department of Agriculture
228-W Whitten Building
Office: (b) (6)
Cell: (b) (6)
greg.ibach@osec.usda.gov

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Info withheld in "From:" field is Censky alias email address.
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 7:58 AM
To: Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Summers, Bruce - AMS <Bruce.Summers@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: Feeding America Letter

Greg and Brandon,

Assume you all have seen the attached Feeding America letter. (b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) [redacted]
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

April 6, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
S-230 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
S-221 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-222 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and McCarthy:

On behalf of Feeding America and our network of member food banks, thank you for your work on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Together, these two laws will help our network meet the increase in need for charitable food assistance and connect people with aid from the federal nutrition programs. We face an unprecedented increase in demand, and swift additional legislative action will be key to our ability to help Americans weather this crisis. In many areas, our food banks are concerned that they will not have enough food on hand. While we are grateful for the generous investments in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), our network will need additional assistance in the coming months. It is also clear that no amount of charitable intervention will be enough to meet the need without an accompanying increase in benefits in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Summary of Recommendations:

- Increase SNAP benefits by at least 15 percent for as long as the economy is weak, not just during the public health emergency, to provide effective economic stimulus and critical food assistance.
- Increase the SNAP minimum monthly benefit from $16 to $30.
- Increase TEFAP food and funding.

Current Impact on Feeding America Network

Food banks in many areas are already struggling to keep up with demand, with individuals in some communities waiting hours for emergency food distributions. With more than 10 million people having filed for unemployment benefits during the last wo weeks, we believe the urgent need for food assistance will continue to increase. Feeding America has analyzed the potential impact of the pandemic and we predict up to an additional 17.1 million people could experience food insecurity, a 46 percent increase from the 37 million who were food insecure prior to the outbreak of the pandemic.

In order to help quantify the need for resources across our network, Feeding America conducted a pulse survey of our food banks on April 2. Every one of our 200 member food banks reported a significant increase in the need for food assistance in their communities, with an average 60 percent increase in demand. Operating costs for food banks have also increased as volunteers stay home in accordance with federal recommendations.

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response
USDA-20-1045-A-000822

Food banks reported concerns about finding and accessing additional food in the immediate short term. 20 percent of food banks are concerned about running out of food in the next two to four weeks. 45 percent of food banks will distribute all TEFAP food on hand within the next four weeks. Food banks are struggling to find shelf stable food to purchase for immediate food distribution as the supply chain adjusts.

The additional TEFAP food provided by Congress in recent legislation will help to fill this gap, but it is not expected to arrive until July. We are working closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help fill this gap, and request your support in urging them to work proactively to provide short-term food assistance for food banks experiencing a food shortfall until additional TEFAP food starts arriving.

We also surveyed our network regarding how easily they can distribute food during the pandemic while also meeting the federal regulatory requirements for TEFAP food. Even while nearly half will distribute all food on hand in the coming weeks, over seventy-four food banks report experiencing difficulty in safely complying with TEFAP program requirements due to COVID-19, a number we expect to increase as the pandemic continues and more areas of the country experience significant disruption.

Food banks are struggling to help millions of people access emergency food assistance for the first time while trying to register them for TEFAP. This process requires lengthy client interaction that could expose staff, volunteers, or the people we serve to the disease as they collect data. States can request permission for a disaster household distribution program under which USDA may waive these requirements. Unfortunately, this process has been unpredictable, and we urge either a legislative or administrative fix to this challenge.

Recommendations for Future Legislation

As you craft future legislation, we urge you to include additional funding for federal nutrition programs like SNAP and TEFAP during the pandemic and any economic downturn that follows. We remain concerned about our ability to identify enough resources to offset the increased food needs and distribution challenges, despite the incredible generosity of individuals and companies. For people who need economic support, increasing benefits and expanding access to SNAP during the pandemic and economic recovery can provide necessary food resources while also providing an economic stimulus to our nation's food retailers.

For every meal provide by our food banks, SNAP provides nine – there is simply no way that our network can make up for the unparalleled strength of SNAP to increase food security and stimulate local economies. Households typically spend their monthly benefits quickly, making SNAP a particularly effective stimulus in providing quick support to local economies. According to an analysis by Moody's Analytics of SNAP benefits during the recession in 2009, every dollar in SNAP helped generate more than $1.70 in economic activity. Similarly, the Congressional Budget Office rated an increase in SNAP benefits as one of the most cost-effective ways to boost economic growth and create jobs in a weak economy. Given the importance of SNAP, we also oppose the implementation of any pending rules that would limit SNAP eligibility and benefits.

Specifically, we urge you to include the following provisions in future legislation:

SNAP:

- Increase SNAP benefits for all recipients by increasing the thrifty food plan by at least 15 percent for as long as the economy is weak to help promote economic stimulus and push against the economic downturn. This will provide critical food resources for families and

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

relieve some of the pressure on our network.

- Increase the SNAP minimum benefit from $16 to $30 to help individuals impacted by COVID-19, particularly seniors, for the duration of the economic downturn.

Increase TEFAP food and funding:

- Given the unique challenges our network will face to distribute food in accordance with recommendations to reduce spread of the virus, we expect to need additional food and funding in TEFAP. The investment of $600 million in TEFAP food and $250 million in TEFAP storage and distribution will not be enough to meet the demand. Therefore, we request an additional $500 million for future food needs. We are also supportive of USDA market support purchases, but in some cases, these foods may be difficult for food banks to distribute using no-touch distribution models. Therefore, we request $500 million in additional funding for TEFAP storage and distribution to assist with costs, including those incurred when distributing USDA market support purchases and disaster household food distribution programs.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Kate Leone
Chief Government Relations Officer
Feeding America

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Brandon Lipps
Subject: Fwd: FNS Update Briefing doc
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 4:12:21 PM
Attachments: image001.png
SP Denials and Updates 040120.docx

Get Outlook for iOS

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 12:10:26 PM

To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: FNS Update Briefing doc

Campbell, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:08 AM

To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

Subject: Re: FNS Update Briefing doc

Great!

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:06:39 AM

To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: FNS Update Briefing doc

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:05 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: FNS Update Briefing doc

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:03:28 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNS Update Briefing doc

We'll get it there asap. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:13 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FNS Update Briefing doc

Hailey and Kiki asking for final briefing doc.

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From: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:12 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FNS Update Briefing doc

Hi! Do you have a briefing doc for this afternoon?

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Hailey Ghee
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 205-9982
Cell: (b) (6)

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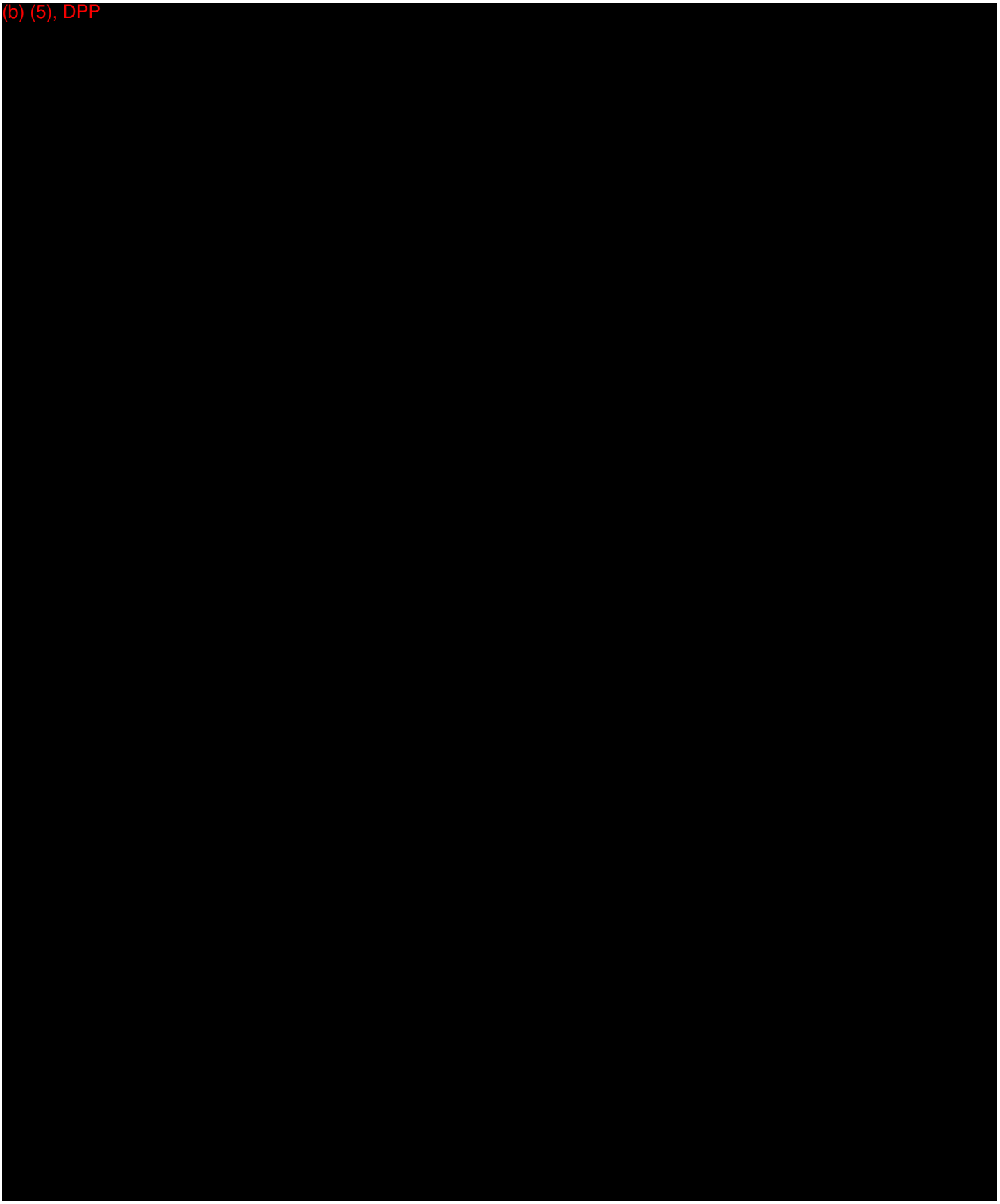
To: Secretary Perdue
From: Campbell, Brandon, Anne - FNCS
Date: April 1, 2020
Re: (b) (5), DPP

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP



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(b) (5), DPP



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From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Brandon Lipps
Subject:	Fwd: For 2pm
Date:	Monday, April 20, 2020 1:01:16 PM
Attachments:	CFAP Stakeholder Call (Distributors and Food Banks) 042020.docx

Get Outlook for iOS

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 12:34:41 PM

To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Subject: For 2pm

Here is the run of show for the 2pm. It is only scheduled to be a half hour.

As I mentioned, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CFAP NON-PROFITS/DISTRIBUTORS CALL

Monday, April 20, 2020

2:00-2:30 PM (EST)

Host Toll-Free: (b) (6)

Access Code (b) (6)

Co-Host Password: (b)

AGENDA

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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Script

(b) (5), DPP

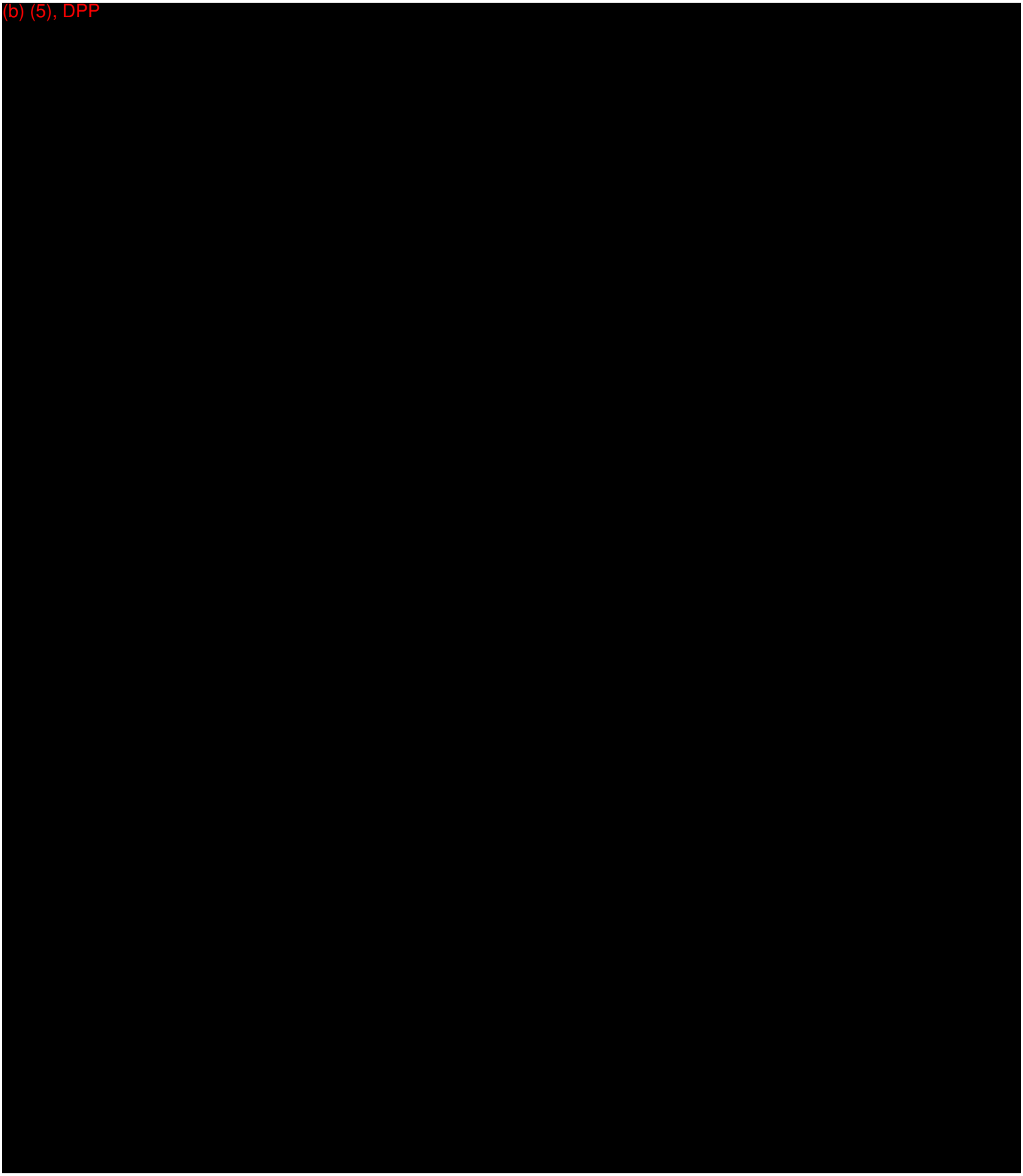
[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: For Review: SNAP Items - 4/20 @ 5 PM
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 8:05:20 PM
Attachments: 20200413_TexasSNAPOnlinePilotPlan_Waiver.pdf
MO SNAP COVID-19 Expedited Online Purchasing Waiver Request - 4.17.20.pdf
KY OPP application.pdf
WV - Excessive Card Replacement Notice Waiver response.pdf
IL-SNAP-COV-074-AuthorizedRepresentative-Approval 042020.docx

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Get Outlook for iOS

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 5:21:15 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: For Review: SNAP Items - 4/20 @ 5 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 4:53 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: For Review: SNAP Items - 4/20 @ 5 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

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CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Andy Beshear
Governor

275 East Main Street, 5W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621
502-564-7042
502-564-7091
www.chfs.ky.gov/dcbs

Eric C. Friedlander
Acting Secretary

April 17, 2020

Gene Malveaux
SNAP Integrity Branch
Southeast Region, Food and Nutrition Services
United States Department of Agriculture
61 Forsyth Street, Suite 8T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Malveaux:

Please see attached waiver request for Kentucky to participate in the Online Purchasing Pilot.

Please contact Jason.Dunn@ky.gov if there are questions regarding the request. Your consideration of the waiver application is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Eric C. Friedlander
Acting Secretary

EF/PDB/SC

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1 of 1 000846

State Plan for Providing Online Purchasing to SNAP Households

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

1. **Type of Request:** Initial

2. **Primary Citation:** Implementation of Expedited Online Purchasing Option for SNAP due to Covid-19 and the National Emergency declared on March 13, 2020.

3. **State:** KY

4. **Proposed Alternative Procedures:**

   The State proposes to provide online purchasing as an option to SNAP households in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 that was declared a National Emergency on March 13, 2020, resulting in many individuals needing to self-quarantine and engage in social distancing, which in turn has made it challenging for some SNAP households to travel to stores to purchase food.

   The State acknowledges that an expedited timeframe for this project carries some inherent risks, such as potential disruption to normal EBT transaction processing if the changes are not thoroughly tested before implementation. The requirements outlined below allow the State to address how these risks would be mitigated.

Requirements: By submitting this plan to FNS, the State is confirming/ acknowledging the following:

- A change order has been executed with the EBT Processor for these changes or an agreement has been reached as to how costs will be covered.
- This plan has been discussed with the contracted EBT Processor, the Third Party Processor/Secure PIN-entry Provider (TPP) and the experienced retailers **currently authorized for online purchasing**, and all parties agree they can support an implementation date of *May 19, 2020*. **A letter of commitment from each of these stakeholders is attached to this plan.**

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- The timeline in this plan includes the following activities:
    - Full documentation of the changes to the EBT system or a plan for how/when such documentation will be received.
    - QA testing of the EBT system (either by the processor or the State) to include not only online purchasing functionality but also regression testing of point of sale transaction processing.
- The changes necessary for online purchasing have been fully reviewed such that the State was able to subsequently assess any downstream impacts of these changes to their State system(s).
- The State has developed a detailed timeline and is able to make the necessary updates to their systems by the implementation date and will have the necessary technical resources to meet the timeline and requirements. *The state determined that no changes are needed to the eligibility system.*
- EBT test cards will be provided to retailers such that end-to-end testing is conducted in the production environment, and passed prior to opening up online purchasing to SNAP households. This testing will include all stakeholders of this project including: the State, the EBT Processor, the TPP, the retailers and FNS. This testing involves the retailer running standard transaction scenarios on the their website (successful purchase, insufficient funds, invalid PIN, balance inquiry, split tender, etc…) and verifying that the transactions execute as expected and the State is able to view the transaction details in their State EBT system.

Reporting: The State commits to report to FNS regarding project development status (via email or phone call) at least weekly, and to inform FNS of any changes to the implementation plan or expected launch date.

5. **Justification for Request:** Coronavirus COVID-19

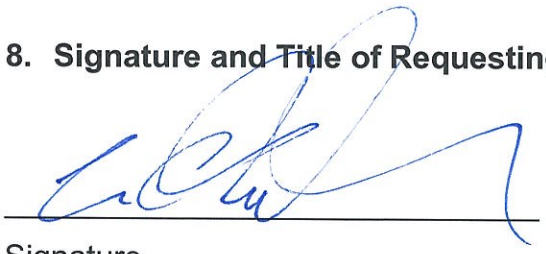
6. **Affected Caseload:** Any households in the State will be able to utilize online purchasing. [IF RETAILERS PLAN TO START IN A LIMITED AREA AND EXPAND COVERAGE OVER A PERIOD OF TIME ADDRESS THAT IN THE RESPONSE.] *Walmart will conduct online purchasing at two separate store locations before expanding coverage statewide as detailed in the attached Letter of Commitment. Amazon will*

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conduct initial online purchasing in a limited coverage area prior to full state rollout. The launch regions will be determined prior to implementation.

7. **Anticipated Implementation Date:** *May 19, 2020*

8. **Signature and Title of Requesting State Agency Official:**



Signature

Eric C. Friedlander

Acting Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services

9. **Date of Request:** April 17, 2020

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Missouri Plan for Providing Online Purchasing to SNAP Households

1. **Type of Request:** Initial

2. **Primary Citation:** Implementation of Expedited Online Purchasing Option for SNAP due to COVID-19 and the National Emergency declared on March 13, 2020.

3. **State:** Missouri

4. **Proposed Alternative Procedures:**

   Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division (FSD) proposes to provide online purchasing as an option to SNAP households in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 that was declared a National Emergency on March 13, 2020, resulting in many individuals needing to self-quarantine and engage in social distancing, which in turn has made it challenging for some SNAP households to travel to stores to purchase food.

   FSD acknowledges that an expedited timeframe for this project carries some inherent risks, such as potential disruption to normal EBT transaction processing if the changes are not thoroughly tested before implementation. The requirements outlined below allow the State to address how these risks would be mitigated.

   Requirements: By submitting this plan to FNS, the State is confirming/acknowledging the following:

   - A change order has been initiated with the EBT Processor for these changes or an agreement has been reached as to how costs will be covered.
   - This plan has been discussed with the contracted EBT Processor, the Third Party Processor/Secure PIN-entry Provider (TPP) and the experienced retailers **currently authorized for online purchasing**, for Missouri, this is Walmart and Amazon. All parties agree they can support an implementation date of mid-May or the earliest date acceptable to all parties. **A letter of commitment from each of these stakeholders is attached to this plan.**

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- The implementation timeline includes the following activities:
  - Full documentation of the changes to the EBT system. QA testing of the EBT system to include not only online purchasing functionality but also regression testing of point of sale transaction processing.
  - Note: A more official timeline will be provided after the plan is approved and all stakeholders of this project are able to agree on the implementation date.
- The changes necessary for online purchasing have been fully reviewed such that FSD was able to subsequently assess any downstream impacts of these changes to their State system(s). FSD has developed an initial timeline and the EBT processor is able to make the necessary updates to their systems by the implementation date and will have the necessary technical resources to meet the timeline and requirements.
- EBT test cards will be provided to retailers such that end-to-end testing is conducted in the production environment, and passed prior to opening up online purchasing to SNAP households. This testing will include all stakeholders of this project including: FSD, the EBT Processor, the TPP, the retailers and FNS. This testing involves the retailer running standard transaction scenarios on the their website (successful purchase, insufficient funds, invalid PIN, balance inquiry, split tender, etc…) and verifying that the transactions execute as expected and the State is able to view the transaction details in their State EBT system.

Reporting: FSD commits to report to FNS regarding project development status (via email or phone call) at least weekly, and to inform FNS of any changes to the implementation plan or expected launch date.

5. **Justification for Request:** Coronavirus COVID-19

6. **Affected Caseload:**

Any households in Missouri will be able to utilize online purchasing. Walmart would like to test a small area for two weeks before going live statewide.

Additional retailers requesting to server Missouri households will be added to online purchasing as they are approved by USDA.

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7. **Anticipated Implementation Date:**

Due to the increased number of requests FIS has stated, Mid-May or the earliest date acceptable to all parties in our letter of commitment.

8. **Signature and Title of Requesting State Agency Official:**

Kim R. Evans

Signature

Kim R. Evans, Director

Print Name and Title

9. **Date of Request:**

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State Plan for Providing Online Purchasing to SNAP Households

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies**.**

1. Type of Request: Initial

2. Primary Citation: Implementation of Expedited Online Purchasing Option for SNAP due to Covid-19 and the National Emergency declared on March 13, 2020.

3. State: Texas

4. Proposed Alternative Procedures:

The State of Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Access and Eligibility Services proposes to provide online purchasing as an option to SNAP households in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 that was declared a National Emergency on March 13, 2020, resulting in many individuals needing to self-quarantine and engage in social distancing, which in turn has made it challenging for some SNAP households to travel to stores to purchase food.

The State acknowledges that an expedited timeframe for this project carries some inherent risks, such as potential disruption to normal EBT transaction processing if the changes are not thoroughly tested before implementation. The requirements outlined below allow the State to address how these risks would be mitigated.

Requirements: By submitting this plan to FNS, the State is confirming/ acknowledging the following:

- A change order has been initiated with the EBT Processor for these changes or an agreement has been reached as to how costs will be covered.
- This plan has been discussed with the contracted EBT Processor, the Third Party Processor/Secure PIN-entry Provider (TPP) and the experienced retailers currently authorized for online purchasing, and all parties agree they can support an implementation date of May 19, 2020, or as soon thereafter as agreed upon by all participating stakeholders. A letter of commitment from each of these stakeholders is attached to this plan.
- The timeline in this plan includes the following activities:
    - Full documentation of the changes to the EBT system or a plan for how/when such documentation will be received.
    - QA testing of the EBT system (either by the processor or the State) to include not only online purchasing functionality but also regression testing of point of sale transaction processing.

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- The changes necessary for online purchasing have been fully reviewed such that the State was able to subsequently assess any downstream impacts of these changes to their State system(s).
- The State has developed a detailed timeline and is able to make the necessary updates to their systems by the implementation date and will have the necessary technical resources to meet the timeline and requirements.
- EBT test cards will be provided to retailers such that end-to-end testing is conducted in the production environment, and passed prior to opening up online purchasing to SNAP households. This testing will include all stakeholders of this project including: the State, the EBT Processor, the TPP, the retailers and FNS. This testing involves the retailer running standard transaction scenarios on their website (successful purchase, insufficient funds, invalid PIN, balance inquiry, split tender, etc…) and verifying that the transactions execute as expected and the State is able to view the transaction details in their State EBT system.

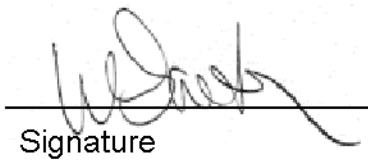
Reporting: The State commits to report to FNS regarding project development status (via email or phone call) at least weekly, and to inform FNS of any changes to the implementation plan or expected launch date.

5. Justification for Request: Coronavirus COVID-19

6. Affected Caseload: Any households in the State will be able to utilize online purchasing. [IF RETAILERS PLAN TO START IN A LIMITED AREA AND EXPAND COVERAGE OVER A PERIOD OF TIME ADDRESS THAT IN THE RESPONSE.] The State plans to coordinate with each participating retailer to initially limit online shopping to small geographical areas or a limited number of stores and to expand statewide for all regions/stores in as quickly as one day. This plan has proven to be effective for other similar implementations

7. Anticipated Implementation Date: May 19, 2020

8. Signature and Title of Requesting State Agency Official:



Signature

Wayne Salter, Deputy Executive Commissioner

Print Name and Title

9. Date of Request: April 18, 2020

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: For Review: SNAP Items - 4/23 @ 8 AM
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:52:30 AM

(b) (5), DPP

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From: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:49:25 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: For Review: SNAP Items - 4/23 @ 8 AM

Anne,

(b) (5), DPP

Thanks … Jeff

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:11 AM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: For Review: SNAP Items - 4/23 @ 8 AM

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:05 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: For Review: SNAP Items - 4/23 @ 8 AM

NOTE: CA Online soft launch is set for today – Walmart will be live in 2 stores (Lancaster and Victorville) and Amazon will be operating in the Sacramento area

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: For senior advisor meeting
Date: Friday, May 8, 2020 1:31:51 PM

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From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: For senior advisor meeting

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: (b) (5), DPP,
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 8:21:01 AM

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 8:17:38 AM
To: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC <gena.kochan@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>; Perry, Andrew - OBPA, Washington, DC <andrew.perry@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

Ralph Linden
Acting Deputy General Counsel
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Room 102W
Washington DC 20250
202-720-3351

From: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 10:53 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C.; Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC
Cc: Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Gold, Andrea - FNS; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS; Burr, David - FNS; Greenwood, Lisa - FNS; Kline, Angela - FNS
Subject: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

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(b) (5), DPP, ACP



Please let us know if you have any questions.

Jessica

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Fwd: I did not get a copy of the bill analysis... PLEASE SEND.
Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:40:40 AM
Attachments:	USDA COVID-19 Supp Phase III Summary FINAL 3.25.20 v3.docx CARES ACT FINAL TEXT.pdf

First attachment included previously at pages 634-639. Second attachment, CARES ACT FINAL TEXT, 883 pages, is publicly available.

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)

From: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:22:03 AM
To: Cullo, Diane - OTR, Washington, DC <diane.cullo@usda.gov>
Cc: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: I did not get a copy of the bill analysis... PLEASE SEND.

Here you go!

--
Evan B. Lee
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
c: (b) (6)

From: Cullo, Diane - OTR, Washington, DC <diane.cullo@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:03 AM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Cc: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: I did not get a copy of the bill analysis... PLEASE SEND.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Fwd: Incoming Congressional Letter - Sen Collins and Manchin re: BBCE
Date:	Monday, May 11, 2020 9:21:37 AM
Attachments:	2020-05-01 Collins Manchin SNAP Letter to USDA FINAL.pdf

Attachment included previously at pages 303-304

I forgot to include you on the incoming email when I sent to the team.

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:33 PM
To: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov)
Cc: Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov); Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Incoming Congressional Letter - Sen Collins and Manchin re: BBCE

Incoming letter from Sen Collins and Manchin to USDA to suspend BBCE rulemaking in light of COVID.

From: Olson, Maria (Aging) <Maria_Olson@aging.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Bryan, Emma (Manchin) <Emma_Bryan@manchin.senate.gov>
Subject: Letter from Senator Collins and Manchin to Sec Perdue

Hi Veronica,

Please see the attached letter from Senators Collins and Manchin regarding SNAP rulemaking in light of COVID-19.

Thanks,

Maria Olson
Professional Staff Member
Senate Aging Committee
Chairman Susan M. Collins
(202) 224-5364

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C.
Cc: Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Interpreting Section 2302 of Families First
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 9:51:19 PM
Attachments: Interpreting Section 2302.doc

Ralph -

(b) (5), DPP, ACP
[redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks,
Brandon

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From: Stacy Dean (b) (6) @cbpp.org>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 8:46:23 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Rosenbaum Dottie <rosenbaum@cbpp.org>
Subject: Interpreting Section 2302 of Families First

Brandon, Pam and Jessica,

Thank you for everything that you are doing to help leverage the federal food programs during this incredibly tough time. Brandon -- you will most certainly be able to write a book about leadership during times of crisis!

I'm reaching out on a particular concern and I don't take filling up your inbox lightly. We heard from states today that FNS is interpreting the new authority in the Families First Legislation to issue CR-SNAP emergency allotments as having a limitation that we do not see in the law. As we have heard from multiple states, FNS is saying that the emergency allotment cannot result in lifting the household's monthly allotment above the maximum for their household size.

In candor, we cannot see how you can read the language that way. I've attached a

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short memo that explains our reading. Also, below is a link to our paper on the SNAP provisions in Families First. We did include in there that we do not understand why USDA is imposing an additional limitation on the size of the benefit that states may issue beyond the one clearly spelled out in the law.

I hope you can take a fresh look at this and reconsider. I can understand how folks so expert in disaster SNAP might have read the language given the framework that you apply there. But, I don't think that the law requires or permits it in this case.

Finally -- we've been gathering data from advocates, twitter and state agency websites on their opening status. Happy to pass along a summary if that's useful.

Again, thank you for all that FNS is doing.

Best,

Stacy

https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/usda-states-must-act-swiftly-to-deliver-food-assistance-allowed-by-families



USDA, States Must Act Swiftly to Deliver Food Assistance Allowed by Families First Act | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities - cbpp.org

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act provides temporary new authority and broad flexibility for the Agriculture Department (USDA) and states to adapt the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) to address people's food needs during the current

www.cbpp.org

Stacy Dean
(she/her/hers, why pronouns matter)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Vice President of Food Assistance Policy
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
www.cbpp.org; @Deancbpp
(b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Brandon Lipps and Pam Miller, FNS

CC: Jessica Shahin, FNS

From: Stacy Dean and Dottie Rosenbaum, CBPP

Re: Section 2302 Provides for Additional Full Allotments During the COVID-19 Crisis

Some confusion reportedly has arisen concerning section 2302 of the recently signed Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Specifically, we have heard from states that USDA has reportedly read it as limiting additional allotments of food assistance to the difference between what a household would have received without benefit of the Families First Act and the maximum allotment regular SNAP allows for a household of its size. Under this reading, millions of households (notably the poorest households) would receive no additional food assistance at all. Some 40% of households receive the maximum allotment. Because this interpretation finds no support in the language or purpose of section 2302, USDA should reconsider.

Section 2302(a)(1) requires USDA "provide, at the request of a State agency … that provides sufficient data (as determined by the Secretary through guidance) supporting such request, for emergency allotments to households". Nothing in section 2302 or elsewhere in the new law interrupts or overrides the existing authority in the Food and Nutrition Act to issue regular monthly allotments. Therefore, these "emergency allotments" are in addition to, rather than replacements for, what the households would receive under regular SNAP. Indeed, other parts of the Families First Act, including section 2301 and section 2302(b), modify the way regular SNAP operates during the crisis. That demonstrates that Congress intended that regular SNAP allotments would continue independently of those under section 2302(a). Congress could have provided for replacing regular SNAP allotments with emergency allotments set at the maximum benefit level, but it did not do so.

Once it is established that section 2302's "emergency allotments" are independent from regular SNAP's monthly allotments, the question arises how much should those emergency allotments be. Section 2302(a)(1) goes on to say that they shall be the amount needed "to address temporary food needs not greater than the applicable maximum monthly allotment for the household size". Thus, an emergency allotment is subject to two constraints, and two constraints only: (1) it must not be more than households require to meet their emergency food needs, and (2) it must not be more than the level the Food and Nutrition Act sets as the maximum allotment for each household size (a figure based on the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan as estimated by USDA). Neither of these constraints has anything whatsoever to do with the amount of a household's regular allotment.

USDA's intention to further limit the amount of emergency allotments under section 2302(a) of the Families First Act apparently derives from language in section 5(h)(3)(A) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. That section provides that

> The Secretary shall provide, by regulation, for emergency allotments to eligible households to replace food destroyed in a disaster. The regulations shall provide for replacement of the value of food actually lost up to a limit approved by the Secretary not greater than the applicable maximum monthly allotment for the household size.

This is inapplicable for several reasons. First, section 5(h)(3)(A) provides for one kind of emergency allotments; section 2302(a) provides for another. The emergency allotments under section 5(h)(3)(A) are *to replace* destroyed food; those under section 2302(a) are to address temporary food needs. Similarly, section 5(h)(3)(A) responds to disasters; the President has made no disaster declaration concerning

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COVID-19 disease, nor does the Families First Act require him to do so for section 2302 to be effective. Nothing about the current crisis tends to destroy food. These are two different kinds of emergencies, and Congress has responded with two different kinds of emergency allotments.

Second, nothing in section 2302 or the rest of the Families First Act references section 5(h)(3)(A) or changes its applicability in any way. Congress was not reluctant to insert cross-references where it thought they would be helpful: several appear in section 2302(a) and many more are found in other parts of the Nutrition Waivers division of the Families First Act. The fact that Congress did not make any reference to section 5(h)(3)(A) at all, much less state that it constrains the amount of emergency allotments issued under section 2302(a), strongly suggests that Congress did not intend for those limits to apply. Whether Congress considered and rejected such limits or never considered them is unclear, but in either case USDA has no authority to apply them in lieu of section 2302(a)'s mandate.

Third, reading the limitations of section 5(h)(3)(A) as applying to emergency allotments under the Families First Act will often create a conflict with section 2302(a). If a very low-income household receives a regular SNAP allotment equal to the maximum for its household size, USDA's reading would forbid State agencies from providing them with any emergency allotment. Denying these households emergency allotments would violate section 2302(a)(1)'s requirement that USDA "shall provide … for emergency allotments to households participating in [SNAP] to address temporary food needs". Such a household would have emergency food needs yet receive no assistance in addressing those needs. In resolving such a conflict, the explicit language of section 2302(a)(1) would prevail against an inference that is unclear at best. Even if section 5(h)(3)(A) did explicitly apply to these emergency allotments, standard principles of statutory interpretation would resolve the conflict in favor of the requirement to address households' temporary food needs. As the more specific statute, section 2302(a)(1) would govern. In addition, because section 2302(a)(1) is the later-enacted statute, it could not be overridden by a previously-enacted statute like section 5(h)(3)(A).

Finally, reading section 2302(a)(1) to provide no emergency allotment to households currently receiving the maximum regular allotment, and to provide only small emergency allotments to households receiving regular allotments near the maximum, is contrary to the purposes of both the Families First Act and to the Food and Nutrition Act. The Families First Act seeks both to stimulate the economy and to alleviate food insecurity resulting from the current crisis. Imposing the cap from section 5(h)(3)(A) on section 2302 emergency allotments would substantially reduce economic stimulus and would leave some of the most vulnerable households – those likely to have minimal food reserves on hand – little or no assistance in meeting emergency food needs. The Food and Nutrition Act, in turn, seeks "to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's population by raising levels of nutrition among low-income households". Its structure seeks overwhelmingly to target the most assistance on the lowest-income and most vulnerable households. Denying those households emergency allotments would reverse this longstanding principle and give the largest emergency allotments to the least-needy households. Here again, even if the statutory language could plausibly support imposing section 5(h)(3)(A)'s limits on section 2302 emergency allotments, the clear purposes of both statutes would militate strongly to the contrary.

We are deeply concerned that the poorest households, particularly those with very young children – would not be eligible to receive anything under this reading of the law. We are surprised that USDA is imposing a restriction on the emergency benefit that Congress did not establish at a time of such extraordinary crisis.

Either Dottie or I are available to discuss this at anytime. My cell is 202-684-5541 and Dottie's is 202-302-0176.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Latest hearing doc
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 1:40:54 PM
Attachments: Briefing House Ag Appops.docx
image001.png

Can you bring this printout to hearing prep?

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 1:37:30 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Latest hearing doc



Campbell Shuford
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-2868
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

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From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: NBC Rebuttal
Date: Friday, May 8, 2020 2:42:09 PM

Please copy me

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 1:41:30 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: NBC Rebuttal

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: NBC Rebuttal

Please send us any edits by 3pm – highlight your edits.

Thanks!

(b) (5), DPP

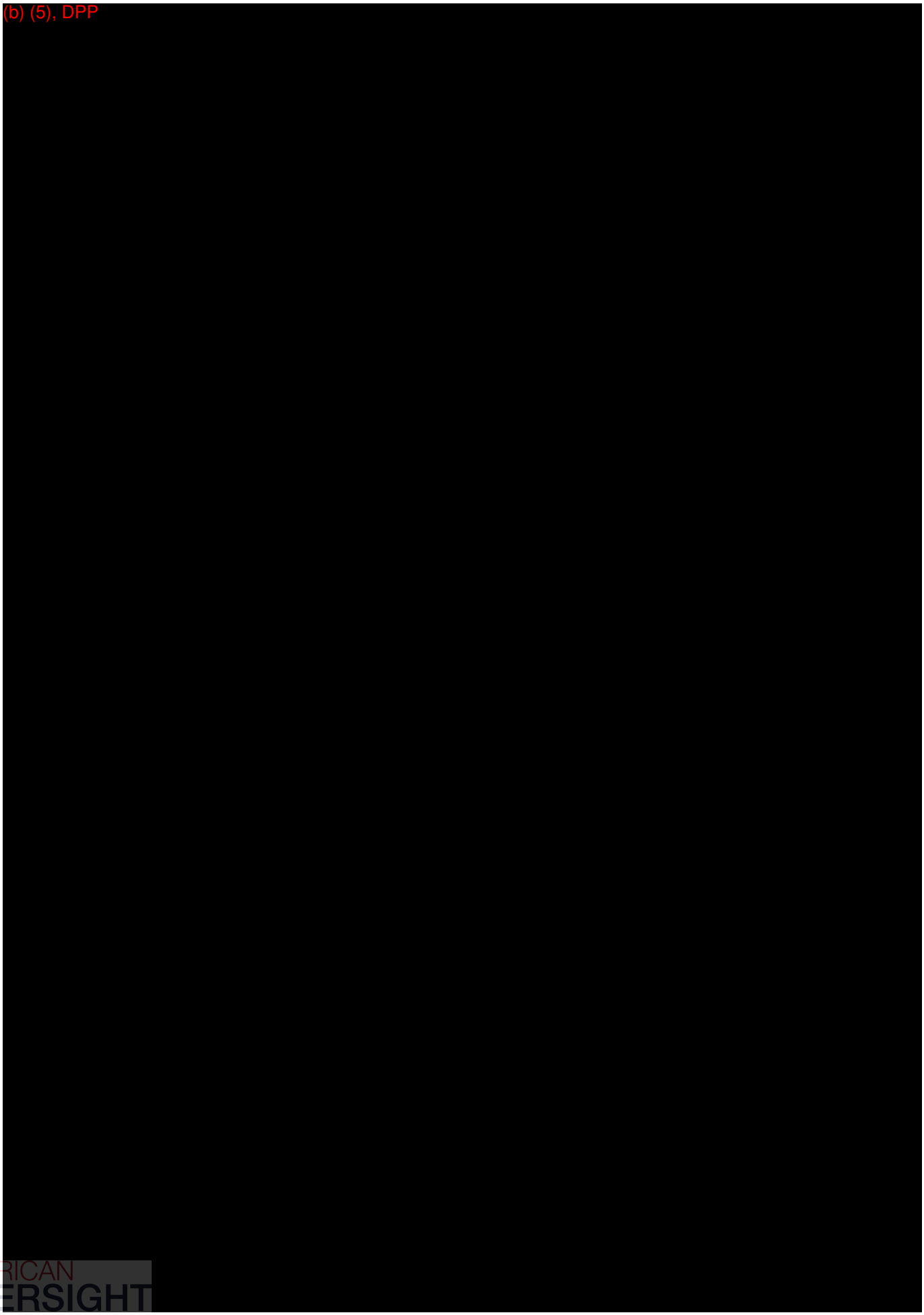
[redacted]

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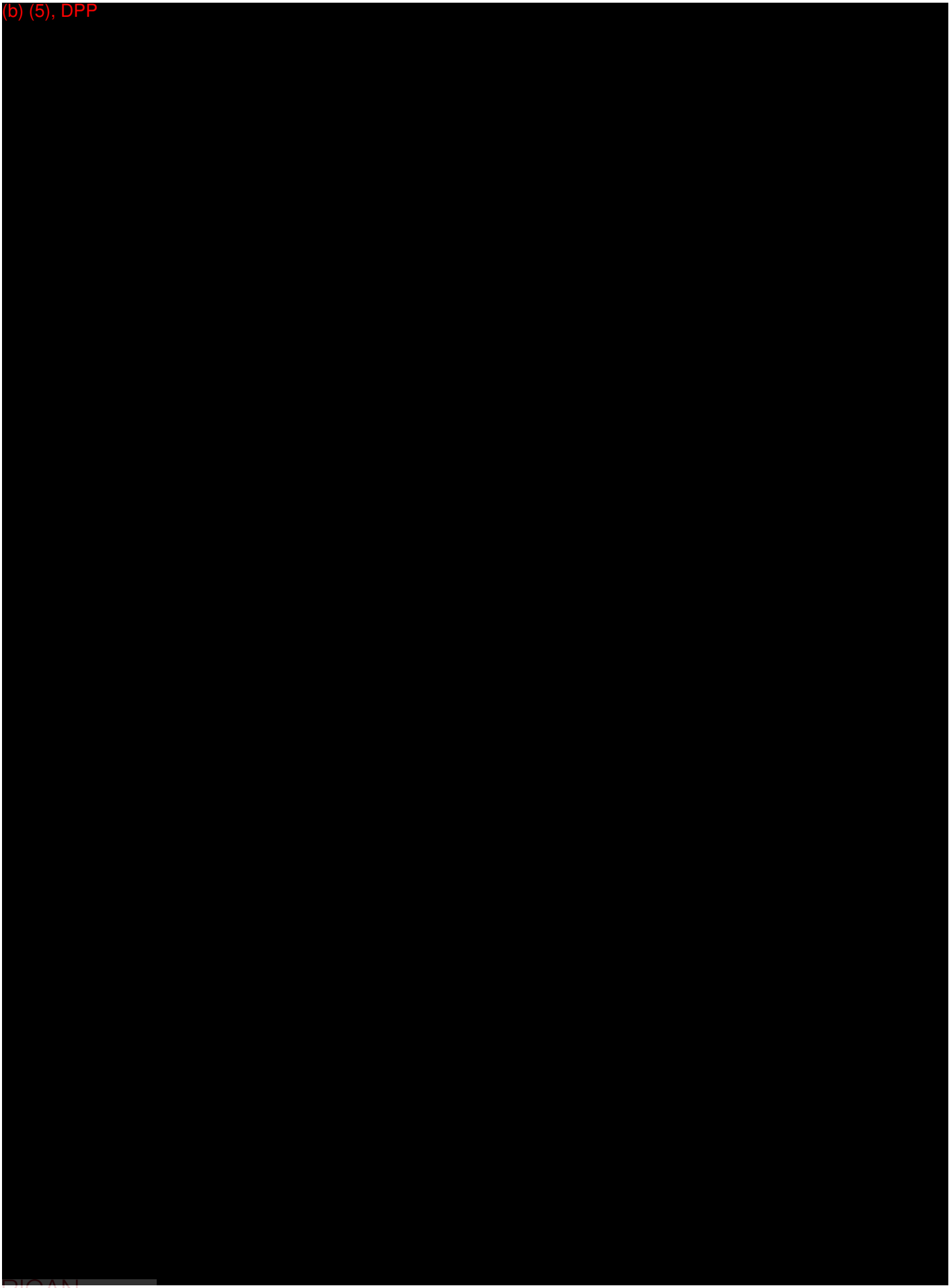
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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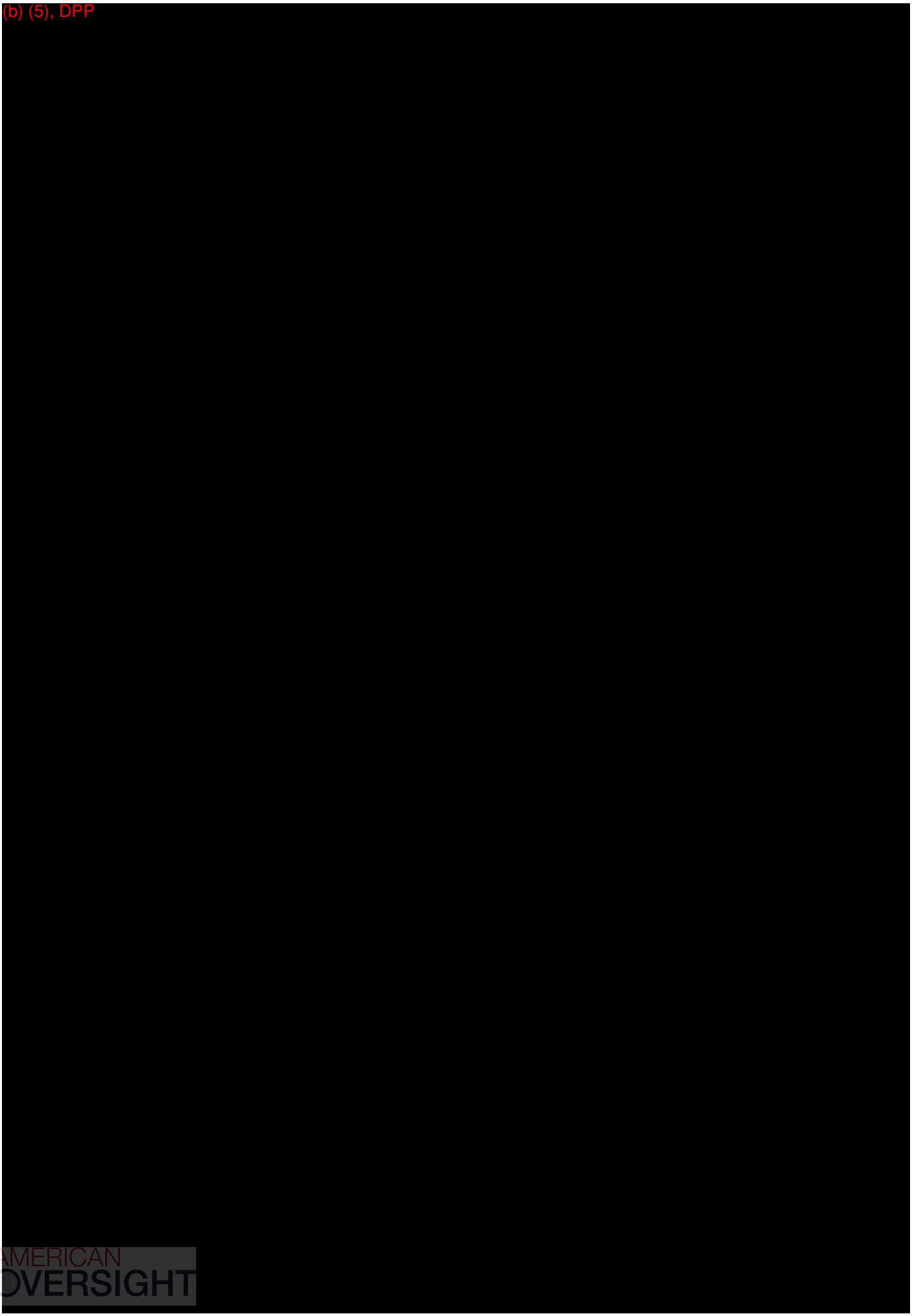


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(b) (5), DPP



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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

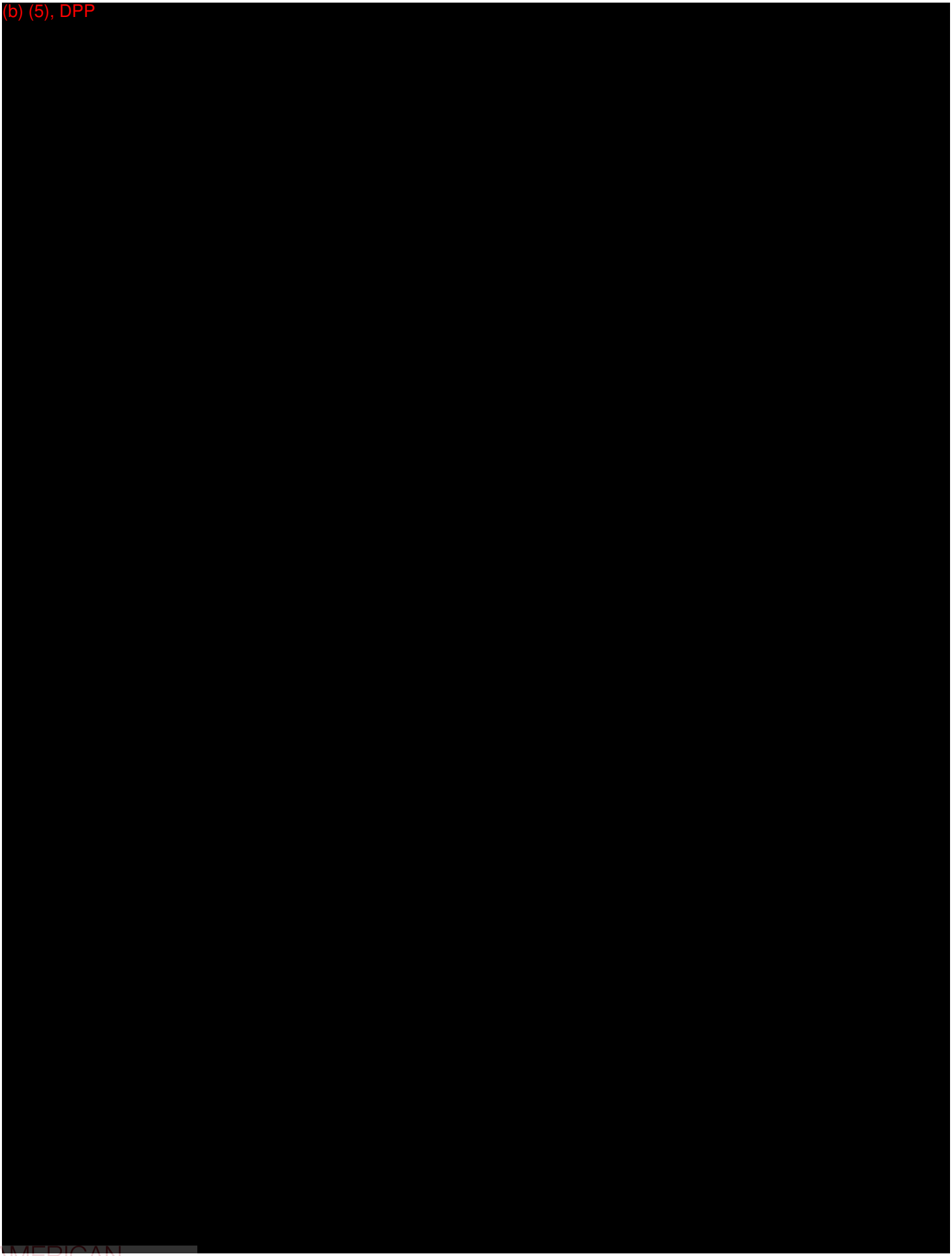
[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Meghan Rodgers
Deputy Communications Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-5555
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS
Subject:	Fwd: Perdue urges Congress to reauthorize pandemic food stamp program in coronavirus stimulus package
Date:	Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:51:32 PM

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From: POLITICO Pro Agriculture <politicoemail@politicopro.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:40:38 PM

To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Subject: Perdue urges Congress to reauthorize pandemic food stamp program in coronavirus stimulus package

Perdue urges Congress to reauthorize pandemic food stamp program in coronavirus stimulus package

By Catherine Boudreau

03/10/2020 02:39 PM EDT

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue on Tuesday told lawmakers to consider reauthorization for a pandemic food stamp program as part of a broader economic stimulus package that Congress is drafting in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Perdue said the Pandemic Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — or P-SNAP — was last implemented for one year during the H1N1 virus that swept the globe in 2009, but has since expired. The department has enough funding to cover the special program designed to ensure low-income Americans have access to food but USDA would need additional authority to deploy it, Perdue said.

"As we craft this bill, we want to put together everything that would be needed to provide relief," Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.), who chairs the House Appropriations subcommittee that oversees USDA, told reporters after a hearing. "If that authority is needed, and it seems as if it is, we will work to make sure it's included in the package."

President Donald Trump and Congress this week launched talks over a wide-ranging aid package to rescue the U.S. economy, such as a payroll tax cut and paid leave for hourly employees unable to work, to address the uncertainty set off by the coronavirus.

Lawmakers have raised concerns about how social distancing measures being taken by states and businesses to contain the spread of the outbreak will impact hunger. Millions of low-income children rely on meals provided at school, while hourly workers without paid leave may be forced to stay home without an income — potentially spiking demand for SNAP.

Bishop and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) on Tuesday sent a letter to Perdue requesting that he postpone several USDA rules designed to tighten eligibility and more strictly enforce work requirements for food stamps.

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The proposals involve limiting benefits for able-bodied adults without dependents, known as ABAWDs, which takes effect April 1, as well as reining in eligibility criteria that currently allow families to automatically qualify for SNAP and capping certain utility costs that factor into how much assistance each household receives.

States already have the discretion to waive SNAP work requirements so long as participants show "good cause," or temporary circumstances beyond their control, Perdue said during the hearing.

Regarding school children, Bishop and DeLauro urged USDA to work with the Education Department to provide guidance to administrators on how they can provide access to nutrition programs before more schools close.

Over the weekend, USDA said schools that are forced to close can switch to different programs used during summer months that serve low-income children.

On a state-by-state basis, USDA can waive the requirement that students must eat in group settings and allow meals to be served at off-campus sites like libraries and churches. Washington and California have already received such approvals.

However, those provisions only covers school districts where more than 50 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Some districts have schools with high poverty rates, even if the entire region does not, potentially leaving needy students in the lurch, administrators and anti-hunger groups have warned.

Perdue told lawmakers on Tuesday that while USDA doesn't have the authority to issue blanket waivers of the so-called congregate feeding requirements, it will be granted to states that request one.

"Our legal counsel tells us we have to be asked," Perdue said. "So we sent a message to all states that they can assume a positive response once a waiver request comes in."

To view online:
https://subscriber.politicopro.com/agriculture/article/2020/03/perdue-urges-congress-to-reauthorize-pandemic-food-stamp-program-in-coronavirus-stimulus-package-1890050

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response - A80 000882

USDA-20-1045-A-000882

This email was sent to brandon.lipps@osec.usda.gov by:
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1000 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22209
USA

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From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Politico Article
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 3:12:05 PM
Attachments: image002.png
image003.png
image004.png

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: T.A. Hawks (b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2020 3:13:37 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Politico Article

Hey team, following back up on my email a couple of weeks ago and don't need anything just keeping you in the loop on convos between USDA and Feeding America, re: the Hill focused advocacy campaign. The Secretary made communication a priority in his meeting with Claire Babineaux-Fontenot at FA, so wanted to keep you both informed too.

Hope the weekend is treating you well.

MONUMENT ADVOCACY

T.A. Hawks

p: 202.719.9999 ext. (b) m: (b) (6)
w: www.monumentadvocacy.com e: (b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com

From: Carrie Calvert (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 10:42 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; K Leone (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; T.A. Hawks (b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com>
Subject: RE: Politico Article

Hi Brandon,

Thanks for reaching out about the article. We are happy to talk about our work to advocate for SNAP and other resources to address the unprecedented situation we are facing and the need for food assistance. With an additional 17 million likely to become food insecure due to COVID-19 related job loss, we know that it will take a strong federal and charitable response to address this need. While our network is doing all we can to raise additional funds and to find food, as you know it's falling fall short of what the demand is. USDA foods have been a critical backstop for our food banks, and will be in the months to come as well, but we just can't absorb all of the need. Another critical backstop is SNAP. USDA's extension of the emergency allotments has been a significant help to many SNAP participants, but that is only as long as the pandemic lasts, and the economic recovery will be longer. Our concern, and the case for increasing SNAP benefits by 15 for a longer length of time, is the need for

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

additional food resources throughout the length of the recovery.

Our food banks are worried. We've raised a historic level of funds, and yet it doesn't even come close to allowing us to purchase or source enough food to meet the need. They are urging us to take action in all areas to advocate for increased resources to meet the need through increases in TEFAP, USDA food purchases, child nutrition program funding, and SNAP. I worked at Feeding America during the 2008 recession, and the current level of worry and concern is worse than anything I've ever seen.

As we mentioned to your team two weeks ago, to make the strongest case possible, we are launching an advocacy campaign, with media in several states, to highlight the positive impact a SNAP increase would have. The goal, as you can see from one of the ads here, is to highlight the positive role SNAP plays in addressing food insecurity and urge Congress to include it in the next COVID legislation. States across the country that have both rural and urban populations and are represented by both Democrats and Republicans were selected for the first round of ads. Our goal is to strengthen and grow bipartisan support in Congress for increasing SNAP to address the unprecedented situation Americans are facing.

Feeding America is always careful to ensure that our advocacy is issue based and is not political in nature, and is about building support for an issue. Please let us know if you have any other questions, we are always happy to discuss our work.

Thanks,

Carrie

Carrie Calvert
VP, Government Relations, Agriculture & Nutrition

Feeding America
National Organization
1627 I Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006
tel +1.202.795.2459 x=(b)
(b) @feedingamerica.org

Our mission is to feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage our country in the fight to end hunger. **Learn more at feedingamerica.org**
Together We Can Solve Hunger!™

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 8:29 PM
To: Kate Leone (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>; Carrie Calvert (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; T.A. Hawks (b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com>
Subject: Politico Article

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not open attachments/click links if source is unknown.
Hi Kate and Carrie –

I hope that you are both staying well. Please let your team know we appreciate all your work in helping us distribute food to those in need, especially over the last couple of months.

We have received questions about a Politico story that ran yesterday stating that Feeding America is launching a half million dollar ad campaign targeted to pressure Senators on potential votes. Can you please confirm if that

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article was accurate, or clarify any of it that was not accurate?

Thanks,

Brandon

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Pelosi strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:53:27 PM

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From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>

Withheld email addresses are Purdue and Censky alias email addresses.

Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:41:20 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Pelosi strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package

Okay. (b) (5), DPP

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From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:05 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Pelosi strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package

(b) (5), DPP

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)

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Withheld email addresses are Purdue and Censky alias email addresses.

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 6:24:18 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Pelosi strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package

FYI-(b) (5), DPP

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)

From: POLITICO Pro <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 6:14:59 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Pelosi strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package

Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that she has clinched a deal with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on a large-scale coronavirus response package meant to provide paid leave for workers, expand food aid and support widespread testing for the illness at no cost to patients.

The development sent a wave of relief across Capitol Hill, which had been nervously awaiting the results of two days of backroom negotiations. The House is expected to pass the legislation quickly, with the Senate likely to follow suit as early as Monday.

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agreement.

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This email was sent to ken.barbic@osec.usda.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 3:03:09 PM
Attachments: proposed PRNAP FFRCA.CARES Plan FNS Approval Letter.docx

---

Joe -

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks!

Brandon
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From: Dombroski, Patricia - FNS <patricia.dombroski@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 2:37:31 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Long, Cindy - FNS <cindy.long@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Gagliardi, David - FNS <david.gagliardi@usda.gov>; Lockstein, Howard - FNS <howard.lockstein@usda.gov>; Limbacher, Diana - FNS <diana.limbacher@usda.gov>
Subject: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval

Good afternoon Brandon and Pam,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Please let me know if a call would be helpful to answer any questions.
Thanks
Pat

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(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: P-SNAP
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:20:18 AM

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:14:17 AM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: P-SNAP

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Purdue and Censky alias email addresses.

Sir -

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Let us know if you need anything additional.

Thanks,
Brandon

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From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: RAPID RESPONSE: FNCS 8639103
Date: Saturday, May 9, 2020 8:37:20 AM
Attachments: FNCS 8639103 Collins.dotx
FNCS 8639103 Collins.pdf

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) [redacted] (cell)

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 7:24:32 AM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: RAPID RESPONSE: FNCS 8639103

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: RAPID RESPONSE: FNCS 8639103

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 11:51 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RAPID RESPONSE: FNCS 8639103

HI guys,

Hope you all are doing well! (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

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Thank you,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As millions of Americans face increased food insecurity as a result of COVID-19, we write today to highlight the importance of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a vital safety net for families who are struggling to navigate these challenging times. We believe it would be an irresponsible step backwards for the Administration to proceed with any proposal to dramatically limit eligibility or decrease benefits during this pandemic or the economic recovery. We therefore urge USDA to immediately suspend all rulemaking for the "Revisions to Categorical Eligibility in SNAP" proposed rule, which was originally published on July 24, 2019.

SNAP is an important part of the coronavirus response, yet looming uncertainty regarding the status of this proposed rule threatens its effectiveness during this time of heightened need. As you said last week, "these are unprecedented times for American families who are facing joblessness and hunger." Feeding America estimates that up to an additional 17.1 million people could experience food insecurity under current conditions, a 46 percent increase from the 37 million prior to the pandemic. A public health or economic crisis is not the time for rulemaking that would without question result in more people experiencing food insecurity and hunger.

Even prior to the pandemic, USDA's Categorical Eligibility proposed rule was extremely concerning in that it threatened access to food assistance for 3.1 million individuals, including more than 44,000 in Maine and 25,000 in West Virginia. Now, however, in addition to making it more difficult for individuals to qualify for food assistance benefits, attempts to refine categorical eligibility requirements could notably affect populations at higher risk for severe illness associated with COVID-19, including seniors and individuals with underlying health conditions. This policy change could also have a significant effect on children's access to free or reduced price school breakfast and lunch, which are vital during times of uncertainty. Under this proposal, those losing access to SNAP would primarily be working families with children, seniors, and people with disabilities. The proposed rule, if implemented, would also greatly increase administrative burdens on states, which are already stretched thin signing up new participants, monitoring current participation, and implementing new program flexibilities related to COVID-19. States will likely continue to experience this heightened caseload for the foreseeable future.

Beyond those that would be directly impacted by the proposed rule change, entire communities suffer when rates of food insecurity and hunger rise. Food banks across the country are experiencing dramatic increases in demand for charitable food assistance as more families are

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struggling—as a direct result of COVID-19—to put food on their tables. When additional strain is placed on the charitable food system, it imposes a tremendous burden on entire communities, including faith-based and hunger relief organizations that believe it is their obligation to serve their communities but face capacity limitations.

In recognition of the health and economic challenges related to COVID-19, we urge an immediate suspension of USDA's rulemaking. Moving forward with this flawed proposal would worsen the struggles that millions of low-income Americans are facing as a result of the deepening public health and economic crisis.

Thank you for your consideration and continued work to provide food assistance to children, families, and seniors.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Joe Manchin
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: SP Memo on Denials
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:37:50 PM
Attachments: image001.png
SNAP Flex Policy Decision - Denials - April2020 - DRAFT PM.docx

---

Campbell -

FYI (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks.

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From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 8:52:36 PM

To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>

Subject: SP Memo on Denials

Attached is the memo. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Pam Miller
Administrator

Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 703-305-2060
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

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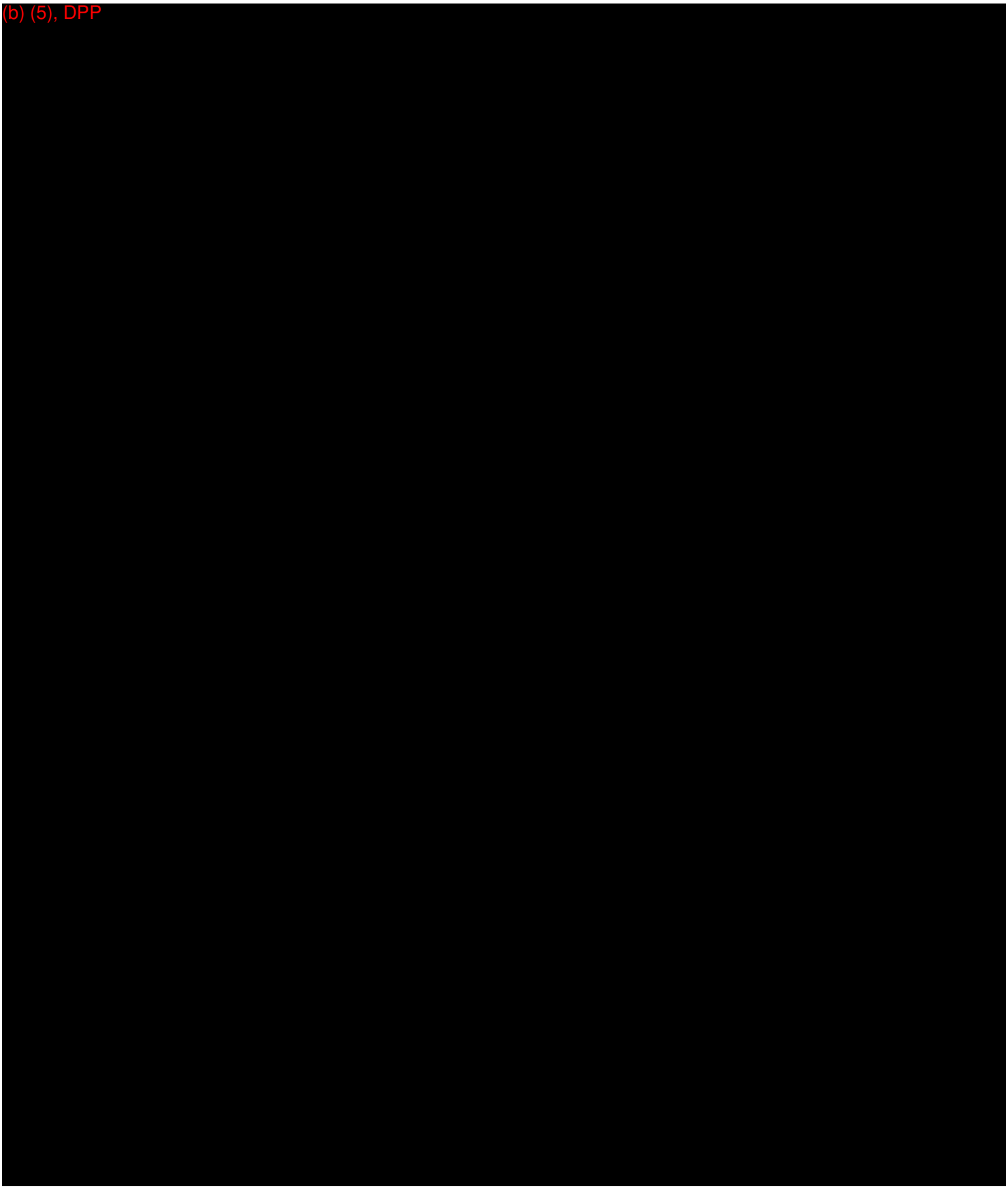
To: Secretary Perdue
From: Brandon, Anne, Pam - FNCS
Date: April 1, 2020
Re: WIC Food Packages Substitutions and SNAP COVID-19 Flexibilities

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT

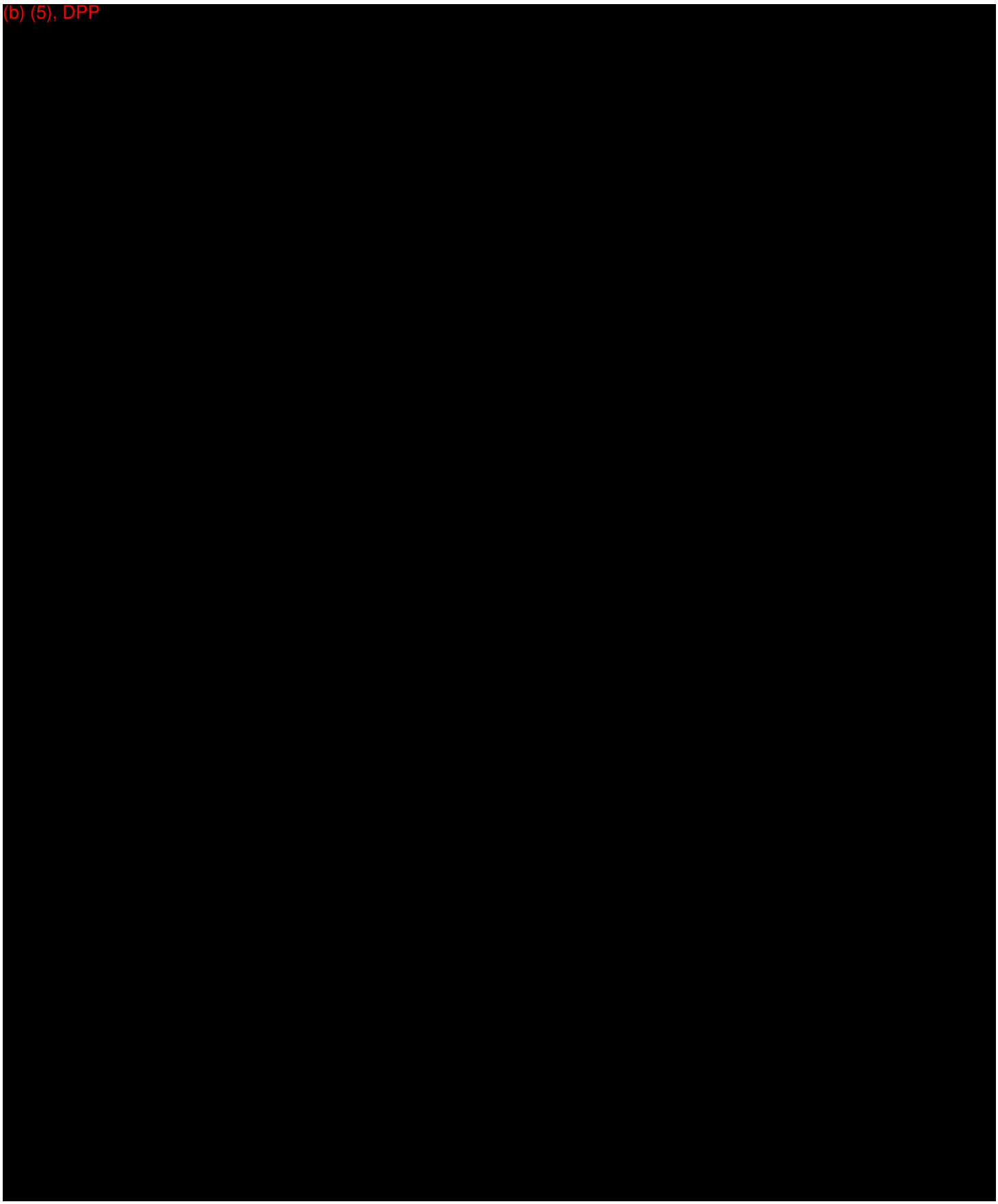
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

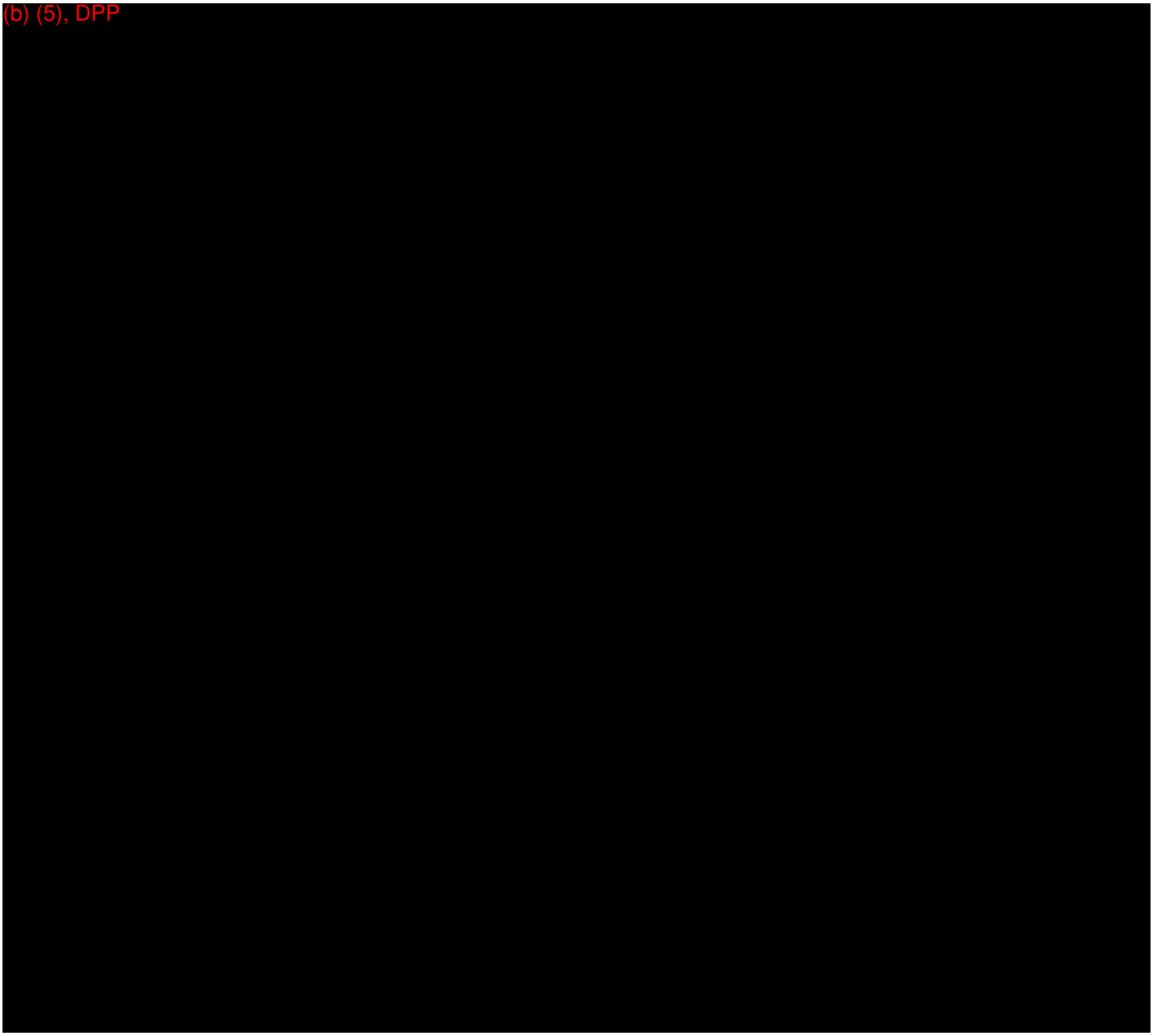
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Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: This week"s TPs
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 9:43:18 AM
Attachments: Talking Points for March 9-13.docx

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 9:41 AM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Marklund, Chris - OSEC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: This week's TPs

Good morning,
Attached are latest TPs. New stuff on (b) (5), DPP

Thanks,
Michawn

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 9:17 AM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary

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Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: This week's TPs

Updated TPs on (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP



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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 9:03 AM

To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: This week's TPs

Updated TPs on (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP



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(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 10:29 AM

To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Willbrand, Zhulieta - OSEC, Washington, DC <zhulieta.z.willbrand@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby

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- OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: This week's TPs

All – attached are this week's talking points. New stuff in here on (b) (5), DPP

Thanks,
Michawn

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 1:24 PM

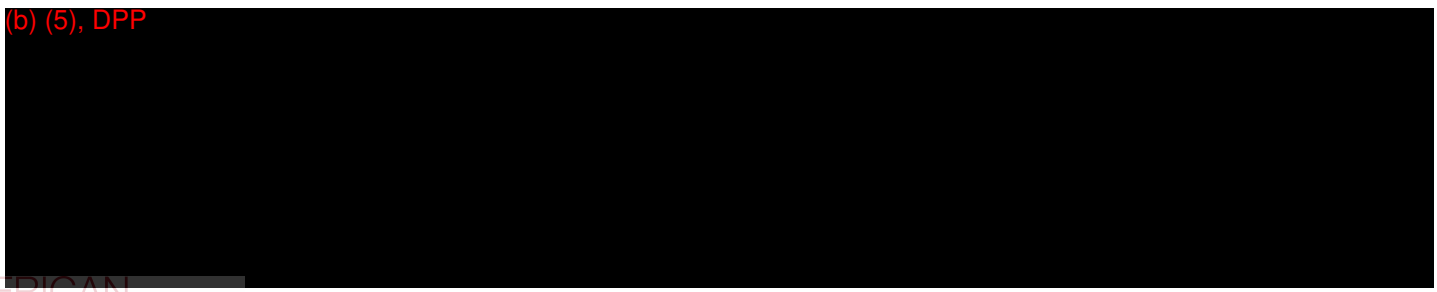
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Willbrand, Zhulieta - OSEC, Washington, DC <zhulieta.z.willbrand@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: This week's TPs

New talking points on (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP



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(b) (5), DPP



From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 10:15 AM

To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Willbrand, Zhulieta - OSEC, Washington, DC <zhulieta.z.willbrand@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

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Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: This week's TPs

Hi all –

Attached are this week's talkers – new stuff on [redacted] (b)(5), [redacted] Please share these with your principles.

Thanks,
Michawn

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 11:40 AM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Willbrand, Zhulieta - OSEC, Washington, DC <zhulieta.z.willbrand@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>

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Subject: RE: This week's TPs

Hi all –

Attached are this week's talkers – new stuff on (b) (5), DPP [redacted] Please share these with your principles.

Thanks,
Michawn

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 10:37 AM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Willbrand, Zhulieta - OSEC, Washington, DC <zhulieta.z.willbrand@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: This week's TPs

Hi all –

Attached are this week's talkers – new stuff on (b) (5), DPP .

Thanks,
Michawn

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From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 2:58 PM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Willbrand, Zhulieta - OSEC, Washington, DC <zhulieta.z.willbrand@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: This week's TPs

Hi all –

Attached are this week's talkers – new stuff on (b) (5), DPP [redacted].

Thanks,
Michawn

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 11:27 AM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Willbrand, Zhulieta - OSEC, Washington, DC <zhulieta.z.willbrand@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Cole, Donald - OC, Washington, DC <donald.cole@usda.gov>
Subject: This week's TPs

All – I plan to start sending TPs around at the start of each week. Please alert me if you think I am missing something in here and I can add it to next week's.
Hope all is well!

Thanks,
Michawn

Michawn Rich

Communications Director

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office: 202.720.4623

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Talking Points for March 9-13

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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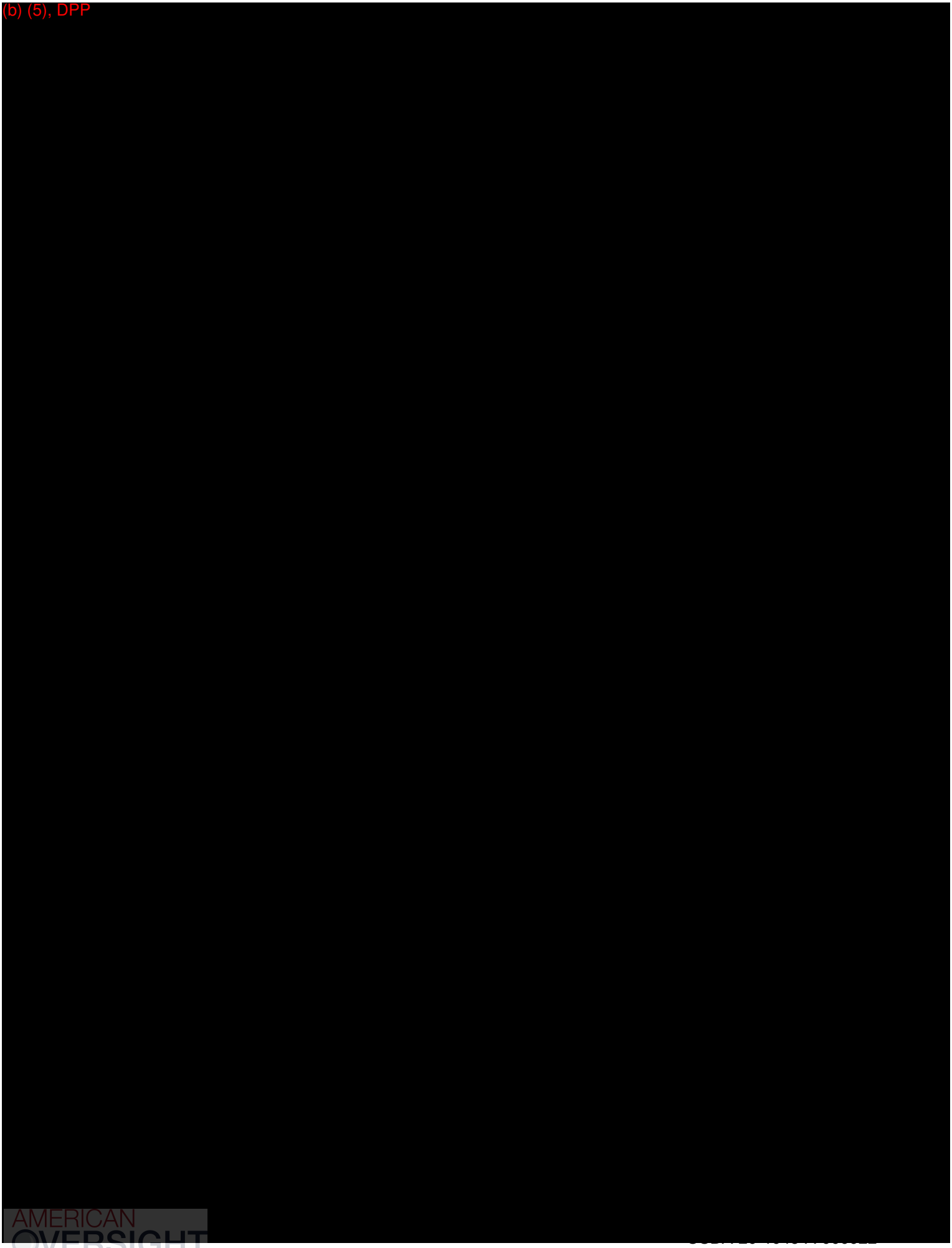
(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

###

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Withheld email addresses are Purdue and Censky alias email addresses

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: UPDATED: House Democrats unveil details of $3T economic rescue plan
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:58:45 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) [redacted] (cell)

From: POLITICO Pro <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: UPDATED: House Democrats unveil details of $3T economic rescue plan

UPDATED: House Democrats unveil details of $3T economic rescue plan

By Caitlin Emma

05/12/2020 01:03 PM EDT

House Democrats on Tuesday released the text of a mammoth coronavirus response plan totaling more than $3 trillion, cementing their priorities for the next round of congressional negotiations to deliver more pandemic relief and assistance for a cratering economy.

The lower chamber is expected to vote on the bill Friday.

The 1,815-page bill — dubbed the "Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act" or "HEROES Act," H.R. 6800 (116) — would provide states and local governments nearly $1 trillion that could be used to replace drastic revenue shortfalls. That includes $540 billion for states, territories and tribes, in addition to $375 billion for cities, counties and local governments.

The package would provide another round of $1,200 direct payments to Americans, according to a summary of the bill, in addition to $10 billion in small business grants. About $175 billion would go to health care providers to reimburse them for coronavirus-related expenses and lost revenue, in addition to supporting testing efforts.

The bill would provide more than $100 billion in additional stimulus funding for education and also calls for up to $10,000 of loan forgiveness for borrowers of federal and private student loans.

House Democrats would boost funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by $10 billion and child nutrition programs by $3 billion, among other food assistance.

The bill provides $75 billion in assistance for homeowners, $100 billion for emergency aid to

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help low-income renters avoid evictions and $750 million for people living in project-based rental assistance properties.

State departments of transportation and transit agencies would each receive about $15 billion.

The struggling Postal Service would receive $25 billion and the Census Bureau would receive $400 million to deal with pandemic-related delays to the 2020 count.

Congress has already mounted a nearly $3 trillion response to the coronavirus pandemic over the course of four separate bills, which will result in an expansion of the federal deficit to nearly $4 trillion this year, the Congressional Budget Office projects.

Senate Republicans aren't in a hurry to launch bipartisan negotiations. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said the party is still "assessing what we've done already," while raising concerns about the toll on the federal debt and focusing on designing liability protections for businesses as states look to reopen their economies in the coming weeks.

To view online:
https://subscriber.politicopro.com/transportation/whiteboard/2020/05/house-democrats-unveil-details-of-3t-economic-rescue-plan-3980429

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Arlington, VA 22209
USA

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Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Purdue and Censky alias email addresses.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Updates on DeLauro/Bishop Letter/Press Release
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:13:52 AM

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 10:38:27 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Updates on DeLauro/Bishop Letter/Press Release

Sir –

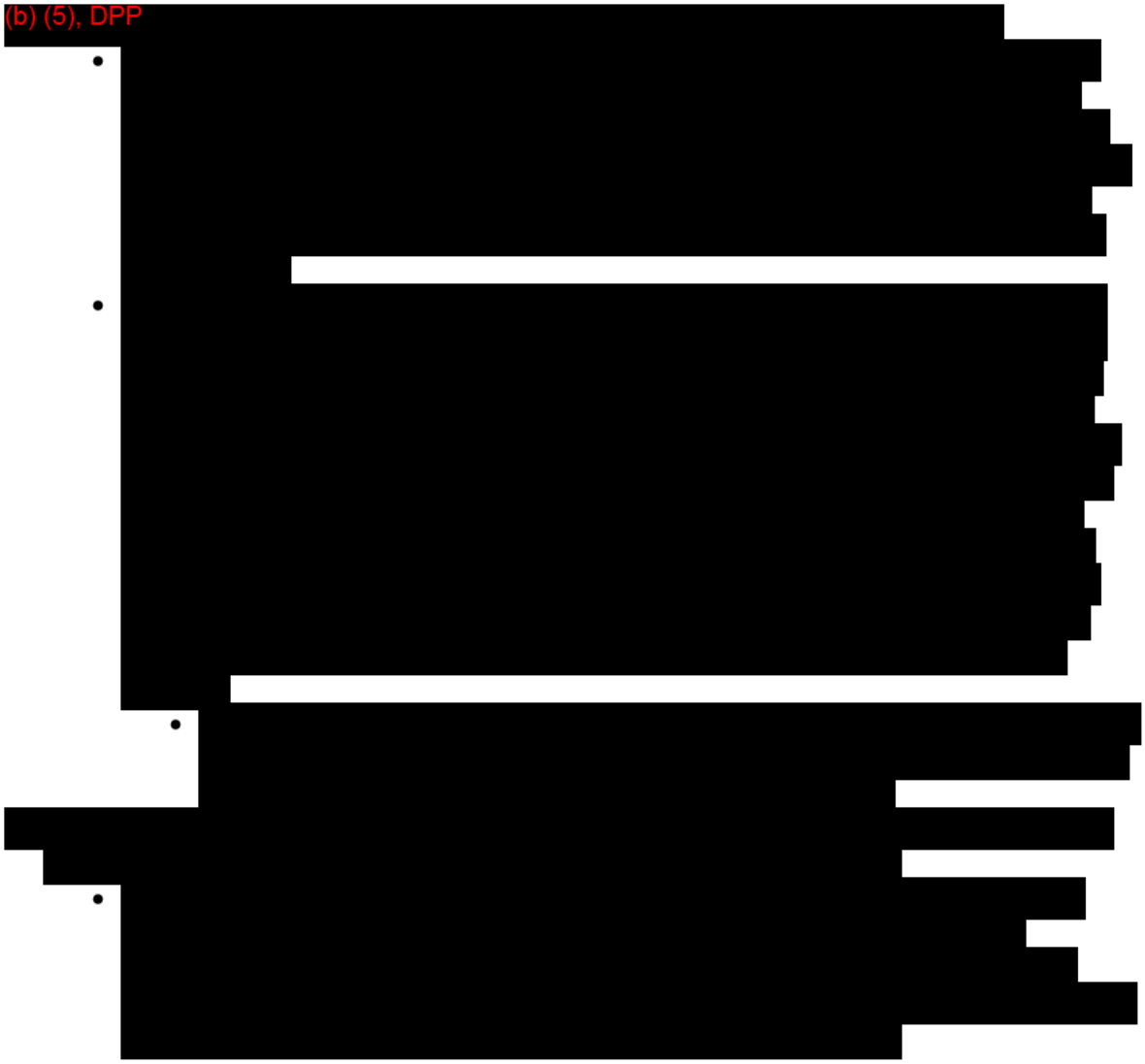
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Fwd: Updates on DeLauro/Bishop Letter/Press Release
Date:	Tuesday, March 10, 2020 6:08:28 AM

FYI.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 6:08:09 AM

To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Updates on DeLauro/Bishop Letter/Press Release

Good morning -

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

I hope all goes well today.

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue and Censky alias email addresses.

Thanks!

Brandon

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 10:38 PM

To: (b) (6) [redacted] - OSEC, Washington, DC

Cc: (b) [redacted] (b) [redacted] - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS

Subject: Updates on DeLauro/Bishop Letter/Press Release

Sir –

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Regards,
Brandon

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

- [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: Updates on DeLauro/Bishop Letter/Press Release
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:36:30 AM

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From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:25:25 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Updates on DeLauro/Bishop Letter/Press Release

Yes, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) [redacted] (cell)

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 6:08:09 AM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Updates on DeLauro/Bishop Letter/Press Release

Good morning -

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

I hope all goes well today.

Email addresses withheld pursuant to (b)(6) are Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

Thanks!
Brandon
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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 10:38 PM
To: (b) (6) [redacted] - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) [redacted] (b) [redacted] - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS

Subject: Updates on DeLauro/Bishop Letter/Press Release

Sir –

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

- [redacted]
  - [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]

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Withheld email address is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address.

Attachment included previously at pages 710-713

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: USDA COVID Response Timeline
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:15:44 PM
Attachments: image001.png
USDA COVID Response Timeline - HM edits_MDB.docx

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From: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 7:57 PM
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ness, Torie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Duvall, Zellie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC; Marklund, Chris - OSEC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Westcott, Nick - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Henry - OSEC, Washignton, DC; Ziegler, Matthew - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA COVID Response Timeline

Pre-decisional/deliberative

Hey folks –

The advance team (bless 'em!) helped put the COVID response data we pulled together last week into a really helpful timeline. **Please note this document is for INTERNAL USE ONLY for now**. Wanted to share as I think it could be helpful to all of us. Also, if you note things to add, that's great – please send to the advance team for future versions.

Mary Dee Beal
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.0907
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Cep, Melinda; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: USDA FNS state waiver update - COVID -19
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 6:20:05 PM

Melinda,

I sent this update on FNCS waivers and flexibilities earlier today.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Dickerson, Jasmine; Lisa. Shelton (Lisa.Shelton@mail.house.gov); Tiller, Jennifer
Subject: USDA FNS state waiver update - COVID -19

Lisa, Jasmine, Jen,

This email is to update you on USDA approved Food and Nutrition Service state waivers related to COVID-19.

SNAP – Quality Control

To allow for social distancing, USDA is allowing States to conduct telephone interviews instead of face-to face-interviews for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC) purposes. States must notify FNS in advance if they choose to implement this flexibility and must follow all other requirements for the QC interview as specified in SNAP regulations. A notification may be done through email, letter, or oral affirmation that they plan to use this flexibility.

This flexibility applies to any QC case reviews conducted in March, April and May 2020. States already have the option to use telephonic means for certification/recertification.

16 states are now using this QC flexibility: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Wyoming.

Child Nutrition - Congregate Feeding

All 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico now have approved Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and/or Seamless Summer Options (SSO) congregate feeding waivers. In total USDA issued 58 waivers, with 6 states needing two waivers because of unique configurations within these states like their SFSP program is run out of one Department and their SSO program run out of another. The six states are Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas.

This website link with this state waiver information will be updated as needed:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19

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Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: USDA MAC COVID-19 Agency Actions Mar 2, 2020
Date: Monday, March 2, 2020 9:10:20 PM
Attachments: USDA MAC COVID-19 Agency Actions Mar 2, 2020.docx

---

You were left off I think by accident
Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 8:35:04 PM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Colby, Michelle - OHS, Washington, DC <michelle.colby@usda.gov>
Cc: O'Connor, Mike - OHS, Washington, DC <mike.oconnor@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA MAC COVID-19 Agency Actions Mar 2, 2020

Rebeckah and Michawn-

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Jessica

(b) (5), DPP

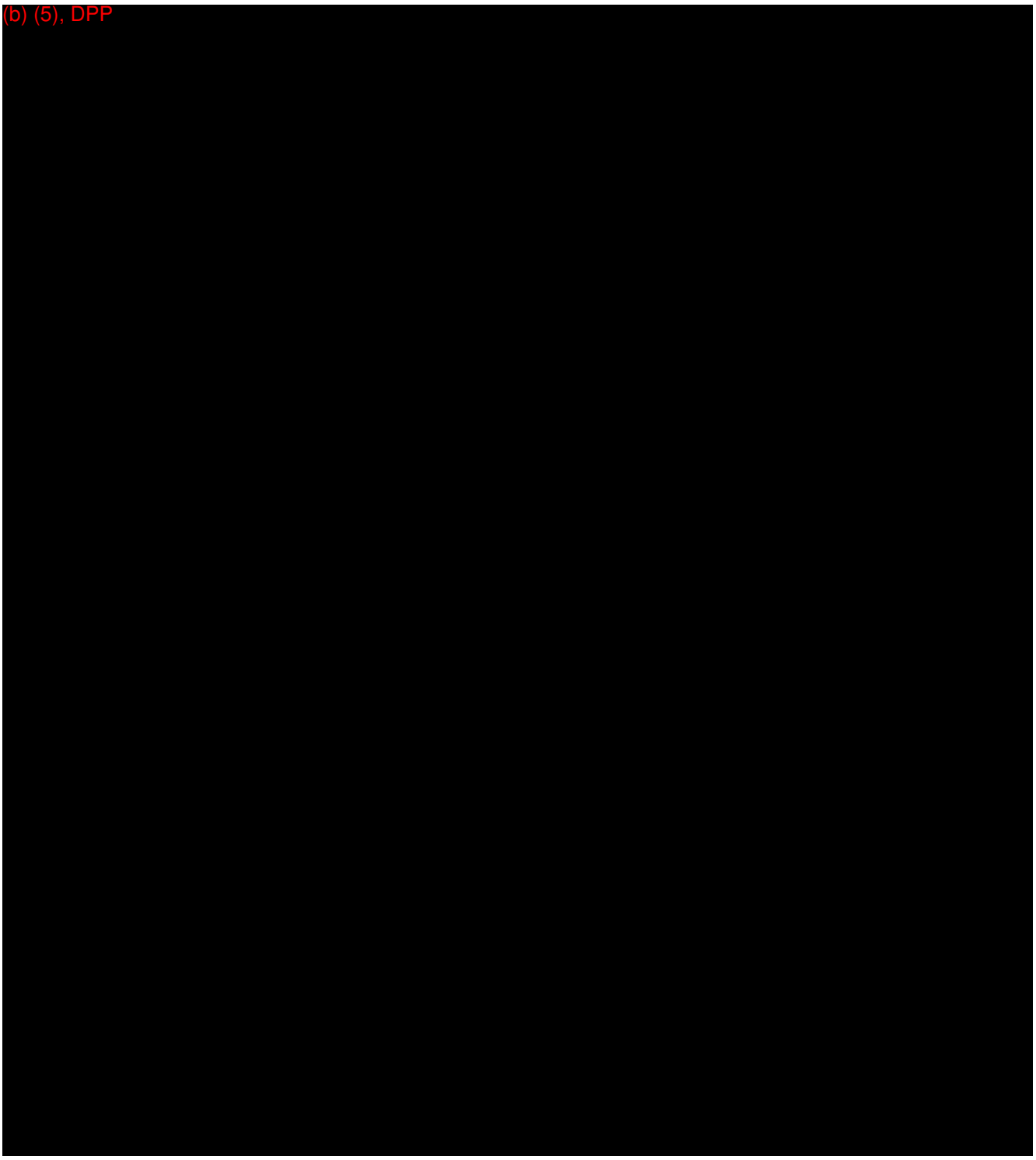
[redacted]

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[redacted]

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USDA MAC COVID-19

For Internal Use Only

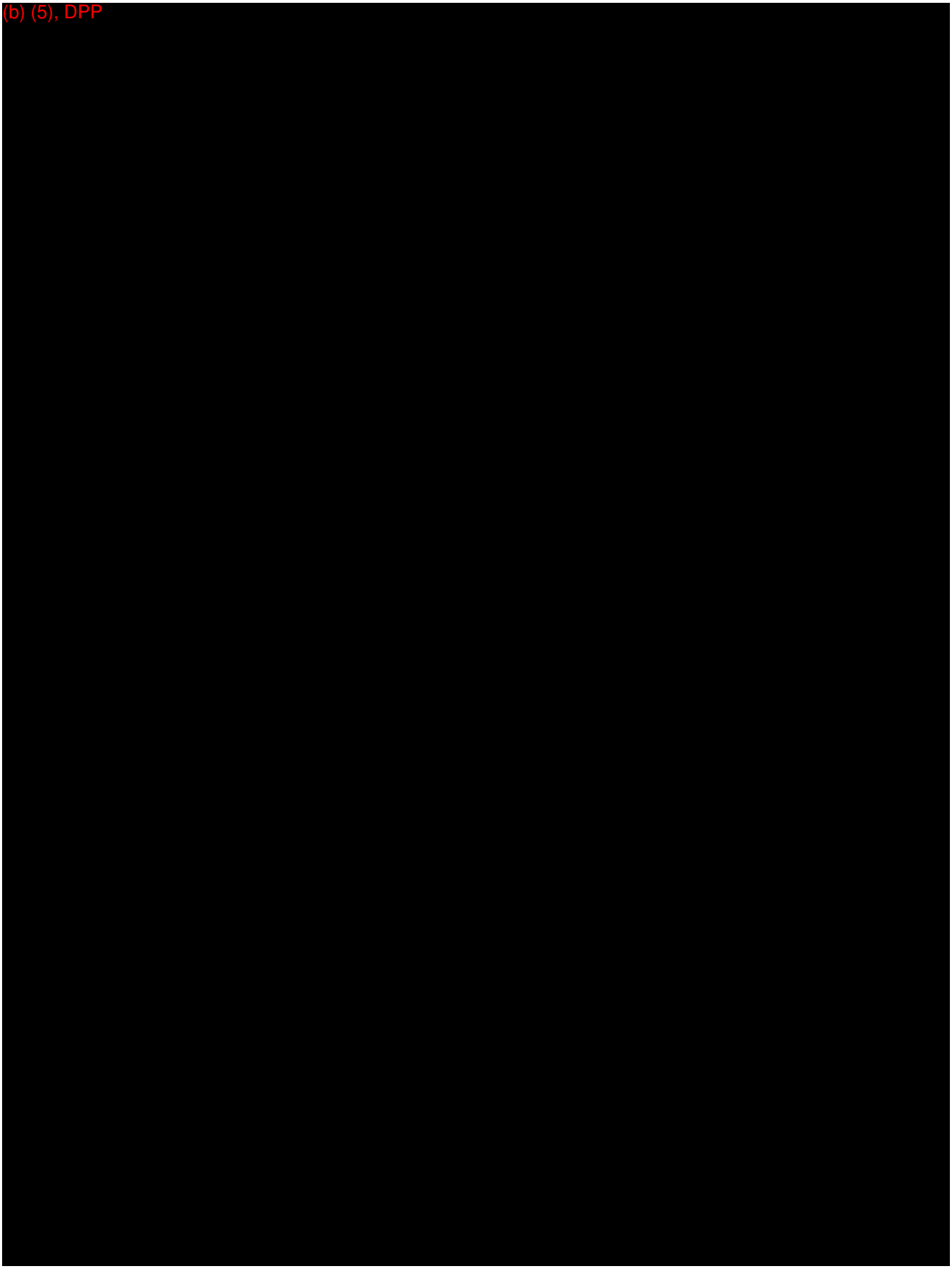
Date of report: March 2, 2020

Time of report: 8:00 PM ET

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[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

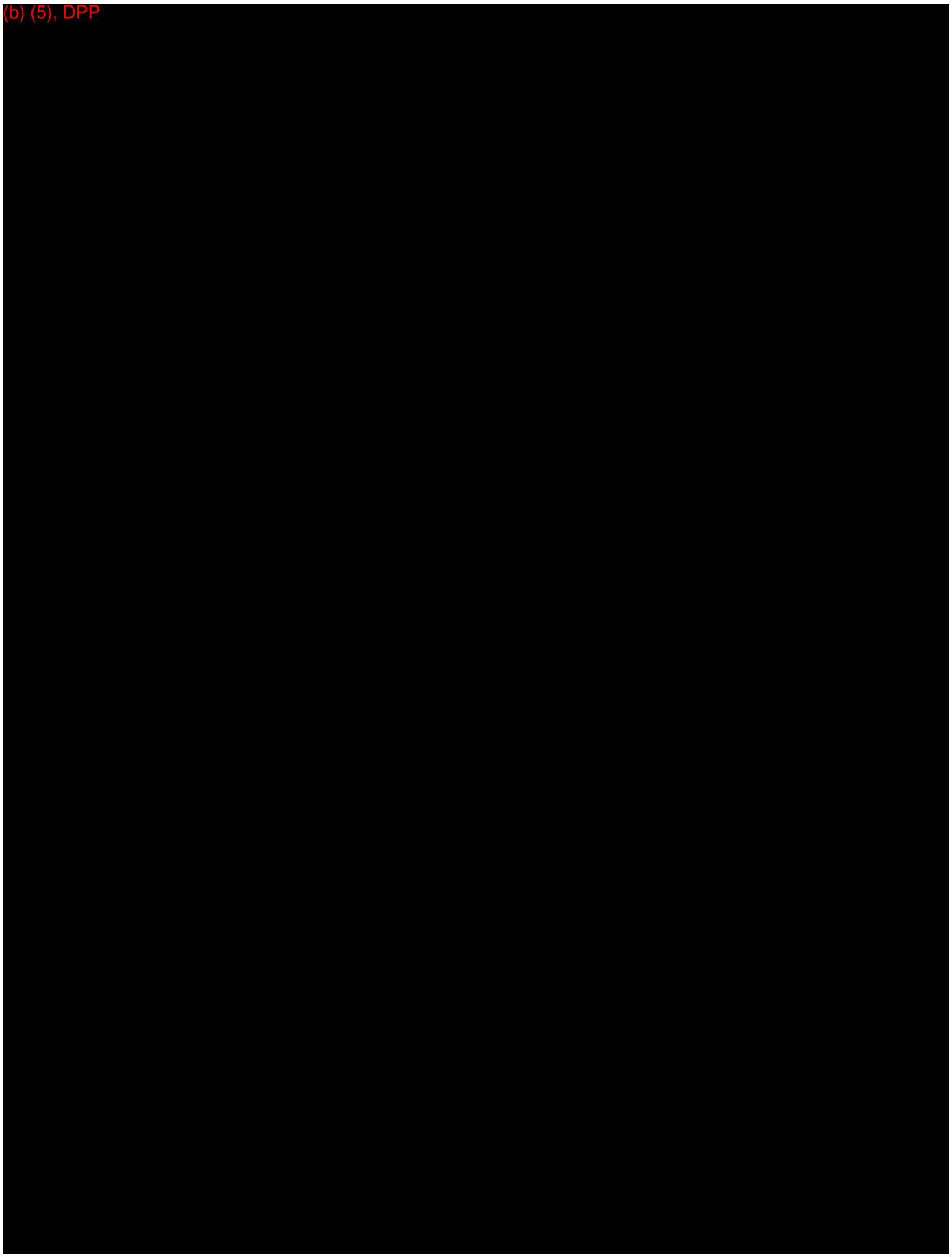
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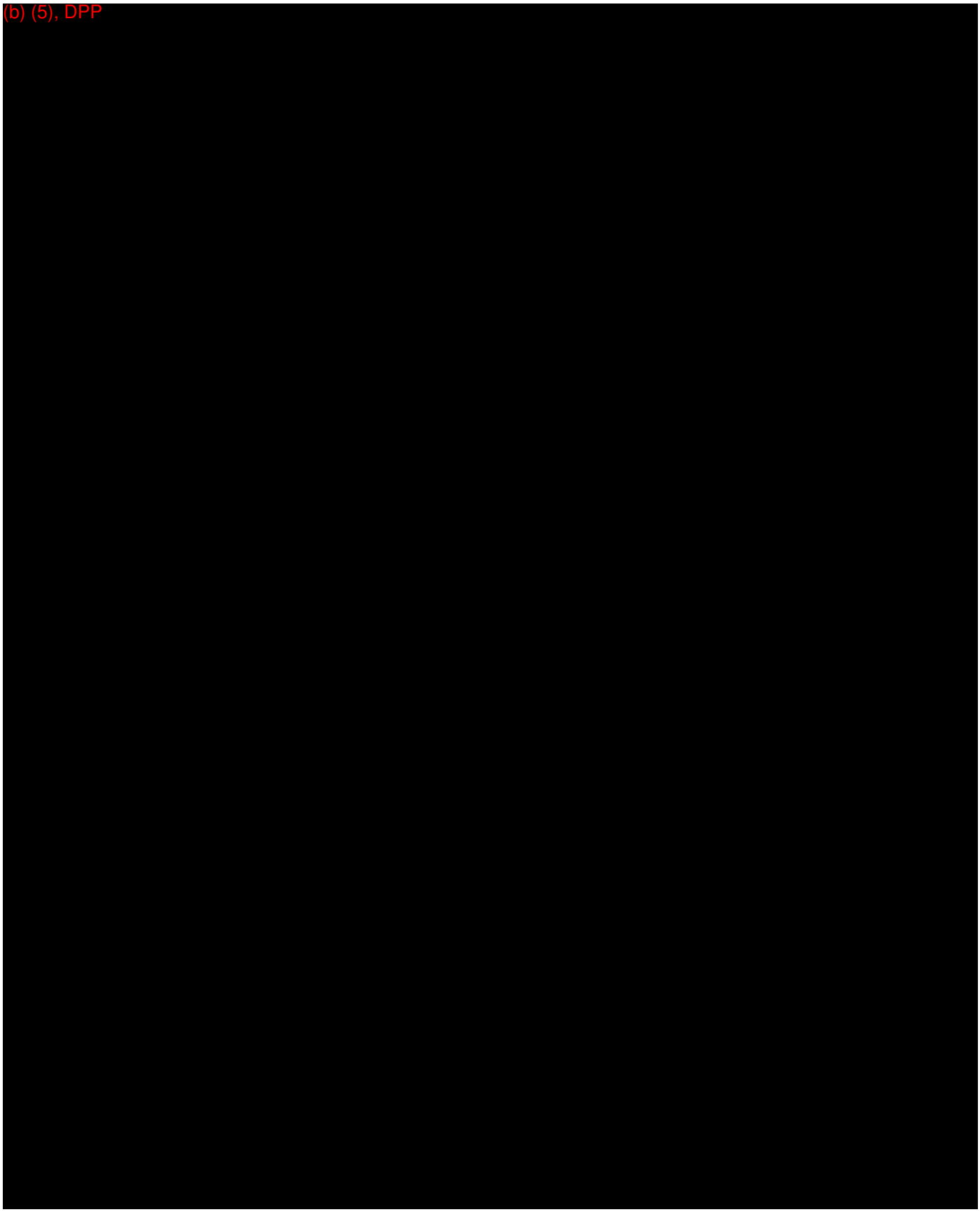
(b) (5), DPP

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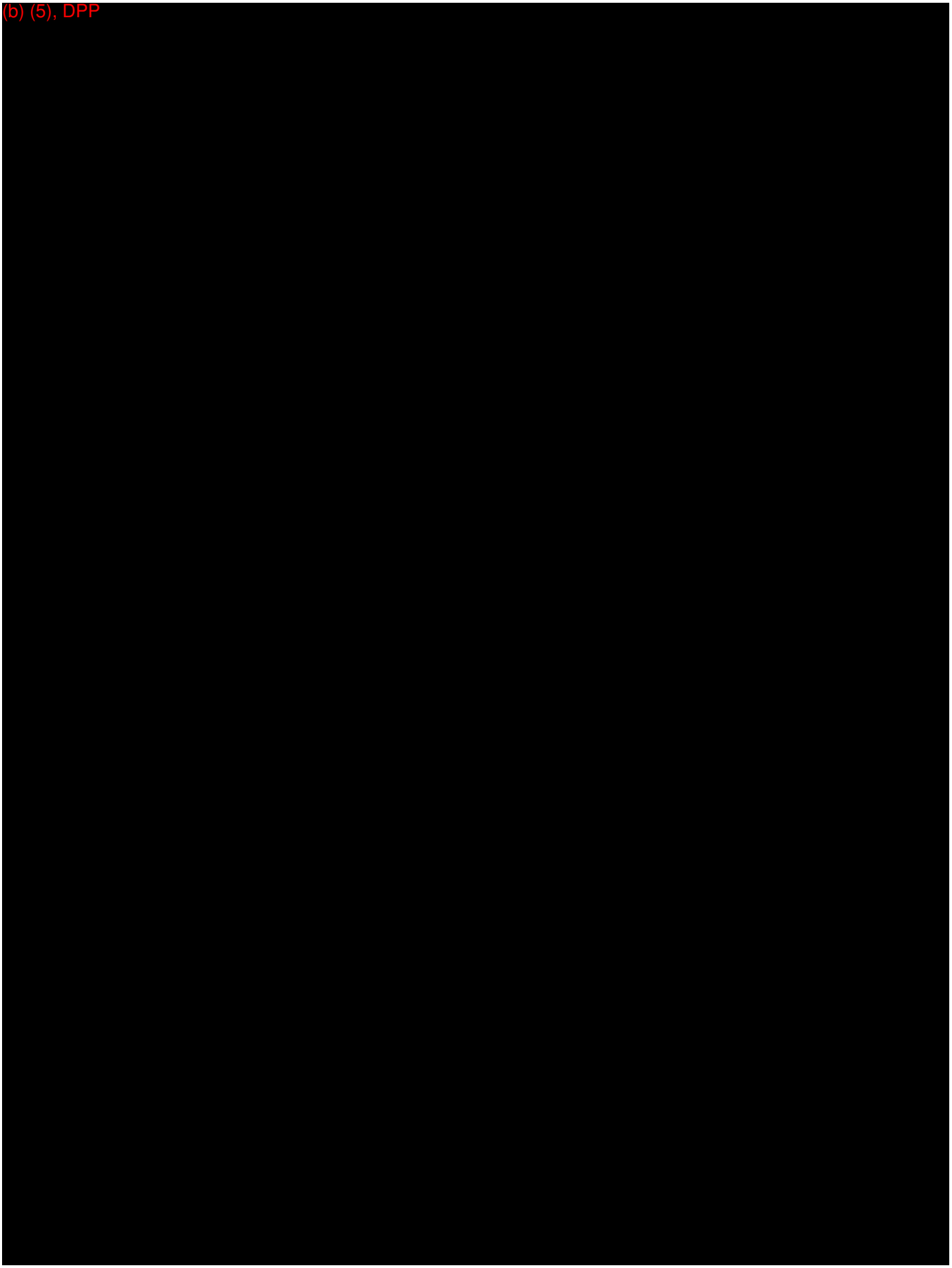
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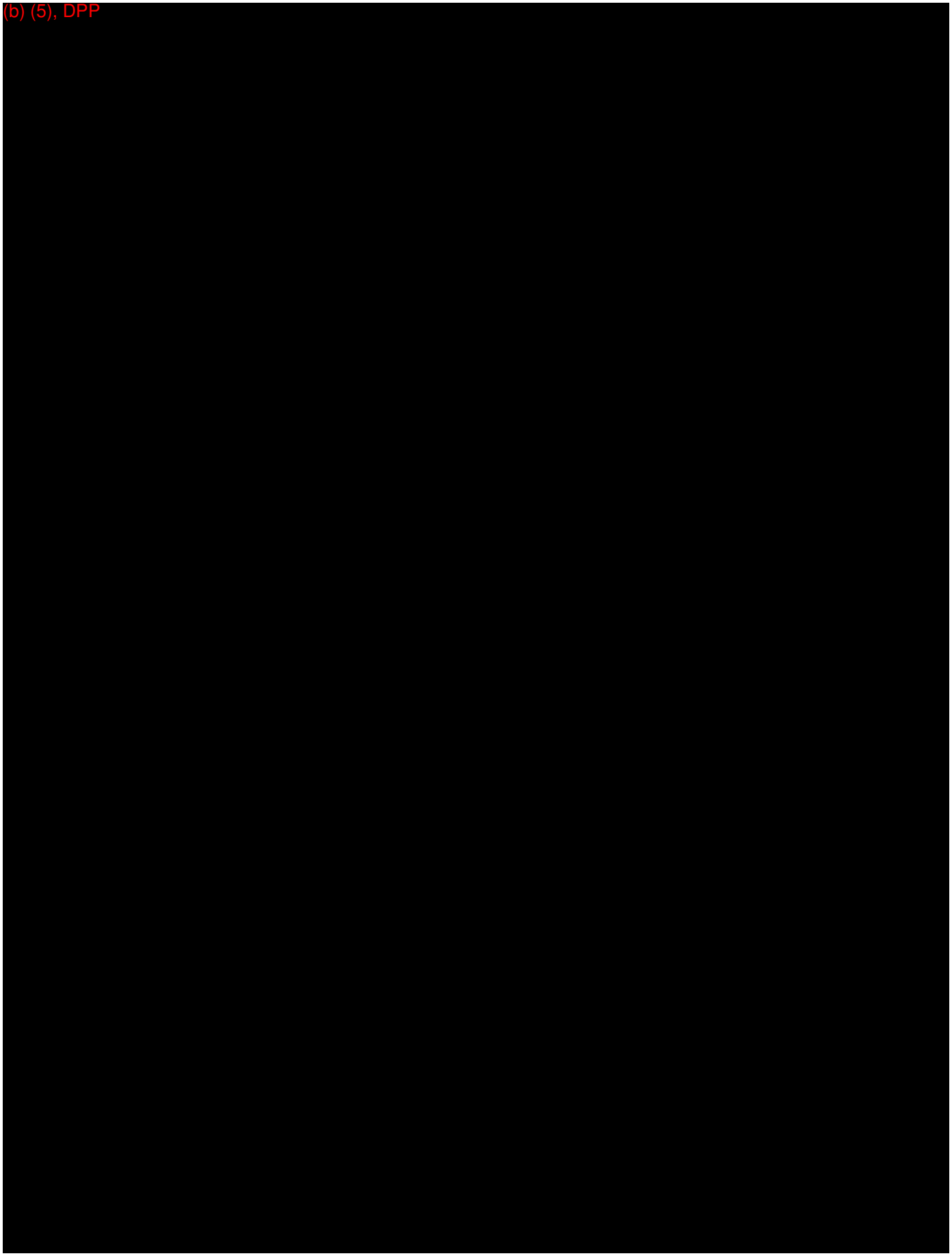
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From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Fwd: USDA pressured to allow more SNAP recipients order online groceries
Date:	Tuesday, April 7, 2020 8:02:23 AM

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From: POLITICO Pro <politicoemail@politicopro.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:04:19 AM

To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Subject: USDA pressured to allow more SNAP recipients order online groceries

USDA pressured to allow more SNAP recipients order online groceries

By Liz Crampton

04/07/2020 05:03 AM EDT

Shoppers are rushing to sign up for prized delivery slots offered by online grocery services. With just a few clicks, people can stockpile their pantries without leaving their homes.

But most of the 42 million low-income people reliant on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, don't get the convenience of groceries brought to their front steps.

Nearly six years after Congress authorized a program to test online food purchases, only six states have taken the steps to allow SNAP recipients to use benefits to purchase food online — and from only a limited number of approved national retailers.

Now, nonprofit groups are lobbying Congress and the Agriculture Department to relax rules and encourage a rapid expansion of online ordering of food. Many of those receiving food stamps are especially vulnerable to contracting the virus, such as the elderly and those with disabilities.

Democratic lawmakers and lobbyists are also continuing to push for more money to SNAP, seeking a 15 percent boost in benefits in the next anticipated emergency relief package as a staggering number of people are filing for unemployment and may need food assistance.

"As we look at all of the different efforts across the United States to make sure low-income families are being fed, it becomes clear to me that SNAP is absolutely the first responder," said Lisa Davis, senior vice president of No Kid Hungry.

The USDA told POLITICO it will work with states interested in offering SNAP purchasing online to do so.

Yet it's unclear how quickly USDA will be able to move. Setting up the pilot program took years as officials grappled with significant technical challenges. Most SNAP recipients pay with electronic benefit transfer, or EBT, cards at stores, but buying online requires adding extra layers of verification to prevent fraud or improper payments.

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It was only last year that New York became the first state to introduce a program for online grocery orders. It was followed by Washington, Alabama, Iowa and Oregon. Nebraska became the latest state to launch a statewide program last week.

Maryland and New Jersey were also named as participants in the 2014 farm bill creating the pilot program, but they haven't started offering online ordering yet.

The USDA's Food and Nutrition Service "is working with other states that are interested in implementing the online purchasing option," a department spokesperson said. "States that are interested in the pilot should reach out to their respective FNS regional office. FNS is currently working with all states that have expressed interest and are able to expedite online implementation."

Amazon and Walmart are the primary retailers serving states with online systems. The department vetted retailers based on which were equipped to handle the secure processing of EBT cards.

Another problem, though, is that SNAP benefits can't be used to cover the cost of delivery or service fees, which can add up when the average SNAP household receives about $250 per month. USDA also said it's working on guidance for additional sellers who want to expedite their participation in the pilot.

Alabama moved up the launch of SNAP online ordering because of concerns about how recommendations to stay home affects people's ability to buy food, said Brandon Hardin, director of the Food Assistance Division at the state's department of human resources.

Wright's Market, a local grocer, started serving a portion of Alabama last month, and the program expanded to other vendors and the rest of the state when the pandemic spread, he said.

"We feel like it's a great option to help ensure social distancing measures, help folks that qualify for our program have different options in grocery store delivery methods," Hardin said. "It's a great tool considering the current environment right now."

States are preparing for an influx of SNAP recipients as the economy craters from massive closures across industries that have led to millions of layoffs.

Hardin said that Alabama typically receives 28,000 SNAP applications processed online per month. But over a 10-day period at the end of March — right when many people began applying for unemployment benefits — the department saw 24,000 applications.

Washington state, which was one of the first places to be hit by the pandemic, has seen a similar increase in sign-ups, and officials expect participation in online ordering to rise as the outbreak continues, said Babs Roberts, director of the Community Services Division. Application rates for the state's food assistance programs have soared about 80 percent in the last two weeks, she said.

"The program itself frankly from my point of view is probably long overdue," Roberts said. "People have been using credit cards and debit cards for a number of years, and I love that this program brings that same access and opportunity for low-income individuals. It just feels very equitable to be able to do this."

Efforts to ease the pain for working Americans is prompting members of Congress to increase access to food delivery bought with food stamps during the pandemic beyond USDA's online

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pilot program. Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) introduced a bill that would encourage retailers to deliver groceries to SNAP participants by allowing for the EBT card to be swiped at their homes or when the order is picked up at the store.

It would also authorize public-private partnerships between USDA and authorized SNAP retailers to support grocery delivery and provide $500 million in funding through state agencies to reimburse retailers for grocery delivery fees for SNAP participants.

Farmers dealing with dried-up revenue could also benefit from wider online purchasing with SNAP, said Wes King, senior policy specialist for the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, a nonprofit that promotes local farming.

“Local farmers have responded by rapidly adopting new models and approaches to getting their products to consumers, including online sales and delivery options,” he said.

“Expanding online SNAP beyond large supermarket chains would be a huge boost to small and mid-sized local farmers in their efforts to adapt to the new world we find ourselves and ensure everyone in their communities continue to have access to fresh healthy local food, including SNAP customers,” King said.

To view online:
https://subscriber.politicopro.com/budget-appropriations/article/2020/04/usda-pressured-to-allow-more-snap-recipients-order-online-groceries-1911830

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From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: USDA to appeal court decision temporarily blocking changes to food stamps
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 12:11:16 PM

I thought (b) (5), DPP .

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)

From: POLITICO Pro Agriculture <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 12:10:13 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA to appeal court decision temporarily blocking changes to food stamps

USDA to appeal court decision temporarily blocking changes to food stamps

By Catherine Boudreau

03/19/2020 12:09 PM EDT

The Agriculture Department said it will appeal a federal judge's decision that block changes to the food stamp program that were set to kick an estimated 700,000 people off benefits.

Last week the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted a preliminary injunction sought by Democratic attorneys general to stop the USDA rule, which was scheduled to take effect April 1. The judge said the global coronavirus pandemic poses widespread health risks, so federal and state officials should have the flexibility to address food needs through aid like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Separately, Congress on Wednesday passed a multibillion dollar economic stimulus package, H.R. 6201 (116), that suspends SNAP work and training requirements during the outbreak.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, in a statement to POLITICO, said that USDA will comply with the legislation, which effectively pauses the department's changes to the food stamp program during the current public health emergency.

"We are going to be as flexible as we can at USDA to get food out to people who may need it — unemployment issues and other kinds of things," Perdue said. "People need food and that's what USDA does."

USDA's contentious new rule involved able-bodied adults without dependents, or ABAWDs. Under current SNAP requirements, this group must work at least 20 hours a week or participate in education and training programs to be eligible. These individuals are limited to no more than three months of benefits during a three-year period.

However, states can waive those requirements in areas with high unemployment — an authority the Trump administration argued states were misusing when the economy had been on a multiyear upswing. USDA's rule would make it more difficult for states to qualify for

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those waivers.

The Associated Press first reported USDA's decision to appeal.

To view online:
https://subscriber.politicopro.com/agriculture/whiteboard/2020/03/usda-to-appeal-court-decision-temporarily-blocking-changes-to-food-stamps-1897661

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From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Fwd: USDA touts major SNAP benefits boost
Date:	Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:40:37 PM

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From: POLITICO Pro <politicoemail@politicopro.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:33:19 PM

To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Subject: USDA touts major SNAP benefits boost

USDA touts major SNAP benefits boost

By Helena Bottemiller Evich

04/22/2020 12:32 PM EDT

The Agriculture Department touted today that it's sending billions of dollars more each month in food stamp benefits to help Americans during Covid-19 — a marked change for an administration that's been laser-focused on highlighting how it's been cutting spending on the program.

The increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits stem from the trillions in aid Congress' has provided in response to the pandemic. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, H.R. 6201 (116), provided emergency allotments to SNAP recipients that total $2 billion a month, or a 40 percent increase, USDA said. The department was already pushing out $4.5 billion in benefits to SNAP households each month before the increase.

The emergency allotments allowed by Congress give states the ability to increase benefits for up to two months. All 50 states, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia have been cleared to send additional emergency benefits. USDA is also issuing guidance to states that may want to extend these allotments.

"These are unprecedented times for American families who are facing joblessness and hunger," Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said in a statement touting the increases.

The secretary credited President Donald Trump for the aid, even as the administration's mandate last year was to shrink the country's social safety programs.

"President Trump is taking care of America's working-class families who have been hit hard with economic distress due to the coronavirus," Perdue said.

To view online:
https://subscriber.politicopro.com/agriculture/whiteboard/2020/04/usda-touts-major-snap-benefits-boost-3979662

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From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject:	Fwd: USDA"s SNAP crackdown delayed but not canceled
Date:	Thursday, April 2, 2020 7:23:48 AM

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From: POLITICO Pro <politicoemail@politicopro.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 5:07:46 AM

To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Subject: USDA's SNAP crackdown delayed but not canceled

USDA's SNAP crackdown delayed but not canceled

By Catherine Boudreau

04/02/2020 05:03 AM EDT

The Trump administration wanted to push an estimated 4 million people off food stamps. Then, the coronavirus hit.

For the last two years, the Agriculture Department has issued several new rules that would disqualify certain low-income Americans from food stamps, arguing that they should be encouraged to work during a booming economy. Now, states are seeing a surge in new applications for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the formal name for food stamps, from people who find themselves out of work or getting much less work.

One of those rules was set to take effect Wednesday until both Congress and a federal judge stepped in to temporarily block it during the pandemic crisis. Still, some state officials and anti-hunger groups argue the reprieve should extend for longer as an economic recession looms, and are pressing Congress to expand food benefits.

“One of the reasons we opposed USDA’s rules is because they put in jeopardy some features of the program that make it responsive to a spike in need,” Ellen Vollinger, legal director at the Food Research and Action Center, said of the proposed rules. “You don’t want to cut eligibility and benefits, which help people during tough times and have the multiplier effect of boosting the local economy.”

Asked whether USDA plans to advance its proposed changes to food stamps after the public health crisis abates, the department suggested it would stick to the timelines previously outlined. USDA stressed that the first priority is making sure those in need receive assistance during the pandemic.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said in a statement to POLITICO on Wednesday that the department is giving states, which administer SNAP, flexibility and is increasing services to ensure children and others in need can get food during the pandemic.

The department has quickly approved states’ requests to serve school meals off site, provide extra money to low-income families with children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch,

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and disburse emergency SNAP benefits to areas where a federal public health emergency has been declared.

Before the pandemic hit, SNAP participation had fallen 23 percent since 2013, when it peaked at more than 47 million people after the Great Recession, according to USDA data. The cost of the program dropped by $20 billion during that period, as well.

That trend is likely to change, based on the accounts of state officials who told POLITICO they are now inundated with calls about applying for public assistance. SNAP and unemployment insurance helped cushion the blow of the 2008 financial crisis — a scenario playing out once again as businesses shut down for an indefinite amount of time to slow the spread of the virus.

In Michigan, applications for public aid including food stamps have quadrupled in the last week, said Robert Gordon, who directs the state's Health and Human Services Department.

“Typically, about 1,500 people log into the online system each day,” Gordon said. “Recently it went down for an hour, and when it rebooted, there were 10,000 people waiting.”

“The level of need that families are facing is nothing like we have seen since the Great Recession,” he added.

In Washington state before mid-March, there were about 1,500 applications a day for federal nutrition assistance — primarily SNAP. That has spiked to more than 2,700 in the last two weeks, said Babs Roberts, director of the Department of Social and Health Services’ community services division.

Michigan and Washington are among the 25 states approved by USDA so far to issue emergency SNAP benefits to those already enrolled in the program, which Congress authorized in recent stimulus legislation, H.R. 6201 (116).

Gordon said Michigan sent out an extra $66 million to recipients over the weekend, while Roberts said Washington is in the process of sending out the so-called emergency allotments.

However, the boost won't help the neediest families, state officials said, because households already receiving the maximum amount of SNAP benefits each month don't qualify.

Even before Covid-19 sent the economy reeling, Roberts said she was concerned about the Trump administration’s efforts to rein in SNAP.

“In Washington, we believe that allowing states to know what’s best for their own economy is important,” she said. “I don’t agree with limiting states’ flexibility."

For now, both a court order and the earlier coronavirus stimulus package, H.R. 6201 (116), have put a temporary pause on the new USDA rule that will make it harder for states to waive work requirements for certain adults without children or other dependents. By USDA’s own analysis, about 700,000 people would have lost access to food stamps under the change.

It is unclear, however, when USDA will finalize two other regulations in the works. One would limit states ability to automatically confer SNAP eligibility to households already receiving some kind of service under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF.

Such a change would cut an estimated 3 million from the program and is under review by the

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White House. Perdue said states have been exploiting that "loophole" to get around typical asset limits required to qualify for SNAP.

Another proposal would cap certain utility costs that help determine the amount of SNAP assistance each household receives, slashing benefits by an estimated $4.5 billion over five years. The department had planned to finalize it by May.

Anti-hunger groups are urging Congress to make it easier for people to qualify for benefits during the economic turmoil Covid-19 has caused, which may last months or longer.

So far, Congress allocated nearly $16 billion more for SNAP in its most recent stimulus legislation, H.R. 748 (116), along with billions more for nutrition programs for school children and emergency food aid for local charities.

However, that additional SNAP money will only cover the cost of benefits for people who are newly eligible for the program. It won't provide more money to families already enrolled, said groups like the left-leaning Center for Budget and Policy Priorities.

"There is evidence that current SNAP benefits are too low to help families afford a basic diet," the group said in a statement. It is urging Congress to boost household benefits by 15 percent just as the Obama administration had done in the wake of the financial crisis. That provision did not make it into the $2 trillion relief package despite a push by some Senate Democrats.

"During a recession, when households face longer periods of low earnings or no earnings, the fact that SNAP benefits are inadequate becomes a larger problem," the center said.

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https://subscriber.politicopro.com/education/article/2020/04/usdas-snap-crackdown-delayed-but-not-canceled-1908987

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov)
Subject: fyi - congressional update - coronavirus FNS space
Date: Friday, March 6, 2020 9:14:00 PM

FYI –

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 9:13 PM
To: Ken - OSEC Washington DC Barbic (Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov) <Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Subject: update - coronavirus FNS space

DELIBERATIVE – PREDECISIONAL – DELIBERATIVE

Ken and Evan,

Wanted to give you an update on the FNS space and coronavirus.

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Veronica

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov)
Cc:	Alec - OC 20174 Washington DC Varsamis (alec.varsamis@usda.gov)
Subject:	fyi - Incoming Cong Letter Sen Casey plus 27 Members SNAP delivery options
Date:	Monday, May 11, 2020 9:42:00 AM
Attachments:	5.11.20 Letter to USDA re SNAP Delivery.pdf

Attachment included previously at pages 459-462

Wanted everyone to be aware of this letter just received from Sen Casey plus 27 Senators, bipartisan, including RM Stabenow with specific questions.

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Randall, Kiev - FNS; Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov); Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee)
Cc:	Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lindsay - FNS Datlow (Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov); Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov); Pam - FNS Miller (pam.miller@usda.gov); Alec - OC 20174 Washington DC Varsamis (alec.varsamis@usda.gov)
Subject:	fyi - incoming letter from Fudge/Scott Sec Perdue on Pandemic EBT in H.R. 6201
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 11:18:00 AM
Attachments:	image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.png image006.png Fudge_Scott Letter to Perdue on Pandemic EBT_3.20.20.pdf

---

Fyi – incoming hill letter on P-SNAP implementation

From: Garrison, Eyang <Eyang.Garrison@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:15 AM
To: SM.OSEC.AGSEC.OES <SM.OSEC.AGSEC.OES@usda.gov>
Cc: Hard, Alison <Alison.Hard@mail.house.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Fudge/Scott Letter to Secretary Perdue on Pandemic EBT in H.R. 6201

Good morning,

Attached is a letter from Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight and Department Operations Chair Marcia L. Fudge and Education and Labor Committee Chair Bobby Scott on the Pandemic EBT provisions of H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Regards,
-Eyang

Eyang Garrison | Deputy Chief of Staff & Legislative Director
Representative Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11)
2344 Rayburn House Office Building
Main Office: 202.225.7032

Sign up for Rep. Fudge's e-newsletter by clicking here.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write regarding implementation of H.R. 6201, the *Family First Coronavirus Response Act* – Congress' most recent response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Specifically, H.R. 6201 authorizes the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to approve state plans to provide emergency benefits *(Pandemic EBT)* to households with children who, if not for COVID-19 related school closures of no less than 5 consecutive days, would receive free or reduced-price school meals.

As you work to implement this new legislative authority, we urge you to move quickly to issue guidance to state agencies that provides broad flexibility in program design and allows states to tailor their program to best fit their unique needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, the Pandemic EBT guidance must include the flexibility for state agencies to:

1. Certify and issue benefits to eligible households using innovative strategies that limit the spread of COVID-19;

2. Streamline the certification process and eliminate unnecessary procedures, such as the need for households to submit an application, appear at an interview, provide verification or submit periodic reports;

3. Allow approved households to use their benefits to purchase food for home consumption and ready-to-eat hot foods;

4. Partner with non-profits and community organizations to assist with certifying eligible households for benefits;

5. Use available funds to cover all costs, including any associated administrative costs;

6. Issue benefits to approved households within a reasonable time frame that provides the maximum amount of flexibility for interested states, particularly those experiencing changes in staff levels as a result of the pandemic, to develop and submit plans for approval; and

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 000965
USDA-20-1045-A-000965

7. Submit any required reports to USDA at a frequency that takes into consideration the potential impact of COVID-19 on a state agency's ability to meet such a requirement.

Given the growing number of school closures nationwide, USDA must act swiftly to provide states with clarity on Pandemic EBT to ensure low-income children without access to school meals receive assistance as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

MARCIA L. FUDGE
Chair
Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight and Department Operation
Committee on Agriculture

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Chair
Committee on Education and Labor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st USDA Release 2021-06-30 USDA-20-1045-A-000966

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov); Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	fyi - natl restaurant association - COVID FNS
Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2020 2:53:00 PM
Attachments:	Restaurant COVID-19 SNAP letter.pdf

fyi

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 26, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
Senate S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
The Capitol S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy and Leader Schumer:

In response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak and its effect on people across the country, the National Restaurant Association[1] and National Council of Chain Restaurants[2] are requesting that Congress change current law to expand the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP), and direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to release guidance on the program and swiftly approve any restaurant applications.

The Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) is a long standing federally approved program that enables people to use their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits at restaurants. Today, the majority of SNAP recipients are limited to purchasing only non-prepared food items at grocery stores. However, one of the few exceptions to this rule is for recipients who live in one of the very few states that chose to offer the RMP option to people who are elderly, disabled, or homeless. This important program allows recipients to use SNAP benefits to purchase a prepared meal at qualifying restaurants.

Currently, the only participating states include Arizona and California (select counties) with pilots also running in Florida and Rhode Island. Additionally, Maryland and Illinois have recently passed legislation to create a state RMP.

[1] The National Restaurant Association is the leading business association for the restaurant and foodservice industry, representing more than 15.6 million employees, nearly 10 percent of the nation's workforce. With one million locations across the country, the $863 billion in sales from the restaurant industry makes up four percent of the U.S. GDP.

[2] The National Council of Chain Restaurants, a division of the National Retail Federation, is the leading organization exclusively representing chain restaurant companies. For more than 40 years, NCCR has worked to advance sound public policy that serves restaurant businesses and the millions of people they employ. NCCR members include the country's most respected quick-service and table-service chain restaurants.

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response - A60 000968
USDA-20-1045-A-000968

Like all Americans, SNAP participants are facing extreme challenges related to food preparation in light of COVID-19. Due to this crisis, there are periodic food shortages at grocery stores, in addition to many changes to normal food preparation routines (e.g. high risk individuals may be practicing social distancing and avoiding the grocery store, some parents are ill and cannot prepare their partner or children's food, some might want to avoid preparing food for high risk family members if they are experiencing symptoms or unknowingly carrying COVID-19, and other situations).

Simultaneously, we are seeing restaurants following official orders to close or restrict foodservice establishments in response to COVID-19 which is limiting food options for communities. Some, however, are innovating in the face of this health crisis by providing options for quick pickups of takeout foods and contactless delivery which could benefit SNAP participants. We believe it is essential to increase awareness of this program and reduce red tape for states that want to participate in order to allow SNAP recipients the ability to purchase prepared foods from restaurants with SNAP dollars.

With so many schools and businesses closed at this time, Congress should be looking for more food access points. To that end, we ask Congress to:

- Instruct USDA to release guidance to States on existence of the RMP and urgently approve any restaurant that wants to participate during the COVID-19 emergency; and
- Change current law to temporarily waive requirements of the RMP allowing States to swiftly participate and expand the program to serve all SNAP participants during the COVID-19 emergency.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to address this ongoing health crisis.

Sincerely,



Sean Kennedy
Executive Vice-President, Public Affairs
National Restaurant Association

Sincerely,



David French
Executive Director
National Council of Chain Restaurants

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cc:
The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry United States Senate

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry United States Senate

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Michael Conaway
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response - 2020-0970
USDA-20-1045-A-000970

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Pam - FNS Miller (pam.miller@usda.gov); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lindsay - FNS Datlow (Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov)
Subject:	fyi - Sen Toomey (PA) submission disaster household
Date:	Wednesday, March 25, 2020 2:52:00 PM
Attachments:	CSFP Plan of Operation Amendment Between State And HFPA - March 2020 - Check-In Waiver and Bi-Monthly Distribution.doc Pennsylvania -- Disaster Household Distribution Request -- March 20 2020.docx

Fyi only – sharing with you'll because of the recent attention on disaster household distribution.

From: Wright, Wesley (Toomey) <Wesley_Wright@toomey.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 2:23 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Duncan, Hal (Toomey) <Hal_Duncan@toomey.senate.gov>
Cc: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Food Banks and Federal Warehouses- Sen Toomey

Thanks, Veronica. The foodbanks have been working with PDA and the state, in consultation with the regional foodbanks, has submitted these two items for USDA's review. We appreciate your attention to these matters.

Wes

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STATE/ITO REQUEST FOR DISASTER HOUSEHOLD FEEDING

National Emergency Declaration – COVID-19

Subject to FNS' approval of this request, States and ITOs may provide donated foods from current inventories, either at the distributing or recipient agency level, to a disaster organization, for distribution to households in need of food assistance due to COVID-19. Such distribution may continue for the period that FNS has determined to be necessary (duration listed below) to meet the needs of such households. However, households receiving disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) benefits are not eligible to receive disaster household food assistance.

States and ITOs should consult with their FNS Regional Office and refer to 7 CFR 250.69 to review the requirements related to approval of disaster organizations, prohibition of dual participation with Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP), required household information, reporting and recordkeeping, replacement of USDA Foods used for disaster household distribution, and reimbursement of transportation costs associated with disaster household distributions. Per 7 CFR 250.69, provide the following information:

1. DATE:
   March 20, 2020

2. STATE/ITO:
   Pennsylvania, Department of Agriculture

3. NAME OF STATE/ITO CONTACT:
   Caryn Long Earl

4. CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:
   cearl@pa.gov

5. CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:
   717.772.2688

6. CONTACT PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
   Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
   Bureau of Food Assistance
   2301 N. Cameron Street, Room 401
   Harrisburg, PA 17110

7. DATE REQUESTED TO BEGIN DISASTER HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION:
   March 20, 2020

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

8. DATE REQUESTED TO CEASE DISASTER HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION:
Distributions requested to last for 1 month. Depending on approval date, approximate end date is April 20, 2020. If necessary, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) will request to extend the Disaster Household Feeding Program for an additional period of time.

9. DESCRIPTION OF DISASTER SITUATION/NEED FOR DISASTER HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION:
On Friday, March 6, 2020, Pennsylvania announced it had found its first two cases of COVID-19 and Governor Tom Wolf signed an emergency disaster declaration. One week later, as confirmed cases continued to climb, Gov. Wolf made the decision to close schools across Pennsylvania for two weeks. Since that time, as more suspected cases of COVID-19 have been announced in additional counties throughout the Commonwealth, retailers have seen consumers swarm grocery stores in an attempt to secure all items deemed necessary to be quarantined for the recommended period of two weeks. Simultaneously, the emergency food assistance network throughout Pennsylvania has seen unprecedented demand for its services from those who can no longer afford to access food supplies through commercial channels. While more than 1.5 million Pennsylvanians were at risk of hunger prior to the beginning of this crisis, the need for emergency food assistance has been amplified due to hourly-wage and other gig economy employees suddenly being out of work, school children losing access to daily school breakfasts and lunches in areas where their schools don't meet the 50% threshold to offer open SFSP and Seamless Summer programs, college students being out of school with no access to meal plans, and seniors who are suddenly seeing their retirement savings dwindling and have no way to access food.

As congregate feeding sites are not an option due to the nature of the virus, PDA is requesting approval to operate the Disaster Household Feeding Program. In order to maintain that ability to continue serving traditional clientele in all 67 counties, PDA is asking for approval to use TEFAP Bonus and Trade Mitigation products only for this program. By only working with the 18 entities to whom we directly ship these TEFAP product to, we will retain the ability for the counties to use TEFAP Entitlement -- supplemented by food provided by our State Food Purchase Program – to continue serving those who already relied on us prior to this crisis. Meanwhile, we will use on-hand supplies of TEFAP Bonus and Trade Mitigation to target those who are newly in need of emergency food due to the fallout from the spread of COVID-19.

10. APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REQUIRING ASSISTANCE:
We anticipate serving approximately 772,500 individuals per month, targeting those who find themselves newly in need of assistance because of unanticipated circumstances arising from the spread of the COVID-19. (Please see accompanying spreadsheet for more information.)

11. APPROXIMATE QUANTITY AND TYPES OF FOOD NEEDED:
PDA and the 18 organizations to which we have USDA Foods directly shipped will utilize existing inventory of TEFAP Bonus and Trade Mitigation foods. These foods include, but are not limited to: frozen meats, canned meats, canned vegetables, canned fruits, canned soups, dried and canned beans, rice, nuts, cereal, juice, shelf stable milk, fresh apples, fresh oranges, fresh potatoes, boxed pasta, canned tomato sauce, and eggs. In total, approximately 450,000 cases of food would be

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needed to support this effort and usage will be monitored regularly. Currently, PDA has sufficient product in inventory.

To provide a balanced food package, these USDA Foods will be mixed with purchased and donated foods already on-hand at these locations. These foods will be packed into food boxes for ease of distribution.

The frequency of these distributions will vary, as we will be partially relying on our existing network of partners to distribute these foods according to their normal frequencies. In a state as large as Pennsylvania, distribution frequencies vary anywhere from once per week to once per month.

12. THE NUMBER AND LOCATION OF DISTRIBUTION SITES:
Total planned sites (at this time) include 2,116 sites – 1,630 traditional distribution locations (food pantries, cupboards, etc.) and 486 mobile and/or pop-up sites. (See attached spreadsheet for more information.)

Our 18 direct-ship partner organizations will be responsible for collecting information from their sites on inventories distributed and number of people served. This information will be required to be reported to PDA on a monthly basis. Upon completion of the Disaster Household Feeding Program, PDA will complete the FNS 292A form to request reimbursement.

Participants will not be required to complete an application or to sign any forms. The goal will be to limit exposure between staff/volunteers and recipients. No income requirements will be in place and no financial information will be gathered from recipients. (D-SNAP is not currently operating in Pennsylvania, but if this changes, all sites will be required to collect names and addresses of individuals served as well as an attestation from the household representative to certify that they are not receiving D-SNAP.)

A statement will be posted at all distribution sites communicating that the sale or exchange of USDA foods is strictly prohibited. Additionally, the And Justice For All poster will be required to be displayed at all feeding sites.

The disaster feeding program will be communicated to Pennsylvania residents through the PDA Communications Office. Information will be posted on the PDA website, PDA social media, and press releases will be sent to a variety of news outlets. In addition, all 18 direct-ship partner organizations will be required to provide public communications about this program in the counties they respectively serve. These communications will all include messaging noting that these Disaster Household Distributions are targeted to those who themselves newly in need of assistance because of unanticipated circumstances arising from the spread of the COVID-19.

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CLEARANCE			
REQUESTING STATE/ITO OFFICIAL	**TITLE**	**SIGNATURE**	**DATE**
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture/Caryn Long Earl	**Director, Bureau of Food Assistance**		**3/20/2029**
APPROVING FNS OFFICIAL	**TITLE**	**SIGNATURE**	**DATE**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE
COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP)

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF FOOD ASSISTANCE

CSFP

HUNGER-FREE PENNSYLVANIA
A Network of Food Banks & Charitable Organizations

AMENDMENT

THIS AMENDMENT made and entered in this 16th day of March 2020, by and between The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania acting by and through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture ("PDA") and the Pennsylvania Association of Regional Food Banks dba Hunger-Free Pennsylvania ("PARF").

RECITALS

The PDA and PARF entered into a Management Agreement ("Agreement") effective October 1, 2016 certifying that PARF meets the requirements for participation in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program ("Program").

The Agreement grants PARF the right and obligation to receive, distribute and use Program food and Program funds allocated to PARF in compliance with governing state and federal laws, regulations, guidelines and specific conditions and in compliance with Pennsylvania's Program Plan of Operations as approved by USDA, and that upon request by PDA or its designated representative, PARF will provide any and all information relating to Program management by PARF.

PARF reaffirms the following:

- PARF will provide, or cause to be provided, nutrition education to participants as required in §247.18;
- PARF will provide, or cause to be provided, information to participants on other health, nutrition, and public assistance programs and make referrals as appropriate, as required in §247.14;
- PARF will provide, or cause to be provided, that the commodities will be distributed in accordance with the approved food package guide rate.
- PARF will take steps, or cause steps to be taken, to prevent and detect dual participation, as required in §247.17;
- PARF will take steps to maintain an updated list of names and addresses of all certification, distribution, and storage sites under its jurisdiction; and
- PARF will take steps, or cause steps to be taken that no person will be subject to discrimination under the program on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.

Now, therefore, the parties hereto agree to amend the Plan of Operation as follows:

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◯ There are no changes to our CSFP Plan of Operation.		
◯ The following changes should be made to the PARF – CSFP Plan of Operation		
Section	**Description**	**Change**
1.05	CSFP Certification and Distribution Sites [CSFP Lead Agencies]	
1.06	Certification Criteria and Procedures • Income Criteria – Elderly • Method to Determine Applicant's Income and Age • Residency Requirements • Group Home Applicants	
1.07	Procedure for Wait List	
1.08	Process to Inform Applicants of Rights and Responsibilities	
1.09	Certification Periods	Although the new federal poverty income guidelines are currently available [March 1, 2020] for the bi-ennial informal review of the applicant's eligibility we are asking that the process be deferred until June 2020 due to the current Coronavirus pandemic.
1.10	Program Expansion Request	
1.11	CSFP Outreach	
1.12	Nutrition Education • Goals • Process and Resources • Training	
1.13	CSFP Food Delivery System	
1.14	Transportation Resources and Procedures	
1.15	Storage Facilities and Procedures	
1.16	Ordering Procedure	
1.17	Distribution Methods and Frequency	1. Temporary bimonthly distributions to distribute April & May in April. 2. Retroactive distribution of undistributed March boxes in April, along with the April food package due to site closures for cleaning.
1.18	Safeguards Against Theft or Loss	
1.19	Inventory Procedures	
1.20	Method of Estimating Monthly CSFP Food Needs	
1.21	Insurance Coverage for Value of CSFP Food	
1.22	Management Evaluation and Review	
1.23	State Planning Process	
1.24	Management • Financial Management System • Procurement • Distribution of CSFP Administrative Funds	

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	• Claim against participants cost effective	
1.25	Procedures to Detect Dual Participation	
1.26	Complaint Procedures	
1.27	Audit	
1.28	Civil Rights • Process to Collect Racial/Ethnic Participation Data • Public Notification Process • Process for Responding to Discrimination Complaints • Local Agency Compliance Review	
1.29	Fair Hearings	
1.30	Plan for Serving Elderly Persons	

PARF

Pennsylvania Association of Regional Food Banks

Sheila Christopher, Executive Director

Sheila Christopher

Name

March 16, 2020

Date

PDA/BFD

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
PA Department of Agriculture,
Bureau of Food Distribution

Caryn Long Earl, Bureau Director

Caryn Long Earl

Name

March 16, 2020

Date

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: sahara.defensor@mail.house.gov
Subject: Guam Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 8:25:12 PM

Sahara,

This email is to inform you that today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from Guam Department of Education to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **Guam is being notified of the approval shortly**.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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Withheld email addresses are Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: House coronavirus bill
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020 8:56:01 PM

Sir,

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted] hey will hope to be back to approve house passed legislation then if an agreement is reached.

Will keep you posted as we learn more.

Ken

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture); Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture); Borzner, Claire (Agriculture); Donahue, Haley (Agriculture)
Subject: HR 6201 implementation
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:54:00 PM
Attachments: HR 6201 Implementation 031920.pdf

Attachment included previously at pages..464

Rob and Jacqlyn,

FNS is working swiftly to push out information to stakeholders on next steps following last night's approval of HR 6201.

Attached for your internal use is our implementation timeline expectations. This is not an external document yet and this information has not yet been shared with stakeholders.

I will update the Committee with more as soon as it is available.

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: ICE Call 4.30 BR-Edits
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 2:32:00 PM
Attachments: ICE Call 4.30 BR-Edits.docx

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks, Ashley

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ICE Virtual Fireside Chat: Policy Memo

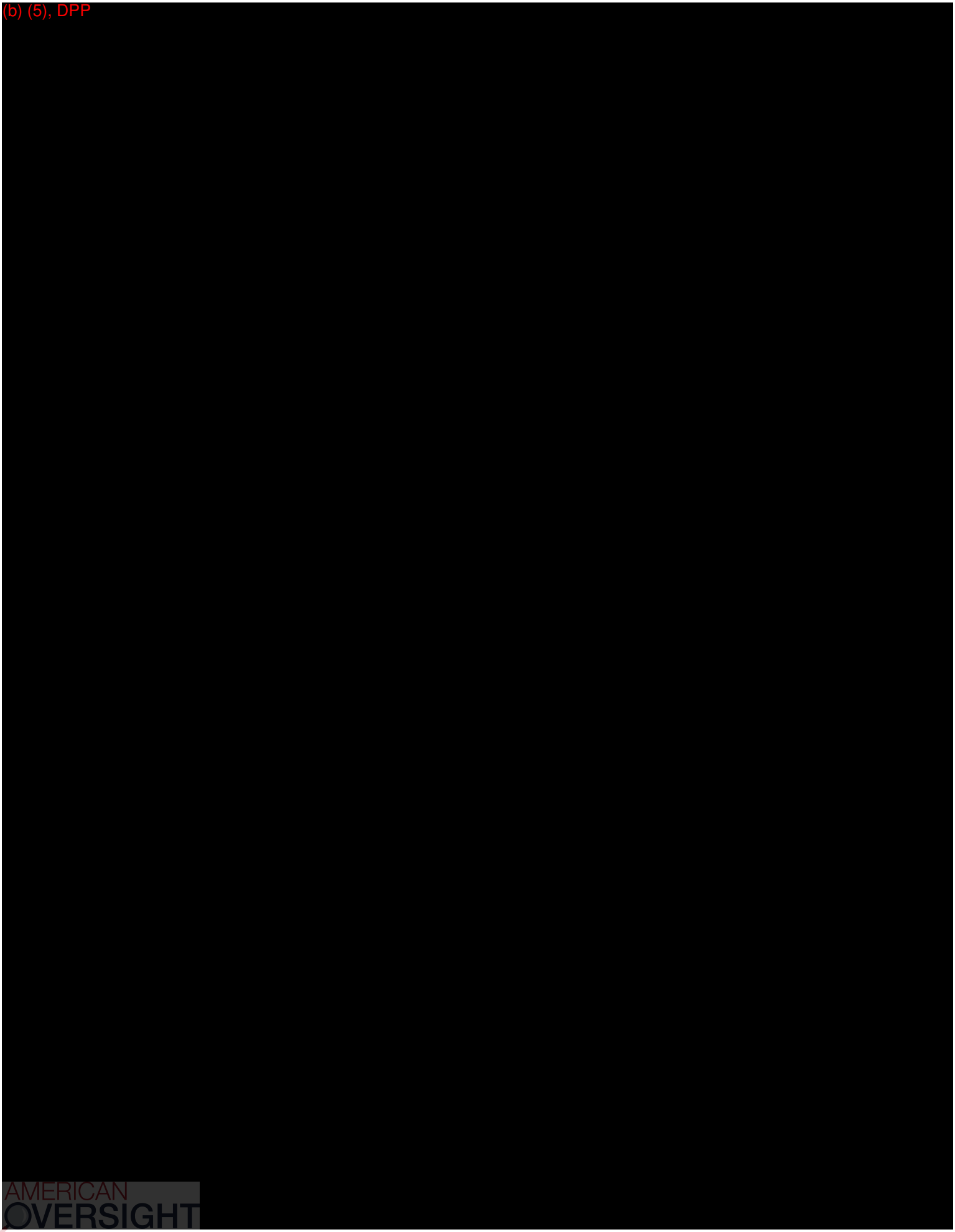
Predecisional/ Deliberative

April 30, 2020

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov)
Cc:	Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov); Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Incoming Congressional Letter - Sen Casey plus on SNAP delivery options
Date:	Monday, May 11, 2020 9:38:00 AM
Attachments:	5.11.20 Letter to USDA re SNAP Delivery.pdf

Attachment included previously at pages 459-462

Incoming Congressional Letter from Sen Casey and 27 Senators, bipartisan, including RM Stabenow with (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Charney, Alyssa (Casey) <Alyssa_Charney@casey.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 6:02 AM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Letter to Secretary Perdue re SNAP delivery options

Attached please find a letter from Senator Casey and 27 other Senators regarding USDA's ongoing efforts to expand delivery options for SNAP participants.

Thank you!

Best,
Alyssa

Alyssa Charney
U.S. Senator Bob Casey
(d) (202) 224-8483
(m) (b) (6) [redacted]

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov)
Cc:	Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov); Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Incoming Congressional Letter - Sen Collins and Manchin re: BBCE
Date:	Friday, May 1, 2020 4:33:00 PM
Attachments:	2020-05-01 Collins Manchin SNAP Letter to USDA FINAL.pdf

Attachment included previously at pages 897-898.

Incoming letter from Sen Collins and Manchin to USDA to suspend BBCE rulemaking in light of COVID.

From: Olson, Maria (Aging) <Maria_Olson@aging.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Bryan, Emma (Manchin) <Emma_Bryan@manchin.senate.gov>
Subject: Letter from Senator Collins and Manchin to Sec Perdue

Hi Veronica,

Please see the attached letter from Senators Collins and Manchin regarding SNAP rulemaking in light of COVID-19.

Thanks,

Maria Olson
Professional Staff Member
Senate Aging Committee
Chairman Susan M. Collins
(202) 224-5364

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov); Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Incoming COVID FNS Letter from Rep Alma Adams plus
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:42:00 AM
Attachments: Food Programs Waiver Extension Letter (Final).pdf

---

Attached is an incoming letter from Rep Alma Adams and dozens of House members on FNS COVID response. The letter requests (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: "Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC" <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 9:53 AM
To: "Stewart, Katherine" <Katherine.Stewart@mail.house.gov>
Cc: "Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Letter from Rep. Adams to Sec. Perdue

Likewise, Katherine. Adding Veronica Wong, who handles FNCS, for any follow-up as well.

--
Evan B. Lee
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
c: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Stewart, Katherine <Katherine.Stewart@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:42 AM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Subject: Letter from Rep. Adams to Sec. Perdue

Hi Evan,

Hope you're staying safe and healthy in this crazy time! I'm emailing to send over a letter for Secretary Perdue from Rep. Adams and colleagues regarding the need to extend current waivers and authorities for child nutrition, WIC, and SNAP programs.

Please let me know that you've received it, and don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions at all!

Best,
Katherine

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

Thank you for your leadership and for the hard work of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure that states and localities have the flexibility necessary to provide food to those in need during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We write to request that you continue this work by immediately extending all COVID-19-related waivers for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and child nutrition programs until September 30, 2020 so that states, localities, schools, and recipients are able to plan for the summer and upcoming school year. Additionally, we request that USDA notify states as soon as possible about when they can receive an extension of their current SNAP waivers and their authorization to issue emergency allotments under COVID-19 Response SNAP (CR-SNAP).

COVID-19 is causing massive disruption, uncertainty, and anxiety throughout the nation. Unfortunately, the more than 37 million people in America who struggle with hunger are among those impacted the most. Our federal nutrition programs serve a critical role in easing hunger and food insecurity and are particularly crucial during times of crisis.

Due to the outsized impact of COVID-19 on Americans struggling with food insecurity, H.R.6201, the Families First Coronavirus Act, gave USDA the authority to issue child nutrition program and WIC waivers through September 30, 2020 to provide the flexibility necessary to reach those in need during the outbreak. However, USDA's waivers for these programs currently sunset prior to that date: most child nutrition program waivers end on June 30, 2020, although the meal pattern waiver ends even sooner (April 30, 2020); and waivers for WIC end on May 31, 2020.

This creates great uncertainty for our state and local agencies, schools, and the people they serve as the pandemic continues. For example, schools, non-profits, and daycare centers across the country need to know if there are congregate meal requirements for summer feeding sites, which usually run past June 30th. A waiver extension is also needed to ensure that WIC employees and the women and infants who depend on the program do not have to go to clinics in-person for lab work and interviews. Further, depleted supplies of WIC-eligible products at supermarkets and

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other retailers continues to pose a major challenge for recipients, making an extension of the food packaging waiver necessary to ensure that mothers and children can access the nutritious food they need.

Additionally, H.R.6201 allows USDA to issue waivers for SNAP through the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in states that have issued a COVID-related emergency or disaster declaration. However, currently states are limited to two months of CR-SNAP emergency allotments. Given that states have issued stay-at-home orders through as late as June, it is crucial that USDA inform states as soon as possible about when they can receive an extension to issue emergency allotments under CR-SNAP. Further, USDA should inform states immediately about when their current SNAP waivers, some of which expire next month, can be extended. Providing notice about continued CR-SNAP benefits and SNAP waivers will ease administrative burdens for states and localities and ensure that Americans struggling with food insecurity have the help they need through this crisis.

Given the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued need to socially distance and follow stay-at-home measures, we request that you immediately extend WIC and child nutrition program waivers to September 30, 2020 and inform states when they can extend emergency allotments under CR-SNAP as well as their current SNAP waivers. The extension of these waivers and of CR-SNAP supplemental allotments will provide much needed certainty for the agencies and individuals working on the ground to get the children, parents, veterans, seniors, and disabled individuals who depend on these programs the help they need to put food on their tables. We thank you again for your work and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response A-000992

Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Al Lawson
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
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André Carson
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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
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Member of Congress

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st USDA Release 045-000993

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Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
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David Price
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

David Trone
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Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response - A9 of 9 PDF
USDA-20-1045-A-000994

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st USDA Release 045-000995
USDA-20-1045-A-000995

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

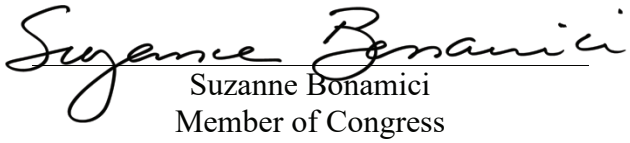
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

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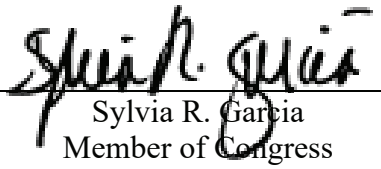
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USDA-2041045-A-000996

x 

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

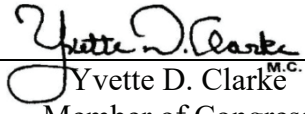


Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1045-A 000897

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov)
Cc: Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov)
Subject: Incoming Letter - Rep Moore plus to Administrator Miller on commonsense WIC flexibilities.
Date: Friday, May 8, 2020 4:10:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png
5-8-20 Letter to FNS on WIC flexibility during COVID-19-FINAL signed.pdf

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Incoming Congressional Letter to FNS Admin. Pam Miller from Rep Moore plus 94 Members on WIC flexibilities in response to COVID.

From: Laudick, Courtney <Courtney.Laudick@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 4:01 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kington, Sarah <Sarah.Kington@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Letter to Administrator Miller on commonsense WIC flexibilities.

Veronica,

Please see letter attached signed by 95 members and led by Congressman Andy Levin and Congresswoman Gwen Moore, to Administrator Miller regarding commonsense flexibilities in the WIC program to safeguard American families during COVID-19. Please email back to confirm the letter has been received.

We look forward to Administrator Miller's response.

Best,

Courtney Rose Laudick
Legislative Assistant
Office of Congressman Andy Levin (MI-09)
228 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(o): (202) 225-4961 |





Sign up to receive Congressman Levin's newsletters here.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2209

May 8, 2020

Administrator Pam Miller
Food and Nutrition Service,
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA 22314

Administrator Miller:

Thank you for your efforts to ensure that women and children in the WIC program continue to receive benefits amid the COVID-19 public health emergency. We write to urge the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to take additional steps to guarantee the safety of WIC shoppers for the duration of this emergency. Specifically, we request that FNS use the authority granted under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) to waive restrictions requiring in-person redemption of WIC benefits in the presence of a cashier and permit online or phone purchases with WIC until the conclusion of the COVID-19 crisis.[1]

Scaling up the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot program authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill has improved the shopping experience for families who depend on federal nutrition programs by reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for both shoppers and grocery store employees. We understand that it is not possible at this point to integrate WIC transactions into the SNAP online ordering systems, given key differences between SNAP and WIC benefit disbursement. However, USDA should be proactively exploring and supporting alternative transaction models for WIC, such as self-checkout, curbside pickup, or home delivery, all of which would better protect the health of WIC shoppers, grocery store employees, and their families.

As the SNAP pilot program expands and retailers are offering an array of options for consumers, WIC participants are being left behind. The risks of in-person shopping could deter WIC participation, leaving families without access to vital support throughout pregnancy and early childhood. Some retailers are even closing their doors to in-person shopping and adopting exclusive curbside or delivery models. This could inhibit WIC participant access to authorized vendors within their communities if WIC is excluded in these alternative transaction models.

[1] For the purposes of this request, we respectfully ask that you follow the determination of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to define the "conclusion" of this public health emergency.

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response - A90 000999
USDA-20-1045-A-000999

It is crucial that the WIC program provides flexibility to safeguard the health of American families while ensuring the continued integrity of the program. As state agencies and retailers develop workable alternative models for purchasing and delivering groceries, we respectfully request that FNS use the authority granted by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to grant limited waivers to ensure the WIC program has the flexibility to adapt and ensure families have safe shopping experiences.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

ANDY LEVIN
Member of Congress

GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress

ALMA S. ADAMS, PH.D.
Member of Congress

ED CASE
Member of Congress

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
Member of Congress

JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress

JOYCE BEATTY
Member of Congress

DAVID N. CICLLINE
Member of Congress

EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress

STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress

LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
Member of Congress

TJ COX
Member of Congress

SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress

ANGIE CRAIG
Member of Congress

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Member of Congress

HENRY CUELLAR
Member of Congress

TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress

DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress

ANDRÉ CARSON
Member of Congress

DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress

DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress

ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress

ANDRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress

BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress

BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress

MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress

SYLVIA R. GARCIA
Member of Congress

JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA
Member of Congress

VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress

JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN
Member of Congress

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress

DEB HAALAND
Member of Congress

ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress

JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress

KENDRA S. HORN
Member of Congress

SHELIA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress

PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress

HAKEEM JEFFRIES
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1400 001355

USDA-20-1045-A-001001

ALAN LOWENTHAL
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Member of Congress

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
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Member of Congress

A. DONALD MCEACHIN
Member of Congress

JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress

GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress

GRACE MENG
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Member of Congress

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GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

JOE NEGUSE
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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ
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MARY GAY SCANLON
Member of Congress

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1400 of 1552

JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress

JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

ERIC SWALWELL
Member of Congress

MARK TAKANO
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BENNIE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

DINA TITUS
Member of Congress

RASHIDA TLAIB
Member of Congress

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LAUREN UNDERWOOD
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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

JOHN YARMUTH
Member of Congress

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1 of 1 001003

USDA-20-1045-A-001003

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov)
Cc:	Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Incoming Letter - Sen Hirono plus re: COVID SNAP for college students
Date:	Monday, April 27, 2020 2:15:00 PM
Attachments:	2020.04.27 Letter to USDA re College Student SNAP Eligibility.pdf

Attached is an incoming letter lead by Sen Hirono plus three members requesting a waiver to allow college students access to SNAP.

From: O'Connor, Meghan (Hirono) <Meghan_O'Connor@hirono.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Cc: Strand, Ben (Hirono) <Ben_Strand@hirono.senate.gov>
Subject: Letter to Sec. Perdue re SNAP

Hi Veronica,

Attached please find a letter from Sens. Hirono, Harris, Murphy, and Warren regarding access to SNAP for college students. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!
Meghan

Meghan O'Connor
Office of Senator Mazie K. Hirono
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Direct: (202) 740-0632

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Senate

April 27, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to urge reconsideration of the blanket denial of waiver requests from states wishing to maintain eligibility in the Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for college students who have lost their employment due to COVID-19. Twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia requested these waivers on current restrictions for students to receive food assistance, signaling that the issue was serious enough to warrant the prompt attention of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), and the Agency's actions in response imply a lack of concern for this already vulnerable population.

Recent widespread closures at our nation's colleges and universities have interrupted semesters and disrupted lives during this unprecedented national crisis. Emergency proclamations leading to the closure of retail and food service businesses, among others, have further exacerbated this disruption and increased financial strain on workers, including college students. Congress has provided resources to support students affected by these closures, and may provide further assistance in the future. However, more can be done in the meantime.

Even before these closures, many college students were food insecure. Last year, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) documented numerous studies that indicated food insecurity is prevalent among college students, estimating that more than 30 percent of student study participants were close to food insecure. GAO's report only confirms what we have heard from students, schools, service providers, and others. College has become increasingly more expensive, and, while many students work in order to afford to attend school, a substantial number are still food insecure.

FNS has worked with state agencies on waivers that increase flexibility with reporting parameters, application and certification, and emergency allotments. It is important to continue to ensure that the needs of vulnerable populations, including college students, do not go unaddressed in this time of extreme and unpredictable economic conditions. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted a number of weaknesses at various points in our food supply chain, and we should be responding by taking actions that increase access to food security for those who are currently, or are on the verge of being, food insecure.

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It is for these reasons that we request USDA immediately reconsider the sweeping denial of waiver requests seeking the temporary waiving of the work requirement imposed on college students and allow students who lose their employment to continue to receive SNAP benefits for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Indiana State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:15:32 PM

Good Evening,

This email is to inform you that today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the Indiana Department of Education to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the approval currently**.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thanks,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: lindsay.ratliff@mail.house.gov
Subject: Indiana State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:21:00 PM

Good Evening,

This email is to inform you that today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the Indiana Department of Education to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the approval currently**.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thanks,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Thomas, Katherine (Roberts)
Subject: Kansas Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 6:58:00 PM

Katherine,

Wanted to let you know that USDA FNS will be approving of a Kansas statewide waiver related to school meals and COVID this evening. The State is being notified now and I will be sending out a delegation notice shortly.

The basics are below. I have informed Rob Rosado as well. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,
Veronica

This email is to inform you today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the Kansas State Department of Education to allow meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting, to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed.

The statewide waiver is effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Kristi edits
Date: Sunday, April 19, 2020 9:08:08 PM
Attachments: Event.Brief_House.Appropriations.Conferece.Call 4.21.20 CB, MAG, EBL edits.docx

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Pre-decisional/Deliberative

CALL WITH HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE
April 21, 2020
1:00-2:00 PM Eastern

Conference Line Call in Number: (b) (6)

Leader passcode: (b) (6) *(Secretary Perdue)*

Participant passcode (listen-only): (b) (6) *(USDA Staff)*

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

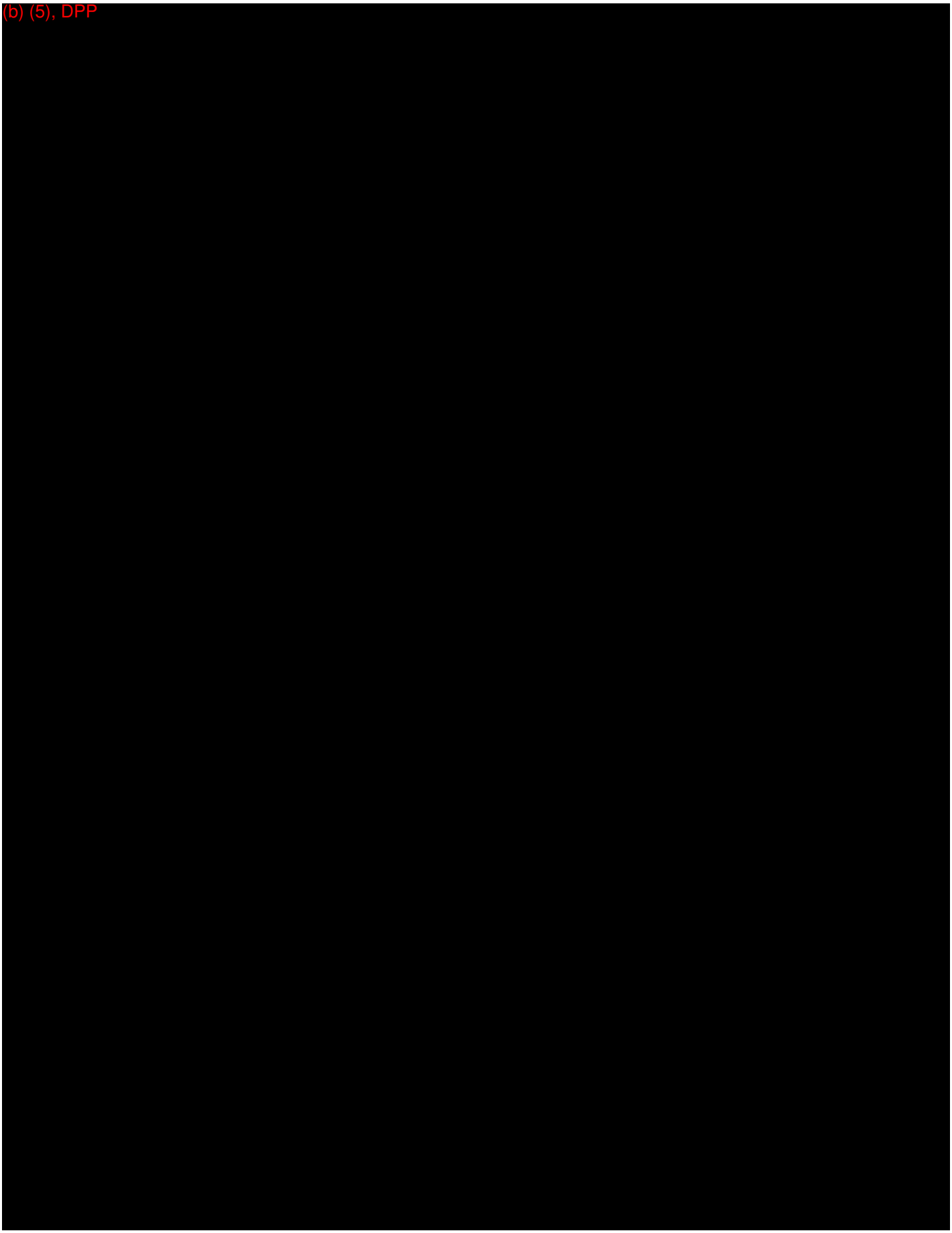
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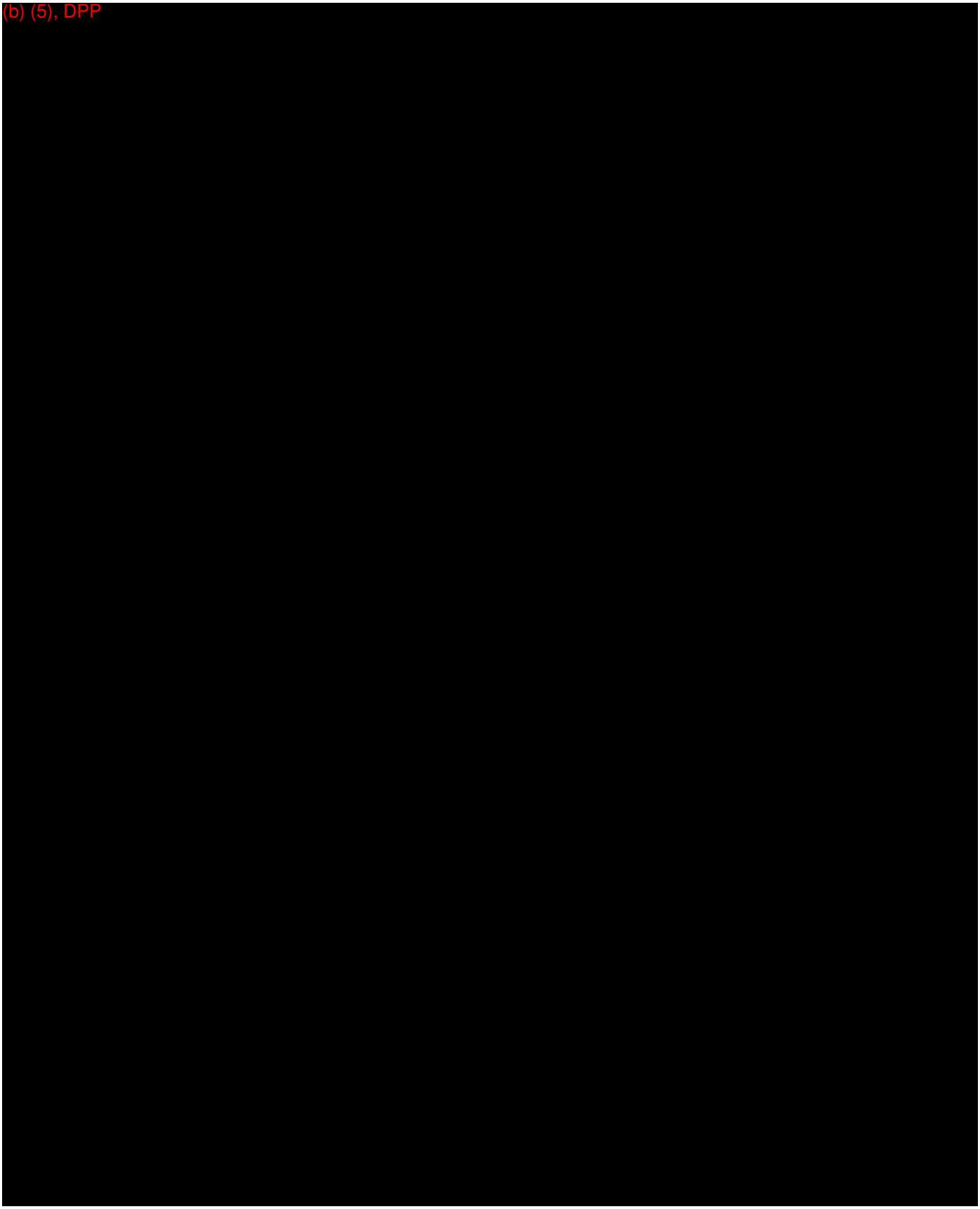
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(b) (5), DPP

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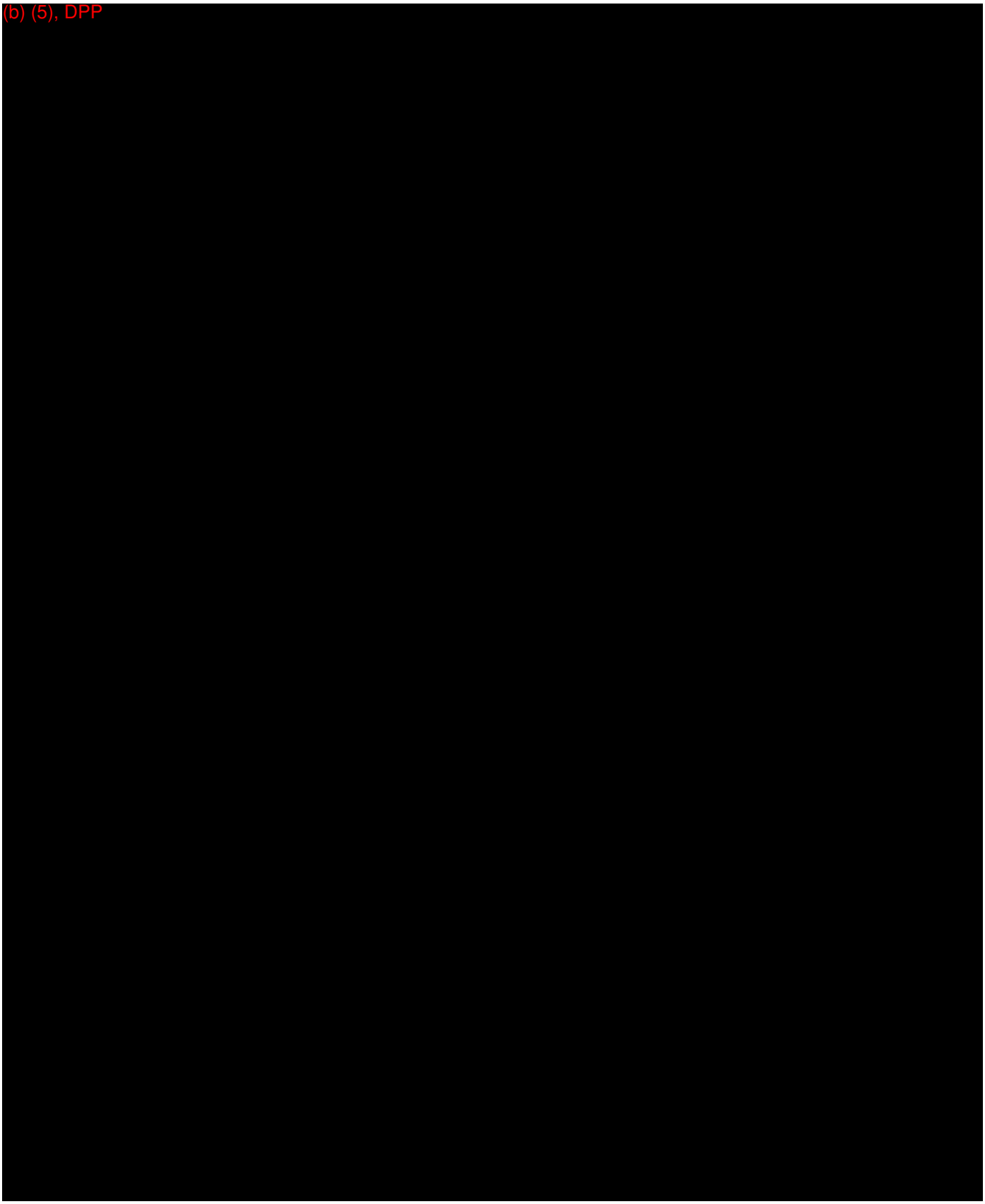
III. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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Brenda Lawrence, Michigan	
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 10:14:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Brandon Lipps
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 1:57:58 PM
Attachments: SP P-EBT Policy Briefing - FNCS.docx

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Secretary Perdue
From: Brandon, Anne FNCS ; Campbell, OSEC
Date: April 8, 2020
Re: **FNCS Policy Briefing on P-EBT Implementation**

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Mass Denial Letter 4.2 Revisions
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 10:54:00 AM
Attachments: Mass Denial Letter 4.2 Revisions.docx

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted] Thanks!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Date: August 27, 2020

Date inserted automatically during FOIA processing. This is not the actual date in original Microsoft Word document.

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture)
Subject: michigan p-ebt
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:41:00 AM

Jacqlyn,

Michigan has received approval for its P-EBT plan and the state is being notified currently. I will notify the hill in a bit and USDA will formally announce later today.

Veronica

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Michigan received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201.** The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state plan and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly.

The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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First attachment included previously at pages 634-639.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: new bill
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7:30:00 PM
Attachments: USDA COVID-19 Supp Phase III Summary FINAL 3.25.20 v3.docx
FY 2020 Supplemental Funding Tracker.xlsx

Campbell,

This hasn't been signed off on but (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
- [redacted]
  - [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: New Hampshire State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:11:55 PM

Good Evening,

This email is to inform you that today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the New Hampshire Department of Education to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the approval currently**.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thanks,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture); Rosado, Robert (Agriculture)
Subject: NH and CT SNAP COVID
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 6:45:00 PM

Rob and Jacqlyn,

We have just received our first waiver requests of the SNAP fact to face interview application requirement from the state of New Hampshire and Connecticut.

I will update you when I have more information.

Veronica

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 6:19 PM
To: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture) <Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov>; Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Maryland - Update COVID-19

The states are mostly asking for a waiver from the congregate feeding requirement under SFSP.

However, some states are also submitting additional waivers to other provisions, which are still being considered with OGC consultation. For instance, Washington submitted two waivers – congregate feeding waiver which was approved. The second waiver request was submitted to waive area eligibility. This is under review.

From: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture) <Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Maryland - Update COVID-19

Thanks Veronica. Could you clarify one point- are all of these states requesting to be able to use SFSP and to do non-congregate?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 4:35 PM
To: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>; Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture) <Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: Maryland - Update COVID-19

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Rob and Jacqlyn,

We now have a waiver request from Maryland. I will update when I have more information.

Veronica

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <robert_rosado@ag.senate.gov>; Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture) <jacqlyn_schneider@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: Kansas, Update COVID-19

Rob and Jacqlyn,

We now have a waiver request from Kansas. I will update you on this and the other pending state requests as soon as I have more.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 7:46 PM
To: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <robert_rosado@ag.senate.gov>; Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture) <jacqlyn_schneider@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: Utah Update COVID-19

Rob and Jacqlyn,

The State of Utah has now submitted waivers. FNS is reviewing and I will provide more information as it is available.

Veronica

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 10:24 AM
To: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <robert_rosado@ag.senate.gov>; Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture) <jacqlyn_schneider@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: California Update COVID-19

Rob and Jacqlyn,

An update on California. The state has submitted two waivers to USDA.

This morning, the first waiver has been **approved** to allow non-congregate feeding for unanticipated

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

school closures associated with COVID-19. The waiver is effective immediately through June 30, 2020, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. **The state will be notified of this shortly**.

The second waiver is still under review. This request is to allow Program operators to choose which Child Nutrition Program to use for the non-congregate meal service. FNS is working on this currently and we will provide an update as soon as possible.

Please excuse any typos as I'm working quickly off a cell phone.

Thank you,
Veronica

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Cc: Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov); Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: Offering Call to Sen Casey re; letter SNAP delivery options
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:53:00 AM
Attachments: 5.11.20 Letter to USDA re SNAP Delivery.pdf

Attachment included previously at pages 459-462

All,

We received the attached letter from Sen Casey and a host of other Senators including RM Stabenow on the SNAP delivery efforts.

Because the letter asks for a response by this Friday, I would like to [redacted] (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Thanks,
Veronica

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: One last read, please.
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 12:09:00 PM
Attachments: Waivers.docx

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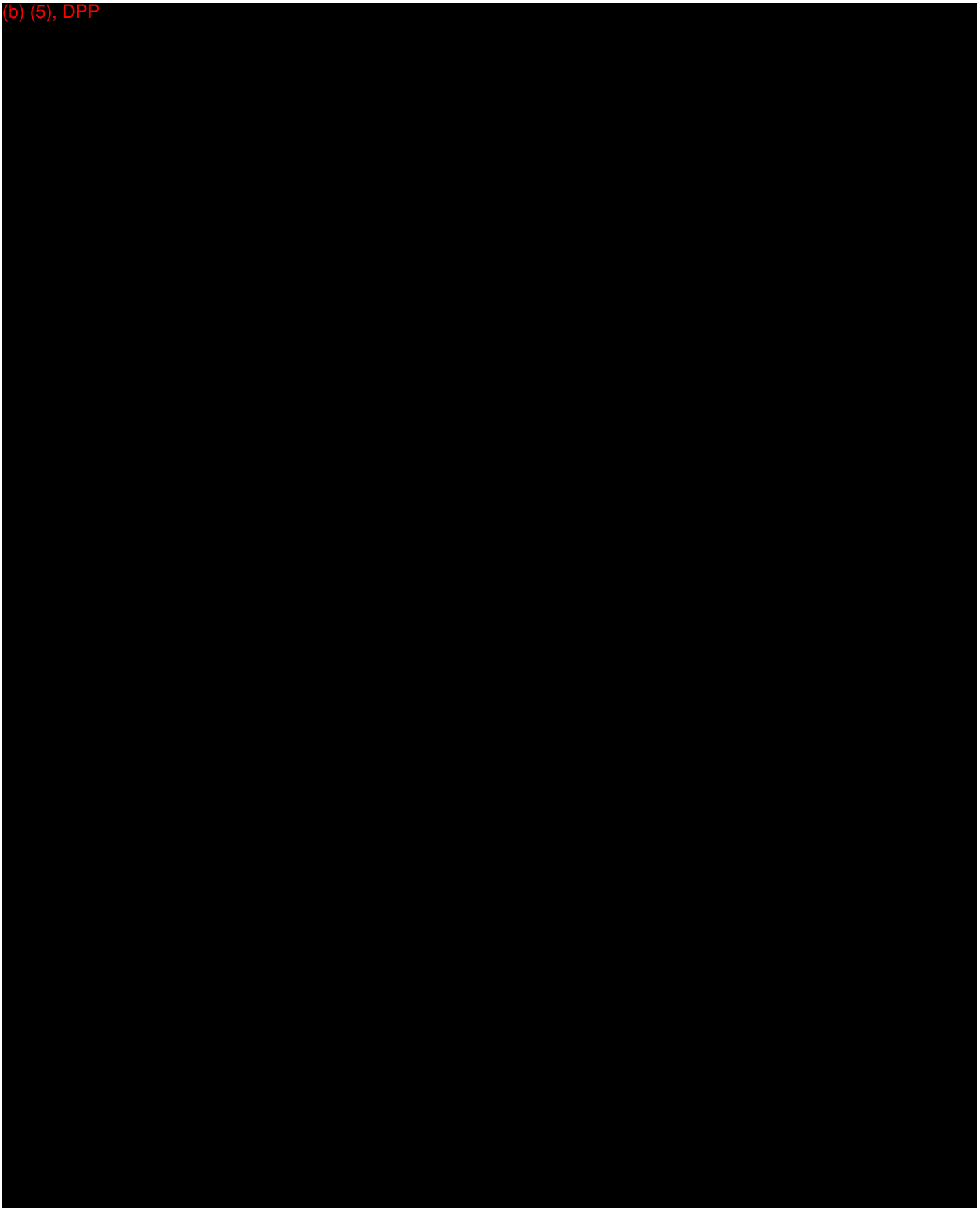
To: The Secretary
From: FNCS
Date: 03.20.20
Re: Expanded Waiver Authorities Under COVID-19 Legislation

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT

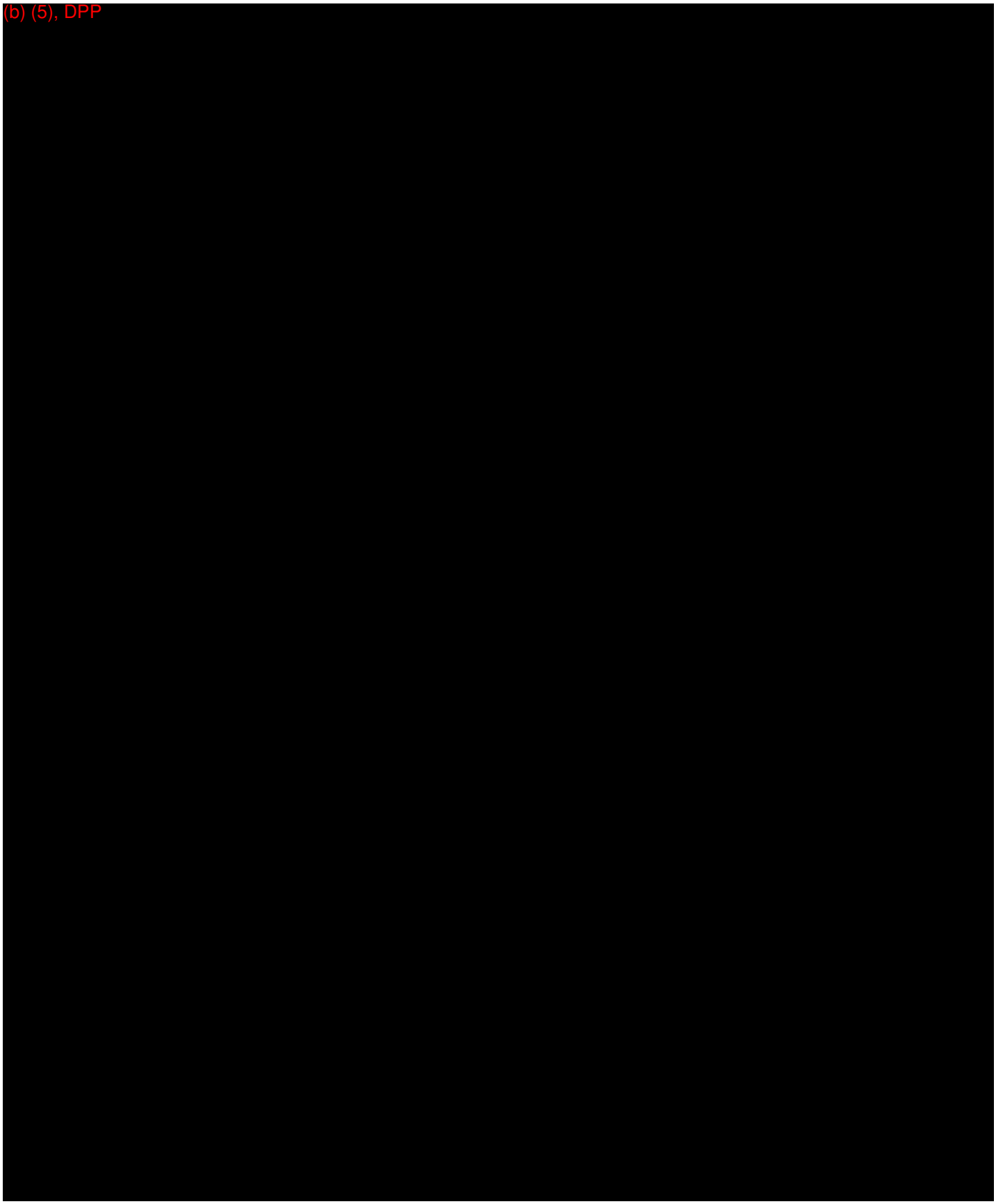
(b) (5), DPP



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(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Attachment included previously at page 464

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Mandy.Schaumburg@mail.house.gov
Subject: one pager
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 9:33:00 AM
Attachments: HR 6201 Implementation 031920.pdf

We are working on an updated version of this for hopefully later today.

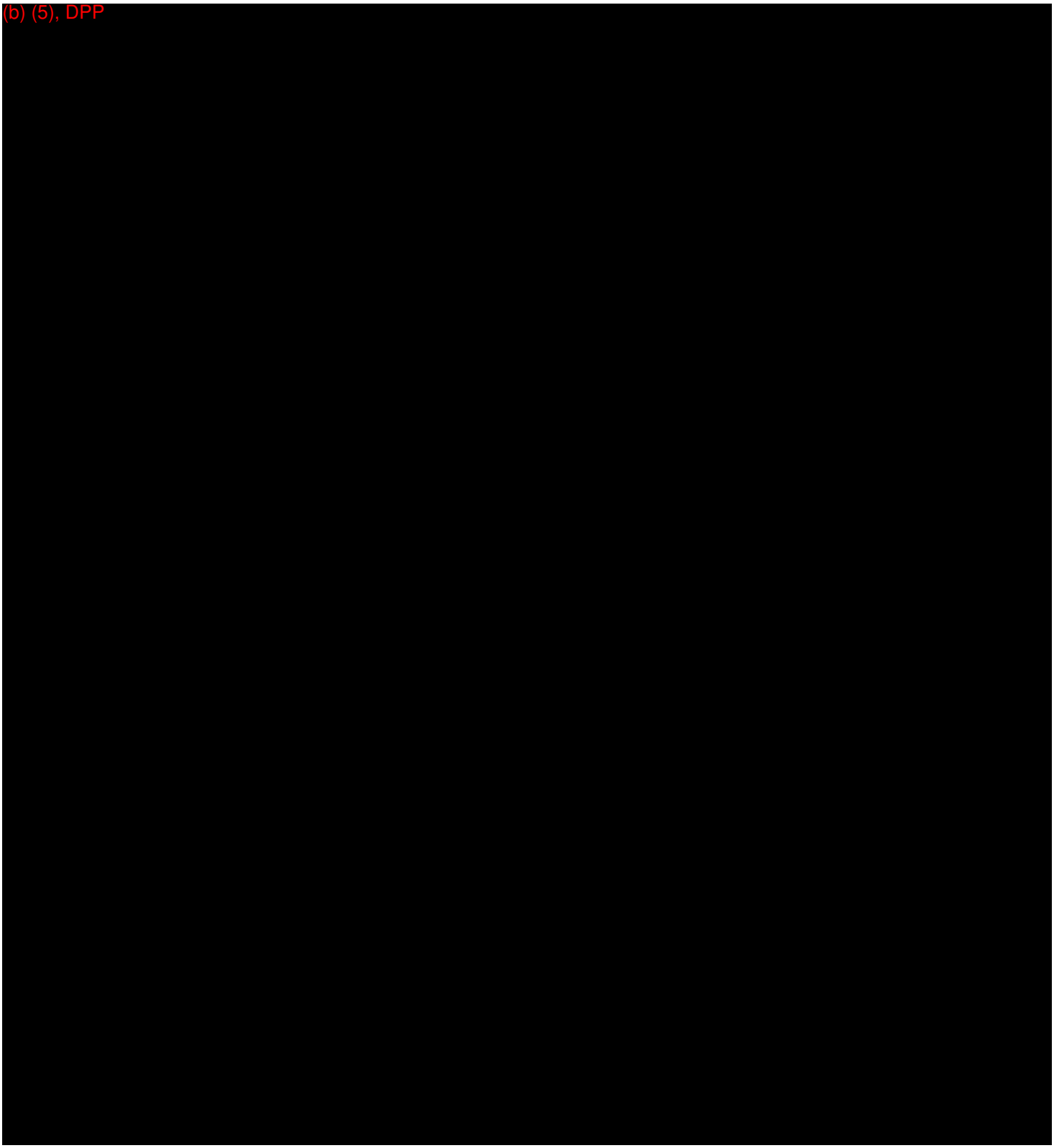
Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Overview House Bill
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 1:32:00 PM
Attachments: Overview House Bill.docx

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Families First Coronavirus Response Act



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture); Rosado, Robert (Agriculture)
Subject: PA - SNAP COVID
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:01:00 PM

Rob and Jacqlyn,

Pennsylvania has just been **approved** to allow non-congregate feeding for unanticipated school closures associated with COVID-19. The respective waivers are effective immediately through June 30, 2020. **The state will be notified of this shortly**.

Veronica

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 5:49 PM
To: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture) <Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov>; Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: UT and MD - SNAP COVID

Rob and Jacqlyn,

An update on Maryland and Utah.

Maryland and Utah has have just been **approved** to allow non-congregate feeding for unanticipated school closures associated with COVID-19. The respective waivers are effective immediately through June 30, 2020. **The state will be notified of this shortly**.

We have more coming in so I am working on getting the most up to date list to you shortly.

Veronica

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: PA
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:09:00 PM
Attachments: Emergency Food Assistance Letter.msg
Pennsylvania Governor Wolfe Letter.msg

Know everyone is tracking, but here you go.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Beam, Bill - FPAC-FSA, Washington, DC
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Redding, Russell
Subject: Pennsylvania Governor Wolfe Letter
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 2:33:23 PM
Attachments: 2020.3.25 TWW Perdue emergency food assistance COVID 19.pdf

---

Kristi

I have been asked to reach out to bring attention to Governor Wolfe's attached letter. Pennsylvania has several requests that Secretary Perdue could help them with in this unusual time. Thanks for consideration.

Bill Beam
Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs
Farm Service Agency
(202) 720-9875
Rm. 3612-S

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 25, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I write to request your immediate assistance related to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's needs during the COVID-19 pandemic – specifically related to emergency food assistance. To fight the spread of COVID-19 and protect Pennsylvanians and our healthcare providers, I ordered all non-life sustaining businesses to close physical operations and am encouraging Pennsylvanians to stay at home in areas where there has been an exponential increase of new COVID-19 cases. As a result, many Pennsylvanians are temporarily unemployed and unable to afford basic necessities due to these necessary mitigation and social distancing efforts. To date, there have been an unprecedented number of initial claims for unemployment compensation, and our charitable food system is struggling to meet the increased demands of Pennsylvanians who are temporarily out of work.

On Friday, March 20, 2020, Pennsylvania submitted its application for Disaster Household Distribution to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). I am writing to urge that USDA review and approve this application as soon as possible. This immediate action is critical to ensure that Pennsylvania's food banks and food assistance networks can swiftly distribute USDA Foods currently in their warehouses to those newly in need of food assistance without the need to verify eligibility.

Further, I request your immediate consideration of the following three items of critical importance to Pennsylvanians struggling with food insecurity:

Waive Eligibility Requirements for The Emergency Food Assistance Program

We are grateful that the Families First package was passed and signed, which increases The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) funding by $400 million. However, this critical funding will not make the needed difference if USDA does not also temporarily waive all eligibility requirements for TEFAP. I urge you to take administrative action under the President's national disaster declaration to temporarily waive these requirements to help Pennsylvanians who need access to emergency food now. It is critical that Pennsylvanians in need have access as quickly as possible, and that the food banks working around the clock can help those in need without the additional burden and delay of completing paperwork and verifying client eligibility. Those who are seeking assistance from our food banks are the newly unemployed and those critically in need of food, and it is unconscionable to delay their access because of the need to complete cumbersome paperwork requirements to prove that they are eligible for the food that they so desperately need.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1450 001055

Reconsideration of Pennsylvania's Request for Temporary Waivers

I also ask that you issue temporary waivers to allow use and replacement of on-hand supplies of USDA Foods at schools and state warehouses to provide food to those in need as a result of this crisis. Normally, with a disaster declaration, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is able to access USDA Foods intended for National School Lunch to provide to the Red Cross and others for use in congregate feeding sites and is able to seek replacement of these foods after the disaster conditions are resolved. Since congregate feeding sites are not safe due to COVID-19, we must be able use these foods in creative new delivery methods and be assured of replacement. I request that schools be allowed to use these foods to prepare meals and provide them to other family members – children and adults – who might bring enrolled students to a closed Seamless Summer/Summer Feeding site. Having flexibility to use these foods and to be able to seek replacement would allow the sites to serve any child 18 years of age or younger, and potentially the caregivers as well. We requested this flexibility from FNS on Tuesday, March 17, and it was denied on Friday, March 20. I strongly urge you to reconsider and direct your staff to allow this critical flexibility.

Flexibility within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Further, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act provides temporary new authority and broad flexibility for USDA and states to adapt the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to address many people's food needs during the current public health emergency and economic shock from the COVID-19 pandemic. USDA and states need to act quickly and aggressively to fully utilize SNAP in order to protect public health and mitigate hardship.

The Act allows states to provide emergency supplemental SNAP benefits to many participating SNAP households to address temporary food needs. The legislation authorizes USDA to provide an ***additional*** emergency allotment to all households, up to the amount of the maximum benefit for their household size. Unfortunately, USDA is interpreting section 2302 to allow states to raise SNAP benefits for each household up to the maximum benefit for the household size, ***without*** any additional allotment.

If USDA maintains this interpretation, households already at the maximum benefit, which make up nearly 40 percent of SNAP households and those with the lowest incomes, will not receive any additional assistance. The reason households receive the maximum benefit is that they have *no* income available to purchase food. About 2.5 million of the households receiving the maximum benefit are families that include children, about 1 million households receiving the maximum benefit are households with elderly members, and 600,000 are households with people with disabilities.

We are deeply concerned that the poorest households, particularly those with very young children, would not be eligible to receive anything under this reading of the law. We strongly urge USDA to reconsider its interpretation to avoid imposing a restriction on the emergency benefit at a time of such extraordinary crisis.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1450 of 2056
USDA-20-1045-A-001056

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot

USDA's SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot makes it possible for SNAP participants to purchase grocery deliveries, but its availability is limited to only a few states. Given the social distancing required to fight COVID-19, I urge USDA to notify retailers of the flexibilities that do currently exist to make grocery delivery possible for all SNAP recipients who need it.

All retailers that are able to offer online ordering are doing so, and this option must be made available for SNAP participants as well. There are several models that the private sector can employ, such as processing the EBT card either at the time of pickup from the store or when the groceries are delivered to the SNAP participant. For retailers who have mobile device capabilities, swiping the card at drop-off would be the simplest option. If mobile devices are not available, the card could be obtained by the retailer or other partner prior to pick-up at the store, swiped upon pick-up at the store, and returned upon drop-off of the groceries to the card holder.

USDA has a direct line to the retailers who accept SNAP benefits and must ensure that they are encouraged to offer grocery delivery for SNAP participants. Pennsylvania retailers are already interested in providing these options to customers. I also urge you to seek out public-private partnerships with these retailers, as you have recently done with companies to begin to help with rural school meal delivery.

I appreciate the collaboration with USDA to date to approve several critical flexibilities related to signatures and distribution of USDA Foods through The Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. However, without additional action from USDA, Pennsylvania's food banks will not be able to keep up with the demand placed on them by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is inhumane to consider that Pennsylvanians who are doing the responsible thing by staying home to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities would go hungry because of USDA's limiting interpretations and refusal to cut bureaucratic red tape during a national crisis.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf

TOM WOLF
Governor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
225 Main Capitol Building | Harrisburg, PA 17120 | 717.787.2500 | Fax 717.772.8284 | www.pa.gov
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim AR Production 1450 of 1457
USDA-20-1045-A-001057

From: Kristina L. Watson
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Emergency Food Assistance Letter
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 2:40:39 PM
Attachments: image001.png
2020.3.25 TWW Perdue emergency food assistance COVID 19.pdf

Attachment included previously at pages 1055-1057

Hi Kristi,

I hope you are well and staying as safe as you can. President Ebert asked that I share the attached is a letter that PA's Governor sent to Secretary Perdue yesterday. We understand from our state Secretary of Agriculture that the food banks and the charitable food system in Pennsylvania is overwhelmed right now. Your help – and that of the Secretary – would be appreciated.

Thank you.

Best,

Kristina

Kristina L. Watson
Director, Federal Government Affairs
Government Affairs and Communications Division
Office: 717.761.2740
Mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]

MissionStatement-Color-223x60

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Pandemic Response Policy Briefing - FNCS
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 11:16:00 AM
Attachments: Pandemic Response Policy Briefing - FNCS.docx

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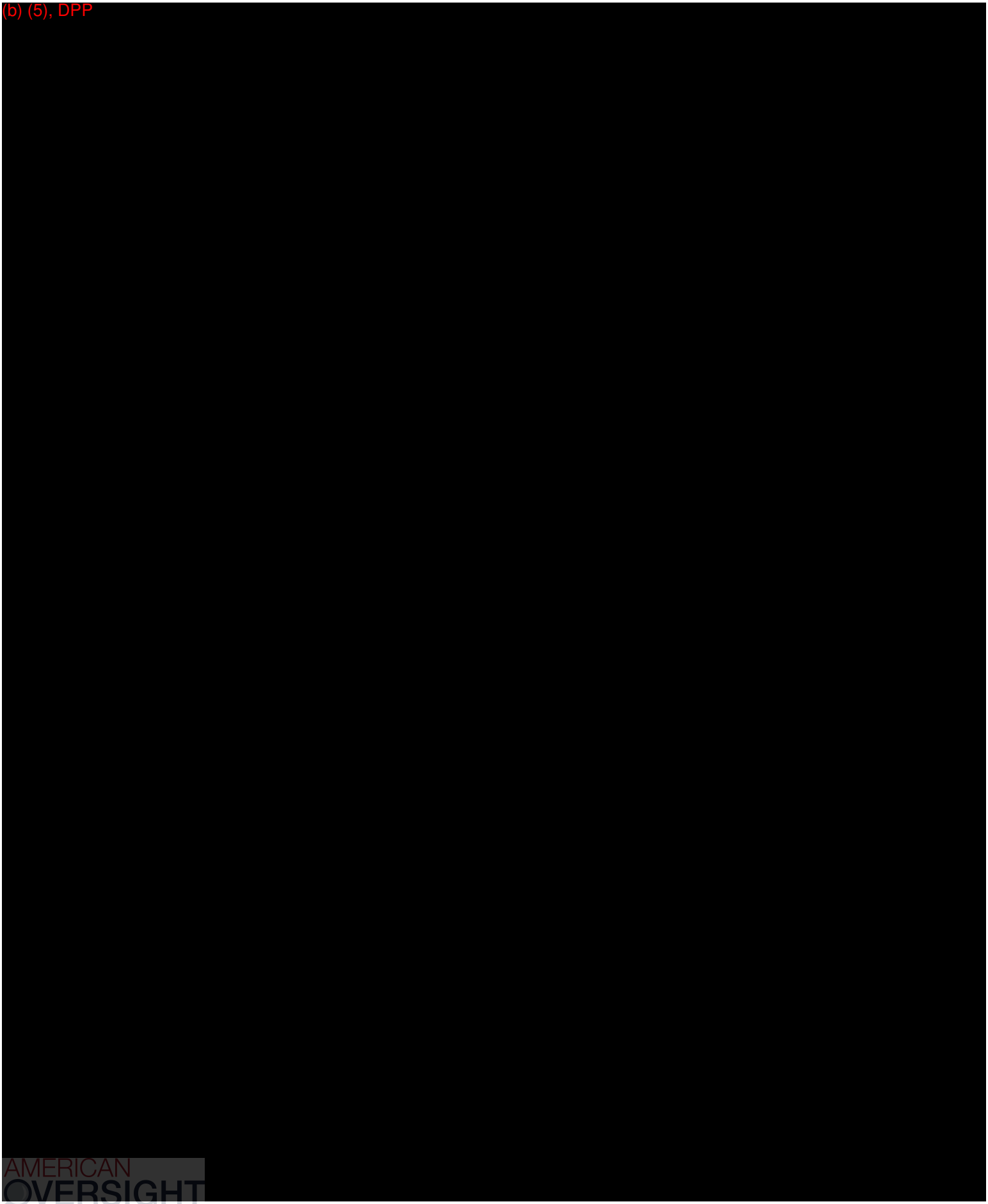
To: Secretary Perdue
From: FNCS; Campbell
Date: March 23, 2020
Re: **FNCS Waiver and Policy Decisions**

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT

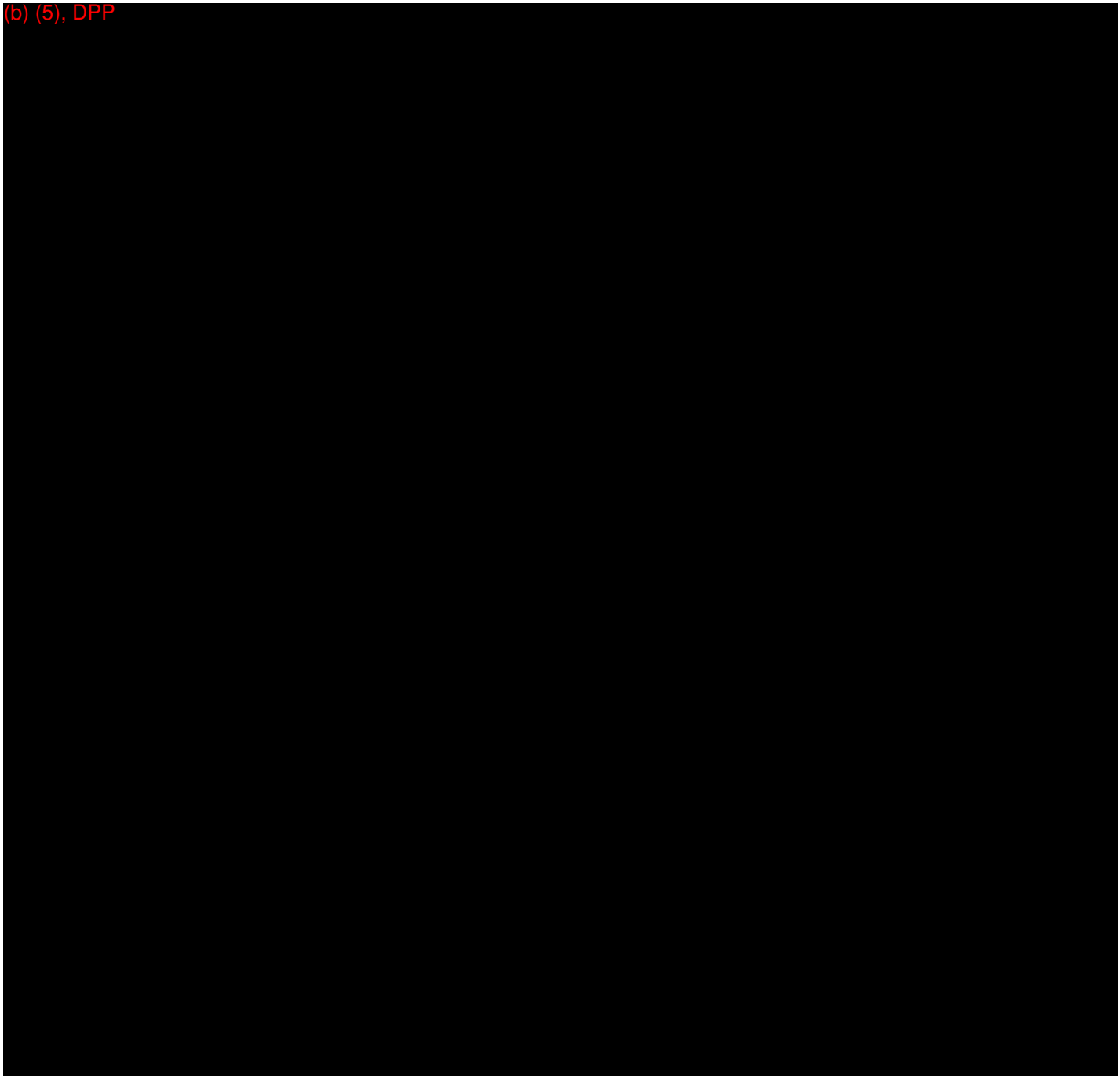
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: P-EBT Policy Briefing - FNCS
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 4:37:00 PM
Attachments: P-EBT Policy Briefing - FNCS.docx

Anne –

Hopefully this is in good shape. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thank you!

Campbell- I'm going ahead and cc'ing you so you can (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Secretary Perdue
From: Brandon, Anne FNCS ; Campbell, OSEC
Date: April 8, 2020
Re: **FNCS Policy Briefing on P-EBT Implementation**

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Please review quickly!!
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:43:00 AM
Attachments: Waivers.docx

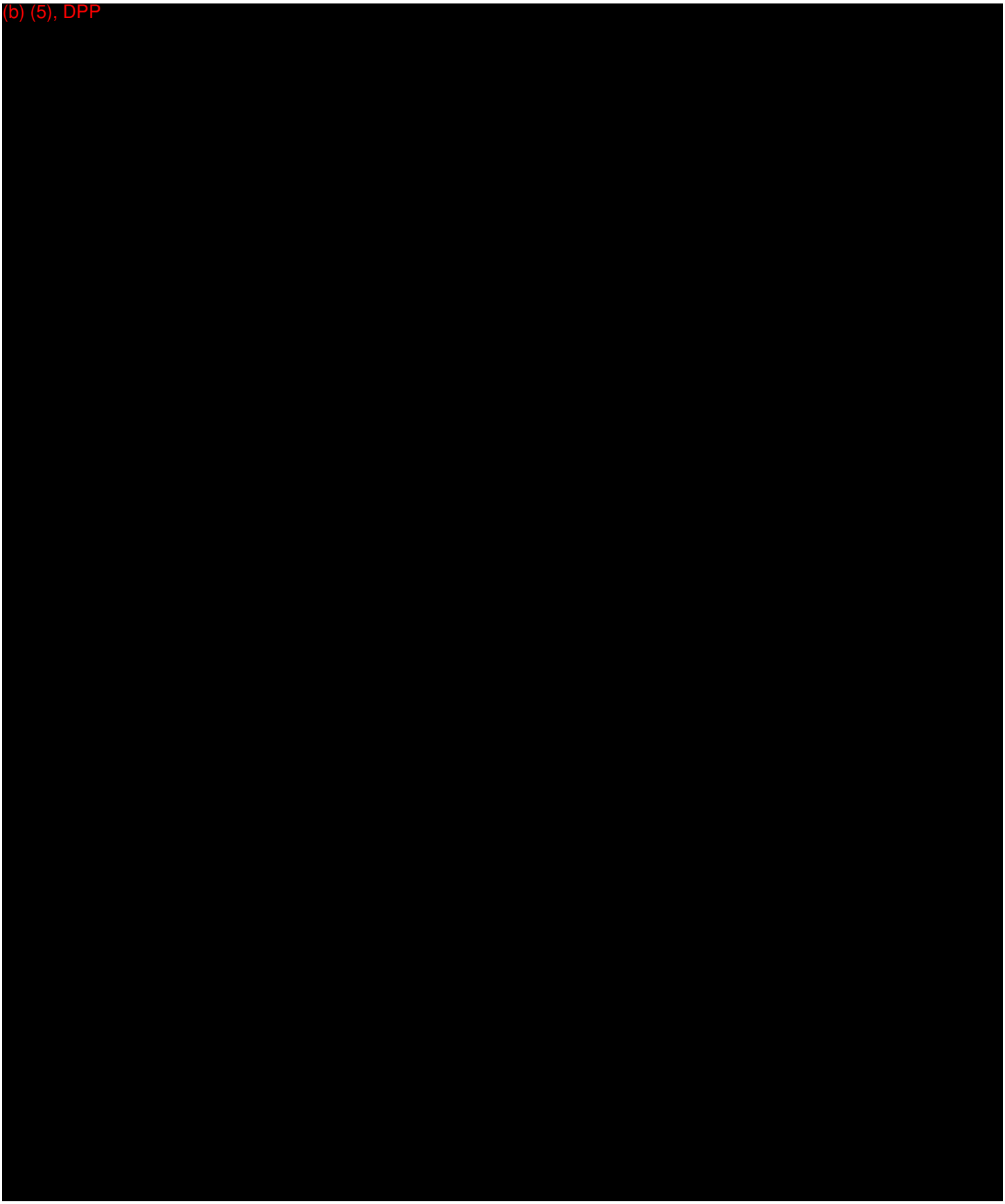
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: The Secretary
From: FNCS
Date: 03.20.20
Re: Expanded Waiver Authorities Under COVID-19 Legislation

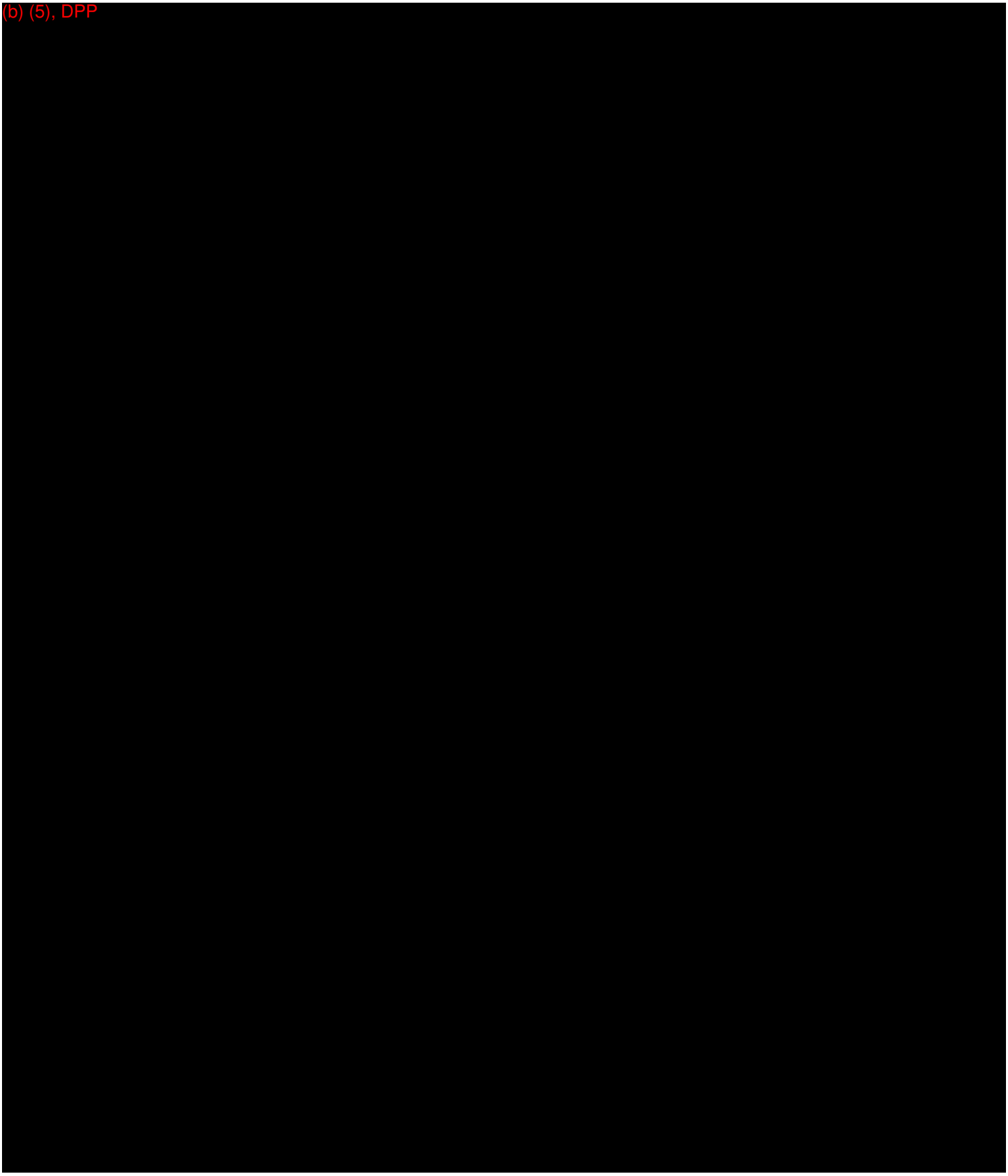
PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Corley, Shiela - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Press Release - Emergency Allotments All States 042120
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:51:00 PM
Attachments: Press Release - Emergency Allotments All States 042120.docx

---

Revised Emergency Allotments Release.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Contact:
FNS Communications, fnspress@usda.gov

(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



##

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Press Release - Emergency Allotments All States
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:44:00 AM
Attachments: Press Release - Emergency Allotments All States.docx

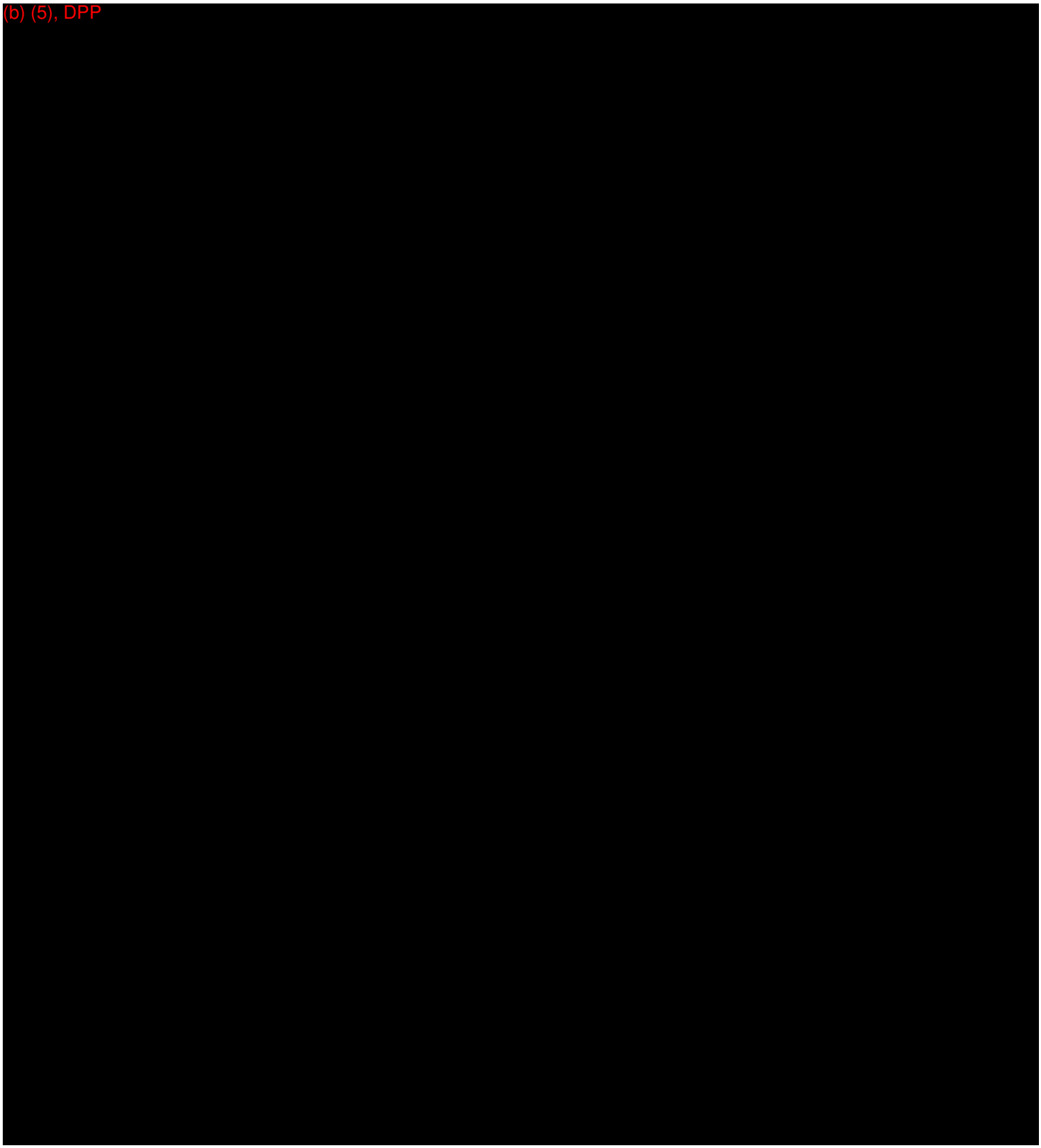
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Your turn.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Contact:
FNS Communications, fnspress@usda.gov

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

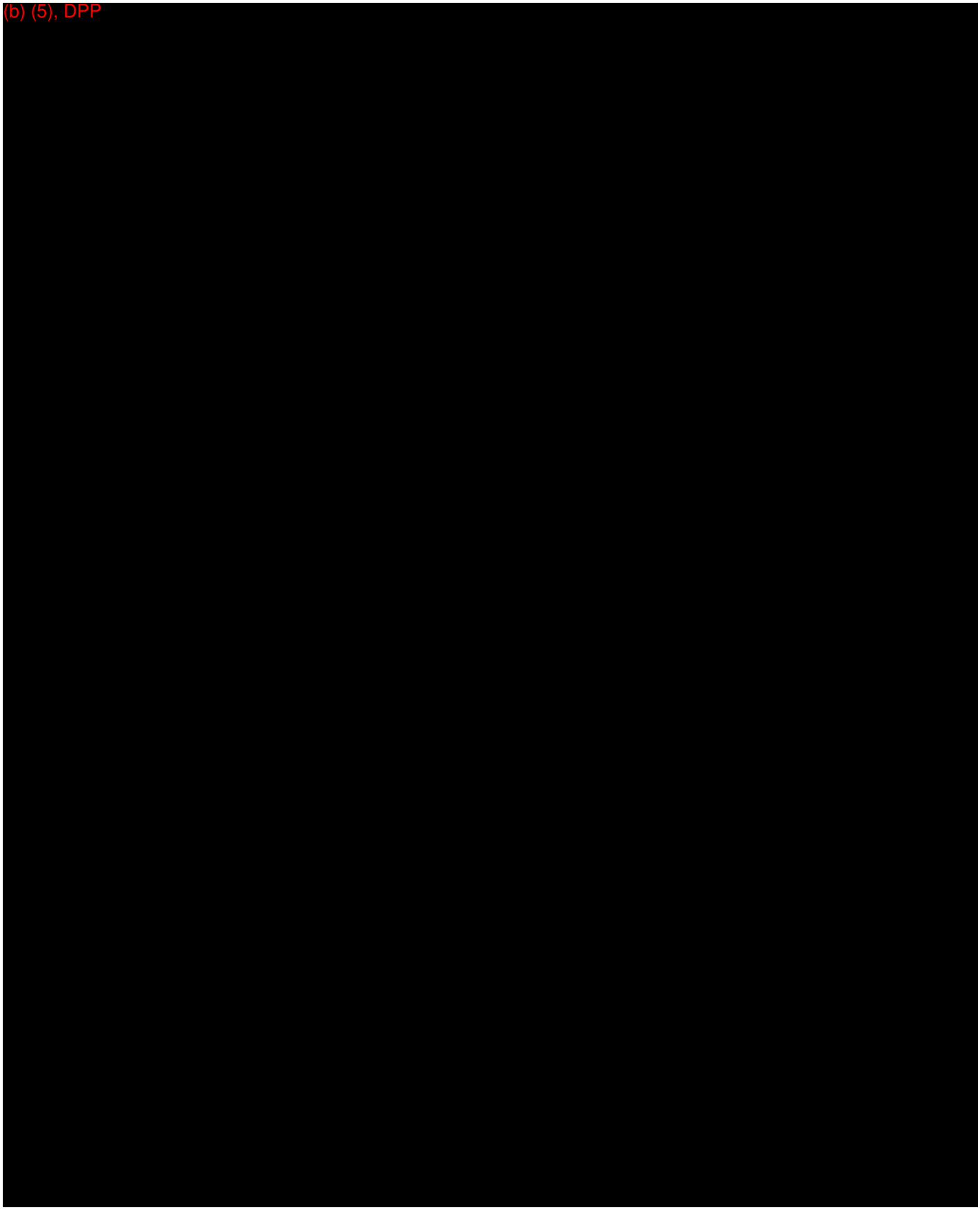
[redacted]

##

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Public QA for Website AO edits
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:26:00 AM
Attachments: Public QA for Website AO edits.docx

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Subject:	RE: # 32 - SNAP Flexibilities - Extended Recerts for WA
Date:	Friday, April 10, 2020 6:53:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: # 32 - SNAP Flexibilities - Extended Recerts for WA

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes Extended Recerts/Periodic Reports for WA.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Balbes, Maribelle - FNS; Noble, John (David) - FNS; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS; O"Connor, Jacqueline - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS
Cc:	Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: #3 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 3 Approval
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 11:08:00 PM

The Hill has been notified on all 21, Committees and delegations.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:03 PM
To: Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; Noble, John (David) - FNS <john.noble@usda.gov>; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS <eliot.delacruz.kriviski@usda.gov>; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS <Melanie.Meisenheimer@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Jacqueline - FNS <Jacqueline.O'Connor@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #3 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 3 Approval

This is all 21 waivers including the 2 that came in after 6 PM tonight. Amazing work folks! Let's get these last ones out and go home!!!

SNAP, the third batch of (7) are approved to be sent to states.

Veronica, the draft notification is below and attached are the final approval letters.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

1. CT
2. DE
3. LA
4. NM
5. OH
6. OR
7. VA

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Balbes, Maribelle - FNS; Noble, John (David) - FNS; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS; O"Connor, Jacqueline - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS
Cc:	Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: #4 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 4 Approval
Date:	Monday, March 23, 2020 4:33:00 PM

The Hill has been notified on these waivers. Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:23 PM
To: Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; Noble, John (David) - FNS <john.noble@usda.gov>; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS <eliot.delacruz.kriviski@usda.gov>; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS <Melanie.Meisenheimer@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Jacqueline - FNS <Jacqueline.O'Connor@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #4 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 4 Approval

SNAP, the fourth batch of (12) are approved to be sent to states.

Veronica, the draft notification is below and attached are the final approval letters.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

1. CA
2. FL
3. GA
4. IN
5. KS
6. MI
7. MN
8. MT
9. NY
10. RI
11. SD
12. TX

Draft Hill Notification:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:03 PM
To: Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; Noble, John (David) - FNS <john.noble@usda.gov>; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS <eliot.delacruz.kriviski@usda.gov>; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS <Melanie.Meisenheimer@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Jacqueline - FNS <Jacqueline.O'Connor@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #3 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 3 Approval

This is all 21 waivers including the 2 that came in after 6 PM tonight. Amazing work folks! Let's get these last ones out and go home!!!

SNAP, the third batch of (7) are approved to be sent to states.

Veronica, the draft notification is below and attached are the final approval letters.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

1. CT

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2. DE
3. LA
4. NM
5. OH
6. OR
7. VA

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: RE: #5 - SNAP Waivers/Flexibilities - Max Allotments for 4 States
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 11:33:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP ?

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:59 AM
To: Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: #5 - SNAP Waivers/Flexibilities - Max Allotments for 4 States

SNAP, the fifth batch of waiver/flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 4 Max Allotments approvals. The attached template will be coming in a separate email.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1 of 1 USDA-20-1045-A-001089

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject:	RE: #5 - SNAP Waivers/Flexibilities - Max Allotments for 4 States
Date:	Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:55:00 PM

The hill has been notified on these 4 state max allotment approvals. Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:59 AM
To: Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: #5 - SNAP Waivers/Flexibilities - Max Allotments for 4 States

SNAP, the fifth batch of waiver/flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 4 Max Allotments approvals. The attached template will be coming in a separate email.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Balbes, Maribelle - FNS; Noble, John (David) - FNS; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS; O"Connor, Jacqueline - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS
Cc:	Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS
Subject:	RE: #9 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 9 Approval
Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:04:00 AM

The Hill has been notified on these. Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; Noble, John (David) - FNS <john.noble@usda.gov>; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS <eliot.delacruz.kriviski@usda.gov>; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS <Melanie.Meisenheimer@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Jacqueline - FNS <Jacqueline.O'Connor@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #9 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 9 Approval

SNAP, the ninth batch of (5) are approved to be sent to states.

Veronica, the draft notification is below and attached are the final approval letters.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

1. MS
2. OK
3. NH

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

[redacted] (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:03 PM
To: Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; Noble, John (David) - FNS <john.noble@usda.gov>; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS <eliot.delacruz.kriviski@usda.gov>; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS <Melanie.Meisenheimer@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Jacqueline - FNS <Jacqueline.O'Connor@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #3 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 3 Approval

This is all 21 waivers including the 2 that came in after 6 PM tonight. Amazing work folks! Let's get these last ones out and go home!!!

SNAP, the third batch of (7) are approved to be sent to states.

Veronica, the draft notification is below and attached are the final approval letters.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

1. CT

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2. DE
3. LA
4. NM
5. OH
6. OR
7. VA

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: #9 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 9 Approval
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:05:00 AM

Great, thanks

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: #9 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 9 Approval

I will send up the state delegation notices now.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:00 AM
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: #9 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 9 Approval

Chris and I can send this hill notice. Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; Noble, John (David) - FNS <john.noble@usda.gov>; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS <eliot.delacruz.kriviski@usda.gov>; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS <Melanie.Meisenheimer@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Jacqueline - FNS <Jacqueline.O'Connor@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #9 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 9 Approval

SNAP, the ninth batch of (5) are approved to be sent to states.

Veronica, the draft notification is below and attached are the final approval letters.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

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1. MS
2. OK
3. NH

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
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Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:03 PM
To: Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; Noble, John (David) - FNS <john.noble@usda.gov>; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS <eliot.delacruz.kriviski@usda.gov>; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS <Melanie.Meisenheimer@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Jacqueline - FNS <Jacqueline.O'Connor@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev -

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FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #3 - SNAP Waivers - Extension of Recert/Periodic Report - Batch 3 Approval

This is all 21 waivers including the 2 that came in after 6 PM tonight. Amazing work folks! Let's get these last ones out and go home!!!

SNAP, the third batch of (7) are approved to be sent to states.

Veronica, the draft notification is below and attached are the final approval letters.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

1. CT
2. DE
3. LA
4. NM
5. OH
6. OR
7. VA

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lucas, Richard - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS; Noble, John (David) - FNS; Balbes, Maribelle - FNS; O"Connor, Jacqueline - FNS; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS; Patyk, Karen - FNS; McKenney, Alice - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Subject: RE: #11 - SNAP Flexibilities - Interview Waivers for All States
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:38:00 PM

The hill has been notified. Thanks.

From: Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:05 PM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS <eliot.delacruz.kriviski@usda.gov>; Noble, John (David) - FNS <john.noble@usda.gov>; Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Jacqueline - FNS <Jacqueline.O'Connor@usda.gov>; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS <Melanie.Meisenheimer@usda.gov>; Patyk, Karen - FNS <karen.patyk@usda.gov>; McKenney, Alice - FNS <alice.mckenney1@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: #11 - SNAP Flexibilities - Interview Waivers for All States

Team, it sounds like these have been transmitted to States. Assuming that the Hill notifications are done, we'll post to the web tomorrow morning. Thanks! - Rich

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 7:00 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Cc: Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; DeLaCruz Kriviski, Eliot - FNS; Noble, John (David) - FNS; Balbes, Maribelle - FNS; O'Connor, Jacqueline - FNS; Meisenheimer, Melanie - FNS; Patyk, Karen - FNS; McKenney, Alice - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Subject: #11 - SNAP Flexibilities - Interview Waivers for All States

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SNAP, the eleventh batch of flexibility approvals is approved to be sent to states. This batch includes a single nation-wide flexibility allowing State agencies to adjust the certain SNAP interview requirements through May 31, 2020.

Veronica, the draft notification is below and attached is the final approval letter.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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USDA Food and Nutrition Service
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject:	RE: #12 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 8 States
Date:	Friday, March 27, 2020 4:09:00 PM

The hill has been notified. thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 3:56 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #12 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 8 States

SNAP, the twelfth batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 8 emergency Allotments.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: RE: #13 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature Flexibility for 9 States
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 6:04:00 PM

Sounds good. I was only asking because it was referenced in the write up as attached. Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 6:03 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: #13 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature Flexibility for 9 States

No, there's not exciting details in these waivers. The bullets cover all that's in the letters. We can if folks are asking for them, but they should all be up on the website soon.

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: #13 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature Flexibility for 9 States

There's no attachments. Did you want me to send attachments?

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Hughes, Sarah - FNS <sarah.hughes@usda.gov>; Gillard, Merrit - FNS <merrit.gillard@usda.gov>; Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; McKenney, Alice - FNS <alice.mckenney1@usda.gov>; Patyk, Karen - FNS <karen.patyk@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>
Subject: #13 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature Flexibility for 9 States

SNAP, the thirteenth batch of flexibilities are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 9

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Telephonic Signature Flexibility Approvals.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
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703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Hughes, Sarah - FNS; Gillard, Merrit - FNS; Balbes, Maribelle - FNS; McKenney, Alice - FNS; Patyk, Karen - FNS; Griffin, Laura - FNS
Subject:	RE: #13 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature Flexibility for 9 States
Date:	Friday, March 27, 2020 6:07:00 PM

The hill has been notified

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Hughes, Sarah - FNS <sarah.hughes@usda.gov>; Gillard, Merrit - FNS <merrit.gillard@usda.gov>; Balbes, Maribelle - FNS <maribelle.balbes@usda.gov>; McKenney, Alice - FNS <alice.mckenney1@usda.gov>; Patyk, Karen - FNS <karen.patyk@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>
Subject: #13 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature Flexibility for 9 States

SNAP, the thirteenth batch of flexibilities are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 9 Telephonic Signature Flexibility Approvals.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

- [redacted]

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- (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject:	RE: #14 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 3 States
Date:	Saturday, March 28, 2020 3:38:00 PM

The hill has been notified thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #14 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 3 States

SNAP, the fourteenth batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 3 emergency Allotments.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee)
Cc:	Wilson II, Anthony - FNS
Subject:	Re: #15 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 4 States; Extended Recerts for NC; Telephonic Signature for AZ
Date:	Monday, March 30, 2020 4:06:24 PM

Whichever but I agree it may be easier for futur to breakout.

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From: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:59:48 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: #15 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 4 States; Extended Recerts for NC; Telephonic Signature for AZ

Quick question:

Can these be sent as one batch or should I break out by waiver type to make easier for tracking down the road if needed?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: #15 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 4 States; Extended Recerts for NC; Telephonic Signature for AZ

Anthony, Karla and Kiev,

Can one of you all send the hill notifications on this? Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS

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<shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: #15 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 4 States; Extended Recerts for NC; Telephonic Signature for AZ

SNAP, the fifteenth batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 4 emergency Allotments, Extended Recerts/Periodic Reports for NC, and Telephonic Signature for AZ.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject:	RE: #16 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 6 States
Date:	Wednesday, April 1, 2020 11:22:00 AM

The hill has been notified on these 6 state snap emergency allotments. Thank you.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:51 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #16 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for 6 States

SNAP, the sixteenth batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states first thing tomorrow morning. This batch includes 6 emergency Allotments.

Veronica, the draft notification is below tomorrow morning after 9.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject:	RE: #18 - SNAP Flexibilities - Extended Recerts for NE
Date:	Thursday, April 2, 2020 4:25:00 PM

This hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 11:57 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: #18 - SNAP Flexibilities - Extended Recerts for NE

SNAP, the eighteenth batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes Extended Recerts/Periodic Reports for NE.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject:	RE: #19 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for Idaho and Pennsylvania
Date:	Thursday, April 2, 2020 3:58:00 PM

The hill has been notified on these. Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:52 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: #19 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for Idaho and Pennsylvania

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes Emergency Allotments for Idaho and Pennsylvania.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Ward, Ronald - FNS
Subject:	RE: #20 - SNAP Flexibilities - CT Claims Request
Date:	Thursday, April 2, 2020 4:05:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this. Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Ward, Ronald - FNS <ronald.ward@usda.gov>
Subject: #20 - SNAP Flexibilities - CT Claims Request

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to Connecticut.

Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below (this is using our normal SNAP flexibility authority, not 6201 – we will treat this like all other COVID-19 requests, but the authority piece is different).

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
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USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject:	RE: #21 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature for DC & MI (UPDATED)
Date:	Friday, April 3, 2020 6:33:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this (DC and MI). thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 4:18 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: #21 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature for DC & MI (UPDATED)

Adding MI if you haven't sent the Hill Notification

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes Telephonic Signature for DC & MI.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject:	RE: #22 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for OR & TX; Telephonic Signature for NH & NJ
Date:	Monday, April 6, 2020 5:03:00 PM

The hill has been notified on these – emergency allotments and telephone signature. Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:50 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #22 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for OR & TX; Telephonic Signature for NH & NJ

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 2 emergency Allotments and 2 Telephonic Signature approvals.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID
Subject:	RE: #23 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature for CO
Date:	Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:46:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:32 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #23 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature for CO

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 1 Telephonic Signature approval.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID
Subject:	RE: #24 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for NE and NV
Date:	Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:49:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this. Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:40 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #24 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for NE and NV

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 2 emergency Allotments approvals.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID
Subject:	RE: #25 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for VI
Date:	Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:21:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>
Subject: #25 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for VI

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 1 Emergency Allotments approvals.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID
Subject:	RE: #26 - SNAP Flexibilities - IEVS Flex for MN
Date:	Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:00:00 AM

The hill has been notified on this. Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>
Subject: #26 - SNAP Flexibilities - IEVS Flex for MN

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 1 IEVS Flexibility approval.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Ward, Ronald - FNS
Subject:	RE: #27 - SNAP Flexibilities - Claims Suspension
Date:	Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:11:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:37 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Ward, Ronald - FNS <ronald.ward@usda.gov>
Subject: #27 - SNAP Flexibilities - Claims Suspension

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent.

Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below (this is using our normal SNAP flexibility authority, not 6201 – we will treat this like all other COVID-19 requests, but the authority piece is different).

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID
Subject:	RE: #28 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for SD
Date:	Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:29:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 3:44 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #28 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for SD

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 1 Emergency Allotments approvals.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID
Subject:	RE: #29 - SNAP Flexibilities - IEVS Flex for IN
Date:	Friday, April 10, 2020 6:52:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 8:31 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #29 - SNAP Flexibilities - IEVS Flex for IN

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 1 IEVS Flexibility approval.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID; FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Subject:	RE: #30 - SNAP Flexibilities - SSN Good Cause Flex for WA
Date:	Friday, April 10, 2020 6:52:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 8:34 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>
Subject: #30 - SNAP Flexibilities - SSN Good Cause Flex for WA

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 1 SSN Good Cause flexibility approval.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Ward, Ronald - FNS
Subject:	RE: #31 - SNAP Flexibilities - Claims Suspension
Date:	Friday, April 10, 2020 6:53:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Ward, Ronald - FNS <ronald.ward@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #31 - SNAP Flexibilities - Claims Suspension

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent.

Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below (this is using our normal SNAP flexibility authority, not 6201 – we will treat this like all other COVID-19 requests, but the authority piece is different).

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Subject:	RE: #33 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature for NM, RI, VA
Date:	Friday, April 10, 2020 6:54:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 3:52 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #33 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature for NM, RI, VA

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 3 Telephonic Signature approvals.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS)
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Ward, Ronald - FNS
Subject:	RE: #34 - SNAP Flexibilities - Claims Suspension
Date:	Friday, April 10, 2020 6:54:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 4:03 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Ward, Ronald - FNS <ronald.ward@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #34 - SNAP Flexibilities - Claims Suspension

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent.

Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below (this is using our normal SNAP flexibility authority, not 6201 – we will treat this like all other COVID-19 requests, but the authority piece is different).

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Ward, Ronald - FNS
Subject:	RE: #36 - SNAP Flexibilities - Nation-Wide Fair Hearings
Date:	Monday, April 13, 2020 2:53:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 2:37 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Ward, Ronald - FNS <ronald.ward@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #36 - SNAP Flexibilities - Nation-Wide Fair Hearings

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent.

Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below (this is using our normal SNAP flexibility authority, not 6201 – we will treat this like all other COVID-19 requests, but the authority piece is different).

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification for Fair Hearings:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS; FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID
Subject:	RE: #37 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for MN
Date:	Monday, April 13, 2020 3:10:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #37 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for MN

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 1 Emergency Allotment approval.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID
Subject:	RE: #38 - SNAP Flexibilities - IEVS Flex for IA
Date:	Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:20:00 PM

The hill has been notified.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 12:58 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #38 - SNAP Flexibilities - IEVS Flex for IA

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 1 IEVS Flexibility approval.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID; FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Subject:	RE: #39 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for UT
Date:	Wednesday, April 15, 2020 6:31:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #39 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments for UT

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 1 Emergency Allotment approval.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Ward, Ronald - FNS
Subject:	RE: #41 - SNAP Flexibilities - WV Mass Card Replacement Notice
Date:	Tuesday, April 21, 2020 8:27:00 AM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 9:24 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Ward, Ronald - FNS <ronald.ward@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #41 - SNAP Flexibilities - WV Mass Card Replacement Notice

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent.

Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below (this is using our normal SNAP flexibility authority, not 6201 – we will treat this like all other COVID-19 requests, but the authority piece is different).

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID
Subject:	RE: #42 - SNAP Flexibilities - SSN Good Cause Flex for OH and IL
Date:	Tuesday, April 21, 2020 8:30:00 AM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 9:39 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #42 - SNAP Flexibilities - SSN Good Cause Flex for OH and IL

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 2 SSN Good Cause flexibility approvals.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: RE: #43 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments Template for Future Months
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:15:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP
?

(b) (5), DPP
?

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:19 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #43 - SNAP Flexibilities - Emergency Allotments Template for Future Months

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS
Subject:	RE: #44 - SNAP Flexibilities - IL Adjustment for Telephonic Designation of Authorized Representative
Date:	Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:47:00 AM

the hill notice is complete.

From: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>
Subject: #44 - SNAP Flexibilities - IL Adjustment for Telephonic Designation of Authorized Representative

SNAP, this flexibility approval is approved to be sent to the State.

Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

… Jeff Cohen

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject:	RE: #45 - SNAP Flexibilities - Extended Recerts and Periodic Reports to June
Date:	Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:07:00 AM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:02 AM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: #45 - SNAP Flexibilities - Extended Recerts and Periodic Reports to June

Here's the updated attachment w/the correct date if anyone needs it.

Sorry for the double tap.

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:45 AM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; joe.tvrdy@usda.gov
Subject: #45 - SNAP Flexibilities - Extended Recerts and Periodic Reports to June

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: RE: #46 - SNAP Flexibilities - ADH Waiver for DE, SD, and GA
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:03:00 AM

Ok, I've added two things in red for clarity, is this ok?

> USDA is granting the following SNAP flexibilities to **Delaware, Georgia, and South Dakota** under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations** through May 31, 2020.
>
> FNS is approving flexibility on **Administrative Disqualification Hearings** under 7 CFR 273.16(e)(2), which states that, within 90 days of the date the household member is notified in writing that a State or local hearing initiated by the State agency has been scheduled, the State agency shall conduct the hearing, arrive at a decision, and notify the household member and local agency of the decision. This regulation also states that the accused individual has until 10 days before the scheduled hearing to request a postponement, but the hearing may not be postponed by more than 30 days.
>
> The State will have 180 days, instead of 90 days to complete the hearings. The agency must notify households affected by this flexibility. All other rights of households and responsibilities of the State agency to ensure full due process, as described in the regulations, remain regardless of a potential extended timeline to meet these requirements.
>
> All States were provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly.
>
> State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: #46 - SNAP Flexibilities - ADH Waiver for DE, SD, and GA

The state has 180 days instead of 90 days to complete these hearings. Not waived, just extended timeframes for them to do the work.

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:59 AM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: #46 - SNAP Flexibilities - ADH Waiver for DE, SD, and GA

I don't understand the flexibility here. Is the 90 day requirement waived? Or what part of the typical requirements are waived? Thanks.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:28 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Ward, Ronald - FNS <ronald.ward@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #46 - SNAP Flexibilities - ADH Waiver for DE, SD, and GA

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent.

Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below (this is using our normal SNAP flexibility authority, not 6201 – we will treat this like all other COVID-19 requests, but the authority piece is different).

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Ward, Ronald - FNS; Griffin, Laura - FNS
Subject:	RE: #46 - SNAP Flexibilities - ADH Waiver for DE, SD, and GA
Date:	Thursday, April 23, 2020 1:06:00 PM

The hill has been notified.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:28 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Ward, Ronald - FNS <ronald.ward@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #46 - SNAP Flexibilities - ADH Waiver for DE, SD, and GA

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent.

Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below (this is using our normal SNAP flexibility authority, not 6201 – we will treat this like all other COVID-19 requests, but the authority piece is different).

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID; Griffin, Laura - FNS
Subject:	RE: #47 - SNAP Flexibilities - IEVS Flex for CA
Date:	Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:12:00 PM

The hill has been notified.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 2:37 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>
Subject: #47 - SNAP Flexibilities - IEVS Flex for CA

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 1 IEVS Flexibility approval.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Griffin, Laura - FNS
Subject:	RE: #48 - SNAP Flexibilities - Suspension of In-person Applications - OH
Date:	Friday, April 24, 2020 3:55:00 PM

The hill has been notified

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>
Subject: #48 - SNAP Flexibilities - Suspension of In-person Applications - OH

SNAP, this flexibility approval is approved to be sent to the State.

Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

… Jeff Cohen

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Griffin, Laura - FNS
Subject:	RE: #49 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature for NY
Date:	Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:26:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 2:28 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #49 - SNAP Flexibilities - Telephonic Signature for NY

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 1 Telephonic Signature approval.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS)
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; Muns, Tamieka - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS-OPS-COVID; Griffin, Laura - FNS
Subject:	RE: #50 - SNAP Flexibilities - IEVS Flex for OH
Date:	Thursday, April 30, 2020 4:16:00 PM

The hill has been notified

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>
Subject: #50 - SNAP Flexibilities - IEVS Flex for OH

SNAP, this of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 1 IEVS Flexibility approval.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Ward, Ronald - FNS
Subject:	RE: #51 - SNAP Flexibilities - QC 3 Month Suspension Blanket
Date:	Thursday, April 30, 2020 4:07:00 PM

The hill has been notified

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 2:22 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Ward, Ronald - FNS <ronald.ward@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #51 - SNAP Flexibilities - QC 3 Month Suspension Blanket

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent.

Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Griffin, Laura - FNS
Subject:	RE: #52 - SNAP Flexibilities - DE Adjustment for Telephonic Designation of Authorized Representative
Date:	Thursday, April 30, 2020 7:41:00 PM

The hill has been notified.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:08 PM
To: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>
Subject: #52 - SNAP Flexibilities - DE Adjustment for Telephonic Designation of Authorized Representative

SNAP, this flexibility approval is approved to be sent to the State.

Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

… Jeff Cohen

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Griffin, Laura - FNS
Subject:	RE: #53 - SNAP Flexibilities - MN Adjustment for Telephonic Designation of Authorized Representative
Date:	Monday, May 11, 2020 2:47:00 PM

The hill has bee notified.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 12:03 PM
To: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: #53 - SNAP Flexibilities - MN Adjustment for Telephonic Designation of Authorized Representative

SNAP, this flexibility approval is approved to be sent to the State.

Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

… Jeff Cohen

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Attachment included previously at page 464

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tiller, Jennifer
Subject: RE:
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:21:00 PM
Attachments: HR 6201 Implementation 031920.pdf

This is not public yet, but for your internal awareness. I will hopefully have more and public facing materials soon.

From: Tiller, Jennifer <Jennifer.Tiller@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject:

Knowing that POTUS just signed Families First, do you have any idea when Secretary will finalize the guidance for States regarding requesting an increase to SNAP allotments?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: 1 pm WH call with State/Local Elected officials
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 5:00:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

FYI, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:03 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Cc: Lindsay, Sally - OSEC Washington, DC <Sally.Lindsay@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 1 pm WH call with State/Local Elected officials

I (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

--
Lillie Brady
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Cc: Lindsay, Sally - OSEC Washington, DC <Sally.Lindsay@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: 1 pm WH call with State/Local Elected officials

First I've seen of this. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:43:43 PM
To: Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Cc: Lindsay, Sally - OSEC Washington, DC <Sally.Lindsay@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 1 pm WH call with State/Local Elected officials

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted] Looping in Blake and Ashley W and lauren.

--
Lillie Brady
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:35 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Cc: Lindsay, Sally - OSEC Washington, DC <Sally.Lindsay@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Subject: 1 pm WH call with State/Local Elected officials

Hi Joby,

Just wanted to send over the details from the pre-brief call with IGA regarding the call tomorrow, hosted by the White House, to discuss federal response to COVID-19.

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Please let us know if you need anything else before the call tomorrow at 1 PM.

Ashley Smith

Confidential Assistant
Office of the Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-3631
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Lindsay, Sally - OSEC Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Re: 1 pm WH call with State/Local Elected officials
Date:	Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:47:36 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

Thanks, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:43 PM
To: Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Lindsay, Sally - OSEC Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: 1 pm WH call with State/Local Elected officials

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] Looping in Blake and Ashley W and lauren.

--
Lillie Brady
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:35 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Cc: Lindsay, Sally - OSEC Washington, DC <Sally.Lindsay@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Subject: 1 pm WH call with State/Local Elected officials

Hi Joby,

Just wanted to send over the details from the pre-brief call with IGA regarding the call tomorrow, hosted by the White House, to discuss federal response to COVID-19.

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Please let us know if you need anything else before the call tomorrow at 1 PM.

Ashley Smith

Confidential Assistant
Office of the Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-3631
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: RE: 5pm Catchup
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 5:59:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Everything seems to have calmed down from this morning…waiting for next rush to come through.

Thanks!

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 5:55 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 5pm Catchup

More comments in green below.

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 5:48 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 5pm Catchup

Pam list:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:40 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: 5pm Catchup

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Gold, Andrea - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pierce, Shelly - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject:	RE: 10 - SNAP Flexibilities - Max Allotments for 2 States; Extended Cert for 1 Additional State
Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:46:00 PM

The hill has been notified on these thanks

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:36 PM
To: Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: 10 - SNAP Flexibilities - Max Allotments for 2 States; Extended Cert for 1 Additional State

SNAP, the tenth batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent to states. This batch includes 2 Max Allotments and Extending Recerts for 1 state approvals.

Veronica, the draft notification is below.

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: Re: 10am Monday: OMB Request for (b) (5), DPP
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 8:08:49 PM

(b) (5), DPP

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 8:04:46 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: 10am Monday: OMB Request for (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 7:50:38 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: 10am Monday: OMB Request for (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 7:23 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: RE: 10am Monday: OMB Request for (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 7:14 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 10am Monday: OMB Request for (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

My suggested response for review is:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 6:38 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: 10am Monday: OMB Request for (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

I believe (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 6:21 PM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Morris, Erin - AMS; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Marklund, Chris - OSEC; Brand, Bette - RD, Washington, DC; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C.; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC; McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hubbard, Jim - OSEC, Washington, DC; Horder, Lilia - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC

Cc: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC; Pollard, Nicole - OBPA, Washington, DC; Perry, Andrew - OBPA, Washington, DC; Zuco, Paola - OBPA, Washington, DC; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C.

Subject: 10am Monday: OMB Request for (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Happy Sunday

OMB has asked us for (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks! Erica

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: A Few FNCS Issues
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:27:54 PM

Great

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:27:18 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: A Few FNCS Issues

1pm?

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:22:01 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: A Few FNCS Issues

Can we (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:51:04 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: A Few FNCS Issues

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:48:15 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: A Few FNCS Issues

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:47 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: A Few FNCS Issues

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From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 10:59:03 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: A Few FNCS Issues

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

Concur with all recommendations!

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Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

---

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 10:42:47 AM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: A Few FNCS Issues

Sir:

Below are a few issues I wanted to run by you for clearance prior to proceeding. Please let us know if you are good or if you would like to discuss and we will set up a time.

Regards,
Brandon

1. **Issue:** (b) (5), DPP

   Recommendation: (b) (5), DPP

2. **Issue:** (b) (5), DPP

   Recommendation: (b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

3. **Issue:** (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Recommendation: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: A Few FNCS Issues
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 8:37:11 AM

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

From: Campbell Shuford <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 7:47 PM
To: Veronica Wong <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>, "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: A Few FNCS Issues

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From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 10:59:03 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: A Few FNCS Issues

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

Concur with all recommendations!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 10:42:47 AM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: A Few FNCS Issues

Sir:

Below are a few issues I wanted to run by you for clearance prior to proceeding. Please let us know if you are good or if you would like to discuss and we will set up a time.

Regards,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Brandon

1. **Issue:** (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

   Recommendation: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

2. **Issue:** (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

   Recommendation: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

3. **Issue:** (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

   Recommendation: (b) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brand, Bette - RD, Washington, DC; McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C.
Subject: RE: AFBF Letter on CARES Act Assistance
Date: Saturday, April 4, 2020 3:44:53 PM
Attachments: AFBF - CARES Letter to Perdue-Final - 3April2020.pdf

Sorry, forgot to include the attachment. Here it is.

Best regards,

WIthheld email address is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6)
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

From: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2020 2:06 PM
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Brand, Bette - RD, Washington, DC <bette.brand@usda.gov>; McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ted.McKinney@usda.gov>
Cc: Kailee - OSEC Washington DC Tkacz (kailee.tkacz@usda.gov) <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Subject: AFBF Letter on CARES Act Assistance

FYI in case you haven't seen. (b) (5), DPP

Best regards,

Steve

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6)
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®
600 Maryland Ave. SW | Suite 1000W | Washington, DC 20024

ph. 202.406.3600
f. 202.406.3606
www.fb.org

April 3, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Secretary:

You and your staff are doing a tremendous job supporting American agriculture in this crisis. The farmers and ranchers of our nation are in debt to you and we offer our continuing appreciation and support.

Enactment of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) just a few days ago was a necessary step in helping to protect American farmers and ranchers. Now, as you begin implementing this historic legislation, I need to share with you the critical needs surfaced by American Farm Bureau Federation members as we assess them today. Even before the onset of the COVID crisis, many members were continuing to suffer economic damage from ongoing trade disputes, underscoring the need for additional MFP support. The COVID emergency has only exacerbated this situation. By way of background, I am attaching a copy of my letter to you dated March 17, 2020. That letter outlined our initial assessment of needs and is updated herein. I am also attaching a copy of a more detailed list of concerns shared with congressional leaders on March 20 as they debated the CARES Act last week. Please utilize these documents as you move forward.

Overarching Concern

I consistently hear from growers around the country the imperative need to get financial assistance into producers' hands immediately. Timing is crucial. With congressional approval of $14 billion to replenish the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and $9.5 billion for livestock, specialty crops and other growers, producers cannot wait. We urge you to set the highest priority on getting these critical dollars into farmers' and ranchers' hands absolutely as soon as possible. This must be the Department's #1 Priority.

I outline below in more detail the most immediate concerns farm and ranch producers have brought forward. As you develop programs to implement the CARES Act, I urge you to give top priority to the following critical needs:

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Support for all of agriculture

All sectors of agriculture must be included under CARES coverage as implemented by USDA. Specialty crops, livestock, and others are highlighted in the special $9.5 billion authority vested with the Secretary, while the replenishment of CCC authority should also provide broad authority to assist other segments of agriculture. Certain sectors of agriculture are particularly hard-hit; I have outlined these immediately below. But other growers are also faced with immediate financial hardship, and they are set out also. It is critical that USDA do all in its power to assist growers in every region, of all commodities, to the maximum of its ability.

- Sectors particularly hard-hit

  We urge the Department to turn its attention as quickly as possible to these sectors and use its full authority to provide relief to the greatest extent feasible:

  a. Dairy and milk prices have declined sharply in recent weeks and farm-level milk prices are likely to be even lower due to price re-blending to account for distressed and disposed loads of milk. We urge USDA to examine every possible way to support the sector. This may be through:
     i. Crafting a special direct payment to dairy farmers. While we previously proposed re-opening Dairy Margin Coverage, we believe a direct payment at least equivalent to the financial support provided by DMC would provide immediate financial support to dairy farmers;
     ii. To offset the decline in demand in the food service and school meal sectors, USDA should immediately make purchases of dairy products including but not limited to fluid milk, butter, cheeses and dry milk powders. Additional support could be provided through export assistance programs and direct commodity support;
     iii. The creation of a voucher program through the Milk Donation program to facilitate the distribution of donated milk through grocery stores and other venues since some food banks are not geared for highly perishable products;
     iv. Consider activating a milk loss program similar to the 2019 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity and Milk Loss (WHIP-ML) Program to indemnify eligible dairy operations for milk that was dumped or removed without compensation from the commercial milk market due to COVID-19;
     v. Temporarily increase the minimum milk solids content in fluid milk to above 8.25 solids-non-fat and for whole milk above 3.25 percent butterfat.
     vi. Ensure that any milk disposed of or dumped, counts towards a Dairy Revenue Protection policy holder's total milk marketing's.
     vii. Allow school lunch programs still operating to purchase whole milk; and
     viii. Section 32 dairy purchases to the greatest extent possible.

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b. Livestock is also under tremendous stress, as is poultry. Futures prices have plummeted for live cattle, feeder cattle and lean hogs by as much as 30%. USDA should do its utmost to cover the significant losses livestock producers have incurred. In addition, we urge the department to:
    i. Craft a special direct payment to cattle, hog and poultry farmers, including but not limited to stocker and cow/calf operators.
    ii. Catfish, crawfish and other aquaculture producers should be eligible for assistance since 60% of their sales goes to restaurants.
    iii. Utilize where appropriate existing authorities under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish;
    iv. Consider purchases of beef, pork, poultry and aquaculture products for distribution in food and nutrition programs; and
    v. Cooperate and share information with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and Chicago Mercantile Exchange to monitor and prevent price manipulation in the spot or futures markets for livestock and dairy commodities.

c. Specialty crops

    i. The labor demands in fruit and vegetable production are acute. We want to continue to work with USDA, DOL and DOS in providing maximum accessibility to the workforce and flexibility in labor operations.
    ii. It will be important to assure that funds allocated to specialty crop growers get to all producers, regardless of size, experiencing immediate impacts.
    iii. Direct payments are needed for all specialty crop growers that are dumping products and experiencing income losses due to restaurant and retail closures.
    iv. With the steep decline in purchases in the food service sector, USDA should consider developing a purchase program that would quickly provide stability to all impacted fresh produce growers through the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

d. Cotton prices have fallen below 50 cents per pound and are the lowest in more than a decade. We urge USDA to examine every possible way to support the sector. This may be through:
    i. Direct payments to cotton producers that recognizes the price declines related to COVID-19 and the slowdown in economic output; and
    ii. Reactivating the Cotton Ginning Cost Share Program to provide financial assistance to offset the cotton ginning costs – a prerequisite for marketing cotton lint and seed.

e. Ethanol and biofuels have seen their prices and operating margins fall sharply due to the impact of COVID-19 self-distancing on gasoline demand. The reduced demand for ethanol has negatively impacted cash corn prices across the Midwest and reduced the supplies of critical livestock supplies and feedstuff such as dried distillers grains or CO2. We urge the department to use its authority to provide emergency financial assistance to all participants affected by the current situation. This includes corn growers, who produce feedstock for ethanol facilities; ethanol plants that produce biofuel; livestock producers who depend on the co-products for animal feed and

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

livestock processing facilities that depend on CO2. While different approaches have been advanced (such as purchasing feedstock at ethanol and biofuel facilities) we believe the Department must devise a solution that supports all parties who depend on a healthy biofuels sector. This may require innovative thinking, and we are prepared to work with USDA in helping craft a workable solution that is sensitive to the interests of all parties.

- Other Sectors Needing Critical Relief

  Whether under the special appropriation of $9.5 billion to the Secretary or under the CCC reauthorization, financial support must be provided to these important production sectors, which are often the backbone of a rural community and a rural economy:

  a. Agri-tourism
  b. Aquaculture producers, including:
     i. Catfish
     ii. Crawfish
     iii. Tilapia and hybrid striped bass
     iv. Oysters
     v. Shellfish
     vi. Trout farmers and others
  c. Forage crops
  d. Nurseries (including sod), floriculture and horticulture (including retail greenhouse and ornamental crops) and related sectors (such as hay & straw sales lost to racetrack closings)
  e. Other specialty livestock (e.g., wool and fur producers) and equine
  f. Self-employed farmers and sole proprietors. While these individuals may not have payroll obligations, they are under equal financial stress and should be covered under all programs.
  g. Tobacco
  h. Craft beverage producers and wineries
  i. Local fresh market farmers whose local fresh markets are no longer operating due to stay-at-home orders issued by state or local government.
  j. Livestock producers whose sale barn auctions have been closed or disrupted
  k. Producers in such areas as hydroponics, aquaponics and indoor production

- Meet needs immediately

  Many growers are increasingly desperate. They include livestock, dairy, nursery, horticulture and others such as those listed immediately above. As soon as realistically possible, these growers should be given clear, unequivocal guidance on:

  a. What USDA and other government assistance programs are available
  b. Where to go for assistance
  c. How to apply
  d. Clear eligibility criteria

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At the same time, farm retail outlets (either on- or off-farm) must be provided information about where to go to get relief resources (such retailers have lost markets due to stay-in-place orders).

Additionally, USDA should seek to expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Online Purchasing Program to allow qualified vendors at farmers markets, food hubs, farm stands to accept SNAP purchases, fulfill food orders and comply with social distancing and other mitigation order aimed at reducing spread of COVID-19.

- Workforce/health issues

  The Department should consider funding and/or forgivable loans for workforce safety programs on farming operations. The funds from the program could be used to buy additional personal protective equipment masks, meet additional lodging and sanitation requirements, provide wellness checks, etc. Farmer applicants could ask for a loan commensurate with the level of funding they think they will need to provide these safety measures for the next 2.5 months, and then on June 30 the loan will be forgiven if the farmer can show receipts for the purchase/outlay of those covered costs. The program could also cover administrative pay for sick workers. Administrative leave would allow workers to get paid while encouraging them to come forward.

- Continuity and supply chain issues

  These remain critically important components of a successful program to aid the agricultural sector. We continue to urge USDA to work aggressively with our trading partners to assure that critical trade relations remain intact to the greatest extent possible. Specifically:
  a. Livestock and agricultural trade with Canada and Mexico must be maintained.
  b. Chemicals and other farm inputs from foreign nations should continue to flow so that farmers do not lose these critical components of agriculture production. This is affecting availability of fertilizer and other commodities.
  c. Shipments of plant material to chain stores will undoubtedly be affected. These shipments start to ramp up in April.

- Special Needs

  Hawaii imports 90% of its food. While much of it comes via ocean cargo, more perishable items are transported on passenger planes as cargo. With the reduction of flights, we must assure that the food needs of Hawaiians are protected.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Farm Bureau stands ready to partner with you in this evolving, dynamic situation. We anticipate new insights and will share those with you as the department ensures that farmers and ranchers get the help they need in these unprecedented times.

Thank you again for your leadership at this critical time.

Sincerely,



Zippy Duvall
President

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS
Cc:	Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject:	Re: AGRI-PULSE DUE 9 am April 2 : Media Inquiry from Agri-Pulse: Schools Meals/FNS General Response, COVID-19 (Deadline: 9am, Thursday, 4/2)
Date:	Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:25:23 PM

(b) (5), DPP

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:09:16 PM

To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>

Subject: Re: AGRI-PULSE DUE 9 am April 2 : Media Inquiry from Agri-Pulse: Schools Meals/FNS General Response, COVID-19 (Deadline: 9am, Thursday, 4/2)

(b) (5), DPP, prefer to say:

On Background:
(b) (5), DPP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:01 PM

To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC

Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS

Subject: AGRI-PULSE DUE 9 am April 2 : Media Inquiry from Agri-Pulse: Schools Meals/FNS General Response, COVID-19 (Deadline: 9am, Thursday, 4/2)

(b) (5), DPP Thanks

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 8:50 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FOR AO: Media Inquiry from Agri-Pulse: Schools Meals/FNS General Response, COVID-19 (Deadline: 9am, Thursday, 4/2)

(b) (5),

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 6:02 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry from Agri-Pulse: Schools Meals/FNS General Response, COVID-19 (Deadline: 9am, Thursday, 4/2)

DEADLINE: 9 a.m., Thursday, 4/2

Steve Davies, a reporter with Agri-Pulse, would like to know if USDA plans to take additional actions to make it easier for states to get meals to people who need them.He states, "There was a Food Research & Action Center call today where SNAP advocates were talking about giving more flexibility to states to implement the program. I realize USDA has taken a number of steps to make it easier for states to get meals to people who need them, but are more on the way?"
Additionally, he wants to know if USDA is considering a nationwide waiver to the area eligibility criteria requiring SFSP sites to be in low-income areas.

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

Statement from Secretary Perdue:

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On Background:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Coney, Lillie; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: All Ag LA Call on USDA COVID Response
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:05:00 PM

Lillie,

We do not have a transcript of the call. However, we walked through the key actions FNS is taking in response to COVID outlined on our public website here, https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19. Then we took questions from staff including but not limited to questions about summer meals area eligibility waivers and SNAP P-EBT.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Coney, Lillie <Lillie.Coney@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 1:53 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: All Ag LA Call on USDA COVID Response

I know the call already happened. I want the information provided to LA's in the form of the update and replies to questions about food program flexibilities and contingencies for states in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:36 AM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: All Ag LA Call on USDA COVID Response

Hello everyone,

For clarification, this call is scheduled for 1:00pm EST today, Friday March 20th.

Thanks,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Chris Kidd

Hi All – USDA Food and Nutrition Service leadership will hold a call at 1:00pm for all Ag LA's to provide an update and answer questions about food program flexibilities and contingencies for states in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dial-In information is included below:
Dial-in: (b) (6) or (b) (6)
Access Code: (b) (6) ##

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Shahin, Jessica - FNS
Cc:	Gold, Andrea - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS
Subject:	Re: Also, restaurant/community feeding aid
Date:	Sunday, March 22, 2020 12:53:23 PM
Attachments:	Outlook-Hunger Fre.png Outlook-HFA on Fac.png Outlook-HFA on Twi.png Outlook-HFA on You.png Outlook-HFA on Ins.png

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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From: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>

Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 11:03:47 AM

To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Cc: Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Also, restaurant/community feeding aid

Brandon,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Adding Pam.

Thanks,

Jessica

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From: Joel Berg (b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org>

Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 10:12 AM

To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shahin, Jessica - FNS

Subject: Fwd: Also, restaurant/community feeding aid

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi. Please see exchange below with Senator Schumer's office about possible expansion of SNAP restaurant meals program. While I understand that you might not be able to tell me whether USDA would support such an expansion, I would appreciate it if you
could let me know if any of the technical answers about how the program might work were incorrect.

If it's easier to call me, I can be reached at (b) (6) Thanks

Joel Berg, CEO, Hunger Free America

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joel Berg <(b) (6)@hungerfreeamerica.org>
Date: March 22, 2020 at 9:55:55 AM EDT
To: "Byrne, Sean (Schumer)" <Sean_Byrne@schumer.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: Also, restaurant/community feeding aid

USDA provides the voucher to retailers. They are no set amounts. The SNAP recipients are supposed to only obtain amount of food less than the balance in their EBT/SNAP accounts. If phone lines are working, the retailer can call call to double check their EBT accounts If phone lines are down, its, briefly a sort of honors system, but, if people spent more than they have, it would likely come out of their next month's SNAP allotment.

JOEL BERG
CEO
212-825-0028 EXT (b)
HUNGERFREEAMERICA.ORG

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From: Byrne, Sean (Schumer) <Sean_Byrne@schumer.senate.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 9:44 AM
To: Joel Berg (b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: Re: Also, restaurant/community feeding aid

Where do the paper vouchers come from? Are they a specific dollar amount?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 22, 2020, at 9:40 AM, Joel Berg <(b) (6)@hungerfreeamerica.org> wrote:

> Here are the steps needed if USDA were to expand the restaurant program:
>
> 1) A restaurant would need to apply to USDA to be a certified SNAP retailer
>
> 2)) USDA would need to certify that each restaurant is certified to accept SNAP. I note that, while states and counties (and, in NYC, the City government) are responsible for determining which people get SNAP, USDA directly certifies which retail entities can accept it.
>
> 3) Currently at grocery stores that accept SNAP, the same device that reads SNAP cards also read credit cards and debit cards. What I don't know is whether restaurants that already accept credit and/or debit cards can use the same devices to accept SNAP payments through EBT cards or whether they would need new devices to do so
>
> 4) Many farmers markets, including most in NYC, now have portable devices to accept SNAP EBT payments. Assuming such markets are closed now for the season or are only open during the day, they would lend such devices to restaurants when the farmers markets are not open,
>
> 5) Under current law, in a disaster in which electricity goes down, SNAP retailers are allowed to conduct SNAP transactions with paper vouchers. Restaurants waiting to get the EBT reader devices could be potentially allowed to temporarily accept paper vouchers
>
> If you have any more questions about this, please feel free to call me at (b) (6)
>
> Thanks

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

JOEL BERG

CEO

212-825-0028 EXT(b)

HUNGERFREEAMERICA.ORG

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From: Byrne, Sean (Schumer) <Sean_Byrne@schumer.senate.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Joel Berg (b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org>
Subject: Re: Also, restaurant/community feeding aid

Would restaurants have to get set up to accept EBT cards for this to work? How difficult would that be?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 22, 2020, at 9:15 AM, Joel Berg (b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org> wrote:

> also, permit me to reinforce suggestions similar to ones like José Andres and Tom Colicchio have made.
>
> the new legislation should:
>
> 1) Immediately expand the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program https://ask.usda.gov/s/article/Can-I-buy-food-at-restaurants-with-Supplemental-Nutrition-Assistance-Program-benefits-For-SNAP-Clien to everywhere in the nation, allowing people to use SNAP to buy food to take home from restaurants anywhere in the country. This idea would be mostly revenue neutral but USDA would need some more $ for the massive staff time needed to approve restaurants nationwide as food retailers
>
> 2) Ensure money goes directly to restaurants to keep their workers employed, but give extra money to those that give free or sell reduced-price food in low and middle income

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

neighborhoods

Joel Berg, CEO, Hunger Free America (b) (6)

On Mar 22, 2020, at 8:25 AM, Joel Berg (b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org> wrote:

> Hi all. in case this missed this: https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.washingtonpost.com/politics/the-peace-corps-isnt-just-bringing-home-7300-volunteers-because-of-the-coronavirus-its-firing-them/2020/03/20/69aa08f4-6ac0-11ea-b5f1-a5a804158597_story.html%3foutputType=amp
>
> Permit me to suggest that the new relief bill appropriate to CNS money to hire any fired Peace Corps who wants to do domestic service through AmeriCorps or VISTA a chance to do so immediately.
>
> I have already provided CNS a plan how large numbers of AmeriCorps members could be safely used to respond to this crises in the short, medium, and long term
>
> Joel Berg, CEO, Hunger Free America
>
> On Mar 18, 2020, at 7:59 AM, Joel Berg (b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org> wrote:
>
> > Hi all. Thanks again for your public service. Assuming the Senate finally passes the House bill, and the President signs it, that will provide a huge anti-hunger boost. Big thanks to each of you for your roles in making that happen. But

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

the food and hunger crises will be so massive that much more help will be needed. If there is another big relief package, you may want to consider adding in the following:

1) Increase SNAP purchasing power by replacing the Thrifty Food Plan with the Economy Food Plan, as Senator Gillibrand and others have previously proposed. Extra SNAP spending still remains the most efficient way to get food to low-income people. It is especially important now because it also maintains food industry jobs and is easier to access through social distancing than mass food distributions.

2) I believe that existing law allows USDA to work with governors to use Disaster SNAP in the pandemic, but it would help for new legislation to make that even clearer. Also Disaster SNAP can only last one month – it should be extended to as long as the health emergency exists.

3) Expand the USDA Online SNAP purchasing pilot to all states and territories, and add some funds to pay for delivery. This will both help people who live in food deserts and further aid social distancing.

4) Appropriate money to states to give out to nonprofit groups to aid with signing people up for Pandemic SNAP, D-SNAP, regular SNAP, and WIC. A whole lot of new people will be eligible for these benefits, and state and country social service agencies will be too swamped to provide much application assistance, so groups like Hunger Free America that already assist in SNAP and WIC applications sure could use extra funds to expand such efforts rapidly.

5) Increase funding to the USDA National Hunger Clearinghouse/ National Hunger Hotline from the current level of $250,000 to $400,000 to allow the contractor (currently Hunger Free America) to be able to better respond to the massive increase in call volume.

6) Increase appropriations for the Corporation for National and Community

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Service, specifically for NCCC, AmeriCorps State and National, VISTA, and the Volunteer Generation Fund for COVID- response, especially for projects helping people access food benefits and delivering food to people's homes. Mandate and fund safety training and equipment for participants. Fund vehicle purchase and auto insurance for grantees, so they can get participants to service projects with more social distancing. Allow extra part-time or part-year serviced slots. Allow any AmeriCorps participants to get full education awards if their projects are shut down due to crisis. Increase education awards and make them non-taxable.

7) Increase WIC eligibility to kids up to six years of age.

If some conservatives now think taxpayers should bail out casinos – casinos! – the least they can do is support these extra efforts to prevent Americans from starving.

Thanks for your consideration. If any of you want to discuss any or all of this, don't hesitate to contact me anytime of day or night at (b) (6)

I hope all of you and your loves ones stay safe.

Sincerely

JOEL BERG

CEO

212-825-0028 EXT(b)

HUNGERFREEAMERICA.ORG

ENDING HUNGER LIFTS US ALL

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 7:42:56 PM

God bless Puerto Rico!

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue and Censky alias email addresses.

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 5:44:57 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

Mr. Secretary:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Brandon

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: RE: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 8:32:00 AM

Joe, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 8:04 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted].

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 8:00 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

Anne,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 8:21 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

Thanks Campbell. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

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From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 7:44:07 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

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From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 7:42:54 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

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God bless Puerto Rico!

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Subject: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

Mr. Secretary:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Brandon

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS
Cc: Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: RE: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:00:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 4:57 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

Veronica- (b) (5), DPP [redacted] Thanks!

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 9:49 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

Looping in Laura and Yasmin. I talked to region today. I think the best course of action is (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 8:32 AM
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

Joe, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 8:04 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

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Anne,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

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Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 8:21 PM
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Subject: Re: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

Thanks Campbell. (b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

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From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 7:44:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

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To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

God bless Puerto Rico!

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue and Censky alias email addresses.

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Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 5:44:57 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: Approval of Puerto Rico Plan for COVID NAP Funds

Mr. Secretary:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Brandon

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Sowder, Skylar (Boozman)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Arkansas State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 3:38:00 PM

Skylar,

Thanks for the email. We have gotten a host of these requests today and I know the team is working on responses as quickly as possible. Thanks for flagging Arkansas' request.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Sowder, Skylar (Boozman) <Skylar_Sowder@boozman.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 3:08 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Arkansas State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

Hi Veronica –

Hope you're staying safe and healthy.

Thanks for the help with the congregate feeding waiver. Arkansas DHS just reached out with the attached waiver request that was sent to FNS today. The waiver requests that the state be allowed to take an alternative signature (other than recorded) on SNAP applications taken over the telephone. I know FNS has been slammed lately, but do you have an idea on when the state can expect to hear back?

We appreciate what you all have been doing to expedite waivers to ensure people have access to SNAP and school meals. Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions or if there is anything we can do – 202-262-4769.

Thanks,
Skylar

From: "Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 at 8:41 PM
To: "Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: "Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: Arkansas State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

Good evening,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

This email is to inform you that tonight the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the state of Arkansas to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the approval shortly** through our regional Food and Nutrition Service office.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: AZ Online Pilot Hill Notification
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:21:00 AM

If they are both good to go I will put them into one hill notification.

Question for my own background, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]?

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 9:57 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: AZ Online Pilot Hill Notification

Veronica, below is the draft Hill Notification for AZ, which was approved today. This will go out at the same time as CA now.

I've included an updated list of interested states so you will need to update the CA Hill Notification also.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 2:41:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

[redacted]

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 2:12 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

[redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 12:45 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

Alec Varsamis

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 12:01 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

PRE-DECISIONAL AND DELIBERATIVE

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: bill text
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:48:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- (b) (5), DPP
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: bill text

What is your timeline? Do you want (b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:42 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: bill text

Thanks for the draft summary earlier. Can you put together summary of FNCS provisions in the bill draft released? (sorry if Evan or OBPA already asked this of you)

https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20200511/BILLS-116hr6800ih.pdf

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: bill text
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:20:30 PM

Thank you!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:32:47 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: bill text

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

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USDA-20-1045-A-001243
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:48 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: bill text

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: bill text

What is your timeline? Do you want (b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:42 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: bill text

Thanks for the draft summary earlier. Can you put together summary of FNCS provisions in the bill draft released? (sorry if Evan or OBPA already asked this of you)

https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20200511/BILLS-116hr6800ih.pdf

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: bill
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 12:00:00 PM

Thanks!

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: bill

Policy:
(b) (5), DPP

Appropriations:

- (b) (5), DPP
-
  -
  -
  -
-
  -

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: bill

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Not sure if you already have this. Bill text. Please keep very close hold.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Corley, Shiela - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS
Subject: RE: break out of $1M for salaries and awards
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 11:08:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted] Thoughts?

From: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 11:01 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: break out of $1M for salaries and awards

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]
Shiela

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:37 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:30 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

April 8th

(b) (5),

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), DPP

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From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:13:37 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), DPP

.

From: Law, Kathryn - FNS <kathryn.law@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:50 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Abelev, Melissa - FNS <melissa.abelev@usda.gov>; Murphy, Barbara - FNS <barbara.murphy@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Law, Kathryn - FNS <kathryn.law@usda.gov>; Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Abelev, Melissa - FNS <melissa.abelev@usda.gov>; Murphy, Barbara - FNS <barbara.murphy@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]. Thanks!

From: Law, Kathryn - FNS <kathryn.law@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:36 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Abelev, Melissa - FNS <melissa.abelev@usda.gov>; Murphy, Barbara - FNS <barbara.murphy@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:33 AM
To: Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Abelev, Melissa - FNS <melissa.abelev@usda.gov>; Murphy, Barbara - FNS <barbara.murphy@usda.gov>; Law, Kathryn - FNS <kathryn.law@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

Hi all
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 6:00 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 5:52 PM
To: Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

Thanks for this; (b) (5), DPP [redacted] Thanks

From: Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 5:21 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

Hi Pam – (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Lisa

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 9:44 PM
To: Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: FW: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

Hi all

Please see below and attached from OBPA. Can we get something back by noon tomorrow (the 8th) on this? Thank you and apologies for the crunch!
pam

Colleagues

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Striker, Leon – OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Briefings
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 8:42:40 AM

I have no briefings scheduled today.

I do have a briefing scheduled for tomorrow:

Topic: (b) (5), DPP
Congressional staff: senate Ag Committee Minority staff, staff of Sen Casey (pa)
USDA: FNS staff, no principal
Date: Friday, may 15 at 11am

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From: Striker, Leon – OSEC, Washington, DC <Leon.Striker@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 8:37:35 AM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Ness, Torie - OSEC, Washington, DC <Torie.Ness@usda.gov>; Duvall, Zellie - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zellie.Duvall@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Subject: Briefings

Good morning – please let me know if you have any briefings by 10:00am. Thanks!

Member and Committee Briefings

Briefing Topic: (b) (5), DPP
Participating Congressional Member/Staff: Rep. Mark Green (R-TN-07) and TN Stakeholders
Participating USDA Principal: OCR Assistant Secretary Ken Barbic
Date: Thursday, May 14 at 6:00PM

Briefing Topic: (b) (5), DPP
Participating Congressional Member/Staff: Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)
Participating USDA Principal: Secretary Sonny Perdue
Date: Thursday, May 14 at 2:00PM

Briefing Topic: (b) (5), DPP
Participating Congressional Member/Staff: Senate Ag Approps Majority Staff and Sen. John Hoeven's (R-ND) Personal Office Staff
Participating USDA Principal: Jimmy Bramblett (NRCS)
Date: Thursday, May 14 at 10:00AM

Briefing Topic: (b) (5), DPP
Participating Congressional Member/Staff: Senate Ag Committee Majority Staff
Participating USDA Principal: OCR Assistant Secretary Ken Barbic

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Date: Thursday, May 14 at 8:30AM

Staff Briefings

Leon Striker
Legislative Analyst
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Main Line: 202-720-7095

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification
Date:	Monday, April 6, 2020 4:47:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] Thanks.

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:42 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Alec Varsamis

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Moore, Larry - OC, Washington, DC <larry.moore@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:15 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Moore, Larry - OC, Washington, DC <larry.moore@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

Alec and Larry, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:01 PM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

Ok, this will get national news.

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]?

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:57 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

Veronica, below is the draft Hill Notification for CA.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:34:00 PM

Roger. Thanks. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:31 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:16 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:10 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5)

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
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To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

Ok, this will get national news.

(b) (5), DPP

?

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:57 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Veronica, below is the draft Hill Notification for CA.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:41:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:26 AM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:11 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

Update: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:49 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

Thanks for your understanding, everyone.

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:47 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] Thanks.

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:42 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Alec Varsamis

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Moore, Larry - OC, Washington, DC <larry.moore@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:15 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Moore, Larry - OC, Washington, DC <larry.moore@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

Alec and Larry, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:01 PM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

Ok, this will get national news.

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]?

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:57 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

Veronica, below is the draft Hill Notification for CA.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:59:53 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:56:34 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

##

Alec Varsamis

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:08 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Get Outlook for iOS

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:46:49 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
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Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Moore, Larry - OC, Washington, DC <larry.moore@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:15 PM

To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Moore, Larry - OC, Washington, DC <larry.moore@usda.gov>

Subject: FW: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

Alec and Larry, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:01 PM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

Ok, this will get national news.

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted] (b) ?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:57 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: CA Online PIlot Hill Notification

Veronica, below is the draft Hill Notification for CA.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Cabinet Affairs Report 05.11.2020
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:40:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Thank you!

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Cabinet Affairs Report 05.11.2020

Please see below for OCR awareness.

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:27 PM
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Cabinet Affairs Report 05.11.2020

Good Afternoon Hailey and Campbell,
I hope that you both had a wonderful and relaxing weekend!
Please see the below update from FNCS for the week of May 11 – May 15. Please let me know if you have any questions, or see any discrepancies.
Thank you!
Wes
****

Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Wesley A. Gwinn
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tres Bailey; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS
Subject: RE: call today
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:30:00 PM

Sorry for the delay in replying.

This is consistent with what we are hearing. We are working to see what we can do state by state. We appreciate Walmart's commitment to be ready where this is feasible.

From: Tres Bailey (b) (6) @walmart.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: call today

Hello Brandon –

Following upon your question about launching online SNAP EBT in California. Appreciate you reaching out. Let me say at the outset that we would be ready and willing to launch anywhere necessary as quickly as possible. However, in conversations with our project leads on this, CA is the worst possible state to launch quickly. I'm told "there is bottle fee enhancement needed in order to support the new payment type. This requires significant more development and lead time. CA is the only state in the US with this special bottle fee."

If there's a way for the state to waive this for now, then we could probably move quickly. For any of the other states, we could turn on relatively quickly (by EOW) as long as the processors are FIS or Conduent. There is some inherent risk by moving forward at this speed, particularly without adequate time to test the systems.

Also, we were just contacted by Florida officials asking us if we would be prepared to turn on SNAP EBT online there…I suspect you're hearing from them too.

Let me know what I can do as a next step. Thanks,

Tres

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 9:46 AM
To: Tres Bailey (b) (6) @walmart.com>
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Young, Chatavia - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chatavia.Young@usda.gov>
Subject: EXT: call today

Good morning Tres,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Deputy Undersecretary Brandon Lipps and I would like to schedule a call today. I am working with him to coordinate our response to Covid-19. Are you available at 10am or 1pm today? Chatavia can send a calendar invite, let us know the best number to reach you. If those times don't work Chatavia can help find another time.
Thank you!
Lindsay

Lindsay Y. Datlow
Senior Policy Advisor
571.319.7632

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Donahue, Haley (Agriculture)
Subject: Re: call tomorrow at 11 am
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 2:08:32 PM

Yes to have a separate call. I'll look for times.

And I'm still working on the potential call on Friday on coronavirus. Its hard to find a time that works for more than one party.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 2:06:48 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Donahue, Haley (Agriculture) <Haley_Donahue@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: call tomorrow at 11 am

Thanks for the heads-up Veronica. We may not be available at that time. Maybe we can connect briefly sometime before or after? Also, we're getting more questions about Viruses and congregate feeding sites. Any guidance FNS can provide to us (and for those groups) would be helpful.

Robert R. Rosado
Senior Professional Staff
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Chairman Pat Roberts
Robert_rosado@ag.senate.gov
Main: (202) 224-2035
Direct: (202) 224-6438

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 1:53 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: call tomorrow at 11 am

All,

You are invited to join the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Administrator Pam Miller on an invitation only conference call tomorrow, March 4 at 11 am ET regarding USDA's upcoming rule on SNAP Employment and Training (E&T).

This **information is embargoed** and the call is by invitation only. Please RSVP to this email to participate and receive the call in information.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: clean copy
Date: Friday, May 8, 2020 3:29:45 PM

Suggestion:

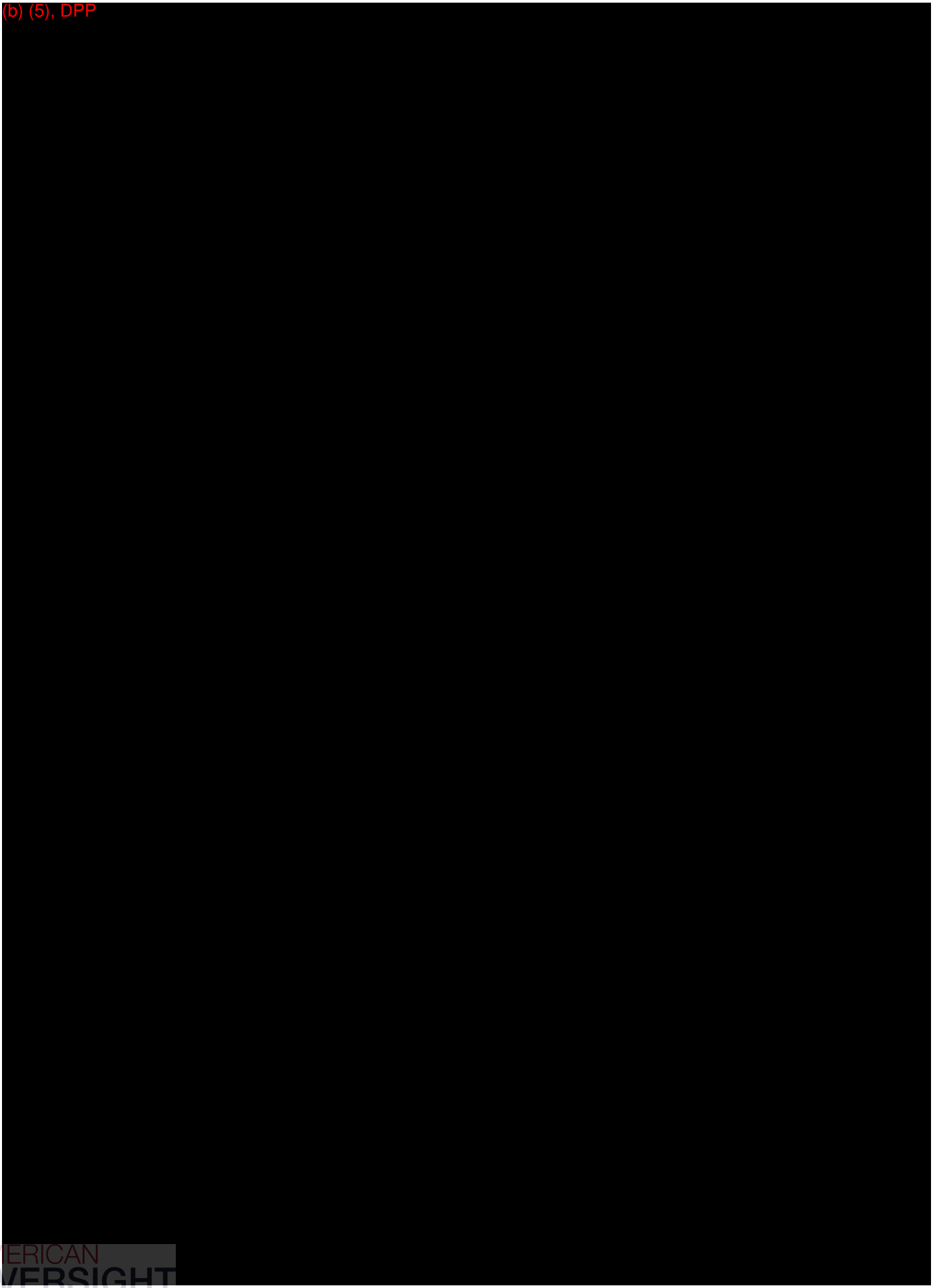
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 14:17
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: clean copy

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

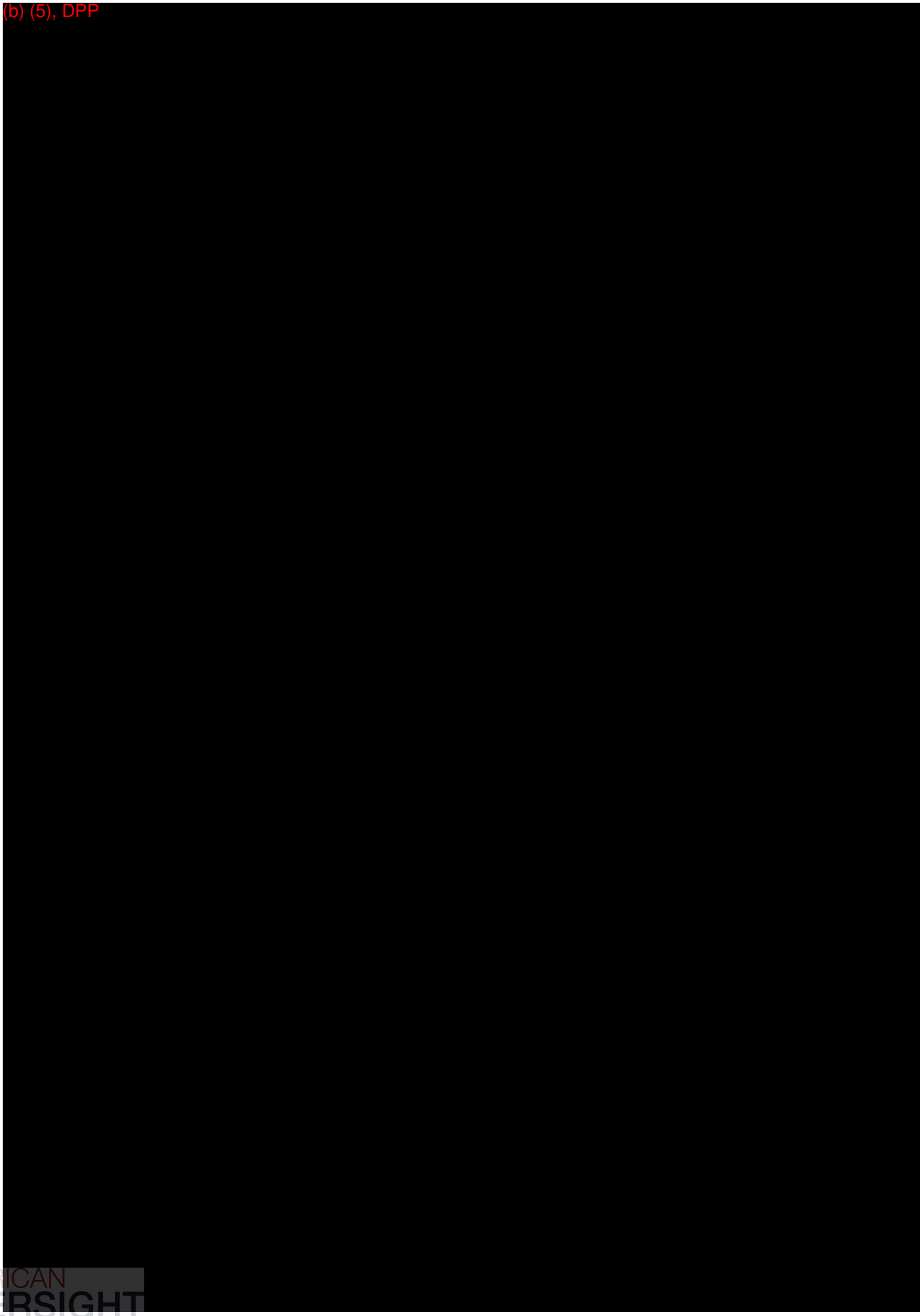
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

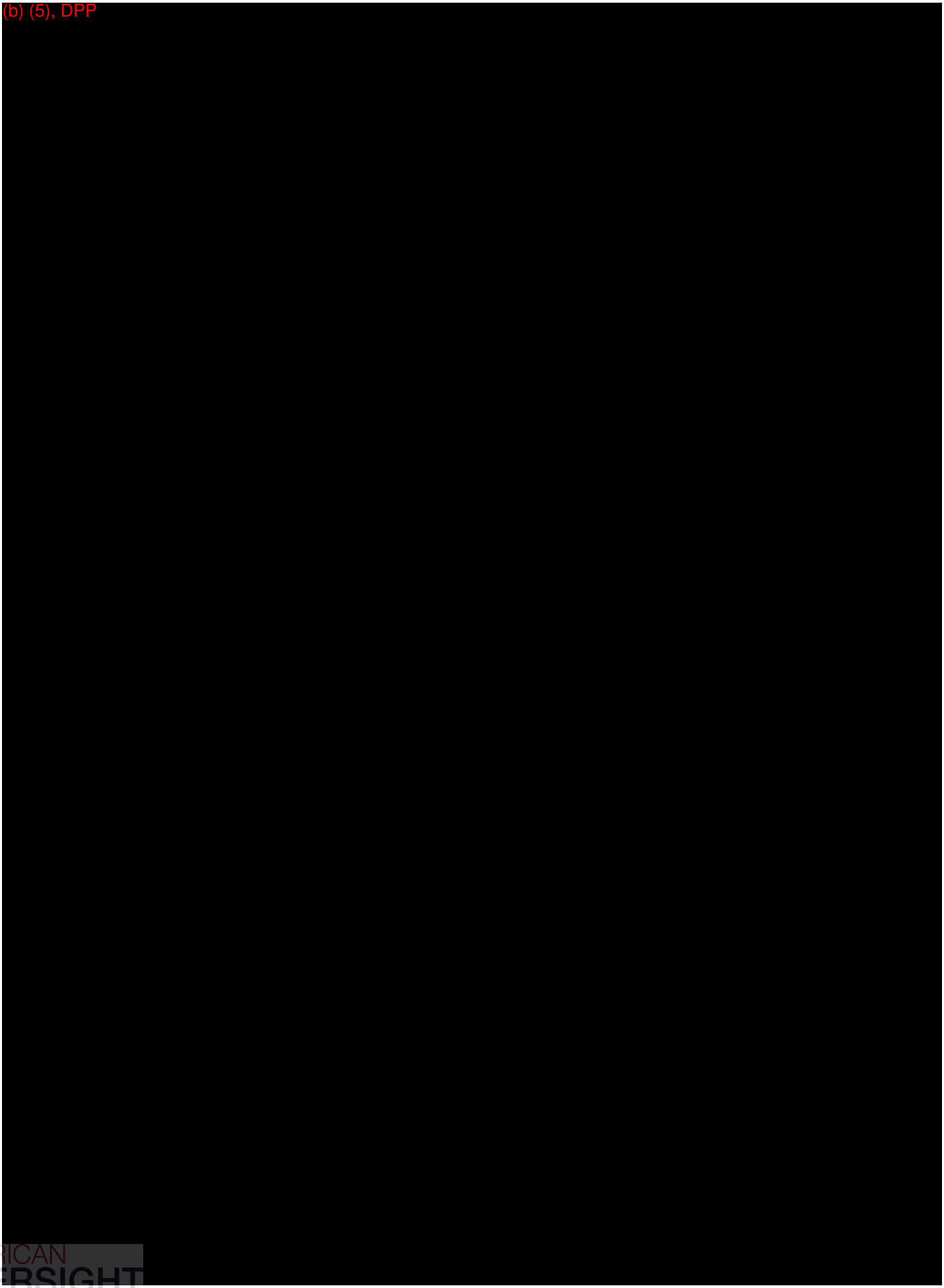
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(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Meghan Rodgers
Deputy Communications Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-5555
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC; Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Re: CNN INQUIRY - food supply chain and coronavirus
Date:	Monday, March 16, 2020 12:34:35 PM

Will be working on that

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 12:32:52 PM
To: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: CNN INQUIRY - food supply chain and coronavirus

Good afternoon, all,

Do we have (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks!

-Dirk

From: Kaufman, Ellie (b) (6) [redacted] @turner.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 12:23 PM
To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Subject: CNN INQUIRY - food supply chain and coronavirus

Hello,

Thanks for chatting on the phone!

On food supply chain – how is the US food supply chain right now? Are we in danger of running out of any food items that would greatly impact Americans? If so, which ones?

Are there any food items we get imported from other countries that we are not going to be able to get among new travel restrictions? If so, which foods are those?

Are there any measures the USDA and the federal government can take to help with any food supply chain issues? If so, what are those?

On SNAP specifically, if schools are closed, how is the USDA ensuring that kids who rely on free and reduced meals still going to be able to eat?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you for your help with this!

--
Ellie Kaufman
CNN Washington
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: CO Online Pilot
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 8:32:00 PM

Thanks for this. I was wrong, we did have all these states noticed previously. Sorry about that.

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 8:11 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CO Online Pilot

Both are now at 19, here are the full lists. Extra eyes are always appreciated.

PEBT Approvals (19): MI (4/9); RI (4/13 – Extended 4/30); NC (4/17); MA (4/17– Extended 4/30); IL (4/18); AZ (4/18); AL (4/22); WI (4/23); CT (4/24); CA (4/24); KS (4/27); VA (4/27); NM (4/28); MD (4/28); OR (5/1); DE (5/1); ND (5/2); WV (5/2); VT (5/4)

Online Pilot – 6 original pilot states, plus operational in AZ (4/30); KY (4/28); CA (4/28);FL (4/20)

Additional approved state plans

- Idaho approved 4/11; Anticipated go-live NLT 5/17
- North Carolina approved 4/17; **Anticipated go-live Amazon statewide & 2 Walmart stores go live 5/5; Walmart statewide on 5/7**
- District of Columbia approved 4/17; Anticipated go-live 5/25
- West Virginia approved 4/18**; Anticipated go-live Amazon statewide & 2 Walmart stores go live 5/19; Walmart statewide on 5/21**
- Missouri approved 4/20; **Anticipated go-live Amazon statewide & 2 Walmart stores go live 5/12; Walmart statewide on 5/14**
- Texas approved 4/20; **Anticipated go-live Amazon statewide & 2 Walmart stores go live 5/12; Walmart statewide on 5/14**
- Vermont approved 4/24; Anticipated go-live mid-May
- Minnesota Approved 5/1 - go live date is early June for Amazon and Walmart.
- Colorado approved 5/4- expected go live date is late-May for Amazon and Walmart.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 7:34 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CO Online Pilot

Adding Anne.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 7:31 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CO Online Pilot

Thanks.

Also, something's getting a little mixed on the already approved state list. I don't have any record of North Carolina or Idaho approvals. I can notify the hill on all 3 (CO, NC, and ID), but wanted to flag this in case it impacts the press releases.

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 7:23 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: CO Online Pilot

Draft press release below.

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 6:56 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: CO Online Pilot

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sir,
FNS has received an approvable plan from Colorado for the SNAP online pilot. Previously announced states include: Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, North Carolina, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, Vermont, Minnesota, and Nevada covering more than half of all SNAP recipients.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

The State has been notified.

Colorado Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

USDA is expanding access to innovative online food purchase program

Release & Contact Info

Press Release
Release No. 0225.20

Contact: USDA Press
Email: press@oc.usda.gov

(Washington, D.C., April 21, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced approval of a request from Colorado to provide online purchasing of food to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households. This approval will allow the States to expedite the implementation of online purchasing with currently authorized SNAP online retailers with a target start date to be announced at a later time. Colorado's SNAP participation is nearly 415,000 individuals, more than 200,000 households, and totals nearly $640 million annually in federal benefits. This announcement further demonstrates President Trump's whole of America approach to fighting the coronavirus pandemic by ensuring those affected are fed.

Background:

The SNAP online pilot is currently operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. The authorized retailers working with all pilot states are Amazon and Walmart, while Wrights Market and ShopRite are working with Alabama and New York respectively. USDA previously announced Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, North Carolina, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, Vermont, Minnesota, and Nevada would also be joining. With these states, more than half of all households receiving SNAP will have access to online purchasing.

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Though the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is receiving interest to expand the SNAP online pilot program, the responsibility is on state agencies, their third-party processor, and any retailers who wish to participate. To ease the process, FNS put together a simplified template for states who wish to enter the online pilot which is provided as an attachment to this letter.

USDA continues to provide significant technical assistance to interested states to ensure that plans are thorough and appropriate preliminary testing is conducted. If not done properly and judiciously, there is a risk to the State's entire benefit system. Each State, its EBT processor and retailers present their own mix of challenges so FNS is providing customer service based on each of their specific needs.

FNS will continue to work with interested states in advancing their participation in this pilot. Until States are prepared to operate the pilot, USDA recommends States utilize other options that retailers may already provide, such as Pay at Pick-up (also known as "Click and Collect"), where SNAP cardholders can shop online and then pay for their purchase using their EBT card at pick-up. Grocery pickup is already an option that these retailers offer beyond SNAP so they are already thinking through how they can provide a safe environment to do so with the growing concerns around social distancing.

During these challenging times, FNS is working hand-in-hand with state program leadership, to provide support and guidance to adapt to the challenges of this public health emergency. USDA intends to use available program flexibilities and contingencies to continue to serve our program participants. For up to date information and to learn more about flexibilities being used in FNS nutrition programs, please visit the FNS website.

#

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Taylor, Willie - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS
Cc: Taylor, Willie - FNS
Subject: Re: Commissioner Buckner - Families First Coronavirus Response Act
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 11:41:53 AM

This is great Willie. Thanks for going above what is required. I'm an hopeful for them they can get IT to work.

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From: Taylor, Willie - FNS <Willie.Taylor2@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 11:21:08 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Taylor, Willie - FNS <Willie.Taylor2@usda.gov>
Subject: Commissioner Buckner - Families First Coronavirus Response Act

Good AM Deputy Undersecretary and Administrator –

I hope all is well. I am sharing this email for context regarding my previous email communication/texts last evening. My follow-up technical assistance communication with Alabama DHS Commissioner Nancy Buckner last evening ended positive. She has checked with her IT Director at the state and a potential option to resolve this matter is to create an electronic workaround. This workaround will afford the front line SNAP eligibility personnel with the capability to work remotely. The Commissioner will keep me apprised. I have also asked TEAM SERO leadership to provide any ideas or suggestions that we can share with the Commissioner that may be useful.

SUMMARY: At this point in time, no further action is required by the National Office. If status should change impacting the state's ability to manage FNS program, I will alert you ASAP. Thank you for your comments, guidance and leadership.

WT

From: Malveaux, Eugene - FNS <eugene.malveaux@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:12 AM
To: Swanson-Hall, Erin - FNS <erin.swanson-hall@usda.gov>; Bouie, Lilly - FNS <lilly.bouie@usda.gov>; Brown, Izra - FNS <izra.brown@usda.gov>; Romain, Jackie - FNS <jackie.romain@usda.gov>; Hoffman, Gail - FNS <gail.hoffman@usda.gov>; Bumpers, Richard - FNS <richard.bumpers@usda.gov>
Cc: Taylor, Willie - FNS <Willie.Taylor2@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Families First Coronavirus Response Act

FYI. Some background on AL's concerns.

From: Harris, Sandra <Sandra.Harris@dhr.alabama.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 5:59 PM
To: FNS - SE - Policy <FN-SE-Policy@usda.gov>; Malveaux, Eugene - FNS <eugene.malveaux@usda.gov>
Cc: Nelson, Faye <Faye.Nelson@dhr.alabama.gov>; Hardin, Brandon <Brandon.Hardin@dhr.alabama.gov>; Betton, Viola <Viola.Betton@dhr.alabama.gov>
Subject: Families First Coronavirus Response Act

Good afternoon Eugene,

We expect the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) which passed Congress this week and takes effect on April 2, 2020 to greatly affect Alabama Department of Human Resources' (DHR) ability to maintain staff to complete timely SNAP applications and changes, due to potential absentees. Most of our employees are dedicated public servants, but face the issues outlined in the FFCRA, as do other citizens. Schools have been closed for the school year and parents are expected to home school children by use of the internet. Many employees have school aged children and many more of our more experienced staff face health issues which place them at risk. Alabama's SNAP employees do not have the ability to telework and even if we did, the these rules exempt an employee from telework.

Alabama State Employee Association issued an email to ASEA members paraphrasing the Act. We have already began receiving inquiries on how to apply for these benefits: (see excerpts below from the AESA email)

In particular the **Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act** – which states all employees are eligible for emergency paid sick leave . Full-time employees receive full pay, Part-time employees receive the equivalent of the number of hours they would work.

In addition the **Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLA) -** which amends the FMLA and creates a new leave entitlement to include all employees who have worked for an agency for at least 30 days. An eligible employee may take up to 12 weeks of leave if he/she is unable to work (including telework) because the employee must care for his/her child who is under 18 years of age and whose school or place of care has closed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Your input, guidance and advocacy is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to hearing from you,

(Sandra) M. Harris, Assistant Director
Food Assistance Division
50 North Ripley Street
P.O. Box 304000
Montgomery, AL 36130
334-353-4908 phone
334-353-1363 fax
Sandra.Harris@dhr.alabama.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: committee call tomorrow - topics
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:15:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:10 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: committee call tomorrow - topics

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:05 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: committee call tomorrow - topics

Anne,

For tomorrow's call with committee staff at 11, here are the topics I have compiled so far. I anticipate they will send more by end of the day, but wanted you to have this now for planning purposes.

-
Veronica

-

-

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

-

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: committee call tomorrow - topics
Date:	Friday, April 17, 2020 9:34:00 AM

thanks

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: committee call tomorrow - topics

Links are better!

Webpage: https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/tefap-allocation-worksheet

Document: https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/TEFAP-allocation-worksheet.pdf

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: committee call tomorrow - topics

Here is the FFCRA TEFAP chart. It is also being posted on the website later today.

I will talk through it on the call this am.

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:05 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: committee call tomorrow - topics

Anne,

For tomorrow's call with committee staff at 11, here are the topics I have compiled so far. I

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

anticipate they will send more by end of the day, but wanted you to have this now for planning purposes.

-
Veronica

-

-
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

-
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: fnsgovaffairs
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: CongQ C 19 Rep Castro (TX) re: P-EBT application TX
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:13:00 AM

Provided to the hill

From: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:36 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CongQ C 19 Rep Castro (TX) re: P-EBT application TX

Good Morning Veronica,

Attached is a copy of Texas' approval letter which will be posted to the website upon its update.

Thanks,

Kiev

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:38 PM
To: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: CongQ C 19 Rep Castro (TX) re: P-EBT application TX

From: Montan, Kaitlyn <Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 5:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Veronica and Chris,

The Ed&L Committee shared the news that Texas got approved for their application for P-EBT, but I saw that their application is not live yet on your website. Would you be able to share this with me?

Thanks,
Kaitlyn

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Kaitlyn Montan
Legislative Assistant
Office of Congressman Joaquin Castro
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Office: (202)225-3236 | Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov

From: "Hard, Alison" <Alison.Hard@mail.house.gov>
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 at 10:18 AM
To: "Montan, Kaitlyn" <Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Kaitlyn,

Hope this finds you well – sharing some good news that TX has been approved for P-EBT!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:12 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Texas and New Jersey have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state(s) will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State(s) will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State(s) will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State(s) will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	fnsgovaffairs
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Hughes, Sarah - FNS
Subject:	RE: CongQ C 19 Sen Brown (OH) re: p-ebt Ohio application status
Date:	Tuesday, May 5, 2020 11:54:00 AM

The reply has been sent to the hill. thanks.

From: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:58 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Hughes, Sarah - FNS <sarah.hughes@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CongQ C 19 Sen Brown (OH) re: p-ebt Ohio application status

Hi Veronica,

In response to your inquiry:

> Yes, we have receive Ohio's application and are working with the State to provide technical assistance. We have a call with the State this afternoon. We hope to approve the plan in the near future.

Best,

Sarah

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:36 PM
To: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Subject: CongQ C 19 Sen Brown (OH) re: p-ebt Ohio application status

---

From: McCracken, Jonathan (Brown) <Jonathan_McCracken@brown.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA FNS - 1 SNAP Flexibility Income and Eligibility Verification System - COVID-19

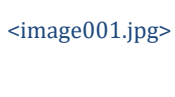
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Thanks for the update. Does FNS have Ohio's application for Pandemic-EBT?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 30, 2020, at 5:08 PM, Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov> wrote:

> All,
>
> This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
>
> FNS is approving the **Ohio** IEVS adjustment for ongoing SNAP households at recertification and periodic report from the receipt of this approval through May 31, 2020 under authorization of **section 2302** of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
>
> This adjustment will allow the state to suspend the use of the **Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS)** for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. The State will continue to verify income through other data sources and databases and act on all other mandatory matches, including prisoner and death matches. Therefore, ongoing SNAP households will not have their benefits reduced or terminated based on IEVS data. This adjustment approval does not adjust the State agency's requirement to use IEVS data matches in determining eligibility at initial certification.
>
> The State agency that requested this flexibilities received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.
>
> State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with any questions.
>
> Regards,
> Chris



Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	fnsgovaffairs
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Hughes, Sarah - FNS
Subject:	RE: CongQ C 19 Sen Jones (AL) RE: P-EBT application
Date:	Monday, April 27, 2020 10:51:00 AM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image005.png

Provided back to hill.

From: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:47 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Hughes, Sarah - FNS <sarah.hughes@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CongQ C 19 Sen Jones (AL) RE: P-EBT application

Hi Veronica,

In response to your inquiry, please see the attached.

Best,
Sarah

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:15 PM
To: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Subject: CongQ C 19 Sen Jones (AL) RE: P-EBT application

Sen Jones (AL) office would like to see the state's P-EBT application.

From: Howard, Rebecca (Jones) <Rebecca_Howard@jones.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:06 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Their application, please!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>

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Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Howard, Rebecca (Jones) <Rebecca_Howard@jones.senate.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Rebecca,

Are you looking for the state's application or the approval letter?

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Howard, Rebecca (Jones) <Rebecca_Howard@jones.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Chris and Veronica,

Excited about this news. Is there any way you can share their application? It would be greatly appreciated.

Best,

Rebecca Howard
Legislative Assistant
Office of U.S. Senator Doug Jones
(202) 228-3737

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 5:33 PM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>

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Subject: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Alabama has received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval.

The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	fnsgovaffairs
Cc:	Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; FNS - OPS Front Office; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hughes, Sarah - FNS
Subject:	RE: CongQ C 19 Sen Reed (RI) RE: P-EBT RI
Date:	Friday, April 17, 2020 8:52:00 AM

Response provided to the hill.

From: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 8:30 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>; FNS - OPS Front Office <fn-OpsFrontOffice@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Hughes, Sarah - FNS <sarah.hughes@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CongQ C 19 Sen Reed (RI) RE: P-EBT RI

Hi Veronica,

In response to your inquiry:

> The State estimates that it will issue $5,794,814 to 18,000 SNAP households and $8,392,315 to 26,848 non-SNAP households for school closures extending from March 16, 2020 through April 30, 2020 a total of 34 days. The State will issue additional benefits for canceled school days in May and June if schools remain closed beyond the end of April. This information is the state's estimates from the P-EBT plan recently approved by USDA.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Sarah

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:26 PM
To: SM.FN.GovtAffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: CongQ C 19 Sen Reed (RI) RE: P-EBT RI

From: Smith, Lucas (Reed) <Lucas_Smith@reed.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>

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Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Chris,

Can you tell me what the total funding provided to the state for this will be? How many students/families will be served?

Best,
Lucas

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 11:14 AM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Rhode Island received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval.

The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd

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Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	SM.FN.GovtAffairs
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; FNS - OPS Front Office; Hughes, Sarah - FNS
Subject:	RE: CongQ C19 House Ag Comm RE: SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause
Date:	Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:27:00 PM

Provided back to hill.

From: SM.FN.GovtAffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; SM.FN.GovtAffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>; FNS - OPS Front Office <fn-OpsFrontOffice@usda.gov>; Hughes, Sarah - FNS <sarah.hughes@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CongQ C19 House Ag Comm RE: SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause

Hi Veronica,

In response to your inquiry:

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.6(d) allow the State Agency to grant good cause for an individual who has not applied for or provided a SSN for 1 month plus the month of application. After this time frame good cause must be determined monthly on case by case basis.

- This adjustment allows the State Agency to grant Good Cause for 3 additional months beyond the 1 month plus month of application allowed by regulation for an individual that cannot show they have applied for or provide an SSN.

- The State requested this adjustment because the SSA offices are closed, therefore an individual is limited as to how they can apply for a number or verify a SSN. SSA does have an online process, however not all individuals who need to apply for an SSN or get verification of an SSN meet the online criteria, so they must present themselves in an SSA office to conduct business. Since the offices are closed to the public, this is not possible during this time.

- States are still required to verify all other eligibility criteria and adjusting this requirement allows the State to grant a longer good cause timeframe, giving SSA offices time to reopen and the individual more time to retrieve the information.

- The good cause period will not impact the State's responsibility to verify immigration status via SAVE, whether it is a 1 month good cause period or an

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extended good cause period.

- Typically, a non-citizen would provide documentation from USCIS on their immigration status to be verified by the State. The individual should have this documentation regardless of whether they have received an SSN.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Sarah

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:58 PM
To: SM.FN.GovtAffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Subject: CongQ C19 House Ag Comm RE: SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause

---

From: Tiller, Jennifer <Jennifer.Tiller@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause Flex - COVID-19

Can you confirm that this ensures the SNAP applicant has indeed applied for a SSN, but due to COVID, is unable to follow-up because of the moratorium of face:face interviews?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause Flex - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a **Washington** waiver request to **increase the time allowed to provide the SSN for SNAP applicants** under Good Cause as a result of the State's response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following flexibilities under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations,** FNS's existing statutory authority.

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FNS will allow the state to extend the timeframe for an individual to participate in SNAP after having established good cause for failure to provide a SSN for up to an additional three months. This will allow the State agency to grant good cause for a total of five months, the month of application plus one month as already provided for by 7 CFR 273.6(d), and an three additional months as provided for by this adjustment. This adjustment is approved through May 31, 2020.

The State has been provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	SM.FN.GovtAffairs
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; FNS - OPS Front Office; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Randall, Kiev - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Hughes, Sarah - FNS
Subject:	RE: CongQ C19 Sen Cortez Masto RE: SNAP Emergency allotment
Date:	Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:43:00 PM

Response provided back to hill. thanks.

From: SM.FN.GovtAffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:50 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.GovtAffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; FNS - OPS Front Office <fn-OpsFrontOffice@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Hughes, Sarah - FNS <sarah.hughes@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: CongQ C19 Sen Cortez Masto RE: SNAP Emergency allotment

Hi Veronica,

In reference to your inquiry:

1. Can you clarify whether the emergency allotments for SNAP households have already been made for March in Nevada?

   FNS approved Nevada's SNAP emergency allotments request on April 6. Per the state's plan, on April 26, 2020, Nevada will issue emergency allotments to all SNAP households for the months of March and April. Please see https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/NV-SNAP-COV-EmergencyAllotments-Incoming.pdf for more information.

2. How much funding is the state of Nevada looking at receiving for these allotments?

   Per the state's plan, 121,550 SNAP households in Nevada will receive a total of $23,807,837 in emergency allotments each month.

3. Also will the state need to apply for May if the emergency declarations are still active within HHS and the state?

   FNS is currently developing a process for States who may wish to extend EA beyond two months.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

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Best,

Sarah

Sarah Hughes
Program Analyst (Detailee)
Government Affairs Branch
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
E: sarah.hughes@usda.gov
P: 703.605.0771

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:23 PM
To: SM.FN.GovtAffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: CongQ C19 Sen Cortez Masto RE: SNAP Emergency allotment

Fyi – For question #2 below, the Nevada document online does not include the emergency allotment amount. So, I could not refer her to the website.

From: McClure, JoAnne (Cortez Masto) <JoAnne_McClure@cortezmasto.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Badmington, Casey (Cortez Masto) <Casey_Badmington@cortezmasto.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19-- follow up questions

Hi Chris – hope this message finds you well, and thanks for the information – a couple of questions.

- Can you clarify whether the emergency allotments for SNAP households have already been made for March in Nevada?
- How much funding is the state of Nevada looking at receiving for these allotments?
- Also will the state need to apply for May if the emergency declarations are still active within HHS and the state?

Thanks for your help in this.

Best,

JoAnne McClure
Legislative Correspondent

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From: "Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Date: April 7, 2020 at 9:41:01 PM EDT
Cc: "Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving SNAP **Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to **the 46 States** previously approved.

March and April Approvals: Nebraska and Nevada

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS
Cc: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry: COVID-19 - Rep Castro - TEFAP
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 3:42:00 PM

Thanks. I realized I mistyped, as she is with Rep Kaptur of Ohio, not Castro of Texas. I assume all the same applies (substitute state agency in OH)?

From: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 3:40 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Congressional Inquiry: COVID-19 - Rep Castro - TEFAP

Hi Veronica,

Please see the program staff's response below:

The state of Texas continues to receive TEFAP foods. Orders are delivered regularly and we are working with the State Distributing agency, in this case the Texas Department of Agriculture, to determine if they need adjustments in delivery dates and locations. Any requests for adjustments will be made to vendors and accommodated accordingly. Foodbanks have agreements with the State Distributing agency which outlines delivery schedules and foods that will be received. FNS has to work within vendor capacity and can't guarantee a vendor will accommodate every delivery appointment change that is desired.

FNS does not have oversight of the National Guard.

The Texas TEFAP contact information is below should you wish to reach out to them.

Angela Olige, Assistant Commissioner
512-472-1028
Ange.Olige@TexasAgriculture.gov

From: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:31 PM
To: AFND_SNAS_FO
Cc: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject: Congressional Inquiry: COVID-19 - Rep Castro - TEFAP

Good Afternoon SNAS Team,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

We have received the following Congressional inquiry:
Who is asking: Office of Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX-20)
What are they asking: "Do we know the status of TEFAP provisions for food banks? Will they be dispersed soon? Is the National Guard assisting in this effort?"

Why are the asking: information request.
When they need a response back: no deadline provided.
Our suggested response: n/a
Action requested: Please provide a response no later than Wednesday, March 25th (please let me know if you need additional time).
Thanks,
Kiev

From: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:04 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

Do we know the status of TEFAP provisions for food banks? Will they be dispersed soon? Is the National Guard assisting in this effort?

Thanks,

Courtney

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the*Families First Coronavirus*

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Response Act.

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted**Ohio a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Ohio state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on theFNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Randall, Kiev - FNS
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Wilson II, Anthony - FNS
Subject:	RE: Congressional Inquiry: COVID-19 - Rep Kaptur - TEFAP supplies
Date:	Tuesday, March 24, 2020 3:58:00 PM

Thank you conveyed back.

From: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Congressional Inquiry: COVID-19 - Rep Kaptur - TEFAP supplies

Veronica,

Please see the program staff's response below:

FNS does not set internal State delivery schedules. We assume the "regional distribution centers" are State warehouses. TEFAP foods are ordered and delivered throughout the year. Vendors work with States to set up delivery dates and times for foods ordered and purchased by the USDA in either the first half of the month or the second half month to locations determined by the State. Foodbanks should work with the State to determine if there is flexibility in the States delivery schedule.

The Ohio State TEFAP Agency contact is:
Stephon Ingram
614-644-1159
stephon.ingram@jfs.ohio.gov

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 3:08 PM
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: COVID-19 - Rep Kaptur - TEFAP supplies

Rep Kaptur's office says they have food banks without enough food and they must wait till next week for the next delivery. They would like assistance on this.

From: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Appears like they have requested assistance but were told it wont be released until March 31.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Courtney,

Have they already requested additional food from the regional distribution sites? And if so, were they told there were insufficient foods in certain categories?

Veronica

From: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Thank you Veronica,

We are hearing that some of our food banks are currently purchasing food and hoping they get provisions soon.

Some are also in fear of shutting down due to insufficient safety provisions. Any guidance is helpful.

-Courtney

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Courtney,

Thank you for the email. We will get back to you with more information as soon as possible.

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:04 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

Do we know the status of TEFAP provisions for food banks? Will they be dispersed soon? Is the National Guard assisting in this effort?

Thanks,

Courtney

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

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Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Ohio a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Ohio state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: RE: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:38:00 PM

Pam –

I'm going to forward this on to the DepSec. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks!

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Importance: High

See below

From: Lowell Randel <(b) (6) [redacted]@gcca.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Importance: High

Pam,

I hope you are doing well during these crazy times. I wanted to reach out and let you know of a concern that some of our members are raising about operations during the coronavirus outbreak. As counties and states start to "lockdown" or close operations, we feel that it is critical our members have the ability to keep operating. I know that at least the House relief package addresses food security and emergency SNAP and other feeding programs. If our member facilities are forced to stop operations, they will not be able to deliver food to support these programs. As you know, many of our members handle food that supports USDA food programs, so I thought I would raise the issue with you to get your thoughts.

I know this is a very crazy time, but I'd really appreciate your insights on what our industry can do to make sure our members can keep operating and supporting the food supply chain.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks!

Lowell

Cell (b) (6)

LOWELL RANDEL
VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL AFFAIRS
GLOBAL COLD CHAIN ALLIANCE
phone +1 703 373 4300 ext. (b)
(b) (6) **@gcca.org**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Email address withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020 5:30:30 PM

Yes, sir. On it – have a team on it already and will have you basics before your call at noon tomorrow.

Reb

From: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 5:21 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC <Mindy.Brashears@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities

Thanks, Brandon.

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:47 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC <Mindy.Brashears@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Importance: High

Mr. Deputy Secretary –

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Regards,
Brandon

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Importance: High

See below

From: Lowell Randel <(b) (6) @gcca.org>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Coronavirus and cold chain facilities
Importance: High

Pam,

I hope you are doing well during these crazy times. I wanted to reach out and let you know of a concern that some of our members are raising about operations during the coronavirus outbreak. As counties and states start to "lockdown" or close operations, we feel that it is critical our members have the ability to keep operating. I know that at least the House relief package addresses food security and emergency SNAP and other feeding programs. If our member facilities are forced to stop operations, they will not be able to deliver food to support these programs. As you know, many of our members handle food that supports USDA food programs, so I thought I would raise the issue with you to get your thoughts.

I know this is a very crazy time, but I'd really appreciate your insights on what our industry can do to make sure our members can keep operating and supporting the food supply chain.

Thanks!

Lowell

Cell (b) (6)

LOWELL RANDEL
VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL AFFAIRS
GLOBAL COLD CHAIN ALLIANCE
phone +1 703 373 4300 ext. (b)
(b) (6) **@gcca.org**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: coronavirus FNS space
Date: Friday, March 6, 2020 1:41:00 PM

Campbell,

I'm sure the FNS Q&A will link to this, but here is an FNS Memo to states in 2018 describing authorities and the process for waivers. The back 2 pages of the memo are a template states can use to ensure they have the necessary information, which the state of Washington used.

https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP15_CACFP12_SFSP05-2018os.pdf

---

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 1:14 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: coronavirus FNS space

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Thank you!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 10:59 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: coronavirus FNS space

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Ken - OSEC Washington DC Barbic (Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov) <Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Subject: coronavirus FNS space

DELIBERATIVE – PREDECISIONAL – DELIBERATIVE

Ken and Evan,

Wanted to give you a quick update on the FNS space and coronavirus.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: Re: Council of Chief State School Officers contact on Coronavirus effects on school meals
Date: Friday, February 28, 2020 10:40:12 PM
Attachments: image059742.png

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 8:48:42 PM

To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>

Subject: Re: Council of Chief State School Officers contact on Coronavirus effects on school meals

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 8:41:39 PM

To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>

Subject: Re: Council of Chief State School Officers contact on Coronavirus effects on school meals

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 8:16:48 PM

To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>

Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Council of Chief State School Officers contact on Coronavirus effects on school meals

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See below for a request from Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) to help disseminate information.

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks!

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 8:01 PM
To: Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Council of Chief State School Officers contact on Coronavirus effects on school meals

Looping in Anne and Reb!

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From: Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 2:46 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Council of Chief State School Officers contact on Coronavirus effects on school meals

Hey Campbell,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Best,

Ashley

From: Jessah Walker [redacted]@ccsso.org>

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 12:56 PM

To: Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>

Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>

Subject: FW: Council of Chief State School Officers contact on Coronavirus effects on school meals

Hi Ashley,

I just received Lillie's out of office and wanted to forward to you the message I just sent. The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) represents at 58 chief state school officers who head up the states' and territories' education agencies. Please let me know if we can be of assistance to you in sharing information on how to prepare for the effects of Coronavirus on school meal programs.

Thanks!

Jessah

Jessah Walker
Manager Federal Relations
Advocacy

Email: [redacted]@ccsso.org
Office: [redacted]
Mobile: [redacted]

One Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001
http://www.ccsso.org

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of CCSSO.

From: Jessah Walker

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 12:53 PM

To: Lillie.Brady@usda.gov

Subject: Council of Chief State School Officers contact on Coronavirus effects on school meals

Hello,

Adam Honeysett from the U.S. Department of Education suggested I reach out to you regarding how to

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

prepare for the effects of Coronavirus on school meal programs.

We are getting many questions today from state education agencies about how to prepare and ensure kids are fed during this pandemic. I understand USDA may be working on guidance on this issue, and I wanted to present myself as a resource in communicating with states, and also to let you know that we will amplify any messaging you release.

Please let me know if you are aware of any resources that we can begin to share with states early next week or if you have FAQs that we can use to help answer states' questions.

Thank you!
Jessah

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Abelev, Melissa - FNS
Cc: SM.FN.GovtAffairs
Subject: RE: covid - sen cortez masto - SNAP emergency allotments
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 11:14:00 AM

Correct, sorry about that.

From: Abelev, Melissa - FNS <melissa.abelev@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.GovtAffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: covid - sen cortez masto - SNAP emergency allotments

HI Veronica,
I think (b) (5), DPP
[redacted] Thanks!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 11:11 AM
To: FNS - OPS Front Office <fn-OpsFrontOffice@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: covid - sen cortez masto - SNAP emergency allotments

---

From: McClure, JoAnne (Cortez Masto) <JoAnne_McClure@cortezmasto.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Badmington, Casey (Cortez Masto) <Casey_Badmington@cortezmasto.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19-- follow up questions

Hi Chris – hope this message finds you well, and thanks for the information – a couple of questions.

- Can you clarify whether the emergency allotments for SNAP households have already been made for March in Nevada?
- How much funding is the state of Nevada looking at receiving for these allotments?
- Also will the state need to apply for May if the emergency declarations are still active within HHS and the state?

Thanks for your help in this.

Best,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

JoAnne McClure
Legislative Correspondent
Senator Cortez Masto

From: "Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Date: April 7, 2020 at 9:41:01 PM EDT
Cc: "Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving SNAP **Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to **the 46 States** previously approved.

March and April Approvals: Nebraska and Nevada

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: Re: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:41:38 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:37:11 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:30 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), [redacted]

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

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From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:13:37 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

From: Law, Kathryn - FNS <kathryn.law@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:50 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Abelev, Melissa - FNS <melissa.abelev@usda.gov>; Murphy, Barbara - FNS <barbara.murphy@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Law, Kathryn - FNS <kathryn.law@usda.gov>; Greenwood, Lisa - FNS

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<lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Abelev, Melissa - FNS <melissa.abelev@usda.gov>; Murphy, Barbara - FNS <barbara.murphy@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

Thanks for the additional information. (b) (5), DPP [redacted] Thanks!

From: Law, Kathryn - FNS <kathryn.law@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:36 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Abelev, Melissa - FNS <melissa.abelev@usda.gov>; Murphy, Barbara - FNS <barbara.murphy@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:33 AM
To: Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Abelev, Melissa - FNS <melissa.abelev@usda.gov>; Murphy, Barbara - FNS <barbara.murphy@usda.gov>; Law, Kathryn - FNS <kathryn.law@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

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Hi all

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 6:00 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 5:52 PM
To: Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks for this; first of all, (b) (5), DPP [redacted] Thanks

---

From: Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 5:21 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

Hi Pam – Here's the spreadsheet. It has (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Lisa

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 9:44 PM
To: Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: COVID Related Expenses and Authorities: Response Requested by COB Wednesday, April 8th

Hi all

Please see below and attached from OBPA. Can we [redacted] (b) (5), DP

pam

Colleagues

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lisa. Shelton (Lisa.Shelton@mail.house.gov)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: COVID-19 - House Ag Majority - SNAP emergency allotments
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:44:00 AM

Lisa,

Here is the state guidance: https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/snap-covid-19-emergency-allotments-guidance

Thank you.

From: Shelton, Lisa <Lisa.Shelton@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 5:11 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19

Thank you.
Could please provide the guidance sent to states?
Appreciate it

> On Mar 24, 2020, at 2:52 PM, Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> All,
>
> This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
>
> FNS is approving two month SNAP Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**
>
> **March and April Approvals:** Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina
>
> **April and May Approvals:** Tennessee
>
> Guidance and templates for states to use in their requests were provided on Friday, March 20.
>
> State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on

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the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Wilson II, Anthony - FNS
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: COVID-19 - House Ag Majority - SNAP emergency allotments
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:44:00 AM

Sent back. Thanks.

From: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:31 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID-19 - House Ag Majority - SNAP emergency allotments

Hey Veronica,

That guidance is posted on our pandemic website at https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/snap-covid-19-emergency-allotments-guidance

Thanks,

Kiev

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 5:35 PM
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: COVID-19 - House Ag Majority - SNAP emergency allotments

Lisa Shelton requesting copies of the state guidance on SNAP emergency allotments.

From: Shelton, Lisa <Lisa.Shelton@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 5:11 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19

Thank you.
Could please provide the guidance sent to states?
Appreciate it

> On Mar 24, 2020, at 2:52 PM, Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov> wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

All,

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FNS is approving two month SNAP Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**

March and April Approvals: Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina

April and May Approvals: Tennessee

Guidance and templates for states to use in their requests were provided on Friday, March 20.

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Randall, Kiev - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); Wilson II, Anthony - FNS
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Re: COVID-19 - national retail federation
Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:16:09 AM

Great thanks

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From: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:02:26 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID-19 - national retail federation

Hey Veronica,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks,

Kiev

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: COVID-19 - national retail federation

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]. Thanks.

From: Vinson, Scott (b) (6) [redacted] @NRF.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:38 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: SNAP Program

Dear Ms. Wong,

I'm reaching out to inquire as to USDA's thoughts about changes to SNAP during this pandemic crisis to expand food access. Specifically, expansion of hot food waivers and the Restaurant Meal Program. This pandemic is affecting the food supply and food access in various ways. Stock of certain food items in grocery markets has become limited. Those workers deemed essential are having less time to buy food and prepare meals at home, and those who've gotten sick with COVID-

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19 and may be heads of household, or who are self-quarantined from exposure may have limited ability to cook meals at home for themselves or family members, and we're thinking more about these food access challenges. Has the agency considered changes to SNAP at this time? We have some ideas and would be happy to share them with the folks at the agency.

Many thanks!

Scott

M. Scott Vinson, J.D., CAE
Vice President, Government Relations, Food & Energy Policy
National Retail Federation
(b) (6) (desk)
(b) (6) (mobile)

Retail is America's largest private-sector employer, supporting 42 million jobs. Learn more: nrf.com.

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Joel Berg
Cc: Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Tamara Mizhquiri; Perkins, Celeste - FNS; Fink, Katherine - FNS
Subject: RE: COVID-19 and School Shut-Downs
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 11:04:00 AM
Attachments: image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png

Thanks, Joel. As you know the team is working hard, both to provide TA to congress and to ensure that our partners have the tools they need to get food to low-income children. There has certainly been much interest in delivery of food to households and we will continue to explore options on that front. Thankfully, we have had some success on that front just this past summer in SFSP, but it would take a while to build capacity. And thankfully, in at least a few states including yours, SNAP has private online delivery up and running.

Please feel free to share as you have ideas or concerns.

Regards,
Brandon

From: Joel Berg (b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 10:09 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Tamara Mizhquiri (b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org>; Perkins, Celeste - FNS <celeste.perkins@usda.gov>; Fink, Katherine - FNS <Katherine.Fink@fns.usda.gov>
Subject: COVID-19 and School Shut-Downs

Mr. Lipps:

I hope you are well. We certainly all hope that COVID-19 doesn't spread so much that schools are shut down for long periods of time. But if that does occur, as you well know, tens of millions of low-income children would be deprived of school breakfasts, lunches, and after school snacks/suppers.

You may have already thought of this already, but if such shut-downs do occur, I hope you consider doing what you did during the last government shut-down; allowing states to advance the next month's SNAP and WIC payments to households.

As you are aware, one common way of FNS responding to natural disasters is providing commodities to congregate distribution sites. But if schools are closed specifically to prevent kids from congregating, then obviously congregate feeding sites would be a bad idea. So here is one alternative idea: what if you gave meals on wheels program nationwide some extra commodities and distribution funds to deliver food to shut-in low-income families? I realize that meals on wheels programs are funded by HHS, not USDA, but perhaps you could collaborate with them on this. Also, you may suggest to the federal Corporation for National and Community Service that AmeriCorps members be used to deliver meals to shut-in

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families.

Of course, we will be glad to use the National Funded Clearinghouse newsletter that we produce on behalf of FNS to communicate any appropriate COVID-19 messaging that FNS would like us to communicate. We would even produce a special newsletter on just this topic quite easily.

If we can be helpful in any or all of such efforts, you and/or your team please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

We are also making these suggestion to other relevant appointed and elected officials.

Thank you for your kind consideration.



JOEL BERG
CEO
212-825-0028 EXT (b)
HUNGERFREEAMERICA.ORG



ENDING HUNGER LIFTS US ALL

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From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC Washington, DC
To: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS Washington, DC; Tracy, Kailee - OSEC Washington, DC; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC Washington, DC; Fillpot, Dirk - OC Washington, DC
Cc: Pulz, Jessica - OHS Washington, DC; Colby, Michelle - OHS Washington, DC; O'Connor, Mike - OHS Washington, DC
Subject: Re: COVID-19 weekly update April 17 8:00pm
Date: Saturday, April 18, 2020 9:56:51 AM
Attachments: image002.png

Proud of Team USDA

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 9:06:49 AM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Tracy, Kailee - OSEC Washington, DC <kailee.tracy@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Fillpot, Dirk - OC Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Cc: Pulz, Jessica - OHS Washington, DC <Jessica.Pulz@usda.gov>; Colby, Michelle - OHS Washington, DC <michelle.colby@usda.gov>; O'Connor, Mike - OHS Washington, DC <mike.oconnor@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 weekly update April 17 8:00pm

FYSA - a great capture of activities and impacts from across the Department.

Jessica Fantinato
USDA Office of Homeland Security

From: OpsCenter - OHS Washington, DC <OpsCenter@USDA.GOV>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 9:01 PM
To: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS Washington, DC; O'Connor, Mike - OHS Washington, DC
Cc: Timmons, David - OHS Washington, DC; Colby, Michelle - OHS Washington, DC; Sindall, Johanna; Barrett, Todd - OHS Washington, DC; Willis, Samuel - OHS Washington, DC; SM.OHSEC.NationalSecurity; Pulz, Jessica - OHS Washington, DC; OpsCenter - OHS Washington, DC
Subject: COVID-19 weekly update April 17 8:00pm

Good Evening,

Attached and below is the COVID-19 Update for this week.

Have a good weekend and stay safe.

V/r,

Tim Mobley
Assistant Senior Watch Officer

USDA **Operations Center**
Office of Homeland Security
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.5711

COVID-19

FOR INTERNAL USDA USE ONLY

Date of report: April 17, 2020

Time of report: 8:00 PM ET

(b) (5), DPP



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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

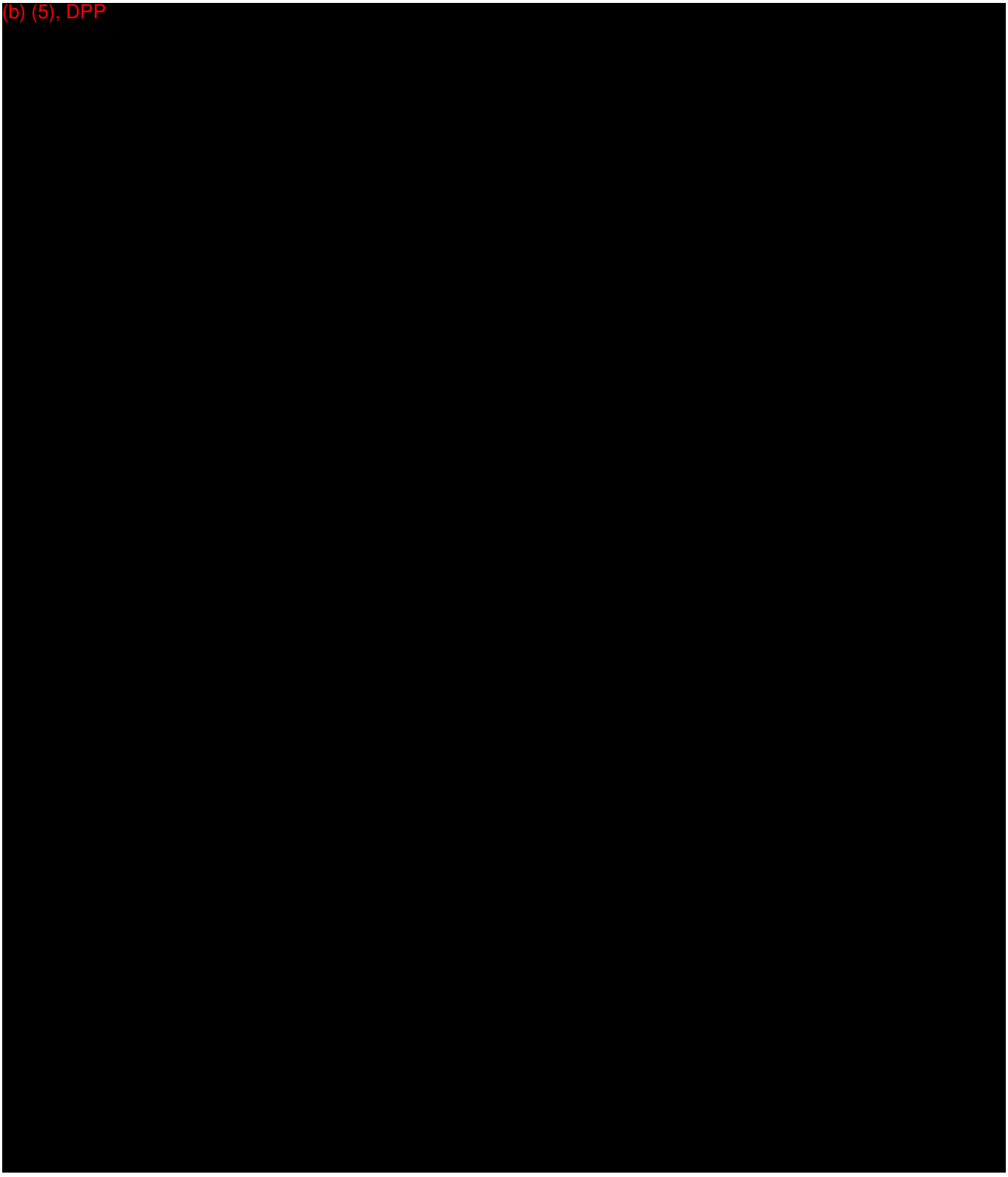
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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP



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Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Secretary Perdue alias email address

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: DC & NC approvals for SNAP Online purchasing
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 7:58:34 AM

GTG (good to go) I thought in the spirit of USDA lingo, I could create my own acronym!

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:16 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: DC & NC approvals for SNAP Online purchasing

Sir –

(b) (5), DPP

Thanks!
Meghan

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

#

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:48 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: DC & NC approvals for SNAP Online purchasing

Sir,

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Thank you!
Campbell

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: DE and OR PEBT
Date:	Friday, May 1, 2020 10:39:00 AM

Thank you.

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 10:35 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Cc: Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: DE and OR PEBT

Delaware and Oregon draft press release below for P-EBT.

Jordan, Lillie did the same thing for P-EBT as she did for Online Pilot.

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 9:21 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: DE and OR PEBT

Sir -

FNS has received approvable plans from Delaware and Oregon to operate P-EBT, making them the 15th and 16th approved states behind Michigan, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Arizona, Illinois, Alabama, Wisconsin, California, Connecticut, Kansas, Virginia, Maryland, and New Mexico

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Both States have been notified.

USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in Delaware and Oregon

Pandemic EBT to Feed Children during COVID-19 National Emergency

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Release & Contact Info

Press Release
Release No. 0224.20

Contact: USDA Press
Email: press@oc.usda.gov

(Washington, D.C., April XX, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced Delaware and Oregon have been approved to operate Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), a new program authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), signed by President Trump, which provides assistance to families of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals dealing with school closures.

Background:

Delaware and Oregon will be able to operate Pandemic EBT, a supplemental food purchasing benefit to current SNAP participants and as a new EBT benefit to other eligible households to offset the cost of meals that would have otherwise been consumed at school. For the 2019-2020 school year, Delaware had approximately 86,000 children eligible for free and reduced-priced lunch, or about 58% of children in participating schools. For the 2019-2020 school year, Oregon had approximately 287,000 children eligible for free and reduced-priced lunch, or nearly 49% of children in participating schools. Previous announcements of approvals for Pandemic EBT include: Michigan, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Arizona, Illinois, Alabama, Wisconsin, California, Connecticut, Kansas, Virginia, Maryland, and New Mexico.

Under FFCRA, States have the option to submit a plan to the Secretary of Agriculture for providing these benefits to SNAP and non-SNAP households with children who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to pandemic-related school closures. State agencies may operate Pandemic EBT when a school is closed for at least five consecutive days during a public health emergency designation during which the school would otherwise be in session.

The implementation of Pandemic EBT is in line with USDA's commitment to keep Americans safe, secure, and healthy during this national emergency and to keep kids fed when schools are closed. USDA is working with states and local authorities to ensure schools and other program operators can continue to feed children. This latest action complements previously-announced flexibilities for the Child Nutrition programs that:

- Allow parents and guardians to pick up meals to bring home to their kids;
- Temporarily waive meal times requirements to make it easier to pick up multiple-days' worth of meals at once;

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- Allow meals be served in non-congregate settings to support social distancing;
- Waive the requirement that afterschool meals and snacks served through certain programs be accompanied by educational activities to minimize exposure to the novel coronavirus; and
- Allow states, on an individual state-by-state basis, to serve free meals to children in *all* areas, rather than only those in areas where at least half of students receive free or reduced-price meals.

Today's announcement is the latest in a series of actions that USDA's Food and Nutrition Service has taken to uphold the USDA's commitment to "Do Right and Feed Everyone" during this national emergency. Other actions include:

- Launching a new coronavirus webpage to proactively inform the public about USDA's efforts to keep children and families fed;
- Providing more than one million meals a week through public-private partnership Meals to You;
- Increasing access to online purchasing by expanding the online purchasing pilot to more than half of all SNAP households;
- Debuting "Meals for Kids" interactive site finder – to help families find meals for children while schools are closed across nearly 45,000 locations;
- Allowing states to issue emergency supplemental SNAP benefits totaling more than $2 billion per month to increase recipients' purchasing power;
- Collecting solutions to feeding children impacted through feedingkids@usda.gov; and
- Providing more than 1,500 administrative flexibilities in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to allow for social distancing.

These actions and more are part of USDA's focus on service during the COVID-19 outbreak. To learn more about FNS's response to COVID-19, visit www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers 15 nutrition assistance programs that leverage American's agricultural abundance to ensure children and low-income individuals and families have nutritious food to eat. FNS also co-develops the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which provide science-based nutrition recommendations and serve as the cornerstone of federal nutrition policy.

#

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov); Pam - FNS Miller (pam.miller@usda.gov); Lindsay - FNS Datlow (Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov); Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Alec - OC 20174 Washington DC Varsamis (alec.varsamis@usda.gov); Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: DeLauro, Bishop Urge USDA Secretary to Ensure Families Have Food Security During Coronavirus Outbreak
Date:	Monday, March 9, 2020 7:42:00 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

All, [redacted] (b) (5) [redacted]

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 7:30 PM
To: Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov) <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Pam - FNS Miller (pam.miller@usda.gov) <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lindsay - FNS Datlow (Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov) <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Alec - OC 20174 Washington DC Varsamis (alec.varsamis@usda.gov) <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: DeLauro, Bishop Urge USDA Secretary to Ensure Families Have Food Security During Coronavirus Outbreak
Importance: High

All,

Please see Bishop and DeLauro's PR below. [redacted] (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks.

From: Serio, Will <Will.Serio@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 7:23 PM
To: Serio, Will <Will.Serio@mail.house.gov>
Subject: DeLauro, Bishop Urge USDA Secretary to Ensure Families Have Food Security During Coronavirus Outbreak



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2020

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CONTACT:
Will Serio (DeLauro), 202-225-3661
Jonathan Black (Bishop), 202-225-3631

DeLauro, Bishop Urge USDA Secretary to Ensure Families Have Food Security During Coronavirus Outbreak

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, **Congresswomen Rosa DeLauro (CT-03)** and **Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-02)** sent a letter to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue urging him to take action to ensure American families have food security during the ongoing coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19). Each year, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Child Nutrition programs provide millions of children and families with access to food.

DeLauro and Bishop request that Secretary Perdue:

- immediately suspend implementation of rule changes that would reduce SNAP benefits or affect eligibility;
- support Congressional action to expand SNAP benefits, which was done in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)*;
- waive the congregate meal requirement for schools outside of area eligibility; and,
- work with the Department of Education to develop plans that detail how students will receive access to Child Nutrition Programs before schools shutdown.

A signed copy of the letter can be found here, and the full text is below. DeLauro serves as Vice Chair of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, and Bishop is the Chair of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee.

March 9, 2020

The Honorable George Ervin "Sonny" Perdue III
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

Ahead of your testimony tomorrow before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, we write to express our concerns regarding the impact of the current outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and urge you to take decisive action to ensure program access.

States and localities are beginning to employ social distancing strategies as a means of containing the virus. For some, this has meant temporary school closures which jeopardize access to school meals for students, including the nearly 22 million children who rely on free and reduced school lunches.

While we applaud USDA's recent efforts to accommodate schools in California and Washington, we believe more can be done, such as waiving the congregate meal requirement

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

for schools outside of area eligibility. Additionally, USDA should work with the Department of Education to provide states with the resources and guidance to develop plans that detail how students will receive access to child nutrition programs *before* a school shuts down.

Furthermore, with regard to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), we urge you to immediately suspend any Department rulemaking that would reduce benefits or affect program eligibility. Enacting any such changes during this time will only exacerbate current economic anxiety and unnecessarily increase the burden on the very people who need assistance. Instead, as considerations of a broader economic stimulus package progresses, we strongly believe expanding the SNAP benefit will be a vital anti-recession tool, just as it was when Congress included a temporary benefit boost in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*.

We remain committed to working with you to ensure American families have the support they need at this uncertain time.

Sincerely,

SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

ROSA L. DeLAURO
Vice Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

###

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Draft release on what we are doing
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 5:22:43 PM

Great!

Can we (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Get Outlook for iOS

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 5:15:28 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Draft release on what we are doing

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Draft release on what we are doing
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 9:36:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 9:35 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft release on what we are doing

Updated. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

###

Alec Varsamis

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 8:18 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft release on what we are doing

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 8:14 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft release on what we are doing

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 8:09:18 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft release on what we are doing

Good morning,

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Thanks.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 9:03 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C.
Subject: RE: Draft release on what we are doing

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 7:28 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft release on what we are doing

Ralph - (b) (5), DPP

Alec

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 6:29:50 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Audra Weeks (Audra.Weeks@usda.gov) <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft release on what we are doing

(b) (5), DPP

Alec Varsamis

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 6:28 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Audra Weeks (Audra.Weeks@usda.gov) <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft release on what we are doing

Below are my edits. This will need to be approved by the Vice President's Office. (b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

###

Alec Varsamis

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 5:36 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft release on what we are doing

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] and fixed some typos.

Campbell, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 5:23 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft release on what we are doing

Great!

Can we (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Get Outlook for iOS

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 5:15:28 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Draft release on what we are doing

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC; Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC; Young, Benjamin - OGC, Washington, DC; Bumbary-Langston, Inga - OGC, Washington, DC
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Due by 1:30: COVID-19 template release for California FNS flexibilities
Date: Saturday, March 7, 2020 12:30:26 PM

Clear

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 12:24:41 PM
To: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>; Young, Benjamin - OGC, Washington, DC <Benjamin.Young@usda.gov>; Bumbary-Langston, Inga - OGC, Washington, DC <inga.bumbary-langston@usda.gov>
Cc: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: Due by 1:30: COVID-19 template release for California FNS flexibilities

Good afternoon, all,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] Thanks!

USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children in California Amid Coronavirus Outbreak

Release & Contact Info

Press Release
Release No. 0xxx.20

Contact: USDA Press
Email: press@oc.usda.gov

WASHINGTON, March X, 2020 -- (b) (5), DPP [redacted] – to ensure kids receive nutritious meals while schools are temporarily closed.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Hatcher, Jennifer - ARS; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Extreme Challenge: No WIC waivers on Substitutions Communicated; Tremendous Work Gathering UPCs
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 4:06:30 PM
Attachments: image005.png
image001.png

Jennifer,

We've received other flags on that issue. I'll consult with the team here and follow up.

-joby

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
United States Department of Agriculture

From: Jennifer Hatcher (FMI) (b) (6) @fmi.org>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Extreme Challenge: No WIC waivers on Substitutions Communicated; Tremendous Work Gathering UPCs

Thank you. Pam Miller is going to be on our 4:30 member call today to explain all that they are seeing on the waiver side and how our members can be helpful. We are thrilled to have her expertise on this one!

One other hair on fire issue that I would love to have a USDA contact on is commodity pricing. Our members are getting a number of inquiries from state AGs and local judges trying to address price gouging concerns. Is there a person on your team who could talk directly with these judges about commodity prices so they can determine when there is gouging and who is gouging without. The website information is challenging for those of us without the specific commodity pricing expertise.

Again, our thanks.
Jennifer

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:25 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; Jennifer Hatcher (FMI)
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Extreme Challenge: No WIC waivers on Substitutions Communicated; Tremendous Work Gathering UPCs

Jennifer,

Thanks for reaching out on this. I can sympathize with the influx of inquiries you're getting! In conversations with our FNS team and observing the traffic here, they are diligently exercising the flexibilities afforded them. Please circle back as new issues arise and we'll keep after it. Thanks for all you and your members are doing to keep folks fed.

-Joby

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
From: Jennifer Hatcher (FMI) (b) (6) @fmi.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 2:39:29 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Hannah vL. Walker (FMI) (b) (6) @fmi.org>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Extreme Challenge: No WIC waivers on Substitutions Communicated; Tremendous Work Gathering UPCs

Many thanks! We are ready to receive them.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 2:38:32 PM
To: Jennifer Hatcher (FMI) (b) (6) @fmi.org>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Hannah vL. Walker (FMI) (b) (6) @fmi.org>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Extreme Challenge: No WIC waivers on Substitutions Communicated; Tremendous Work

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Gathering UPCs

All,
To confirm, I intend to send all approval letters to Jennifer and Hannah now.

Jennifer and Hannah, for your awareness, due to the large number of documents, these will come through in multiple emails.

Best,
Lindsay

From: Jennifer Hatcher (FMI) (b) (6) @fmi.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Hannah vL. Walker (FMI) (b) (6) @fmi.org>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Extreme Challenge: No WIC waivers on Substitutions Communicated; Tremendous Work Gathering UPCs

Thank you for this very helpful information! I did not mean to imply that work was not ongoing for WIC, just that we had not found the correct channel to get any of that information from you all to our members like we are getting from WIC. I am attaching the letter I received last night that prompted our concerns along with hours of UPC lookups that we asked folks to do yesterday in support of state waiver requests.

We will absolutely be in touch with Pam Miller and team and will look forward to getting notification of the existing waivers on substitutions that have already been approved out to our members. We are sending our folks waivers in real time and we have daily calls at 4:30pm if anyone ever wants to join the call. I totally understand how difficult it is to update the web site in real time with all the waivers which is why we are looking for another way to access information on approvals. Manufacturers are making decisions on which SKUs to discontinue, so this information is critical on that end as well. And when we have the opportunity, we will work with the Hill to get you the authority to do a nationwide waiver. I know Senate Agriculture Committee had language to include in the latest legislative package, but thought the problem was solved and so it was not included. I also have a draft Executive Order if you think that would be easier than acting on each of the time consuming waivers state by state, particularly when they are for the same substitution. We will also focus on the national UPC database, to relieve that burden.

We just checked your web site. The fact that WIC waivers were approved is now loaded on the web site, but we need the actual waiver i.e. which substitution was allowed so our folks can act on it. I will work with Pam and Lindsay on getting that detail.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Again, our thanks for the quick response. You can imagine the "hair on fire" emails we are getting on this – probably similar to yours!

Jennifer Hatcher
Chief Public Policy Officer & Senior Vice President
FMI
Direct (b) (6)
Cell (b) (6)
www.fmi.org



From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Jennifer Hatcher (FMI) <(b) (6) @fmi.org>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Hannah vL. Walker (FMI) (b) (6) @fmi.org>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Extreme Challenge: No WIC waivers on Substitutions Communicated; Tremendous Work Gathering UPCs

Hi Jennifer –

I want to make sure that you received Pam's cell phone – I understand that she shared it with you directly earlier this week, but hasn't heard anything from FMI on this issue since that time. Her cell is (b) (6) Also, I believe y'all have worked with Lindsay Datlow in her office on other issues. Lindsay is closely tracking WIC waivers and can provide you quick responses on updates if y'all have any specific questions as we move forward. I have cc'd both Pam and Lindsay on this email to ensure you have both of their contact information at the ready. Lindsay will be sending you and Hannah a copy of all WIC waivers approved to-date later today.

We have approved roughly 45 WIC food package waiver requests from state agencies. About half of the approvals went out on Thursday and the other half went last night. Our teams continue to work through the night and over weekends to get these approved as expeditiously as possible. We will be uploading the waivers to the website as quickly as possible and I know they are working to catch up this weekend, but probably won't be caught up until early next week on posting. Please know that while you may only be recognizing the work from SNAP, the WIC team has approved almost 300 waivers in WIC, even with the more detailed requirements placed on them in the Families First Act.

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Unlike SNAP and child nutrition, the WIC flexibilities provided in the Families First Act specifically require that administrative waivers be granted only "if requested by a State agency", further require that the Secretary make certain specific determinations with regard to each waiver, and also place new reporting requirements on any State agency that uses such waivers. Our understanding is that Congress wrote this language very differently than SNAP and child nutrition because many see WIC as a nutritional food package, and not as general access to food. It would certainly be easier on USDA, the states, WIC operators and your members if we could grant nationwide waivers. Should Congress decide this is the appropriate means to grant waivers during COVID, USDA we will work swiftly to implement such language.

Our entire team remains available should you or your members need anything. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Regards,
Brandon
(b) (6)

From: Jennifer Hatcher (FMI) (b) (6) @fmi.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 10:34 AM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; SM.OSEC.feedingkids <feedingkids@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Hannah vL. Walker (FMI) <(b) (6) @fmi.org>
Subject: Extreme Challenge: No WIC waivers on Substitutions Communicated; Tremendous Work Gathering UPCs

Joby,
Sorry, my phone automatically populated your old address, so I am resending this and adding a couple more folks. I know Campbell is trying to find a way to do a statewide waiver for WIC. I am looping Lillie in as we have been talking regularly about challenges. And I know Brandon has not been able to find a way to do this within their normal authority.

I hate to be a pest on this, but this is an extreme burden for the grocery industry right now for absolutely no reason. The WIC directors want to make the substitutions (and have evidently requested several already, but we have not been notified of any approvals via email or the website); the stores want the substitutions; the clients will only get more rather than less product if there is a difference; there is no nutritional difference. Who should I work with at the White House to get an Executive Order on this? I am going to draft one now. Glad to go to our normal public liaison/intergovernmental contacts.

I got a letter response yesterday signed by the Secretary, but it did not address the issue at all, so I believe we need to talk to someone or I can lay this all out in a memo if you like.

Cell is (b) (6)

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Kudos to the folks managing SNAP – all is going well there, even though there are constant waiver applications. Andrea Gold and Shelly Pierce are fantastic.

I know you all are working 24/7 on issues and achieving lots of great results. This truly is the easiest fix if we can just find the right way to do this. At this point, I am thinking an Executive Order is the only way (until we can get a legislative fix.)

Jennifer Hatcher
Chief Public Policy Officer & Senior Vice President
FMI
Direct (b) (6)
Cell (b) (6)
www.fmi.org

From: Jennifer Hatcher (FMI)
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 10:09 AM
To: SM. feedingkids <feedingkids@usda.gov>
Cc: Hannah vL. Walker (FMI) (b) (6) @fmi.org>; Robert Rosado (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>; joby.young@mail.house.gov
Subject: Fwd: WIC waivers

Can someone call me on WIC waivers, (b) (6) ? Clearly, we are not in the loop with regard to waivers for WIC. I know Campbell was looking into a statewide waiver. We are spending extraordinary time supplying UPCs to state WIC agencies. All we want to do is substitute different sizes, different brand or recipe in a category. No nutritional change. If we need to ask for an Executive Order on this, glad to do so. Everything is working well on SNAP. Thank you!

Jennifer Hatcher
FMI - The Food Industry Association

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Hannah vL. Walker (FMI)" <(b) (6) @fmi.org>
> **Date:** March 28, 2020 at 9:53:20 AM EDT
> **To:** "Widor, Sarah - FNS" <sarah.widor@usda.gov>, "Tvrdy, Joe - FNS" <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
> **Cc:** "Elizabeth Tansing (FMI)" (b) (6) @fmi.org>, "Jennifer Hatcher (FMI)" (b) (6) @fmi.org>
> **Subject: WIC waivers**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Good Morning Sarah and Joe,

I just wanted to touch base a on a few things. Joe, I apologize if you are not the correct person, but I don't know who handles WIC on your side.

I just checked the FNS website and I am not seeing any of the waivers we have heard through other sources that have been granted posted. On Thursday we heard from our TX folks that the state waiver had been granted, but it is not up on the website: https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/texas#wic

I would like to request again if we could please be informed when state WIC waivers are granted as we are with SNAP.

Second, we talked to several of our members yesterday about the WIC waiver process and state's trying to get info from us. We are hoping you can assist us with sending some direction to the states to help smooth out the process:

1.) Could they please ask for a 1-time submission. Our folks are saying they are getting multiple requests from the same state for UPC data, and then again for another category. If they could put it all into one request, that could certainly help our guys get the info over as efficiently as possible.
2.) Could you encourage states to borrow other states APL lists? We heard CT was using MA to see what they could easily enter.
3.) Our manufacturers can share their national brand info and our retailers can share their store brands. However, they are often being told to submit significant data on nutrition etc even if it is already allowed in another state, or is simply a different size. We ask that they ask for UPCs and limit the extraneous requests.
4.) We also are wondering if the processors can help. They would have all the APLs for the states they service and 2 have the majority of the states. Is there a way they could

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easily populate that data?

a. Apparently FIS allows folks access their APL site, could Conduent and Solutran do the same?

5.) Is there a roll for the WIC shopper apps for sharing UPC?

As you can imagine, our guys are stretched pretty thin, and these requests are quite labor intensive, any help you could offer would be greatly appreciated.

Also, if we could get a national waiver on product categories that could greatly alleviate much of this stress.

Thanks for all you do, and I hope we can make some progress on these pieces.

Hannah

Hannah vL. Walker (FMI)
Vice President, Political Affairs
FMI
Direct (b) (6)
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363DE514

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: Re: (b) (5), DPP
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 8:00:53 PM

(b) (5), DPP

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From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 7:46:21 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

From: Kim, Mina - OGC, Washington, DC <mina.kim@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 6:14 PM
To: Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC <gena.kochan@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Johnston, Margaret (Moira) - FNS <moira.johnston@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

Thank you!

Mina Kim | Attorney
USDA | Office of the General Counsel
International Affairs, Food Assistance & Farm and Rural Programs (FAIR) Division
1400 Independence Avenue, SW | Washington, DC 20250
(202) 720-6458 phone | (b) (6) mobile | (202) 720-0432 fax
mina.kim@usda.gov

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From: Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:01 PM
To: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC <gena.kochan@usda.gov>; Kim, Mina - OGC, Washington, DC <mina.kim@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Johnston, Margaret (Moira) - FNS <moira.johnston@usda.gov>; Gersten-Paal, Sasha - FNS <sasha.gersten-paal@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (5), DPP, ACP
Importance: High

Per instructions (b) (5), DPP, ACP

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Lizbeth

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From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Families First Covid Response Act (FFCRA)
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:20:00 AM
Attachments: CISA.pdf
Families First Response Act - 57.pdf

C and Anne - (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted] we would greatly appreciate it.

Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

that provides medical services, produces medical products, or is otherwise involved in the making of COVID-19 related medical equipment, tests, drugs, vaccines, diagnostic vehicles, or treatments. This also includes any individual that the highest official of a state or territory, including the District of Columbia, determines is a health care provider necessary for that state's or territory's or the District of Columbia's response to COVID-19.

To minimize the spread of the virus associated with COVID-19, the Department encourages employers to be judicious when using this definition to exempt health care providers from the provisions of the FFCRA.

57. **Who is an emergency responder?**

For the purposes of employees who may be excluded from paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave by their employer under the FFCRA, an emergency responder is an employee who is necessary for the provision of transport, care, health care, comfort, and nutrition of such patients, or whose services are otherwise needed to limit the spread of COVID-19. This includes but is not limited to military or national guard, law enforcement officers, correctional institution personnel, fire fighters, emergency medical services personnel, physicians, nurses, public health personnel, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency management personnel, 911 operators, public works personnel, and persons with skills or training in operating specialized equipment or other skills needed to provide aid in a declared emergency as well as individuals who work for such facilities employing these individuals and whose work is necessary to maintain the operation of the facility. This also includes any individual that the highest official of a state or territory, including the District of Columbia, determines is an emergency responder necessary for that state's or territory's or the District of Columbia's response to COVID-19.

To minimize the spread of the virus associated with COVID-19, the Department encourages employers to be judicious when using this definition to exempt emergency responders from the provisions of the FFCRA.

58. **When does the small business exemption apply to exclude a small business from the provisions of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act?**

An employer, including a religious or nonprofit organization, with fewer than 50 employees (small business) is exempt from providing (a) paid sick leave due to school or place of care closures or child care provider unavailability for COVID-19 related reasons and (b) expanded family and medical leave due to school or place of care closures or child care provider unavailability for COVID-19 related reasons when doing so would jeopardize the viability of the small business as a going concern. A small business may claim this exemption if an authorized officer of the business has determined that:

1. The provision of paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave would result in the small business's expenses and financial obligations exceeding

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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency
Office of the Director
Washington, DC 20528

CISA
CYBER+INFRASTRUCTURE

March 28, 2020

ADVISORY MEMORANDUM ON IDENTIFICATION OF ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS DURING COVID-19 RESPONSE

FROM: Christopher C. Krebs
Director
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

As the Nation comes together to slow the spread of COVID-19, on March 16th the President issued updated Coronavirus Guidance for America that highlighted the importance of the critical infrastructure workforce.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) executes the Secretary of Homeland Security's authorities to secure critical infrastructure. Consistent with these authorities, CISA has developed, in collaboration with other federal agencies, State and local governments, and the private sector, an "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce" advisory list. This list is intended to help State, local, tribal and territorial officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. Decisions informed by this list should also take into consideration additional public health considerations based on the specific COVID-19-related concerns of particular jurisdictions.

This list is advisory in nature. It is not, nor should it be considered, a federal directive or standard. Additionally, this advisory list is not intended to be the exclusive list of critical infrastructure sectors, workers, and functions that should continue during the COVID-19 response across all jurisdictions. Individual jurisdictions should add or subtract essential workforce categories based on their own requirements and discretion.

The advisory list identifies workers who conduct a range of operations and services that are typically essential to continued critical infrastructure viability, including staffing operations centers, maintaining and repairing critical infrastructure, operating call centers, working construction, and performing operational functions, among others. It also includes workers who support crucial supply chains and enable functions for critical infrastructure. The industries they support represent, but are not limited to, medical and healthcare, telecommunications, information technology systems, defense, food and agriculture, transportation and logistics, energy, water and wastewater, law enforcement,

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Release 1 of 1
USDA-20-1045-A-001397

and public works.

State, local, tribal, and territorial governments are responsible for implementing and executing response activities, including decisions about access and reentry, in their communities, while the Federal Government is in a supporting role. Officials should use their own judgment in issuing implementation directives and guidance. Similarly, while adhering to relevant public health guidance, critical infrastructure owners and operators are expected to use their own judgement on issues of the prioritization of business processes and workforce allocation to best ensure continuity of the essential goods and services they support. All decisions should appropriately balance public safety, the health and safety of the workforce, and the continued delivery of essential critical infrastructure services and functions. While this advisory list is meant to help public officials and employers identify essential work functions, it allows for the reality that some workers engaged in activity determined to be essential may be unable to perform those functions because of health-related concerns.

CISA will continue to work with our partners in the critical infrastructure community to update this advisory list if necessary as the Nation's response to COVID-19 evolves.

Should you have questions about this list, please contact CISA at CISA.CAT@cisa.dhs.gov.

Attachment: "Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response Version 2.0"

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- Government, private, and non-governmental organizations' workers essential for food assistance programs (including school lunch programs) and government payments.
- Employees of companies engaged in the production, storage, transport, and distribution of chemicals, medicines, vaccines, and other substances used by the food and agriculture industry, including seeds, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, minerals, enrichments, and other agricultural production aids.
- Animal agriculture workers to include those employed in veterinary health (including those involved in supporting emergency veterinary or livestock services); raising of animals for food; animal production operations; livestock markets; slaughter and packing plants, manufacturers, renderers, and associated regulatory and government workforce.
- Transportation supporting animal agricultural industries, including movement of animal medical and reproductive supplies and materials, animal vaccines, animal drugs, feed ingredients, feed, and bedding, live animals, animal by-products, and deceased animals for disposal.
- Workers who support sawmills and the manufacture and distribution of fiber and forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood and fiber products.
- Employees engaged in the manufacture and maintenance of equipment and other infrastructure necessary for agricultural production and distribution.

ENERGY

- Workers supporting the energy sector, regardless of the energy source (including but not limited to nuclear, fossil, hydroelectric, or renewable), segment of the system, or infrastructure the worker is involved in, or who are needed to monitor, operate, engineer, and maintain the reliability, safety, environmental health, and physical and cyber security of the energy system.
- Energy/commodity trading/scheduling/marketing functions, who can't perform their duties remotely.
- IT and OT technology for essential energy sector operations including support workers, customer service operations; energy management systems, control systems, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition SCADA systems, and energy sector entity data centers; cybersecurity engineers; and cybersecurity risk management.
- Workers supporting the energy sector through renewable energy infrastructure (including, but not limited to wind, solar, biomass, hydrogen, ocean, geothermal, and/or hydroelectric), including those supporting construction, manufacturing, transportation, permitting, operation/maintenance, monitoring, and logistics.
- Workers and security staff involved in nuclear re-fueling operations.
- Providing services related to energy sector fuels (including, but not limited, petroleum (crude oil), natural gas, propane, natural gas liquids, other liquid fuels, nuclear, and coal), supporting the mining, processing, manufacturing, construction, logistics, transportation, permitting, operation/maintenance, security, waste disposal and storage, and monitoring of support for resources.
- Environmental remediation/monitoring, limited to immediate critical needs technicians.
- Manufacturing and distribution of equipment, supplies, and parts necessary to maintain production, maintenance, restoration, and service at energy sector facilities (across all energy sector segments).

Electricity industry:

- Workers who maintain, ensure, or restore, or are involved in the development, transportation, fuel procurement, expansion, or operation of the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric power, including call centers, utility workers, engineers, retail electricity, constraint maintenance, and fleet maintenance technicians-who cannot perform their duties remotely.
- Workers at coal mines, production facilities, and those involved in manufacturing, transportation, permitting, operation/maintenance and monitoring at coal sites which is critical to ensuring the reliability of the electrical system.

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Release 045 of 299
USDA-20-0045 045 of 299

From:	Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: Families First Covid Response Act (FFCRA)
Date:	Tuesday, March 31, 2020 5:31:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 5:28 PM
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Families First Covid Response Act (FFCRA)

I hate to be this person, but (b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:20 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Families First Covid Response Act (FFCRA)

C and Anne - (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

we would greatly appreciate it.

Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: (b) (6)

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From:	Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	T.A. Hawks; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: Feeding America: Thank you
Date:	Monday, April 20, 2020 3:51:58 PM
Attachments:	image007.png image008.png image009.png

Thanks TA.

Joby Young

Chief of Staff
United States Department of Agriculture

From: T.A. Hawks (b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: Feeding America: Thank you

Joby and Kailee,

Hope you guys are hanging in there, what a difficult time to juggle everything from home (I'm working across the table from a 5 year old who is a wizard with LEGOS).

Wanted to pass this along to you both since we want to make sure you are also aware of Feeding America's appreciation for the new program you're standing up to get food to people using newly available tools. We also wanted to let you know that FA will be working to get an increase to SNAP for the life of the crisis via Congress. In the spirit of transparency, they wanted to give you a heads up, even though the campaign isn't focused on USDA.

Thanks and if you want more info, let me know. Also glad to get them on the phone with you if it's helpful.

Thanks,
T.A.

T.A. Hawks

p: 202.719.9999 ext. (b) m: (b) (6)
w: www.monumentadvocacy.com e: (b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com

From: Kate Leone

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Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 1:35 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Carrie Calvert (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>; T.A. Hawks (b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: Thank you

Hi Pam,

Thanks again for taking the time to speak on our network webinar this week. They really appreciated hearing from you directly and recognize how hard FNS is working to adapt federal nutrition programs to this unprecedented situation. We got great feedback on the call. As you can imagine, we were thrilled to hear last night about the new USDA purchases. We are really excited to learn more and do everything we can to make sure that food gets into people's hands quickly and efficiently.

As you know, we have also been working with Congress on what might be included in the next round of relief legislation. With so many people facing temporary economic setbacks and what our food banks are seeing on the ground, we believe that the solution will include additional resources across multiple programs to try and meet the need. We are really glad that you guys have recognized that in crafting the new program as well. We know that TEFAP, USDA food purchases, child nutrition flexibilities, pandemic EBT, and SNAP increases all can play a powerful role together in helping families and individuals get back on their feet.

To help educate members of Congress on what our network is seeing, we are starting a small ad campaign to talk about the increased need and the powerful role SNAP can play in providing temporary increased food benefits and helping local economies. Given our deep partnership with USDA, I wanted to send you a heads up. The ads give some state specific data on people facing hunger and ask Congress to temporarily increase benefits. I am happy to provide more information if you would like – we aren't thanking, shaming, or naming, but are rather trying to promote another policy solution in a positive way. Please let me know if you would like to connect on that or other issues we have been discussing!

Thanks,
Kate

Kate Leone
Chief Government Relations Officer

Feeding America
National Organization
1627 I Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006
tel +1.202.795.2473 x(b)
(b) @feedingamerica.org

Our mission is to feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage our country in the fight to end hunger. **Learn more at feedingamerica.org**
Together We Can Solve Hunger!™

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From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: T.A. Hawks; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Feeding America: Thank you
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 7:58:00 PM
Attachments: image002.png
image003.png
image004.png

Thanks TA hope you are well!

And congrats on stealing Lilia away from us! We miss her, but know she will excel over there.

Talk soon,
KMT

From: T.A. Hawks (b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: Feeding America: Thank you

Joby and Kailee,

Hope you guys are hanging in there, what a difficult time to juggle everything from home (I'm working across the table from a 5 year old who is a wizard with LEGOS).

Wanted to pass this along to you both since we want to make sure you are also aware of Feeding America's appreciation for the new program you're standing up to get food to people using newly available tools. We also wanted to let you know that FA will be working to get an increase to SNAP for the life of the crisis via Congress. In the spirit of transparency, they wanted to give you a heads up, even though the campaign isn't focused on USDA.

Thanks and if you want more info, let me know. Also glad to get them on the phone with you if it's helpful.

Thanks,
T.A.

MONUMENT ADVOCACY

T.A. Hawks
p: 202.719.9999 ext (b) m: (b) (6)
w: www.monumentadvocacy.com e: (b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com

From: Kate Leone
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 1:35 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Carrie Calvert (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>; T.A. Hawks <(b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: Thank you

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Pam,

Thanks again for taking the time to speak on our network webinar this week. They really appreciated hearing from you directly and recognize how hard FNS is working to adapt federal nutrition programs to this unprecedented situation. We got great feedback on the call. As you can imagine, we were thrilled to hear last night about the new USDA purchases. We are really excited to learn more and do everything we can to make sure that food gets into people's hands quickly and efficiently.

As you know, we have also been working with Congress on what might be included in the next round of relief legislation. With so many people facing temporary economic setbacks and what our food banks are seeing on the ground, we believe that the solution will include additional resources across multiple programs to try and meet the need. We are really glad that you guys have recognized that in crafting the new program as well. We know that TEFAP, USDA food purchases, child nutrition flexibilities, pandemic EBT, and SNAP increases all can play a powerful role together in helping families and individuals get back on their feet.

To help educate members of Congress on what our network is seeing, we are starting a small ad campaign to talk about the increased need and the powerful role SNAP can play in providing temporary increased food benefits and helping local economies. Given our deep partnership with USDA, I wanted to send you a heads up. The ads give some state specific data on people facing hunger and ask Congress to temporarily increase benefits. I am happy to provide more information if you would like – we aren't thanking, shaming, or naming, but are rather trying to promote another policy solution in a positive way. Please let me know if you would like to connect on that or other issues we have been discussing!

Thanks,
Kate

Kate Leone
Chief Government Relations Officer

Feeding America
National Organization
1627 I Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006
tel +1.202.795.2473 x(b)
(b) @feedingamerica.org

Our mission is to feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage our country in the fight to end hunger. **Learn more at feedingamerica.org**
Together We Can Solve Hunger!™

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:09:00 AM

I think (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:07 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:44 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

Alec Varsamis

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:43 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Hey all,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:29:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: (b) (5), DPP

Here's what I sent back.

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:26 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:44 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP ?

Alec Varsamis

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:43 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (5), DPP

Hey all,

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: (b) (5), DPP
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 5:02:22 PM

(b) (5), DPP ?

Get Outlook for iOS

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:58:17 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP .

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:46 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:47:58 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP

Here it is.

Alec Varsamis

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:41 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]
?

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:33 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP
?

Alec

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:26:23 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:44 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP ?

Alec Varsamis

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:43 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (5), DPP

Hey all,

(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Final version
Date: Friday, May 8, 2020 3:15:05 PM

Predecisional / deliberative

Please (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 2:08:22 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Subject: Final version

Please let me know if you have any edits.

From a USDA Spokesperson:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

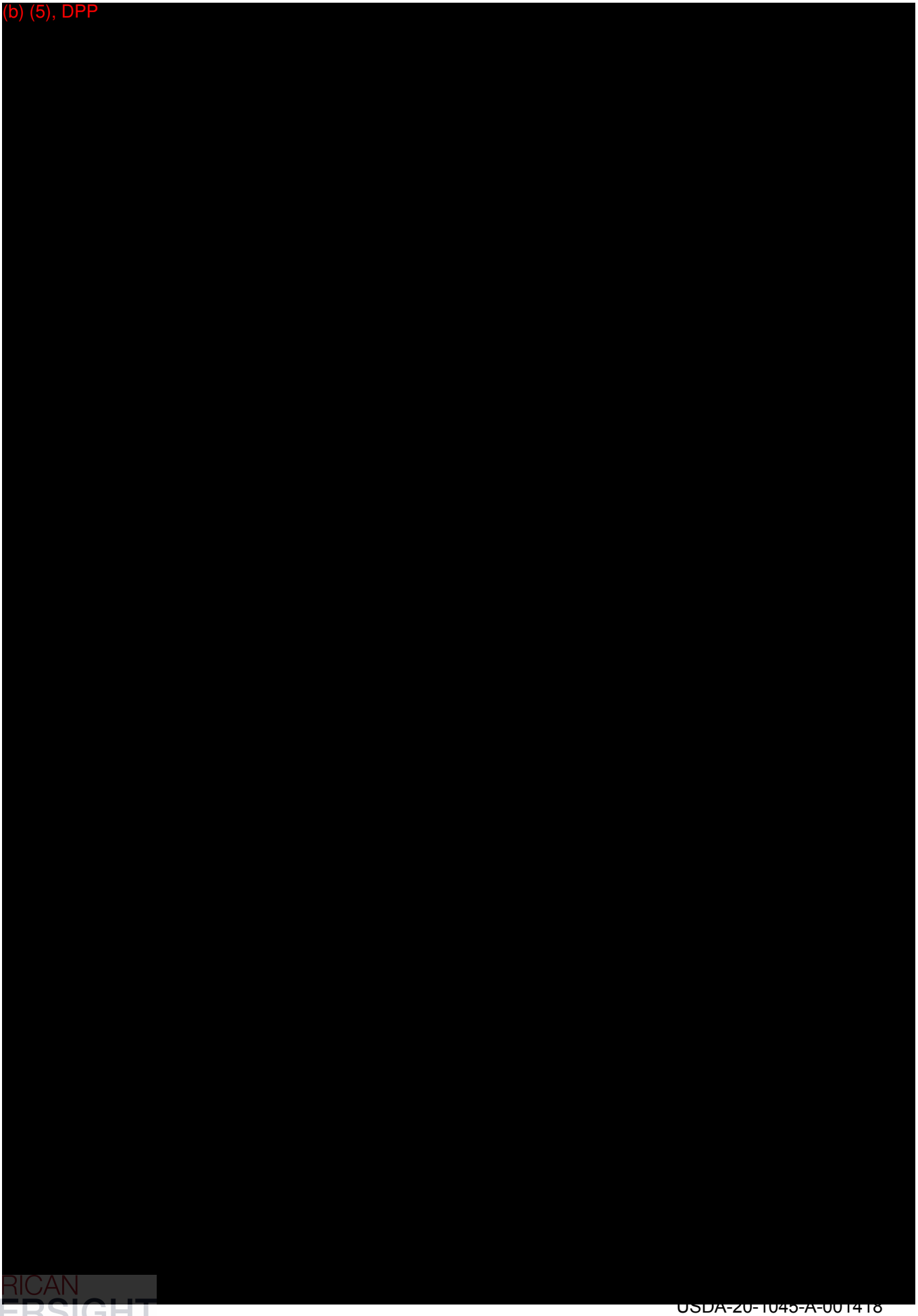
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

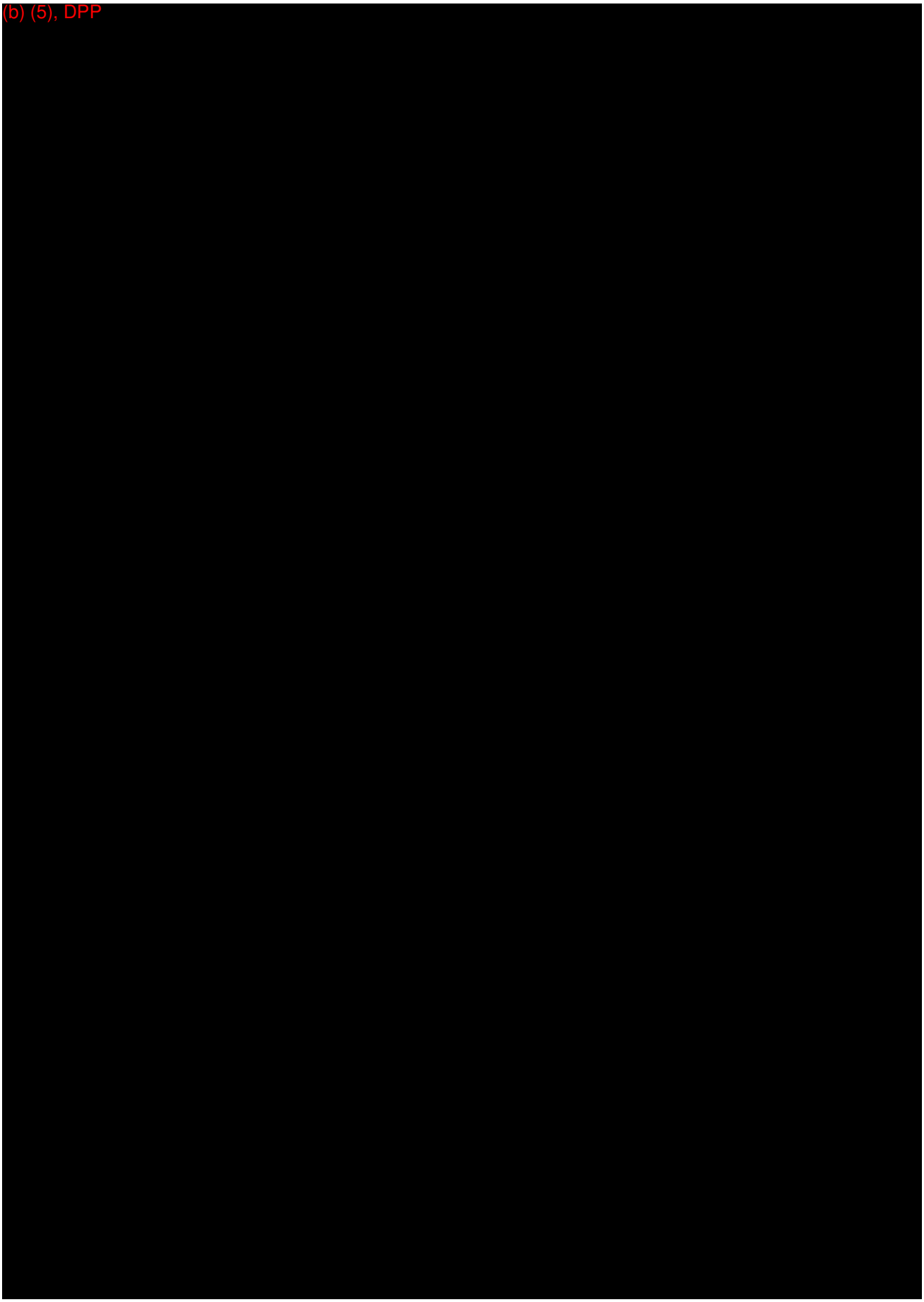
[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

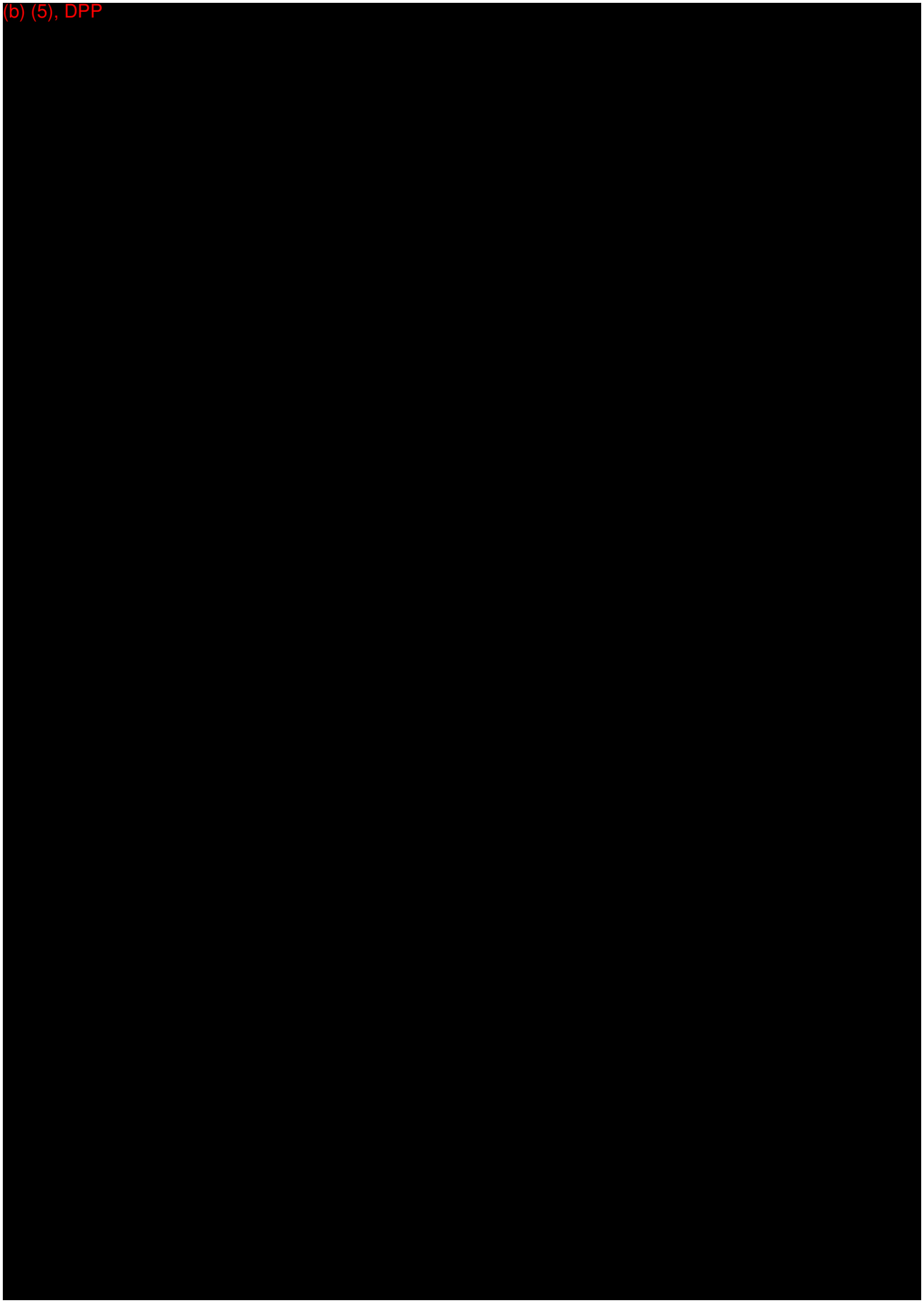
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Meghan Rodgers
Deputy Communications Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-5555
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Florida & Idaho Online Purchasing
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 9:50:40 PM

(b) (5), DPP .

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 8:28:13 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Florida & Idaho Online Purchasing

Is the (b) (5), DPP ?

-SP

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 8:24:06 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Florida & Idaho Online Purchasing

Sir -

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Brandon

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: RE: Florida Governor to waive federal assistance work requirements amid health crisis
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:10:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:09 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Florida Governor to waive federal assistance work requirements amid health crisis

(b) (5), DPP
?

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Florida Governor to waive federal assistance work requirements amid health crisis

You want (b) (5), DPP ?

(b) (5), DPP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 9:49 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Florida Governor to waive federal assistance work requirements amid health crisis
Importance: High

(b) (5), DPP

.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted].

Thanks!

From: POLITICO Pro Agriculture <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 9:40 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Florida Governor to waive federal assistance work requirements amid health crisis

Florida Governor to waive federal assistance work requirements amid health crisis

By Matt Dixon

03/24/2020 09:39 AM EDT

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' administration plans to leverage his coronavirus executive order to waive work requirements for low-income Floridians who rely on taxpayer-funded food and cash assistance programs.

"At the request of @GovDeSantis & in accordance with the federal Families First Coronavirus Act, [Department of Children and Families] will waive work requirements for those participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) & Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program," DeSantis communications director Helen Aguirre Ferré tweeted this morning.

In Florida, "able-bodied adults" without dependents must meet certain work requirements to qualify for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which offers food assistance or the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which is a federal cash assistance program.

Under stiffened Trump administration guidelines, that can include things like proving 20 hours of work a week if you live in an area with low unemployment.

There have not yet been follow-up guidelines released by the administration.

To view online:
https://subscriber.politicopro.com/agriculture/whiteboard/2020/03/florida-governor-to-waive-federal-assistance-work-requirements-amid-health-crisis-3978406

You received this POLITICO Pro content because your customized settings include: Nutrition Assistance Programs. To change your alert settings, please go to https://subscriber.politicopro.com/settings.

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POLITICO, LLC
1000 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22209
USA

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: FNCS RUSH APPROVAL FW: FOR AO: RUSH Media Inquiry: Fox Business re: WIC item shortages, COVID (Deadline: 11:45am TODAY)
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:51:00 AM

See below - (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FNCS RUSH APPROVAL FW: FOR AO: RUSH Media Inquiry: Fox Business re: WIC item shortages, COVID (Deadline: 11:45am TODAY)
Importance: High

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:18 AM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: RUSH Media Inquiry: Fox Business re: WIC item shortages, COVID (Deadline: 11:45am TODAY)
Importance: High

DEADLINE: 11:45am TODAY

Blake Blurman, a reporter with Fox Business, is requesting a statement from USDA on the limited availability of WIC approved items in the grocery stores. The reporter, used an article from an article posted this morning, "Shoppers urged to be more mindful when purchasing WIC items".

(b) (5), DPP [redacted].

INQUIRY:
I'm wondering if there is an actual worry that supplies that would normally be there for WIC recipients aren't because of how fast food is moving off store shelves. And if so, what USDA recommends.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: FNCS RUSH APPROVAL FW: FOR AO: RUSH Media Inquiry: Fox Business re: WIC item shortages, COVID (Deadline: 11:45am TODAY)
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 12:02:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNCS RUSH APPROVAL FW: FOR AO: RUSH Media Inquiry: Fox Business re: WIC item shortages, COVID (Deadline: 11:45am TODAY)

(b) (5), DPP

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:56 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNCS RUSH APPROVAL FW: FOR AO: RUSH Media Inquiry: Fox Business re: WIC item shortages, COVID (Deadline: 11:45am TODAY)

How's this: (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:51 AM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>;

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNCS RUSH APPROVAL FW: FOR AO: RUSH Media Inquiry: Fox Business re: WIC item shortages, COVID (Deadline: 11:45am TODAY)

See below - (b) (5), DPP [redacted].

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FNCS RUSH APPROVAL FW: FOR AO: RUSH Media Inquiry: Fox Business re: WIC item shortages, COVID (Deadline: 11:45am TODAY)
Importance: High

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:18 AM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: RUSH Media Inquiry: Fox Business re: WIC item shortages, COVID (Deadline: 11:45am TODAY)
Importance: High

DEADLINE: 11:45am TODAY

Blake Blurman, a reporter with Fox Business, is requesting a statement from USDA on the limited availability of WIC approved items in the grocery stores. The reporter, used an article from an article posted this morning, "Shoppers urged to be more mindful when purchasing WIC items".

(b) (5), DPP [redacted].

INQUIRY:
I'm wondering if there is an actual worry that supplies that would normally be there for WIC recipients aren't because of how fast food is moving off store shelves. And if so, what USDA recommends.

RESPONSE:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: FNS briefing doc for today
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 10:18:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 9:49 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNS briefing doc for today

Agree (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted] ?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 9:47 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNS briefing doc for today

Ok, I've printed copies.

Per (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 9:43 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FNS briefing doc for today

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

Campbell Shuford
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-2868
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: Re: FNS Daily News Clips -- Wednesday, March 18, 2020
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 7:50:52 AM

(b) (5), DPP

Get Outlook for iOS

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 7:29:17 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FNS Daily News Clips -- Wednesday, March 18, 2020

From the Fox News article:

During Tuesday's episode of "The View," Ohio Governor Mike Dewine defended the way the administration handled the coronavirus response.

"We've asked the Trump administration, for example, to give us a waiver ... And within 24 hours, the Trump administration gave us the waivers we need so that we could take this food out into the community. And what we have done is say anybody 18 years of age or under is welcome to come and get this food. In some cases, school districts are delivering it."

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: FNS Communications <fnspress@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 7:14 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FNS Daily News Clips -- Wednesday, March 18, 2020



Top Clips | SNAP | Child Nutrition | CNPP | SNAS | More News

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Top Clips

The Hill - Blogs - Daphne Hernandez • Mar 17, 2020

What coronavirus means for food insecurity

With the number of coronavirus cases increasing daily, plans are being developed and implemented to prevent further spread of the virus. One of those plans includes the closing of school districts… policymakers must keep in mind that when schools close for an extended period of time, such as during the summer, rates of food insecurity increase…On a daily basis, one in seven households with children are affected by the lack of access to food, or food insecurity. The majority of these children depend on meals that they receive at school from the School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program…As it stands, the Department of Agriculture is providing waivers which would permit K-12 students to access to-go meals at a designated location if their schools are shut down. However, each state must apply for the waiver, and the waiver only applies to locations where summer meals programs are already in place.

Reach: 2,066,865

USA Today - Brett Molina • Mar 17, 2020

Viral tweet asks grocery customers to be mindful about WIC items. Here's why

As millions of Americans navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, they're rushing to grocery stores to stock up on important items. But before you drop that box of cereal or loaf of bread into your cart, it's worth paying extra attention to the pricing label at the store. A viral tweet posted Sunday by Suit Up Maine, a progressive group describing itself as seeking to build a "more informed and engaged electorate in Maine," encourages shoppers to reconsider buying items showing the "WIC" label next to the price. "People who use WIC to feed their kids can't switch to another brand or kind of food," reads their tweet. "If a store runs out of WIC-approved options, they will go home empty-handed." The tweet has generated nearly 32,000 likes as of Tuesday morning. The WIC Program, or Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, is run by the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service. It was created to provide nutritious food to low-income pregnant, postpartum

Reach: 58,230,321

Fox News - Sam Dorman • Mar 17, 2020

Trump admin rolls out initiative to provide meals for children amid coronavirus school closures

The Trump administration is rolling out a multi-tiered effort to provide school lunches amid closures related to the coronavirus crisis. The Agriculture Department (USDA) has already granted waivers allowing all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico to more easily serve meals to children. Augmenting that effort, the department announced Tuesday a feeding program partnership with PepsiCo and other organizations to provide at least 1 million meals per week to children who don't have access to current meal provisions… Current law allows schools to leverage a federal summer meals program in order to provide for students during unexpected closures, but requires meals be distributed in a group setting. The USDA's waivers allow students to avoid that requirement in order to maintain social distancing during the pandemic.

Reach: 60,607,860

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

USDA-20-1045-A-001438

CNN.com International - Ellie Kaufman • Mar 17, 2020

From truckers to testing labs: How the federal government is cutting red tape in response to coronavirus

With the coronavirus outbreak shutting down large swaths of society, the federal government is taking broad steps to ensure the rules and regulations that are designed to keep people safe don't have the opposite effect in these unprecedented circumstances…The US Department of Agriculture authorized all Food and Nutrition Service nutrition assistance programs to use flexibilities to "respond to on-the-ground realities and support response and recovery efforts," according to the Department. For children who rely on meals at school through the national school lunch and breakfast programs, schools can switch to their Summer Food Service Program to serve meals when schools are closed without getting permission from the USDA. The agency also allows schools to serve meals to children in any approved area, like a neighborhood or school, where 50 percent or more of the student population qualifies for the free and reduced meal program.

Reach: 30,337,777

Forbes - Antoine Gara • Mar 17, 2020

There's No Moral Hazard In Saving The Economy From The Coronavirus

Though disgust with bailouts runs high in America, there's no moral hazard in using the available tools of government and finance to help these businesses survive the disruption… Due to the pandemic, businesses are closed or at almost standstill activity through no fault of their own…This weekend, the House has passed a resolution opening new funds for Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children and the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and providing 25 million meals to low-income senior citizens.

Reach: 66,806,599

SNAP

National Memo • Mar 18, 2020

How Trump's Policies Made Us More Vulnerable To Recession - The National Memo

*2019, the **Department** of **Agriculture** Secretary Sonny Purdue announced a plan that could kick almost 700,000 people off the...*

Reach: 48,225

NY Daily News • Mar 17, 2020

How to slow the bleeding: The action the coronavirus-infected economy needs

*to all low-income households based on eligibility for **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance** or the Earned Income Tax Credit....*

Reach: 9,037,019

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CityLab - Kriston Capps • Mar 17, 2020

[It's Time for the Pandemic Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program]

*of this aid from schools to **food stamps** through the Pandemic **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**, or...*

Reach: 1,701,375

Forbes - Ben Ritz • Mar 17, 2020

[A Bold Framework For "Emergency Economics" To Combat The Coronavirus Crisis]

*it. Automatically relaxing work requirements in **programs** like **SNAP** (**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**,...*

Reach: 66,806,599

Forbes - Anne Field • Mar 17, 2020

[Coronavirus Pandemic, Stock Market Crash And The World Of Impact: Insights From Jimmy Chen Of Propel]

*you teamed up with Full Cart to send free food to families with low **food stamp** balances. Are you planning anything like that now?...*

Reach: 66,806,599

NY Daily News • Mar 17, 2020

[The homeless can't stay home: What does coronavirus social distancing mean for them?]

*, new socks, hygiene supplies, and connecting people to housing applications, **SNAP benefits**, and other resources.Each person we...*

Reach: 9,037,019

CNBC - Alicia Adamczyk • Mar 17, 2020

[Paid leave, unemployment assistance: What the federal government is doing in response to the coronavirus pandemic]

*senior nutrition program Suspends work requirements for the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** (**SNAP**) for the...*

Reach: 47,969,680

EIN Presswire • Mar 17, 2020

[It's A "SNAP" To Order Online and Pay At Store]

*pay" for SNAP and **WIC** customers. However, there are a few rules you still must follow. Guardrails for SNAP and **WIC**...*

Reach: 44,544

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

E! Online - Carolin Lehmann • Mar 17, 2020

Which Meal Kit Delivery Service Is Right for You?

*their meals are **USDA** certified organic. Enjoy meatballs with pesto orzo with a creamy sun-dried tomato pan sauce, feta cheese, and...*

Reach: 16,419,000

Child Nutrition

NJ.com • Mar 17, 2020

Kids will be fed during coronavirus school closures in N.J., but it's complicated

*from Gov. Phil Murphy. With that comes the need to distribute **school breakfasts** and lunches to students who would otherwise go...*

Reach: 6,906,321

Newsday - Newsday Readers • Mar 17, 2020

As schools shut, some need lunches

*unable to feed all family members lunch, especially if they're relying on **food stamps** for all or most of their groceries. Food...*

Reach: 1,822,104

Brookings Institution - Nicol Turner Lee • Mar 17, 2020

What the coronavirus reveals about the digital divide between schools and communities

*sent to onsite and mobile sites. In fiscal year 2018, the **National School Lunch Program** provided low-cost and free lunches to 29.7...*

Reach: 1,654,638

TwinCities.com - Deanna Weniger • Mar 17, 2020

Meals on bus wheels: schools plan to-go meals for kids during COVID-19 closure

*and-go meals will be available at sites that participate in our **Summer Meals program** in partnership with The Open Door Pantry,"...*

Reach: 895,520

The Farmer • Mar 17, 2020

Companies collaborate with USDA to feed hungry kids

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

*state officials to prioritize students who do not have access to a **Summer Food Service Program** site and have an active outbreak of...*
Reach: 256,254

ABC 17 News • Mar 17, 2020
With coronavirus closing schools, here's how you can help food insecure children
*On any given day, the **National School Lunch Program** provides low-cost or free lunches to 29.7 million children. But the...*
Reach: 186,297

Bennington Banner • Mar 17, 2020
Letter: Make your voice heard on school meal programs
*comments on a broad array of changes proposed by **USDA** to the **school lunch**, **school breakfast**, and childcare meal...*
Reach: 31,535

Meat+Poultry - Joel Crews • Mar 17, 2020
USDA takes steps to ensure school meal programs continue during pandemic
*is considered, the US **Department of Agriculture** (**USDA**) is extending the comment period for proposed reforms to rules on...*
Reach: 21,083

Food Service Director - Benita Gingerella • Mar 17, 2020
USDA begins feeding program partnership to provide meals for students impacted by COVID-19
*to identify and prioritize students who don't have access to a **Summer Food Service Program** meal site and are located where there...*
Reach: 17,681

Food and Environment Reporting Network • Mar 17, 2020
As schools close, USDA vows to deliver boxes of food to some students in rural America
*will "prioritize students who do not currently have access to a **Summer Food Service Program** (SFSP) site and have an active...*
Reach: 6,905

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

CNPP

WWMT Newschannel 3 - Randi Burns • Mar 17, 2020

[For those cooking at home, the CDC serves up a recipe for a two-week food supply]

*when shopping for food supplies, health experts said. According to **ChooseMyPlate**.gov, a balanced meal includes one food from each...*

Reach: 617,321

Your Observer - Whitney Elfstrom • Mar 17, 2020

[Sarasota organizations to feed families amid school closures]

*a week," Frank said. The boxes are modeled off the USDA nutrition guide **MyPlate** and will include fruit, vegetables, protein and a...*

Reach: 68,064

LehighAcresCitizen.com - MELISSA BILL • Mar 17, 2020

[Lehigh health fair dedicated to seniors]

*Cancer Center. A representative from Choose **My Plate**, part of **USDA**, also discussed **dietary guidelines** and the...*

Reach: 1,916

Best Life • Mar 17, 2020

[30 Crucial Ways to Lower Your Risk of Having a Heart Attack]

*repertoire. To help you stay on track, refer to the USDA **dietary guidelines** , which say to consume less than 2,300 milligrams of...*

Reach: 4,012,187

SNAS

Democratic Underground • Mar 17, 2020

[Question about WIC and food shortages.]

*Question about **WIC** and **food** shortages.*

Reach: 604,975

Everyday Health - Kelly Kennedy • Mar 17, 2020

[Coronavirus Shopping List: What to Buy and Skip | Everyday Health]

*, and **grocery** and pharmacy cashiers. Look for the Letters **WIC** on Food Items While we're on the topic of "sharing is...*

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Reach: 15,219,853

11Alive - Adrianne M Haney • Mar 17, 2020
[VERIFY: Are people who use the WIC program limited in what they buy?]
*additional $500 million in funding for the **WIC** program, and part of that bill would allow the **USDA** to grant waivers of...*
Reach: 1,531,624

TheGrio - DeMicia Inman • Mar 17, 2020
[Viral tweet asks shoppers to be mindful of not buying WIC items]
*, if an item has a **WIC** symbol beside the price, get something else," the tweet reads. "People who use **WIC** to feed their...*
Reach: 1,058,047

More News

NerdWallet Blog - Bev O'Shea • Mar 17, 2020
[Even in a Financial Crisis, You Have Options]
*and more. Also, check your state's website for the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** to see if you qualify for help buying...*
Reach: 10,074,128

Everyday Health - Kelly Kennedy • Mar 17, 2020
[Coronavirus Shopping List: What to Buy and Skip | Everyday Health]
*, and **grocery** and pharmacy cashiers. Look for the Letters **WIC** on Food Items While we're on the topic of "sharing is...*
Reach: 15,219,853

MindBodyGreen - Sarah Regan • Mar 17, 2020
[5 Ways To Help Your Community During The Coronavirus Outbreak]
*currently not on the national **WIC**-program (or food stamps), try to avoid foods in the **grocery** store that are labeled as...*
Reach: 2,681,916

Money Crashers • Mar 17, 2020
[How to Get Emergency Financial Assistance & Help With Bills – Resources]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

*limits on the **USDA** website. If you qualify, you can contact your local SNAP office to apply.*
***WIC**. The Women, Infants,...*
Reach: 1,882,355

U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service - 3101 Park Center Dr, Room 926, Alexandria, Virginia 22302 USA

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject:	RE: FNS letter today
Date:	Friday, April 10, 2020 4:21:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP . Thanks.

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNS letter today

(b) (5), DPP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 4:19 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNS letter today

(b) (5), DPP ?

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 4:14 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNS letter today

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Here is the updated Comms plan and the final letter. Below is the Hill notification.

You can see how it will eventually be reflected on the website with CO:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/colorado#snap

Draft Hill Notification (Include final letter as attachment)

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Subject: FNS letter today

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

Thanks.

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 7:22 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Upcoming FNCS Items

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: FNS Updates
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:38:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]?

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FNS Updates

Do you (b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

From: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:30 AM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNS Updates

Hey guys – (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Ms. Ryann DuRant
U.S. Department of Agriculture

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Cc: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNS Updates

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FNS Updates

What do you guys think? (b) (5), DPP
[redacted]?

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 10:23 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FNS Updates

Campbell –

This is his third kudos for FNCS. We have conveyed to staff each time through leadership calls and an all employee email…which we can do again. (b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]?

Thanks,

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 8:55 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: FNS Updates

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

Please convey to your team my gratitude for their extraordinary efforts. They are literally fulfilling our motto.

-SP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 11:08:14 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: FNS Updates

Sir –

A few updates:

1. (b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Please let me know if you would like additional information on any of the above.

Regards,
Brandon
(b) (6) (cell)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Email addresses withheld pursuant to (b)(6) are Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

From: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: FNS Updates
Date: Monday, March 16, 2020 9:23:46 AM

Brandon,

Good update and good job to you and your team!

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6)
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 11:08 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: FNS Updates

Sir –

A few updates:

1. (b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Please let me know if you would like additional information on any of the above.

Regards,
Brandon
(b) (6) [redacted] (cell)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: FNS Updates
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 7:38:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 6:58 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNS Updates

Brandon and Anne,
Anything to add/change?

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

I think this (b) (5), DPP [redacted] **do yall agree?**

From: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 6:43 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNS Updates

Did you have (b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

Ms. Ryann DuRant
U.S. Department of Agriculture

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:35 AM
To: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNS Updates

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] Just an idea!

From: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:30 AM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNS Updates

Hey guys – (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Ms. Ryann DuRant
U.S. Department of Agriculture

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Cc: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FNS Updates

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FNS Updates

What do you guys think? (b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 10:23 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>

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Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FNS Updates

Campbell –

This is his third kudos for FNCS. We have conveyed to staff each time through leadership calls and an all employee email…which we can do again. (b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]?

Thanks,

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 8:55 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: FNS Updates

Please convey to your team my gratitude for their extraordinary efforts. They are literally fulfilling our motto.

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

-SP

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 11:08:14 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: FNS Updates

Sir –

A few updates:

1. (b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Please let me know if you would like additional information on any of the above.

Regards,
Brandon
(b) (6) (cell)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: FNS Waiver Update
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 8:13:00 PM

Done. Thank you.

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 7:51 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: FNS Waiver Update

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

Please pass along my sincere thank you to your team.

-SP

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 7:47:43 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: FNS Waiver Update

Mr. Secretary –

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

Regards,
Brandon

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Kriviski, Diane - FNS
Subject: Re: Following up
Date: Saturday, March 21, 2020 5:20:32 PM

I do. The same time Anne was there. . .

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From: Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 5:11:15 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Following up

You know he used to be at OMB, Sarah Widor boss.

Diane

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 5:09:44 PM
To: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; English, Tim - FNS <tim.english@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Following up

FYI.
Get Outlook for iOS

From: Gordon, Robert (DHHS) <GordonR3@michigan.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 4:57:59 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Following up

Thank you for the conversation earlier. Since we spoke, I've learned of progress. USDA quickly approved our first WIC waiver request. That's great. I also confirmed that our team submitted the request for a delay of redeterminations earlier today. Based on our conversation, I trust USDA will be able to approve that request by Monday.

I also understand that unfortunately USDA is not going to move on the maximum allotments. This

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

leaves the major issue of the statutory provision allowing Pandemic EBT benefits for FRL students in families not receiving SNAP **I ask that USDA promptly provide approval to:**

- Allow Michigan to use the Summer EBT process for Pandemic EBT benefit issuance. This means not requiring eligibility system processing and not requiring head of household or signature information where the information has been previously collected and verified by the Michigan Department of Education.

- Approve the Conduent Summer EBT solution to use existing information previously collected and verified by the Michigan Department of Education, in lieu of requiring new applications.

Our SNAP director did not have a favorable impression on these issues after her last conversation yesterday. We would be grateful to get approval for both by Monday morning.

Again, I appreciated the conversation and feel free to call anytime.

Thank you.

Robert Gordon
Director
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Gordon, Robert (DHHS)
Subject: Re: Following up
Date: Saturday, March 21, 2020 5:17:41 PM

Thank you Robert. This does sound like a more accurate reflection of the work FNS does. I'm glad to hear of the update.

Our team stands ready to provide technical assistance to work through any federal requirements to implement PSNAP via Michigan's unique capabilities.

I have forwarded your note to both our Associate Administrator for SNAP and our Regional Administrator.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with further needs.

Regards,
Brandon

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From: Gordon, Robert (DHHS) <GordonR3@michigan.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 4:57:59 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Following up

Thank you for the conversation earlier. Since we spoke, I've learned of progress. USDA quickly approved our first WIC waiver request. That's great. I also confirmed that our team submitted the request for a delay of redeterminations earlier today. Based on our conversation, I trust USDA will be able to approve that request by Monday.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- Approve the Conduent Summer EBT solution to use existing information previously collected and verified by the Michigan Department of Education, in lieu of requiring new applications.

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Again, I appreciated the conversation and feel free to call anytime.

Thank you.

Robert Gordon
Director
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: English, Tim - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Kriviski, Diane - FNS
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: Re: Following up
Date: Saturday, March 21, 2020 6:05:58 PM

Thanks, Tim. I am glad we always take the high road, even when it's lonely.

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From: English, Tim - FNS <tim.english@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 5:37:53 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Following up

Brandon,

(b) (5), DPP Ironically, we just received a text message from the Michigan SNAP director expressing her appreciation for all our support today.

TIM ENGLISH
Regional Administrator
Midwest Region
USDA-FNS
Office: 312-353-6664
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 5:21:21 PM
To: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; English, Tim - FNS <tim.english@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Following up

Agreed. (b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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From: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 5:14:00 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; English, Tim - FNS <tim.english@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Following up

I forgot Robert Gordon was the Commissioner!

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Thanks,

Jessica

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 5:09 PM
To: Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Kriviski, Diane - FNS; English, Tim - FNS
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: Fwd: Following up

FYI.
Get Outlook for iOS

From: Gordon, Robert (DHHS) <GordonR3@michigan.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 4:57:59 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Following up

Thank you for the conversation earlier. Since we spoke, I've learned of progress. USDA quickly

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

approved our first WIC waiver request. That's great. I also confirmed that our team submitted the request for a delay of redeterminations earlier today. Based on our conversation, I trust USDA will be able to approve that request by Monday.

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- Approve the Conduent Summer EBT solution to use existing information previously collected and verified by the Michigan Department of Education, in lieu of requiring new applications.

Our SNAP director did not have a favorable impression on these issues after her last conversation yesterday. We would be grateful to get approval for both by Monday morning.

Again, I appreciated the conversation and feel free to call anytime.

Thank you.

Robert Gordon
Director
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture); Datlow, Lindsay - FNS
Subject: RE: Food Bank Current Needs and Challenges - TEFAP TA
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:24:00 PM

Rob,

To clarify, on the TA for TEFAP in the attached, are you referring to this paragraph in the Feeding America letter?

"• Increased TEFAP food and funding:
• While the magnitude of the impact of COVID-19 is clearly difficult to predict, we are already experiencing a decline in retail donations, a reduction in our volunteer workforce, increased costs related to shifting delivery models, and increased demand for assistance. At this time, we are estimating a decrease of 150 million pounds in donations each month if the current conditions continue. With schools and jobs closed for an estimated 8 weeks, this deficit will coincide with increased demand for food assistance. On top of that, we know that the necessary disruptions imposed to manage the spread of the disease will increase demand for charitable assistance. As a result, we are asking for an additional $500 million in TEFAP food based on increased estimates of the need in locations that are ahead of the rest of the country in terms of impact.
• Given the unique challenges our network will face to distribute food in accordance with recommendations to reduce spread of the virus, we expect additional costs. Therefore, we are requesting $200 million in additional funding for TEFAP storage and distribution to assist with costs to distribute USDA commodities, including those provided through any USDA disaster household food distribution programs."

From: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:17 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Food Bank Current Needs and Challenges
Importance: High

Any guidance or communications that USDA has provided or could provide to food banks on the items below? Also, any initial TA on the TEFAP request that is attached?

Robert R. Rosado
Senior Professional Staff
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Chairman Pat Roberts
Washington, D.C. 20510
Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov
Main: (202) 224-2035
Direct (202) 224-6438

From: Carrie Calvert (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 11:13 AM
To: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>; Donahue, Haley (Agriculture) <Haley_Donahue@ag.senate.gov>
Cc: T.A. Hawks (b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com>; Robert Campbell <(b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>
Subject: Food Bank Current Needs and Challenges
Importance: High

Hi Rob and Haley:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I wanted to share a brief update on where things are for our network and with USDA flexibility on nutrition programs. This is a rough summary as things are changing often. I'm also attaching a hot off the press letter that we are sending asap to Senate and House leadership, and I attached the guidance we created for our network on COVID changes to federal nutrition programs as well. We are working on turning these resources to be public facing, but wanted you to see what we are working on.

Network Demand:

- Across the board we are seeing significantly increased demand. Hearing stories of hundreds of families lining up for mobile distributions by car and food running out.
- Our food banks get 1.8 billion pounds of donated food from retailers each year, and this has virtually stopped right now. We don't know for how long, but this is on average 150 million pounds of food a month that isn't able to be donated right now.
- Food bank distribution models rely on volunteers to run food pantries and pack food boxes – and this can't happen right now. Our network needs funds to hire staff to help with this in a big way.

USDA:

- Food banks want to be able to distribute all of the TEFAP they have on hand. USDA is not doing nationwide flexibility since they say they don't have the regulatory authority to do so. We need more proactive communications from USDA to FNS Regional Offices and to states on this. They are trying their best but it's a challenge.
- States are confused about how to use the authority in the Stafford Act under a nationwide emergency. They can request permission to operate a disaster household commodity distribution program under 7 CFR 250.69, which waives TEFAP eligibility and residency requirements. Our food banks can't distribute TEFAP easily with social distancing rules and collect the paperwork on eligibility states want, and there are people coming to us in need that might not meet the income eligibility for TEFAP yet really need food. We are doing our best to provide technical assistance to help our food banks navigate this but it's a challenge. A major disaster declaration by the President would unlock additional resources and authority for USDA to help get this food to people ASAP.
- I'll get back to you asap on child nutrition and SNAP issues! Main issue we are hearing about is the wide variety in local interpretations of USDA waivers.

Thanks,

Carrie

Carrie Calvert
VP, Government Relations, Agriculture & Nutrition

Feeding America
National Organization
1627 I Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006
tel +1.202.795.2459 x (b) (6)

Our mission is to feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage our country in the fight to end hunger. **Learn more at** feedingamerica.org
Together We Can Solve Hunger!™

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Withheld email address is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

From: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Food Loss and Waste Remarks
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 5:09:00 PM
Attachments: DepSec FLW Remarks 5.12.20, slc edits.docx

Thanks, Kiki. I made some edits in track changes that you can share back with the team.

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6)
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

From: Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 11:07 AM
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Food Loss and Waste Remarks

Hey sir,

Happy weekend! (b) (5), DPP

Have a great Saturday,
Kiki

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From: Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 6:05:05 PM
To: Censky, Stephen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Stephen.Censky@usda.gov>
Cc: Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Subject: Food Loss and Waste Remarks

Hello Sir,

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

Have a great evening!

Audra

Audra Weeks
Acting Deputy Press Secretary
Office of Communications
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 690-0060
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Deputy Secretary Censky Remarks – "Food Loss and Waste Webinar"
Virtual Event: May 12, 2020; 9:00am ET

Theme:	USDA's efforts to reduce food loss and waste.
Audience:	This event was co-Organized by IFPRI, Champions 12.3, Embassy of Denmark in Washington, DC, World Resources Institute (WRI), attracting an international audience of 1,000 participants.
About:	You are expected to give 5 minutes of remarks on the action USDA has taken to reduce food loss and waste before participating in Q&A. You will be introduced by: Troels Mandel Vensild, Minister Counsellor of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Embassy of Denmark in Washington, DC.

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

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From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Rey, Yasmin - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS
Subject:	RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - ABC News re: COVID, SNAP-WIC Participation (Deadline: 12 p.m., Today)
Date:	Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:03:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:01 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - ABC News re: COVID, SNAP-WIC Participation (Deadline: 12 p.m., Today)

+FNCS for review.

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:56 AM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - ABC News re: COVID, SNAP-WIC Participation (Deadline: 12 p.m., Today)

DEADLINE: 12 p.m., Today (Thurs., 4/9)

Stephanie Ebbs at ABC News requests background information on SNAP and WIC participation and yesterday's phone call conducted by the Secretary/DUS.

RESPONSE:

Statement Attributable to USDA Secretary Perdue:
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]
Do you have any numbers on how many people have applied for SNAP, WIC, or other benefits in the last month?

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

What's the turnaround time right now between when someone applies and is able to access their benefits?

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

-

Also I have to apologize but I wasn't able to be on the call for nutrition programs yesterday. Is there a recording I can access or someone's able to send so I can listen back to it?

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS
Subject: Re: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - ABC News re: COVID, SNAP-WIC Participation (Deadline: 12 p.m., Today)
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:23:02 AM

(b) (5)

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:07:57 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - ABC News re: COVID, SNAP-WIC Participation (Deadline: 12 p.m., Today)

Edits below Brandon.

Review this one—(b) (5), DPP

DEADLINE: 12 p.m., Today (Thurs., 4/9)

Stephanie Ebbs at ABC News requests background information on SNAP and WIC participation and yesterday's phone call conducted by the Secretary/DUS.

RESPONSE:

Statement Attributable to USDA Secretary Perdue:
(b) (5), DPP

Do you have any numbers on how many people have applied for SNAP, WIC, or other benefits in the last month?

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

What's the turnaround time right now between when someone applies and is able to access their benefits?

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

Also I have to apologize but I wasn't able to be on the call for nutrition programs yesterday. Is there a recording I can access or someone's able to send so I can listen back to it?

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:03 AM
To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - ABC News re: COVID, SNAP-WIC Participation (Deadline: 12 p.m., Today)

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:01 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - ABC News re: COVID, SNAP-WIC Participation (Deadline: 12 p.m., Today)

+FNCS for review.

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:56 AM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - ABC News re: COVID, SNAP-WIC Participation (Deadline: 12 p.m., Today)

DEADLINE: 12 p.m., Today (Thurs., 4/9)

Stephanie Ebbs at ABC News requests background information on SNAP and WIC participation and yesterday's phone call conducted by the Secretary/DUS.

RESPONSE:

Statement Attributable to USDA Secretary Perdue:
(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

What's the turnaround time right now between when someone applies and is able to access their benefits?

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Also I have to apologize but I wasn't able to be on the call for nutrition programs yesterday. Is there a recording I can access or someone's able to send so I can listen back to it?

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - Chicago Tribune re: COVID, Online Purchasing Pilot (Deadline: 3 p.m., Today)
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:23:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:20 PM
To: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - Chicago Tribune re: COVID, Online Purchasing Pilot (Deadline: 3 p.m., Today)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:12 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - Chicago Tribune re: COVID, Online Purchasing Pilot (Deadline: 3 p.m., Today)
Importance: High

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Shiela Corley
Chief of Staff
Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 703-305-2478
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:11 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - Chicago Tribune re: COVID, Online Purchasing Pilot (Deadline: 3 p.m., Today)
Importance: High

DEADLINE: 3 p.m., Today (Tues., 4/6)

Ally Marotti, a reporter at the Chicago Tribune, requests background information on whether Illinois SNAP recipients can use their benefits to buy groceries online during the pandemic. **The Chicago Tribune is a major media outlet.**

RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS
Cc:	Beatty, Shelly R - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS
Subject:	RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry -- CNN -- re. COVID, P-EBT (Deadline: 5 p.m., Today Wed., 4/8)
Date:	Wednesday, April 8, 2020 5:02:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks.

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 5:00 PM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry -- CNN -- re. COVID, P-EBT (Deadline: 5 p.m., Today Wed., 4/8)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:44 PM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry -- CNN -- re. COVID, P-EBT (Deadline: 5 p.m., Today Wed., 4/8)

+Anne and Brandon (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:40 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry -- CNN -- re. COVID, P-EBT (Deadline: 5 p.m., Today Wed., 4/8)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

DEADLINE: 5 p.m., Today (Wed., 4/8)

Tami Luhby, a reporter at CNN, has follow-up questions on Pandemic EBT. **This is a major media outlet.**

How many states have submitted Pandemic EBT plans? An advocate told me 8 states, but I want to double check.

On background:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Also, can families receive Pandemic EBT and continue to pick up school meals (where provided)?

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - LA Times re: Area Eligibility Waivers, SFSP regulations (DEADLINE: 3:00 p.m., Monday, 4/6)
Date:	Monday, April 6, 2020 2:24:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:22 PM
To: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - LA Times re: Area Eligibility Waivers, SFSP regulations (DEADLINE: 3:00 p.m., Monday, 4/6)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 1:58 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - LA Times re: Area Eligibility Waivers, SFSP regulations (DEADLINE: 3:00 p.m., Monday, 4/6)

DEADLINE: 3 p.m., Monday, 4/6

Howard Blume, a reporter with the LA Times, requests information on how schools are serving meals during COVID-19-closures, how they'll be reimbursed, and how they document them, in addition to questions about the Meals to You collaboration. **This is a major media outlet.**

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

INQUIRY:
Can school districts feed anyone (i.e. other individuals in the household that are not school aged children, or even individuals without school aged children?) And how would these meals be funded, would USDA still provide reimbursements?

RESPONSE:
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

INQUIRY: Are there any other USDA or federal programs that would allow school districts to feed everyone, including those who are not school-aged individuals.

RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY: What is the reimbursement rate for these meals?

RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY: Can school districts use these sites to feed children who are not low-income?

RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY:

To what extent do school districts need to document that only eligible students are receiving meals that are reimbursable by USDA?

RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

INQUIRY:
Where can I find detailed information about the partnership with Panera?

RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

INQUIRY: What are the meal locations for USDA's partnership with Baylor, McLane Global, PepsiCo and others?

RESPONSE:
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS
Subject: Re: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:10:44 AM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

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From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:00:31 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>

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Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

(b) (5), DPP ?

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:21 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

Should we (b) (5), DPP

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:19:44 AM
To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

(b) (5), DPP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

Jessica suggested (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:57 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

****

INQUIRY: Regarding Instacart, how can you "welcome them" but then say they aren't allowed? What is the criteria that disqualifies them, does that criteria makes sense given what the actual grocery delivery market is like and Instacart is in the situation, and why does the USDA not want to work with them directly?

RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:34 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:31 PM
To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Andrea Gold-O'Connor
Director, SNAP Retailer and Issuance Policy - RPMD
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
andrea.gold@usda.gov | 703.305.2434

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:26:52 PM
To: Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

Hello – (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 6:53 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

My edits are below. (b) (5), DPP
?

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 6:27 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

DEADLINE: 10am Thursday

Reporter Naomi Gingold of NRP is back with additional follow-up questions. **This is a major media outlet.**

INQUIRY: I see that both California and Arizona have now requested to join the snap pilot program online. How quickly do you think something like that could be implemented? And are there any hurdles to them joining?

RESPONSE:
(b) (5), DPP

INQUIRY: Regarding Instacart, how can you "welcome them" but then say they aren't allowed? What is the criteria that disqualifies them, does that criteria makes sense given what the actual grocery delivery market is like and Instacart is in the situation, and why does the USDA not want

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

to work with them directly?

RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>; FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Home Delivery (Deadline: 10:30am Tomorrow, Wednesday)

(b) (5), DPP Thank you.

INQUIRY: Why is it so hard to just put in the card number and pin and pay online like anyone else with a credit card? The technology isn't different. So why is it unavailable? (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY: Walmart will let SNAP users pay online and pick up groceries, but not use it to pay for delivery? Is it because people think poor people shouldn't be able to spend a few extra (separate) dollars to help themselves?

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY: What is the third-party processor that is able to process these transactions?

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY: When was the template for submitting an online purchasing pilot plan made available to states?

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

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INQUIRY: Why can't SNAP participants purchase Whole Foods products online via Amazon? Could Amazon easily add Whole Foods to the pilot if they wanted?

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 9:39 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Home Delivery (Deadline: 10:30am Tomorrow, Wednesday)

DEADLINE: 10:30am tomorrow

Naomi Gingold, a reporter with NPR, replied to our original response to her questions about the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot with several more inquiries. **This is a major media outlet.**
Thanks to Joe and SNAP for discussing these responses with us.

All responses are provided on background.

INQUIRY: Why is it so hard to just put in the card number and pin and pay online like anyone else with a credit card? The technology isn't different. So why is it unavailable? (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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[redacted]

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Home Delivery (Deadline: 4:00 pm, Today)

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RESPONSE

Statement from Secretary Perdue:
(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS
Subject: Re: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 7:25:55 PM

(b) (5), DPP

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From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 6:52:39 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
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(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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RESPONSE

Statement from Secretary Perdue:
(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Stagno, Laura - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS
Subject:	Re: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)
Date:	Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:25:26 AM

(b) (5)

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From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:21:20 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

(b) (5), DPP

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:28 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

Thoughts on this - (b) (5), DPP

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS

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<shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

Jessica suggested (b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:57 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
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(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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****

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RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:34 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:31 PM
To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Andrea Gold-O'Connor
Director, SNAP Retailer and Issuance Policy - RPMD

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
andrea.gold@usda.gov | 703.305.2434

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:26:52 PM
To: Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NPR re: SNAP Online Purchasing (Deadline: 10am Thursday)

Hello – Are (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Statement from Secretary Perdue:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Corley, Shiela - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - Politico re: COVID, Online Purchasing Pilot (Deadline: 2 p.m., Today)
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:05:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:01 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - Politico re: COVID, Online Purchasing Pilot (Deadline: 2 p.m., Today)

Sending to y'all for review.(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:17:32 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - Politico re: COVID, Online Purchasing Pilot (Deadline: 2 p.m., Today)

Edits below.(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:05 AM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - Politico re: COVID, Online Purchasing Pilot (Deadline: 2 p.m., Today)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

DEADLINE: 2 p.m., Today (Mon., 4/6)

Liz Crampton, a reporter at Politico, requests background information on the Online Purchasing Pilot in light of COVID-19. **Politico is a major media outlet.**

(b) (5), DPP

Does the department have participation data on the first year of SNAP online in New York? (b) (5), DPP

For states identified as participants in the pilot that have not yet rolled out programs, is there an effort to move up the launch dates?

(b) (5), DPP

Is USDA considering expanding SNAP online to states beyond the 8 in the pilot?

(b) (5), DPP

Will the department consider granting approvals to states seeking to build their own programs, like California has requested?

(b) (5), DPP

Will additional retailers be allowed to participate?

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL - New Jersey Flex (SP Draft Email)
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:43:06 PM

A few questions, please:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:55:53 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL - New Jersey Flex (SP Draft Email)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] Thanks

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL - New Jersey Flex (SP Draft Email)

Pam, attached is the NJ flex decision memo and below is the corresponding SP email. Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks, Joe

Draft SP Email

Secretary Perdue,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Interview Adjustment Waivers
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:03:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 9:37 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Interview Adjustment Waivers

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

From: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 10:57 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: State Flex - Extending All Recerts/Periodic Reports to June and Interview Adjustment letter

Pam,

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

… Jeff

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 9:27 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: State Flex - Extending All Recerts/Periodic Reports to June

Pam,

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: 4 SNAP Waivers
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 9:22:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 9:08 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: 4 SNAP Waivers

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Please let me know if there are questions, etc. Thanks!

From: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 6:53 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Additional State waiver requests

Pam,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

… Jeff

From: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 10:05 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Subject: Additional State waiver requests

Pam,

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

… Jeff

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Email addresses withheld pursuant to (b)(6) are Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

From: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: For Approval: All Employee Email
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 1:03:48 PM

Ryann,

This looks very good. Just a couple of suggestions:

(b) (5), DPP

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6)
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

From: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 12:30 PM
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Subject: FW: For Approval: All Employee Email

Sir – (b) (5), DPP

Ms. Ryann DuRant
U.S. Department of Agriculture

From: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Washington DC (b) (6) - OSEC ((b) usda.gov) <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Meghan - OC Washington DC Rodgers (meghan.rodgers@usda.gov) <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Joby - OSEC Washington DC Young (joby.young@usda.gov) <joby.young@usda.gov>; Blake - OSEC Washington DC Rollins (blake.rollins@usda.gov) <blake.rollins@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: For Approval: All Employee Email

Hi Sir – hope you are doing well (b) (5), DPP

-Ryann

Ms. Ryann DuRant
U.S. Department of Agriculture

###

Hello USDA Family,

(b) (5), DPP

.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Thank you,
Secretary Sonny

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject:	Re: FOR APPROVAL: DHDs 1 new, 3 extensions
Date:	Tuesday, May 19, 2020 7:07:47 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

(b) (5)

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 11:31:03 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: DHDs 1 new, 3 extensions

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- (b) (5), DPP
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

Pam Miller
Administrator

Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 703-305-2060
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: Media Inquiry - Politico re: COVID, Online Purchasing Pilot (Deadline: COB Today)
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 7:09:42 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 6:17:01 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Media Inquiry - Politico re: COVID, Online Purchasing Pilot (Deadline: COB Today)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:55 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - Politico re: COVID, Online Purchasing Pilot (Deadline: COB Today)

DEADLINE: COB Today
AO – (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 1:17 PM
To: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>; FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - Politico re: COVID, Online Purchasing Pilot (Deadline: 2 p.m., Today)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

DEADLINE: 2 p.m., Today (Mon., 4/6)

Liz Crampton, a reporter at Politico, requests background information on the Online Purchasing Pilot in light of COVID-19. **Politico is a major media outlet.**

On Background:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Does the department have participation data on the first year of SNAP online in New York? (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

For states identified as participants in the pilot that have not yet rolled out programs, is there an effort to move up the launch dates?

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Is USDA considering expanding SNAP online to states beyond the 8 in the pilot?

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Will the department consider granting approvals to states seeking to build their own programs, like California has requested?

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Will additional retailers be allowed to participate?

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:05 AM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - Politico re: COVID, Online Purchasing Pilot (Deadline: 2 p.m., Today)

DEADLINE: 2 p.m., Today (Mon., 4/6)

Liz Crampton, a reporter at Politico, requests background information on the Online Purchasing Pilot in light of COVID-19. **Politico is a major media outlet.**

On Background:

Does the department have participation data on the first year of SNAP online in New York? (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

For states identified as participants in the pilot that have not yet rolled out programs, is there an effort to move up the launch dates?

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Is USDA considering expanding SNAP online to states beyond the 8 in the pilot?

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Will the department consider granting approvals to states seeking to build their own programs, like California has requested?

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Will additional retailers be allowed to participate?

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: WA Good Cause SSN Approval
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 7:13:22 AM

(b) (5), DPP

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:58:56 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: WA Good Cause SSN Approval

(b) (5), DPP
? Please let me know. Thanks

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 3:39 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: WAIVER APPROVAL: WA Good Cause SSN Approval

Pam, (b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: Re: FOR CONCURRENCE: Treasury Guidance on Suspension of Debt Collection
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 1:40:59 PM

(b) (5), DPP

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 1:31:49 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR CONCURRENCE: Treasury Guidance on Suspension of Debt Collection

Thanks – (b) (5), DPP ?

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR CONCURRENCE: Treasury Guidance on Suspension of Debt Collection

(b) (5), DPP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 10:50 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR CONCURRENCE: Treasury Guidance on Suspension of Debt Collection

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:32 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS
Cc: Owens, Tameka - FNS; Harmon-Darby, Felicia - FNS; Bishop, Rachel - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Pitulej, Robert - FNS; Evans, Gregg - FNS; Greenwood, Lisa - FNS; Garcia, Jon - FNS
Subject: Treasury Guidance on Suspension of Debt Collection

Pam –

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

I recommend that (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

My Team and I are happy to discuss.

David

David G. Burr

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Chief Financial Officer
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
David.Burr@usda.gov
703.305.2191

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: FOR EDITS ASAP: SP Thank you Email to All Employees
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 3:57:00 PM

(b) (5)

From: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 3:51 PM
To: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC <David.Wu@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: FOR EDITS ASAP: SP Thank you Email to All Employees

(b) (5), DPP .

Maureen Gardner
Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6)

From: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 3:32 PM
To: Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC <David.Wu@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR EDITS ASAP: SP Thank you Email to All Employees

(b) (5), DPP

###

Hello USDA Family,

(b) (5), DPP

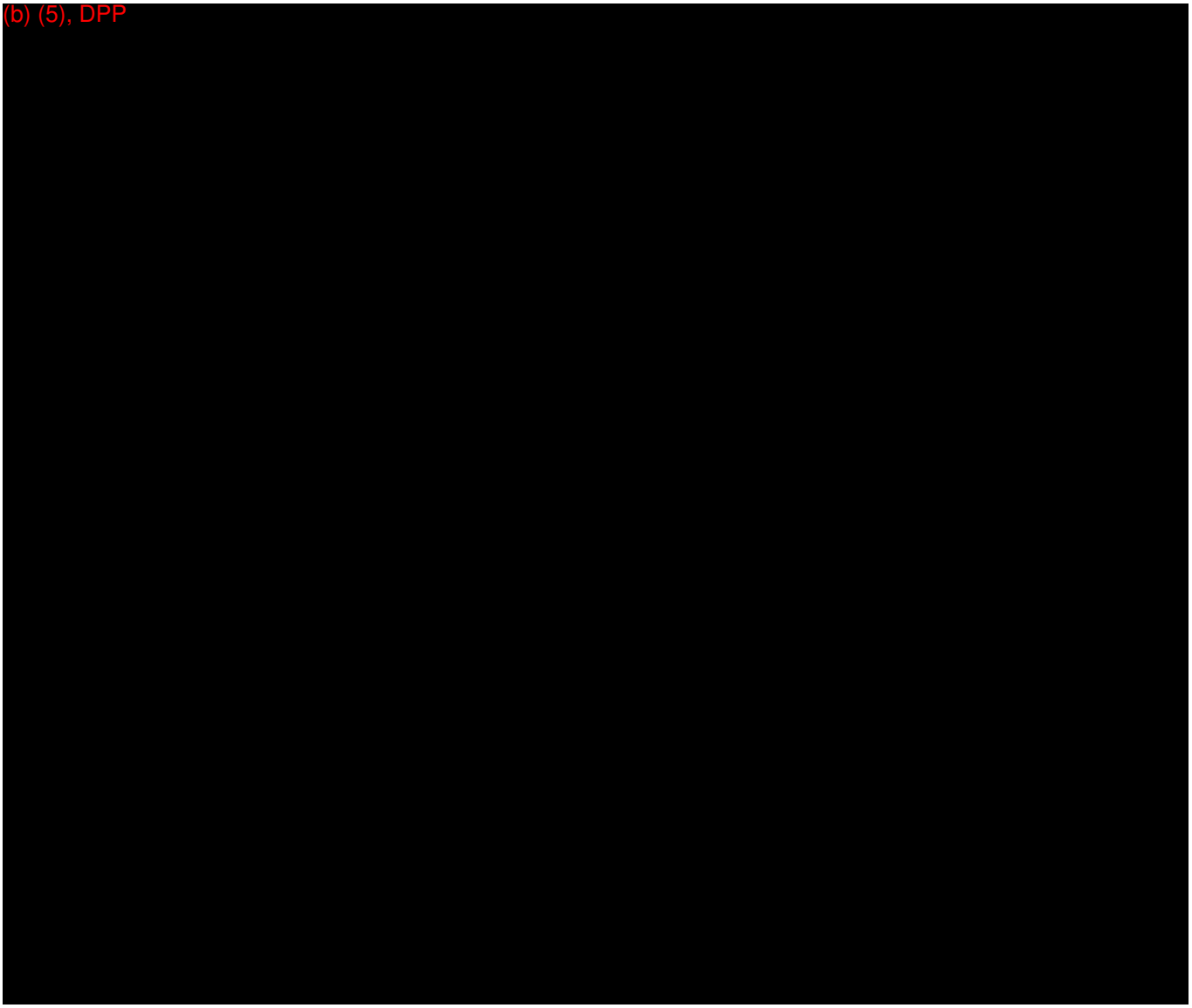
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



Thank you,
Secretary Sonny

Ms. Ryann DuRant
U.S. Department of Agriculture

From: Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 3:05 PM
To: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC <David.Wu@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR EDITS ASAP: SP Thank you Email to All Employees

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Ryann- language included below:

All- please edit as you see fit. (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Kiki Adams
Office of the Deputy Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:10 PM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC <David.Wu@usda.gov>
Cc: Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: FOR EDITS ASAP: SP Thank you Email to All Employees

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Maureen Gardner
Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture

Cell: (b) (6)

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 1:47 PM
To: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC <David.Wu@usda.gov>
Cc: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR EDITS ASAP: SP Thank you Email to All Employees

A few thoughts

- (b) (5), DPP
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

From: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 1:08 PM
To: Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC <David.Wu@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR EDITS ASAP: SP Thank you Email to All Employees

David and Kailee –

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

###

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hello USDA Family,

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Thank you,
Secretary Sonny

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: FOR EDITS: SP Email to All Employees
Date:	Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:23:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR EDITS: SP Email to All Employees

Thanks! (b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

Ms. Ryann DuRant
U.S. Department of Agriculture

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:05 AM
To: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: FOR EDITS: SP Email to All Employees

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Get Outlook for iOS

From: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 10:50:37 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR EDITS: SP Email to All Employees

Hey guys – (b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

###

Hello USDA Family,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Thank you,
Secretary Sonny

Ms. Ryann DuRant
U.S. Department of Agriculture

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: FOR EDITS: SP Email to All Employees
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:51:39 AM

(b) (5), DPP

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:23:56 AM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FOR EDITS: SP Email to All Employees

(b) (5), DPP

Ms. Ryann DuRant
U.S. Department of Agriculture

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:05 AM
To: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: FOR EDITS: SP Email to All Employees

(b) (5), DPP

Get Outlook for iOS

From: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 10:50:37 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR EDITS: SP Email to All Employees

Hey guys – (b) (5), DPP ?

###

Hello USDA Family,

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Thank you,
Secretary Sonny

Ms. Ryann DuRant
U.S. Department of Agriculture

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: For review: FNS talking points on Federal Nutrition Assistance
Date: Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:57:21 PM

(b) (5), DPP

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:37:54 PM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: For review: FNS talking points on Federal Nutrition Assistance

(b) (5), DPP

Thanks,
Dirk

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:35 PM
To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: For review: FNS talking points on Federal Nutrition Assistance

One edit – (b) (5), DPP ?

Reb

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Email address withheld is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: Mission Area Contingency Plans
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 10:20:00 AM
Attachments: USDA COVID19 planning 031320.docx

(b) (5), DPP

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 10:37 PM
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Cc: Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Mission Area Contingency Plans

Sir:

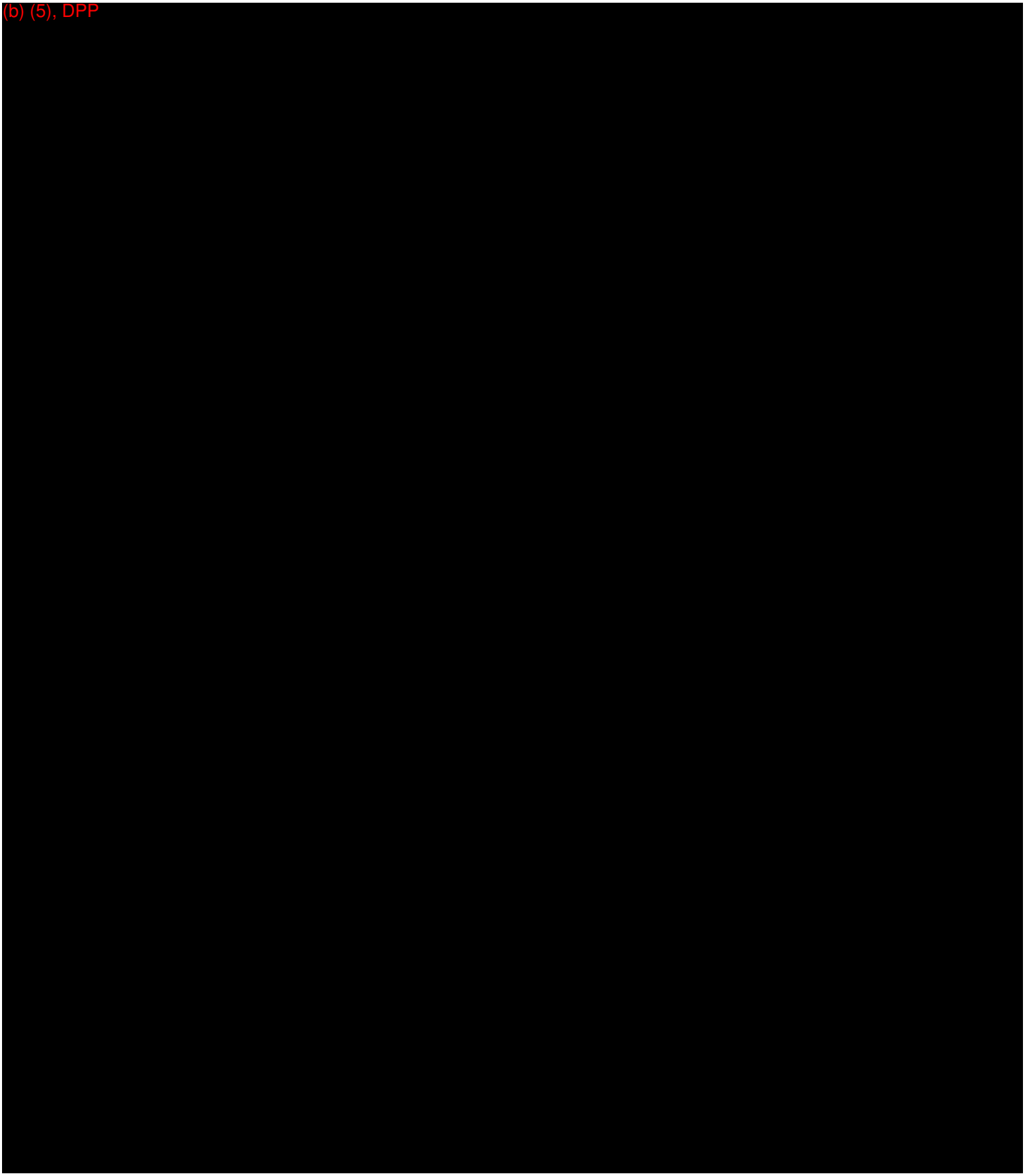
(b) (5), DPP

Thanks,
Kailee

Kailee M. Tkacz

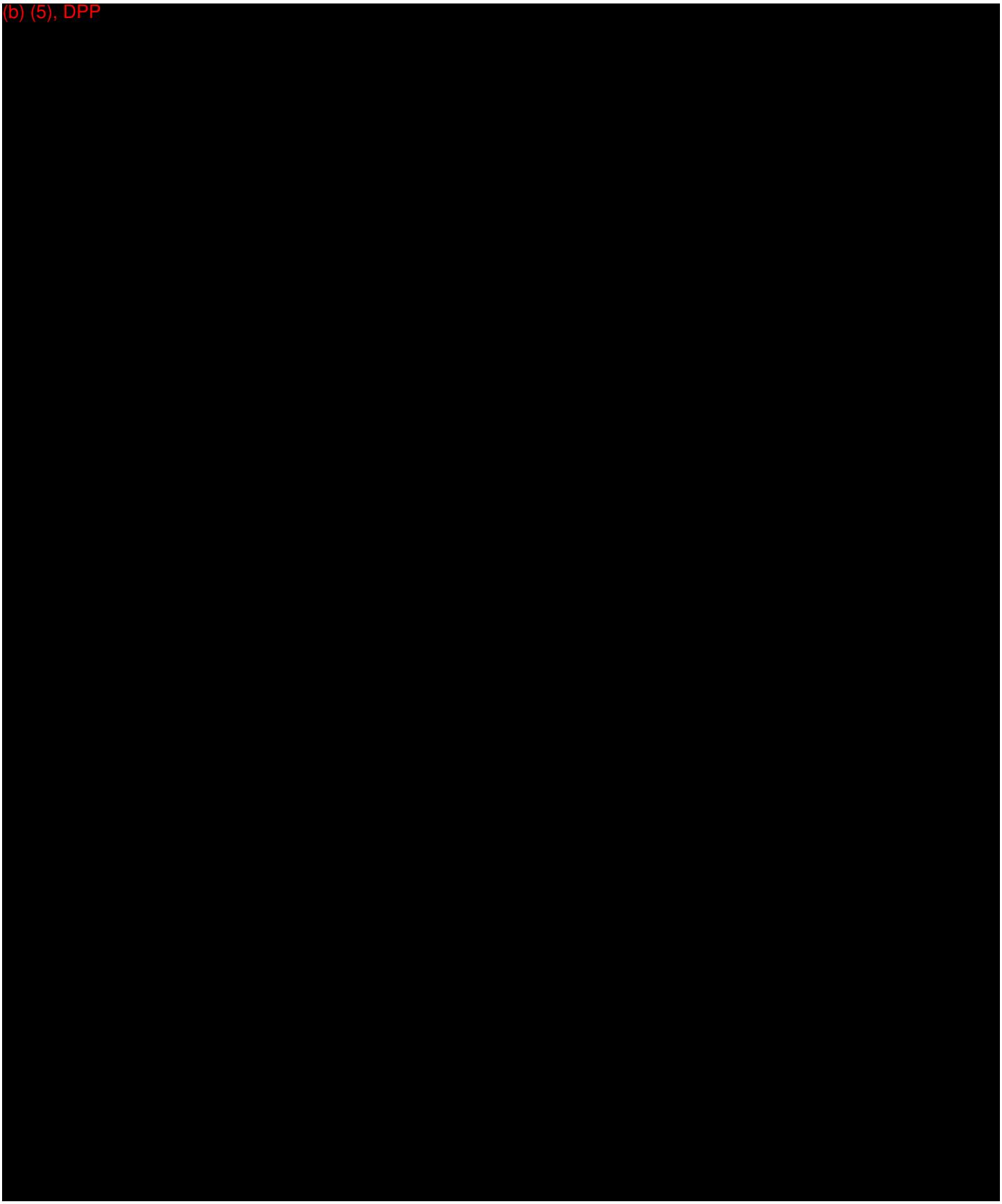
Chief of Staff to Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky
United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

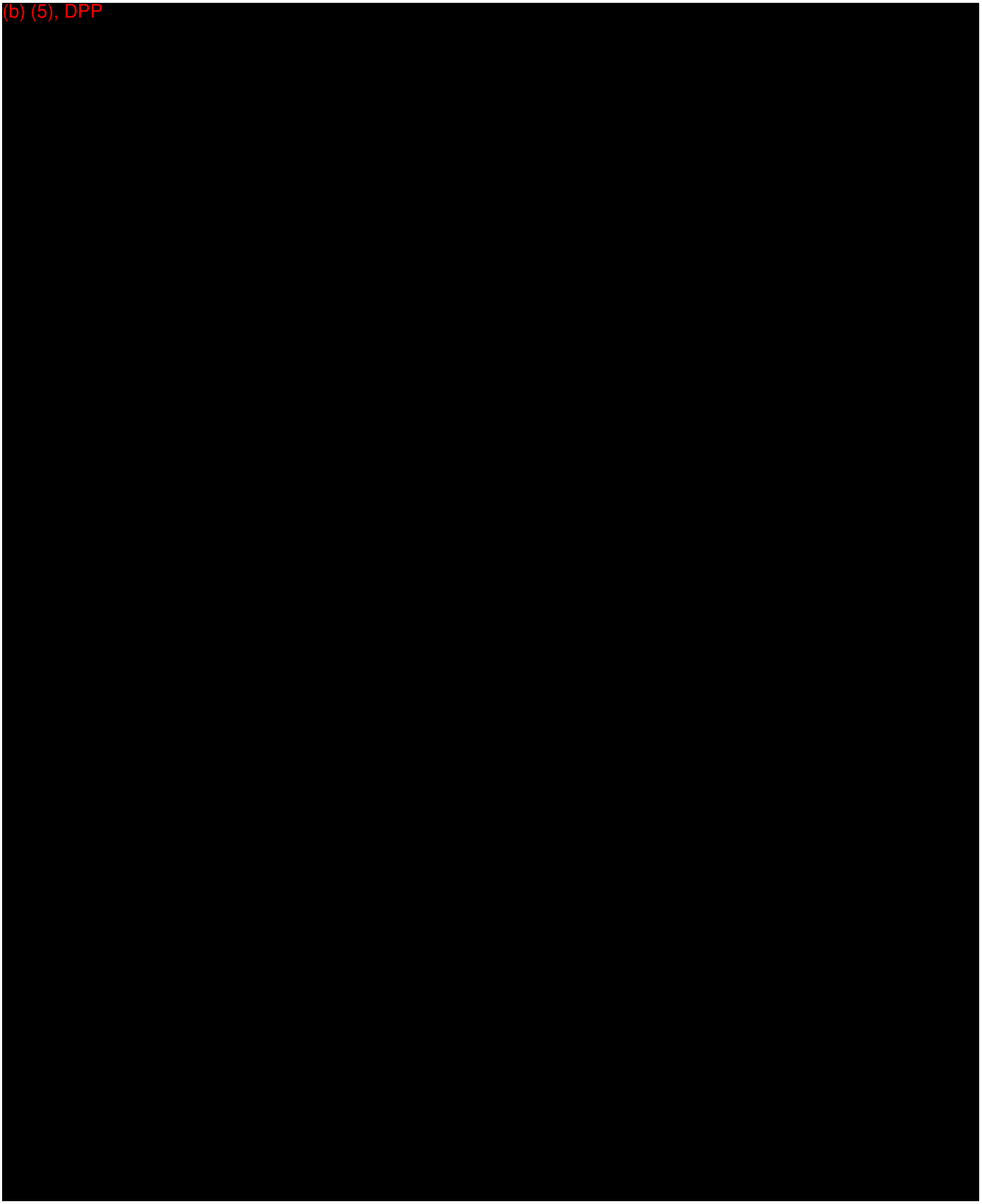


AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

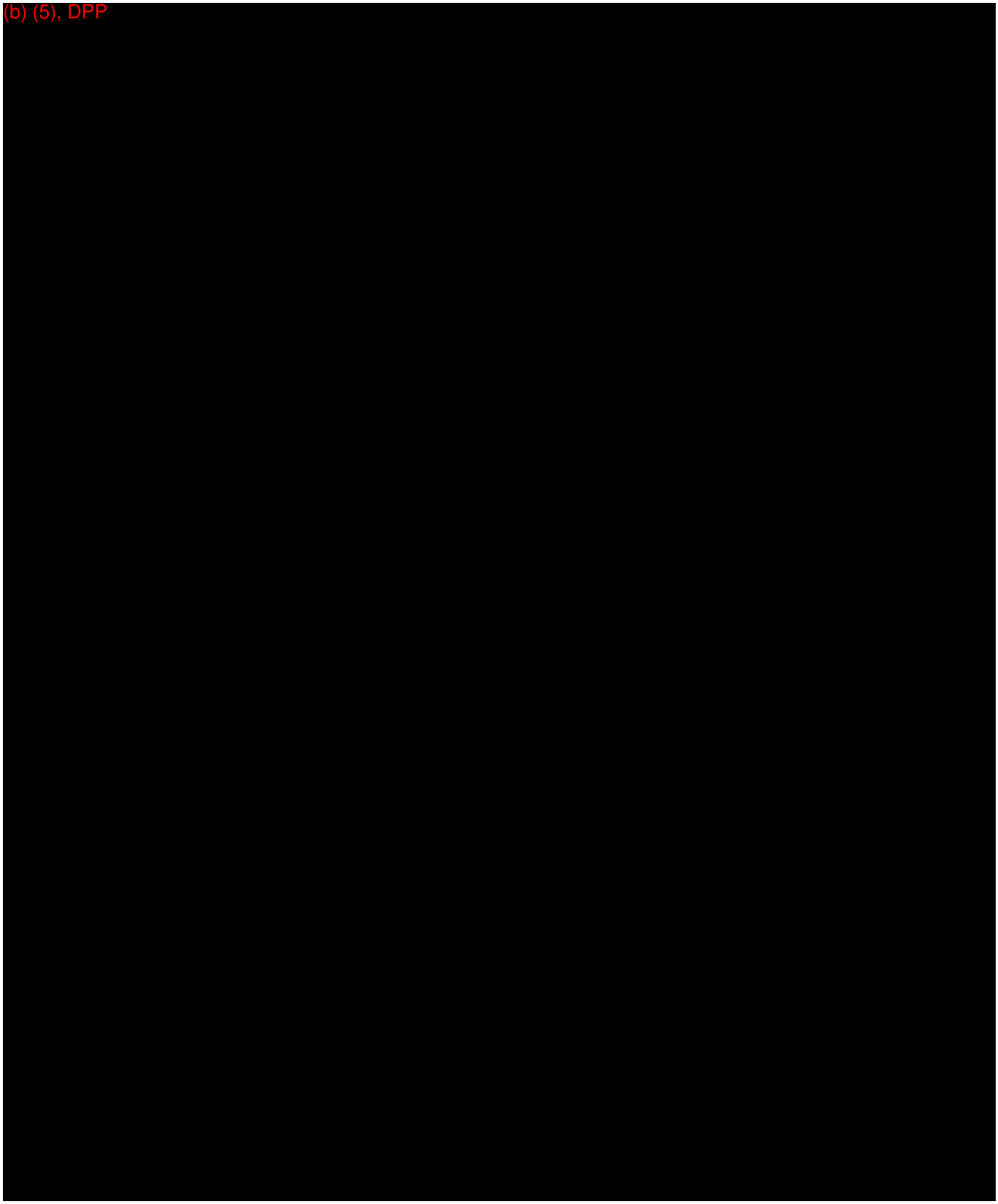


AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

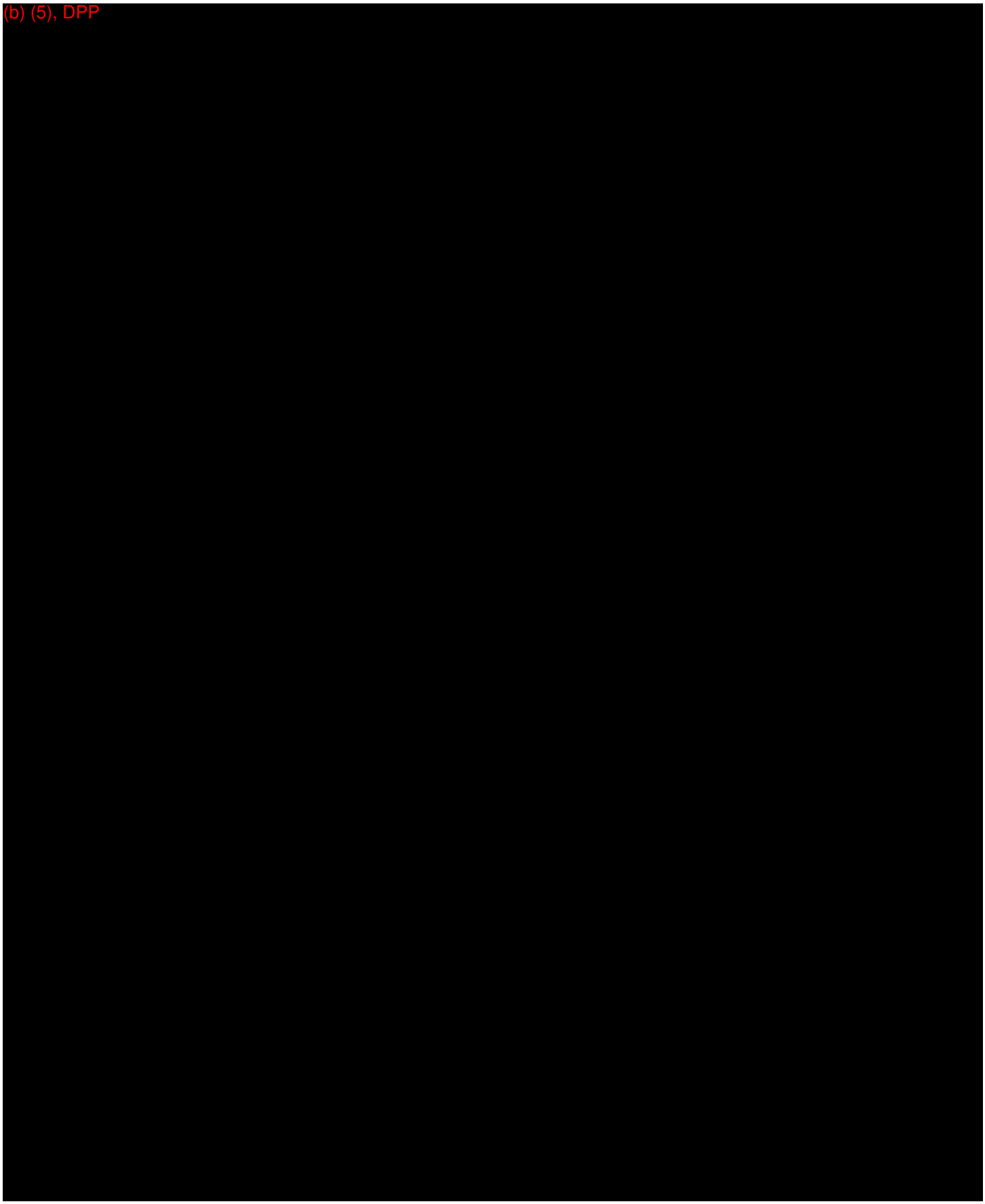


AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS
Subject: RE: For Review: SNAP Items - 4/22 @ 9 AM
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:32:00 AM

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:19 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: For Review: SNAP Items - 4/22 @ 9 AM

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- (b) (5), DPP
- [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

703-402-7158

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: For senior advisor meeting
Date: Friday, May 8, 2020 5:52:48 PM

(b) (5), DPP

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 4:51:55 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: For senior advisor meeting

(b) (5), DPP ?

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 2:50:31 PM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: For senior advisor meeting

Can you send link?

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 11:04:10 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>
Subject: For senior advisor meeting

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Get Outlook for iOS

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:32:00 AM
Attachments: image005.png
image006.png
image007.png
image008.png
image009.png
image010.png

Zach just sent me the fudge letter, thank you. I now have all 3 and will send to hill thanks.

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Do you need Conaway as well?

Wes

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Sent it your way!

Zach Jacobs
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
<Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:28 AM
To: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Do we have a signed letter for Rep Fudge? I have still not sent to the hill because I don't have that one yet. Thanks.

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

The signed letter for McGovern is attached.

From: Lindsey, Adrian - OES, Washington, DC <adrian.lindsey@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Hey Hailey and Wesley,

Please see the attached for the McGovern letter with enclosure.

Best Regards,

Adrian D. Lindsey
Branch Chief, Correspondence Management Division
Office of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Whitten Building, Room 116-A
Washington, D.C. 20250
Office: 202-720-1565
Adrian.Lindsey@usda.gov

OES Connect Correspondence Resource: **HERE**
PLEASE RATE MY CUSTOMER SERVICE: HERE

From: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Lindsey, Adrian - OES, Washington, DC <adrian.lindsey@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

This is the McGovern version. Please autopen ASAP. Thank you!!

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Lindsey, Adrian - OES, Washington, DC <adrian.lindsey@usda.gov>; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Hailey and Adrian,

Please see Fudge/McGovern Letter for McGovern. Thank you!

Wes

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:20 PM
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Yes.

Wes, please put that together and send to OES.

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:19 PM
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Anne do you need a McGovern letter too?

Hailey Ghee

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-450-9387

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:18:12 PM
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

This looks great, Hailey!

Thank you

Zach Jacobs
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:17 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Let me know your thoughts.

Hailey Ghee
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-450-9387

From: Lindsey, Adrian - OES, Washington, DC <adrian.lindsey@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:15:21 PM
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Hey Hailey,

Please see the attached for the Fudge letter and the attached form. There was not a McGovern Letter in the Word document, do you need us to produce one?

Best Regards,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Adrian D. Lindsey
Branch Chief, Correspondence Management Division
Office of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Whitten Building, Room 116-A
Washington, D.C. 20250
Office: 202-720-1565
Adrian.Lindsey@usda.gov

OES Connect Correspondence Resource: **HERE**
PLEASE RATE MY CUSTOMER SERVICE: HERE

From: Lindsey, Adrian - OES, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Hey Hailey,

Almost done, we're placing the letters on letterhead, and then I will provide the signature.

Best Regards,

Adrian D. Lindsey
Branch Chief, Correspondence Management Division
Office of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Whitten Building, Room 116-A
Washington, D.C. 20250
Office: 202-720-1565
Adrian.Lindsey@usda.gov

OES Connect Correspondence Resource: **HERE**
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From: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Lindsey, Adrian - OES, Washington, DC <adrian.lindsey@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

How's it coming? :)

Hailey Ghee
Special Assistant to the Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-450-9387

From: Lindsey, Adrian - OES, Washington, DC <adrian.lindsey@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:40:19 PM
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Hey Hailey,

Will do and no problem!

Best Regards,

Adrian D. Lindsey
Branch Chief, Correspondence Management Division
Office of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Whitten Building, Room 116-A
Washington, D.C. 20250
Office: 202-720-1565
Adrian.Lindsey@usda.gov

OES Connect Correspondence Resource: **HERE**
PLEASE RATE MY CUSTOMER SERVICE: HERE

From: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:36 PM
To: Lindsey, Adrian - OES, Washington, DC <adrian.lindsey@usda.gov>; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Adrian, please autopen ASAP and send me a PDF. Thank you so much for your hard work!

Hailey Ghee
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-450-9387

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:34:51 PM
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Hey Hailey,

Here are the two drafts for autopen. One is labeled "FNCS Fudge and McGovern" and the other is "FNCS Conaway". The last item is an attachment of the template we have been sending to States that is requested in the data call. This needs to accompany the letters going out.

Thank you, and let me know if you have any questions!

Best,

Wes

From: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:17 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

We will get it out now. I was send you the signed PDF.

Hailey Ghee
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-450-9387

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:15:16 PM
To: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Cc: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Any update on this letter? We are getting hit from multiple sides and would like to get it out. Thanks!

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Cc: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

We are ready to do a hill notification on a related matter and want to send at the same time as the letter. When can we expect the McGovern/Fudge and Conaway letters to be ready?

Thanks!

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 1:16 PM
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Cc: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Thanks Zach! (b) (5), DPP [redacted]. I sent an email in that one earlier.

Thank you!

Wes

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From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 12:25:18 PM
To: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Cc: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

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Okay, forwarded the batch minus Conaway, I will wait on your language, thanks Wes!

Zach Jacobs
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC
<wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 11:06 AM
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Cc: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Just sent, but (b) (5), DPP [redacted].

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 11:00 AM
To: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Cc: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Hey Wes,

I have the Conaway letter in a batch to send once I get the PA Language it is ready to go!

Zach Jacobs
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC
<wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 10:35 AM
To: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Hey Noah and Zach,

Please see attached letter to enter into the clearance process. (b) (5), DPP

Thank you!

Wes

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 9:48 PM
To: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

I think (b) (5), DPP

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 4:57 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

Good Afternoon Everyone,

(b) (5), DPP

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Thank you!

Wes

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:32 PM
To: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

(b) (5), DPP [redacted].

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:12 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS
Cc: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fudge and McGovern letter on snap online pilot

From: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:10 PM
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lester, Susan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC

From: Shropshire, Saundrea <Saundrea.Shropshire@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:51 PM
To: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Cc: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Garrison, Eyang <Eyang.Garrison@mail.house.gov>
Subject: USDA Online SNAP Letter

To Whom it May Concern,

Please see the attached letter from Rep. McGovern and Rep. Fudge regarding USDA's

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implementation of online SNAP during the COIVID-19 Pandemic.

Saundrea "Drea" Rupert-Shropshire| Senior Legislative Assistant |She/Her
408 Cannon HOB| 202-225-6101



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps Brandon - OSEC Washington DC
To: Cohen Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; DeCesaro Anne - OSEC Washington DC; Miller Pam - FNS
Cc: Corley Shiela - FNS; Tvrdy Joe - FNS
Subject: RE: FYSA: RE: Updated: Duckworth call
Date: Monday March 30 2020 4:46:00 PM

Thanks. Call went fine. Only focused (b) (5) DPP ?

From: Cohen Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday March 30 2020 4:32 PM
To: Lipps Brandon - OSEC Washington DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro Anne - OSEC Washington DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FYSA: RE: Updated: Duckworth call

(b) (5), DPP

From: Lipps Brandon - OSEC Washington DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday March 30 2020 4:24 PM
To: Cohen Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro Anne - OSEC Washington DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FYSA: RE: Updated: Duckworth call

Thanks Jeff..

Quickly do you have any info on these two?

(b) (5), DPP

From: Cohen Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday March 30 2020 4:21 PM
To: Lipps Brandon - OSEC Washington DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro Anne - OSEC Washington DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FYSA: RE: Updated: Duckworth call
Importance: High

(b) (5), DPP

... Jeff

From: Corley Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday March 30 2020 4:04 PM
To: Tvrdy Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Cohen Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FYSA: RE: Updated: Duckworth call
Importance: High

Shiela Corley
Chief of Staff
Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 703-305-2478
Cell: (b)

From: Lipps Brandon - OSEC Washington DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday March 30 2020 3:56 PM
To: Miller Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro Anne - OSEC Washington DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FYSA: RE: Updated: Duckworth call

I'm talking to Duckworth at 4:30. Any update on these?

From: Lipps Brandon - OSEC Washington DC
Sent: Monday March 30 2020 2:25 PM
To: Miller Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro Anne - OSEC Washington DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FYSA: RE: Updated: Duckworth call

(b) (5) DPP

From: English Tim - FNS <tim.english@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday March 30 2020 2:04 PM
To: DeCesaro Anne - OSEC Washington DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Long Cindy - FNS <cindy.long@usda.gov>; Datlow Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Tvrdy Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Lipps Brandon - OSEC Washington DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Solis Patricia - FNS <patricia.solis@usda.gov>; Mikkelson Julie - FNS <julie.m.kkelson@usda.gov>; Fletcher Vista - FNS <vista.fletcher@usda.gov>; Shannon Alan - FNS <alan.shannon@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FYSA: RE: Updated: Duckworth call

Additional Program Updates:

(b) (5), DPP

We also have two **hot topics**:

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[redacted]

State	Area	Waiver or Request	RO Received	Submitted to NO	Approved	Approval Sent to State	Notes
Illinois	ABAWD	Waive **ABAWD time limits** statewide beginning April 1 2020 through September 30 2020 due to COVID-19	3/16/2020	3/16/2020	Yes	3/20/2020	See FNS letter to State agencies on Families First Coronavirus Response Act and Impact on Time Limit for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs)
[redacted]							
Illinois	Cert	**Extend SNAP certification periods** with expiration dates of 4/2020 through 6/2020 by six months.	3/16/2020	3/16/2020	Yes	3/20/2020	Approved to extend certification periods and the suspension of reporting requirements for recertification and periodic reports due in March April and May 2020.
Illinois	Cert	Waive recording of **telephonic signature**	3/27/2020	3/27/2020	Yes	3/27/2020	
[redacted]							

Tim English
Regional Administrator
Midwest Region
Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Tim.English@USDA.gov
Office: 312-353-6664
Cell: (b)

From: English Tim - FNS
Sent: Monday March 30 2020 8:57 AM
To: DeCesaro Anne - OSEC Washington DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Long Cindy - FNS <cindy.long@usda.gov>; Datlow Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Tvrdy Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Lipps Brandon - OSEC Washington DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Solis Patricia - FNS <patricia.solis@usda.gov>
Subject: FYSA: RE: Updated: Duckworth call

[redacted]

Tim English
Regional Administrator
Midwest Region
Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Tim.English@USDA.gov
Office: 312-353-6664
Cell: (b)

From: DeCesaro Anne - OSEC Washington DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday March 29 2020 9:41 AM
To: English Tim - FNS <tim.english@usda.gov>; Miller Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Long Cindy - FNS <cindy.long@usda.gov>; Datlow Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Tvrdy Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Lipps Brandon - OSEC Washington DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Updated: Duckworth call

Brandon will be speaking with Sen. Duckworth at 430 pm eastern time on Monday.

[redacted]

Thank you!

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject: RE: general question
Date: Thursday, April 30, 2020 7:05:00 PM

Thank you!

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 6:06 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: general question

See below, thanks!

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: general question

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] hanks!

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From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:07:04 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: general question

Hi Veronica,

Do you want (b) (5), DPP [redacted] Thanks.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 3:34 PM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Subject: general question

Joe, Lindsay, Yasmin, Laura.

Can you help me (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks!

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Hearing Notes: House Agriculture Committee – State of the Rural Economy
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 9:00:00 PM
Attachments: hearing questions SP House Ag Auth.03.04.20.docx
image001.png

Thanks for sharing. she did great work!

Here's what I sent to the OCR team with highlighted get backs on specific questions, for your awareness.

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 6:43 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Hearing Notes: House Agriculture Committee – State of the Rural Economy

FYI. Ashley took the initiative to put this together. Very helpful.

From: Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 6:23 PM
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Subject: Hearing Notes: House Agriculture Committee – State of the Rural Economy

Hi everyone,

Congrats on making it through the hearing today (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks for being a great team to work with/for!

Ashley

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Ashley Smith

Confidential Assistant
Office of the Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-3631
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

House Agriculture Committee
Hearing "The State of the Rural Economy"
March 4, 2020

OPENING

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

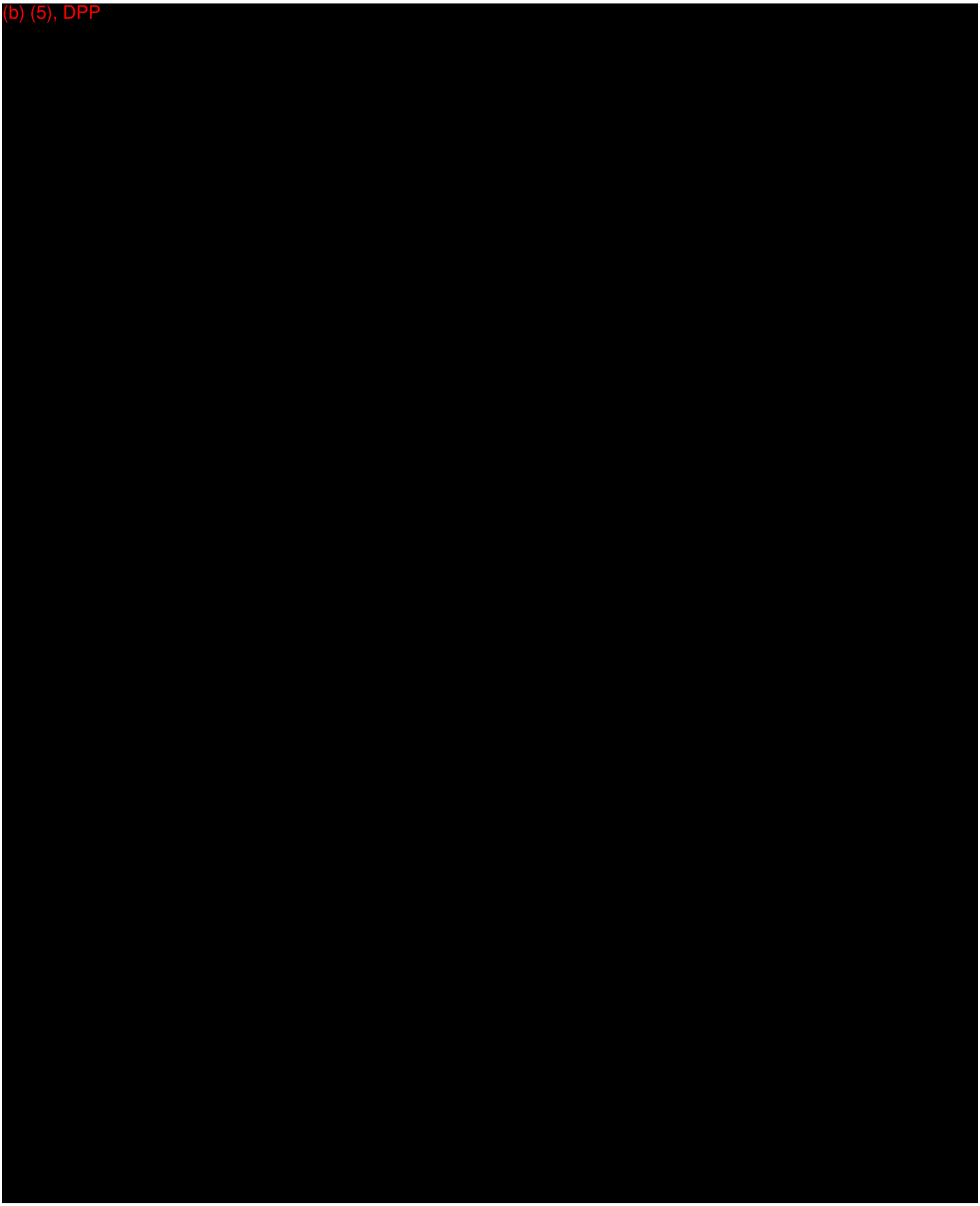
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(b) (5), DPP

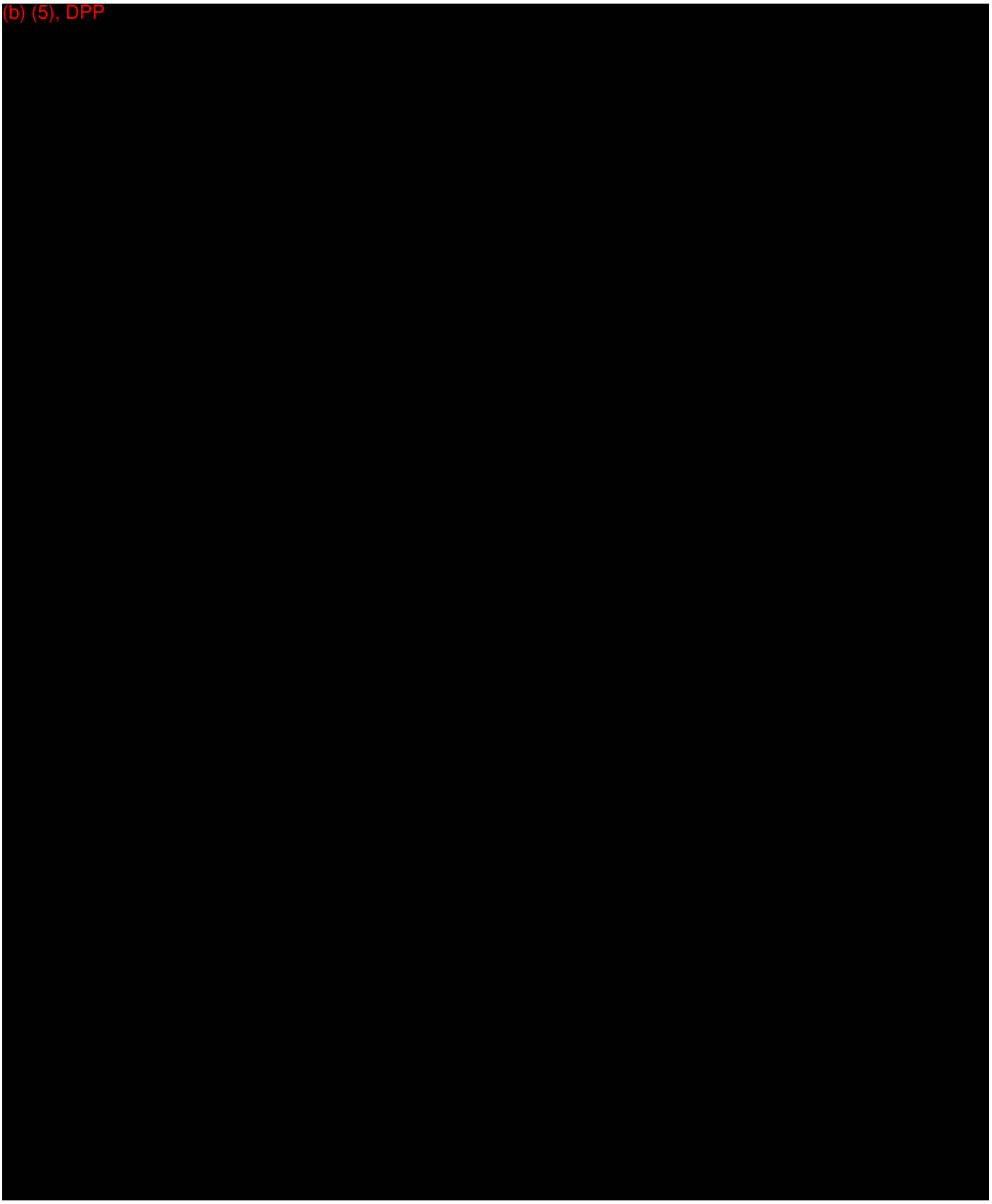
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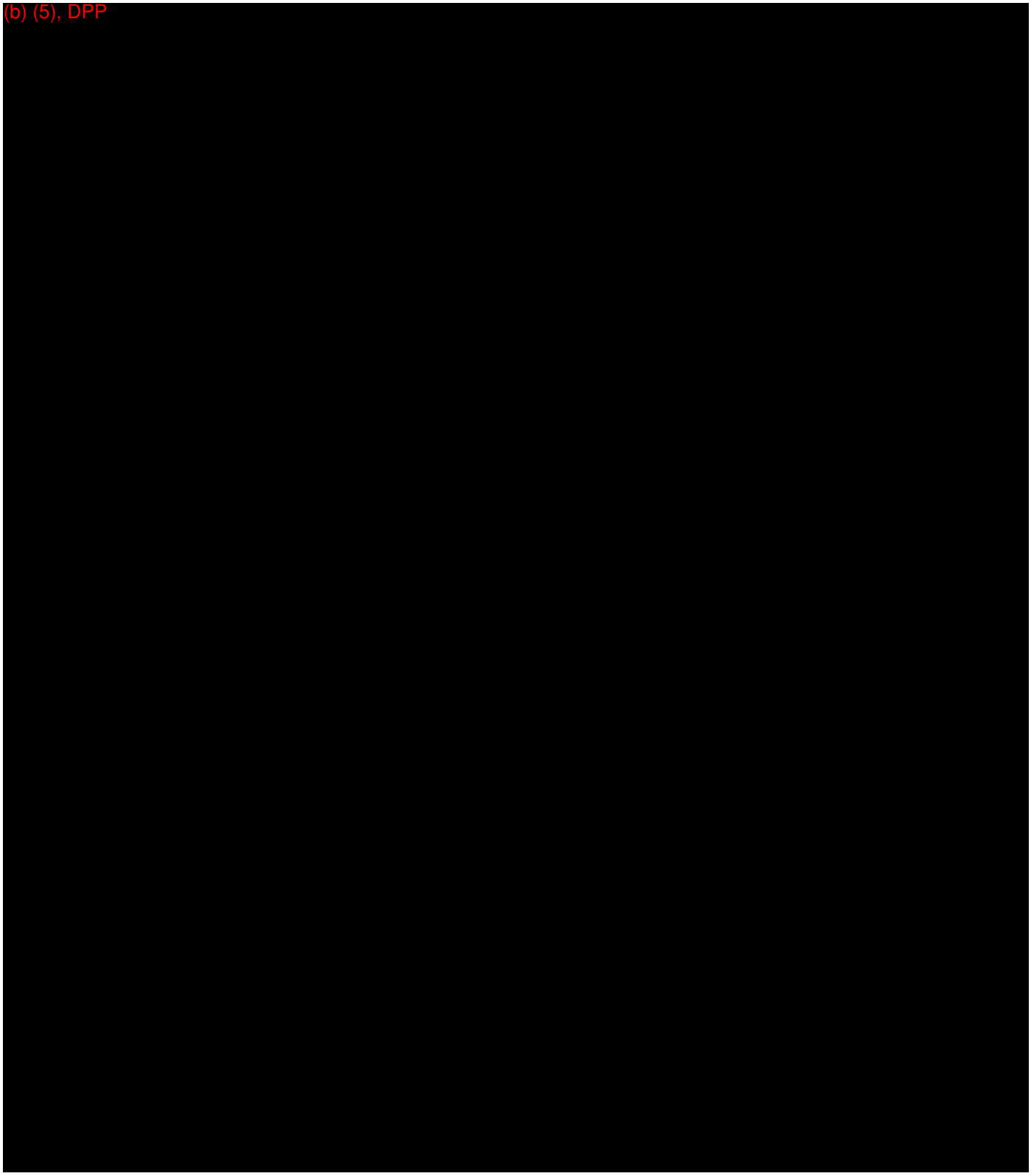
(b) (5), DPP



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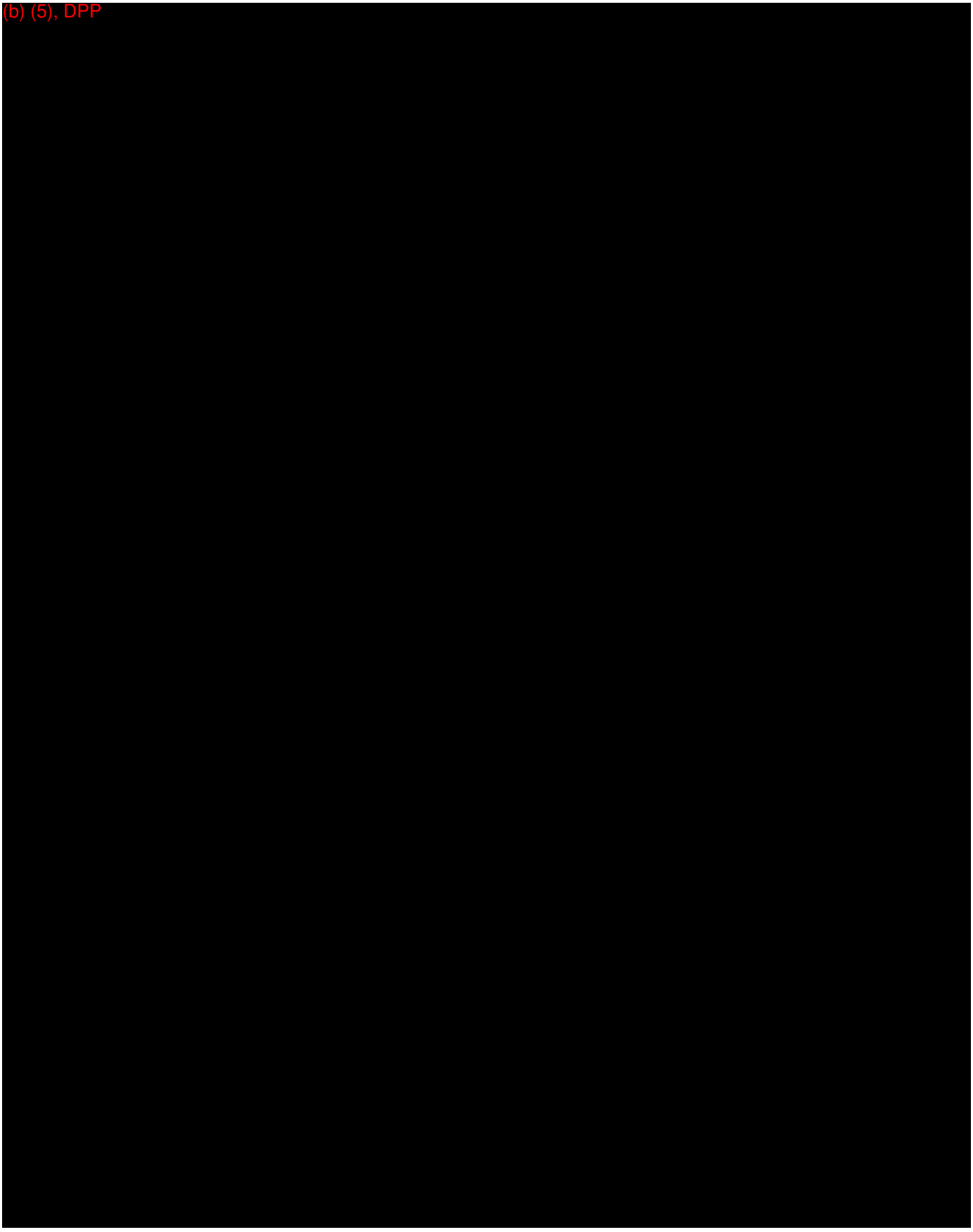


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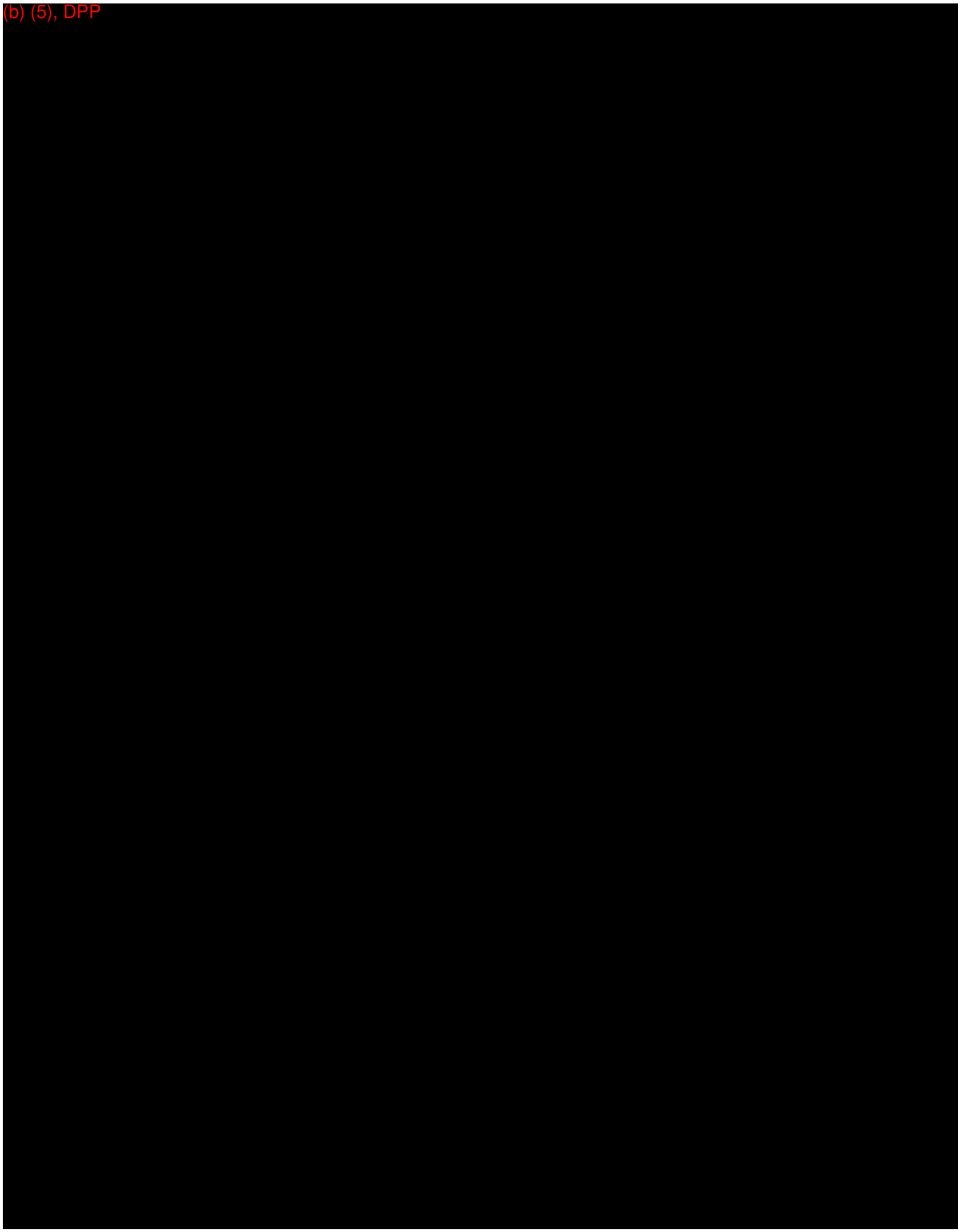


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(b) (5), DPP



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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: high level talking points--COVID FNS response
Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 1:59:00 PM

We did not receive, but thanks for sharing!

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: high level talking points--COVID FNS response

Not sure if I already sent these, but a high level overview of what we have done in FNCS are below for dep sec.

Highlights:

- (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS
Subject: RE: Hill Notice for Tomorrow- extending comment period on E&T
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 8:29:00 AM

The hill has been notified. Thank you.

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 5:35 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Hill Notice for Tomorrow- extending comment period on E&T
Importance: High

Hi Veronica,

We are extending the comment period for the E&T proposed rule (similar to what we did for the 2 CN rules, but no press release for this one). Could you please notify the hill tomorrow? The notice will officially publish Monday with public inspection tomorrow at 8:45 am. Below is a draft notice. Thanks and let me know if you have any questions.

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Laura Stagno
Confidential Assistant
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Office: 703-305-7464
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: Re: HILL NOTIFICATION DRAFT: SNAP Flexibility on QC Interview Requirements Granted Today All States for March, April, and May
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 3:52:48 PM

Thanks. Will (b) (5), DPP ?

(b) (5), DPP ?

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From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 3:49 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: HILL NOTIFICATION DRAFT: SNAP Flexibility on QC Interview Requirements Granted Today All States for March, April, and May

Veronica, below is a draft hill notification for the QC In Person Interview Flexibility that went out today. Sorry for the lack of advanced notice. Let me know if you have any questions. (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: James Kelly
Cc: James Kelly
Subject: Re: Holy Week
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020 8:40:17 AM

Jim -

Thank you for the kind note. I apologize for the delayed reply. Life has been pretty crazy as you might imagine. Our 4 kids are ready to go somewhere! And work has continued to bring both new and increased workload. Thankfully, as you know, we have an amazing, dedicated team at FNS.

I hope you are staying well. As your email notes, I can only imagine the difficulties that many young people will struggle with during this time and the increase you will likely see at Covenant House. I am thankful for what you and your team do, and the faith that you show to these young people. I am prayerful they many will come to recognize the source of true hope during this difficult time.

In the back of my mind through all of this continues to be employment and training. As the media talks about the number of new snap applications and unemployment applications, I want to know how we can help these folks return to employment and the many benefits it brings. When you have time, I would like to request your thoughts on 2 things, regarding capacity in serving our larger SNAP population with E&T:

(1) If you were not currently an E&T provider, what would most incentivize you to join us in this great work?

(2) As a current E&T provider, what could most help you serve more individuals?

I want our services always to be quality over quantity, and if you feel like you have found that spot, I do not suggest you should expand. The questions are more theoretical as I think broadly about expanding capacity. And feel free to think outside the box about both things the federal government could provide and things others could provide. I expect that many of the new snap recipients are on furlough and will be able to return quickly to their prior jobs. But, I also expect that many sectors of our economy are changing and the reality is skills that were in demand yesterday won't be tomorrow, or at least they may be in demand by a new employer. E&T can help in either case.

Our Covenant House expansion is still top of my list! We should even consider whether we should
host the conference virtually when things calm down a bit, or wait until interstate travel is comes back.

Thanks for your work.

Regards,
Brandon

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: James Kelly (b) (6) @covenanthouse.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:52:43 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: James Kelly (b) (6) @covenanthouse.org>
Subject: Holy Week

Brandon,
Praying you, your family, and your team are all well
Thanks for everything you are doing to feed the poor and vulnerable of our nation. I cannot imagine what life is like for you.
Due to the aberrant behavior that accompanies a crisis like COVID-19, we expect to be caring for 33% - 50% more youth. As you mentioned last month, the SNAP E & T program will become even more critical in the months and years ahead. We have long been dependent on the hospitality industry to hire our young people. Experts are now predicting that the industry -- travel, hotels, restaurants -- will be one of the last to come back.
Thinking and praying for you this holiest of weeks.
Peace,
Jim



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Melissa

Holy Week, 2020

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. *Isaiah 45:5*

ALL of our kids are good, and brave, and beautiful. Melissa is no exception. The product of an abusive home, she had a cruel and unfair childhood.

"My parents used to whup me, something fierce."

Bouncing around between relatives, she felt abandoned, unwanted… and hopeless.

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"Finally, when I turned 15, I became emancipated. I was on my own."

One night, Melissa met a "really nice guy" at a bar. He listened to her. He seemed to care.

"When I wasn't looking, he put a 'mickey' in my margarita."

It was that simple. That's how Melissa was lured into sex trafficking.

"He kept me on drugs, 24 hours a day. He sold me to one man after another, after another…"

Melissa said they moved around a lot. Those days are hazy – she has a hard time remembering.

"I couldn't even tell you, I was so out of it."

Somehow, after two years, Melissa escaped. But without the drugs, she soon went into serious withdrawal. Violently sick, she was taken to the hospital.

"In a few days, I stabilized enough to go into rehab. After a month, they called Miss Sheri."

Sheri leads our Human Trafficking team. There is no one you would rather have in your corner.

"Sheri gives me my suboxone. Thankfully, we're cutting back – a little bit each week."

Like most of the young people in our care, Melissa lost her job due to the Coronavirus. Covenant House stepped in, enrolling her in our new on-the-job mentoring & training program.

"Now I'm a trainee, working with Miss Pertina to keep Covenant House clean – germ free."

Melissa is doing well with housekeeping, but she ultimately wants to get a degree in counseling. She wants to help trafficking survivors, like herself.

"I want to be like Miss Sheri… I would be dead if it wasn't for her."

Every Good Friday is followed by an Easter.

I asked Melissa one last question: "When you were being drugged and raped, night after night. Did you get mad at God?" She looked at me quizzically.

"No… sometimes when the drugs were wearing thin, I would wake up

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1 of 1
USDA-20-1045-A-001610

and pray: please God save me. In the end, He did."

For Melissa to have such profound faith – despite everything – is truly astounding.

In this holiest of weeks, far too many will die due to COVID-19. Almost all of us will be touched by the pain and loss of a colleague, a friend, and possibly even a family member.

Today, for the first time, we are seeing a glimmer of hope as the numbers appear to be flattening in such battleground states as: New York, Washington, and here, in Louisiana.

And so, like Melissa, we pray: please God save us.

In the end, He will.

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. *Isaiah 45:5*

God bless,

James R. Kelly
Executive Director

Follow Jim's Updates

--

James R. Kelly
Executive Director
Covenant House New Orleans
611 N. Rampart St. NOLA 70112
Office: (b) (6) | Cell: (b) (6)

Covenant House is on the front lines of the pandemic 24/7, serving as the last line of defense for our community's most vulnerable youth. For updates: **covenanthousenola.org/covid19**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Confidentiality Notice: This electronic mail transmission (and any attachments there to) is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain privileged and/OR confidential information belonging to the sender that is protected. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distr bution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail and delete the original message.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Whalen, Karla - AMS; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: House Ag Committee COVID Call
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:09:00 PM

I suggest (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:06 PM
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - AMS <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: House Ag Committee COVID Call

+OCR

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From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:04:18 PM
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - AMS <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: House Ag Committee COVID Call

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

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From: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:13:09 AM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - AMS <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Ag Committee COVID Call

Thanks Lindsay.

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks,

Kiev

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Ag Committee COVID Call

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Ag Committee COVID Call

+ Joe

From: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:49 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Ag Committee COVID Call

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

-Kiev

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:48 AM
To: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Cc: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Ag Committee COVID Call

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

From: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:47 AM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Cc: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Ag Committee COVID Call

Hi Lindsay,

No, (b) (5), DPP
[redacted]?

Anthony Wilson II
Governmental Affairs
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: (703) 305-2279
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
anthony.wilson@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Ag Committee COVID Call

Anthony,
To confirm - Is the call canceled?
Lindsay

From: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:44 AM
To: Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Larson, Kiley - FNS <kiley.larson@usda.gov>; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Hermsen, Elizabeth - FNS <elizabeth.hermsen@usda.gov>
Cc: Whalen, Karla - AMS <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Hall, Ann - FNS <ann.hall@usda.gov>; Carter, Scott - FNS <scott.carter@usda.gov>; Kline, Angela - FNS <angela.kline@usda.gov>; Namian, Tina - FNS <tina.namian@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Ag Committee COVID Call

Team,

I assumed that (b) (5), DPP [redacted]. Thank you for your time yesterday!

Best,

Anthony Wilson II
Governmental Affairs
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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: (703) 305-2279
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
anthony.wilson@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1 of 1 USDA-20-1045-A-001616

From: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 5:18 PM
To: Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Larson, Kiley - FNS <kiley.larson@usda.gov>; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Hermsen, Elizabeth - FNS <elizabeth.hermsen@usda.gov>
Cc: Whalen, Karla - AMS <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Hall, Ann - FNS <ann.hall@usda.gov>; Carter, Scott - FNS <scott.carter@usda.gov>; Kline, Angela - FNS <angela.kline@usda.gov>; Namian, Tina - FNS <tina.namian@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Ag Committee COVID Call

FYI it looks like 2:30pm works well for Pam so if we could shoot for then that would be great. Just let us know and thank you all.

Anthony Wilson II
Governmental Affairs
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: (703) 305-2279
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
anthony.wilson@usda.gov

From: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 5:12 PM
To: Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Larson, Kiley - FNS <kiley.larson@usda.gov>; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Hermsen, Elizabeth - FNS <elizabeth.hermsen@usda.gov>
Cc: Whalen, Karla - AMS <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Hall, Ann - FNS <ann.hall@usda.gov>; Carter, Scott - FNS <scott.carter@usda.gov>; Kline, Angela - FNS <angela.kline@usda.gov>; Namian, Tina - FNS <tina.namian@usda.gov>
Subject: House Ag Committee COVID Call

Hello,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

House Ag Committee staff was unable to participate in the COVID call today. If your schedule permits, please let me and Kiev know best times tomorrow that work for your team. Possibly in the afternoon? Thank you.

-Anthony

Anthony Wilson II
Governmental Affairs
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: (703) 305-2279
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
anthony.wilson@usda.gov



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Whalen, Karla - AMS
Subject: RE: House Ag Covid call
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:22:00 AM

I have offered the time to the Committee and requested (b) (5), DPP

From: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - AMS <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Ag Covid call

Hey Veronica,

Both the AO, SNAP, and OEM staff are available at 2:30 PM today.

AO's office would like to know if (b) (5), DPP

Thanks,

Kiev

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 6:30 PM
To: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Ag Covid call

they haven't indicated anything outside of SNAP.

From: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 5:29 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Subject: House Ag Covid call

Veronica -- Given this is House Ag, should (b) (5), DPP Thanks.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Anthony Wilson II
Governmental Affairs
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: (703) 305-2279
Cell: (b) (6)
anthony.wilson@usda.gov



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: House Passage Statement
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 6:35:09 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 6:00:32 PM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Passage Statement

(b) (5), DPP [redacted].

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 5:59 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Passage Statement

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Passage Statement

Apologies for a third email, but this is revised to include (b) (5), DPP

USDA Spokesperson:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Alec Varsamis

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 4:50 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: House Passage Statement

Revised:

USDA Spokesperson:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Alec Varsamis

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 4:49 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: House Passage Statement

(b) (5)
[redacted]

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From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 4:42:41 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: House Passage Statement

Hi All – please see and review this draft on the house passage of the COVID bill.

Brandon – (b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Secretary Perdue Statement on COVID-19 House Bill

(**Washington, D.C., March 13, 2020**) – (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

###

Alec Varsamis
Deputy Press Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
Desk: 202.619.8592

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: fnsgovaffairs
Subject: RE: Idaho and North Carolina - Hill Notification- Online Pilot
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 8:56:00 PM

I checked back and I notified the hill when the states were approved for the pilot. Since I (b) (5), DPP [redacted], I don't think I (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks.

From: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 4:58 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Idaho and North Carolina - Hill Notification- Online Pilot

Yes these will (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anthony Wilson II
Governmental Affairs
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: (703) 305-2279
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
anthony.wilson@usda.gov

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE
SERVING AMERICA FOR 50 YEARS

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 3:43 PM
To: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Cc: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Idaho and North Carolina - Hill Notification- Online Pilot

Thanks, so (b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

From: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 3:41 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Subject: Idaho and North Carolina - Hill Notification- Online Pilot

Veronica,

Please also see the draft hill notification below regarding Idaho and North Carolina SNAP Online Pilot approval.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Best,

Anthony Wilson II
Governmental Affairs
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: (703) 305-2279
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
anthony.wilson@usda.gov

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE
SERVING AMERICA FOR 50 YEARS

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: IGA report - Draft
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 9:44:48 PM

Hey, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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From: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 8:11 PM
To: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: IGA report - Draft

If you have just 5 seconds to skim! Thank you!

USDA COVID-19 Response – IGA Actions Items
Updated: March 17, 2020

(b) (5), DPP

- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- (b) (5), DPP
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
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- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted] calls with industry stakeholders on questions, comments, concerns, etc.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Ratliff, Lindsay
Subject: RE: Indiana State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 16, 2020 12:47:00 PM

Lindsay,

We strongly encourage local program providers (school districts, nonprofits, etc) to work with their state to determine specific options, as each area is so unique. The state and program operators can also seek specific technical assistance from our Food and Nutrition Service regional offices.

However, generally, a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Site is considered to be "open" if it is located a low-income area where at least 50 percent of children residing in the area are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals, based on local school or census data. The meals are served free to any child at the site on a first-come, first-served basis. Steps are taken to allow meal service access to all children requesting a meal at the site. Because children do not have to be individually eligible to receive meals at an open site, all children at the site may be served.

There can also be "closed" sites in SFSP, which can be operated outside of low-income areas. Closed sites are limited to serving students that qualify for free and reduced lunch and are enrolled at that site.

Because of the congregate feeding waiver, the sites may offer food as grab-n-go, or other options that enable social distancing.

Here is a the public fact sheet on SFSP: https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/SFSP-Fact-Sheet.pdf

Veronica

From: Ratliff, Lindsay <Lindsay.Ratliff@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 12:21 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Indiana State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

Veronica,

Thank you for the note and very much appreciated. There is a school systemin our district that would like to expand the waiver beyond low-income children and aims to provide meals to all students. Is it possible to receive a waiver to feed all students in the school system? Also happy to discuss on the phone if that would be more convenient.

Best regards,
Lindsay

Lindsay Markle Ratliff
Legislative Director

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Rep. Jim Banks IN-03
202-226-5608

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:21 PM
To: Ratliff, Lindsay <Lindsay.Ratliff@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Indiana State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

Good Evening,

This email is to inform you that today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the Indiana Department of Education to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the approval currently**.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thanks,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Corley, Shiela - FNS
Cc:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS
Subject:	RE: Info for 5:15
Date:	Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:21:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP

From: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Info for 5:15

(b) (5), DPP ?
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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 11:22:03 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Cc: Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Pauley, Edward - FNS <edward.pauley@usda.gov>; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; Owens, Tameka - FNS <tameka.owens@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: 10am Monday: (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 8:38 AM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC <leslie.barrack@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Barrios, Farrah - OBPA, Washington, DC <farrah.barrios@usda.gov>; Pollard, Nicole - OBPA, Washington, DC <nicole.pollard@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 10am Monday: (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Subject: Re: 10am Monday (b) (5), DPP

Hi Anne — (b) (5), DPP ?

--
Evan B. Lee
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
c (b) (6)

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
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Subject: RE: 10am Monday (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 7:54 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC <leslie.barrack@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Barrios, Farrah - OBPA, Washington, DC <farrah.barrios@usda.gov>; Pollard, Nicole - OBPA, Washington, DC <nicole.pollard@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: 10am Monday (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Yes

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Subject: RE: 10am Monday: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne/Pam

Adding my BFFs in OCR… (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks, Erica

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 9:02 PM
To: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>
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Subject: Re: 10am Monday: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 8:43:54 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: 10am Monday: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted] Thanks!

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 8:14:35 PM
To: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: 10am Monday: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 7:47 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: 10am Monday: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Hi Anne

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]? Thanks!

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From: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 8:09:09 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 10am Monday: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thank you!

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Subject: RE: 10am Monday: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

Please let me know if you need anything else. Thanks!

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

-
-
-
-

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP, ACP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 6:22 PM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Morris, Erin - AMS <Erin.Morris@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; Brand, Bette - RD, Washington, DC <bette.brand@usda.gov>; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>; Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC <Scott.Hutchins@usda.gov>; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC <Mindy.Brashears@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC <David.Wu@usda.gov>; McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ted.McKinney@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Hubbard, Jim - OSEC, Washington, DC <jim.hubbard@usda.gov>; Horder, Lilia - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <lilia.horder@usda.gov>
Cc: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC <leslie.barrack@usda.gov>; Pollard, Nicole - OBPA, Washington, DC <nicole.pollard@usda.gov>; Perry, Andrew - OBPA, Washington, DC <andrew.perry@usda.gov>; Zuco, Paola - OBPA, Washington, DC <Paola.Zuco@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Subject: 10am Monday: (b) (5), DPP, ACP [redacted]

Happy Sunday

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP, ACP [redacted]

Thanks! Erica

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Corley, Shiela - FNS
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS
Subject: RE: Info for 5:15
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:22:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

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Evan B. Lee
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
c: (b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Yes

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Anne DeCesaro
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Anne/Pam

Adding my BFFs in OCR… (b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted] Thanks!

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[redacted]

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To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
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Hi Anne

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Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 8:02 AM
To: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC <leslie.barrack@usda.gov>; Pollard, Nicole - OBPA, Washington, DC <nicole.pollard@usda.gov>; Perry, Andrew - OBPA, Washington, DC <andrew.perry@usda.gov>; Zuco, Paola - OBPA, Washington, DC <Paola.Zuco@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Barrios, Farrah - OBPA, Washington, DC <farrah.barrios@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: 10am Monday: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

Please let me know if you need anything else. Thanks!

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP, ACP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 6:22 PM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Morris, Erin - AMS <Erin.Morris@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; Brand, Bette - RD, Washington, DC <bette.brand@usda.gov>; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>; Hutchins, Scott - OSEC, Washington, DC <Scott.Hutchins@usda.gov>; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC <Mindy.Brashears@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Wu, David - OSEC, Washington, DC <David.Wu@usda.gov>; McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ted.McKinney@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Hubbard, Jim - OSEC, Washington, DC <jim.hubbard@usda.gov>; Horder, Lilia - OCIO-CIO, Washington, DC <lilia.horder@usda.gov>
Cc: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC <leslie.barrack@usda.gov>; Pollard, Nicole - OBPA, Washington, DC <nicole.pollard@usda.gov>; Perry, Andrew - OBPA, Washington, DC <andrew.perry@usda.gov>; Zuco, Paola - OBPA, Washington, DC <Paola.Zuco@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Subject: 10am Monday: (b) (5), DPP, ACP [redacted]

Happy Sunday

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP, ACP [redacted]

Thanks! Erica

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Cc: fnsgovaffairs; FNS - OPS Front Office
Subject: RE: Instant Update: SNAP benefits increase by $2B a month with emergency increase
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 1:48:00 PM

Good afternoon Anthony –

Could you pull the text of this article and share? I don't think most of us have a login Thanks!

From: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Cc: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>; FNS - OPS Front Office <fn-OpsFrontOffice@usda.gov>
Subject: Instant Update: SNAP benefits increase by $2B a month with emergency increase

Hello,

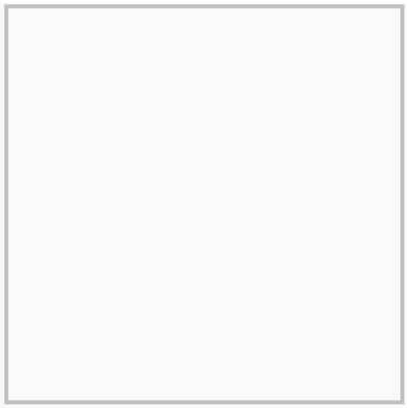
Agri Pulse reports on the SNAP emergency benefit increase below.

-Anthony

Anthony Wilson II
Governmental Affairs
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: (703) 305-2279
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
anthony.wilson@usda.gov

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE
SERVING AMERICA FOR 50 YEARS

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SNAP benefits increase by $2B a month with emergency increase

Participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program are now getting emergency benefit increases totaling $2 billion a month nationwide that Congress authorized to address the unemployment surge and economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1440 of 1850
USDA-20-1045-A-001649

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C.; Shahin, Jessica - FNS
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Interpreting Section 2302 of Families First
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:28:58 PM

(b) (5), DPP, ACP .

Get Outlook for iOS

From: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:13:04 PM
To: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Interpreting Section 2302 of Families First

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

Ralph Linden
Acting Deputy General Counsel
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Room 102W
Washington DC 20250
202-720-3351

From: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:07:26 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Interpreting Section 2302 of Families First

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Shahin, Jessica - FNS

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 9:58 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Interpreting Section 2302 of Families First

(b) (5), DPP, ACP [redacted]

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 9:51 PM
To: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Cc: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Interpreting Section 2302 of Families First

Ralph -

(b) (5), DPP, ACP [redacted]

Jessica - (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks,
Brandon

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From: Stacy Dean <(b) [redacted]@cbpp.org>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 8:46:23 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Rosenbaum Dottie (b) (6) [redacted]@cbpp.org>
Subject: Interpreting Section 2302 of Families First

Brandon, Pam and Jessica,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you for everything that you are doing to help leverage the federal food programs during this incredibly tough time. Brandon -- you will most certainly be able to write a book about leadership during times of crisis!

I'm reaching out on a particular concern and I don't take filling up your inbox lightly. We heard from states today that FNS is interpreting the new authority in the Families First Legislation to issue CR-SNAP emergency allotments as having a limitation that we do not see in the law. As we have heard from multiple states, FNS is saying that the emergency allotment cannot result in lifting the household's monthly allotment above the maximum for their household size.

In candor, we cannot see how you can read the language that way. I've attached a short memo that explains our reading. Also, below is a link to our paper on the SNAP provisions in Families First. We did include in there that we do not understand why USDA is imposing an additional limitation on the size of the benefit that states may issue beyond the one clearly spelled out in the law.

I hope you can take a fresh look at this and reconsider. I can understand how folks so expert in disaster SNAP might have read the language given the framework that you apply there. But, I don't think that the law requires or permits it in this case.

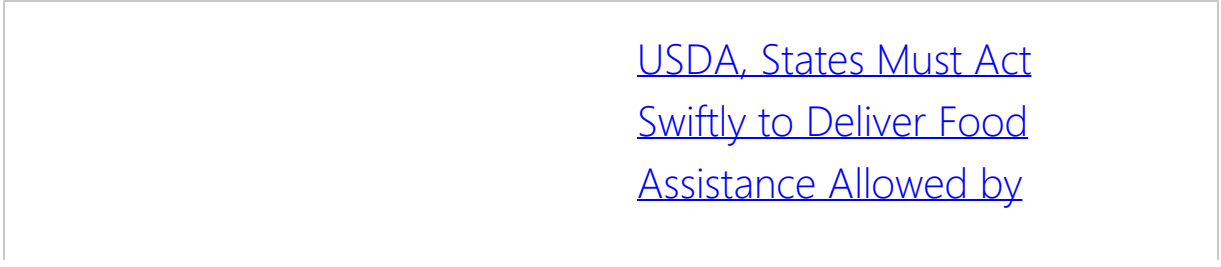
Finally -- we've been gathering data from advocates, twitter and state agency websites on their opening status. Happy to pass along a summary if that's useful.

Again, thank you for all that FNS is doing.

Best,

Stacy

https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/usda-states-must-act-swiftly-to-deliver-food-assistance-allowed-by-families



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Families First Act | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities - cbpp.org

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act provides temporary new authority and broad flexibility for the Agriculture Department (USDA) and states to adapt the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

www.cbpp.org

Stacy Dean
(she/her/hers, why pronouns matter)
Vice President of Food Assistance Policy
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
www.cbpp.org; @Deancbpp
(b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Cc:	DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: is this ok?
Date:	Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:56:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:56 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: is this ok?

Anne, Veronica – (b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:49 PM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: is this ok?

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:48 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: is this ok?

Revised:
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:43 PM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: is this ok?

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

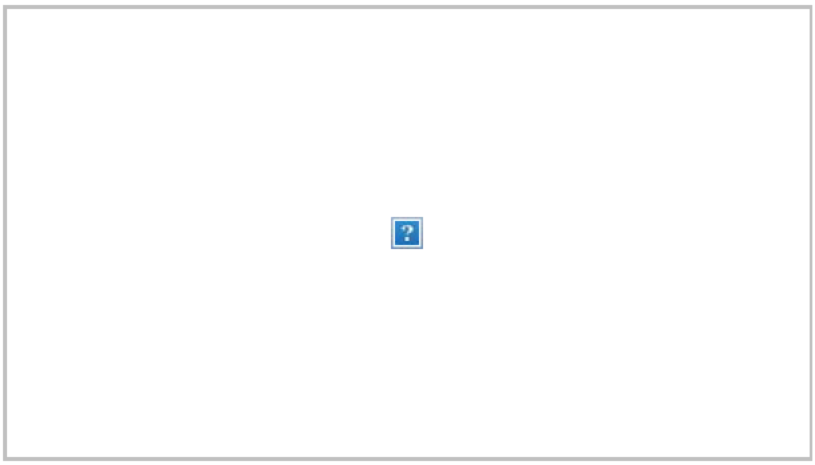
From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:42 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: is this ok?

Revised:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

###

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: is this ok?

OGC would prefer (b) (5), DPP, ACP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:27:36 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: is this ok?

(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

nutrition recommendations and serve as the cornerstone of federal nutrition policy.

###

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: fnsgovaffairs
Subject: RE: june 30 extension good to go for WIC
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 11:21:00 AM

Yes, here is the notice I sent Friday evening for WIC and SNAP waiver extensions

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 7:04 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov) <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update- WIC and SNAP Waiver Extensions - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) response to COVID-19.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127, the Act) provides the USDA statutory and regulatory waiver authorities necessary in an emergency such as COVID-19.

FNS is **extending all existing waiver approvals for WIC state agencies through June 30, 2020** for States that choose to continue operations under their approved waivers**.** State and local agency reporting requirements still apply.

FNS is **extending all SNAP waiver approvals through June 30, 2020** for States that choose to continue operations under their approved waivers for States operating under an emergency or disaster declaration based on an outbreak of COVID-19**.** State and local agency reporting requirements still apply.

FNS will continue to monitor this emergency and will consider subsequent extensions of waivers.

States agencies have been notified and they should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

For additional information regarding FNS's response to COVID-19, please visit this link: www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: june 30 extension good to go for WIC

Hi Veronica,

I thought I saw you notice on this but want to double check. Thanks.

Anthony Wilson II
Governmental Affairs
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: (703) 305-2279
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
anthony.wilson@usda.gov



From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 10:25 AM
To: Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; AFND_SNAS_FO <SNASFO@USDA.GOV>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: june 30 extension good to go for WIC

Yes thanks!

From: Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 10:21 AM
To: Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; AFND_SNAS_FO <SNASFO@USDA.GOV>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: june 30 extension good to go for WIC

+EGA list (just in case)

From: Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 10:20 AM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; AFND_SNAS_FO <SNASFO@USDA.GOV>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

COVID@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: june 30 extension good to go for WIC

@Datlow, Lindsay - FNS Was the Hill notified?

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 6:12 PM
To: Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; AFND_SNAS_FO <SNASFO@USDA.GOV>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: june 30 extension good to go for WIC

Great. We will do the hill notice when it goes to the RAs. Per the COVID call today, they should be expecting it. I will let veronica know 30 min.

From: Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; AFND_SNAS_FO <SNASFO@USDA.GOV>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: june 30 extension good to go for WIC

Will go to regions in the next 30 minutes, they will send to States. I will send a note to RAs To confirm with you and SNAS when it goes to State, not sure on that timeframe.

Diane

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:32 PM
To: Kriviski, Diane - FNS; AFND_SNAS_FO; FNS-OPS-COVID; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Subject: RE: june 30 extension good to go for WIC

Do you have an ETA for sending out that I can share with EGA?

From: Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:32 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; AFND_SNAS_FO <SNASFO@USDA.GOV>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: june 30 extension good to go for WIC

Got it

Diane

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 4:34:32 PM
To: AFND_SNAS_FO <SNASFO@USDA.GOV>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: june 30 extension good to go for WIC

SNAS, this letter is approved please send today. Please confirm when transmitted so we can do the hill notice. This should go on the website too – later tonight or Monday is fine for that to ensure states have it first.

As an FYI I sent under a separate cover to EGA/veronica to develop the hill notice (a joint notice with WIC and SNAP extensions to june 30).

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Olson, Maria (Aging)
Cc: Bryan, Emma (Manchin)
Subject: RE: Letter from Senator Collins and Manchin to Sec Perdue
Date: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:33:00 PM

Maria,

Thank you for the email. The letter has been received and will be reviewed.

Regards,
Veronica

From: Olson, Maria (Aging) <Maria_Olson@aging.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Bryan, Emma (Manchin) <Emma_Bryan@manchin.senate.gov>
Subject: Letter from Senator Collins and Manchin to Sec Perdue

Hi Veronica,

Please see the attached letter from Senators Collins and Manchin regarding SNAP rulemaking in light of COVID-19.

Thanks,

Maria Olson
Professional Staff Member
Senate Aging Committee
Chairman Susan M. Collins
(202) 224-5364

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Secretary Perdue alias email address

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: MA & NC P-EBT Ready
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 4:59:34 PM

GTG!

-SP

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 4:48:36 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MA & NC P-EBT Ready

Sir –

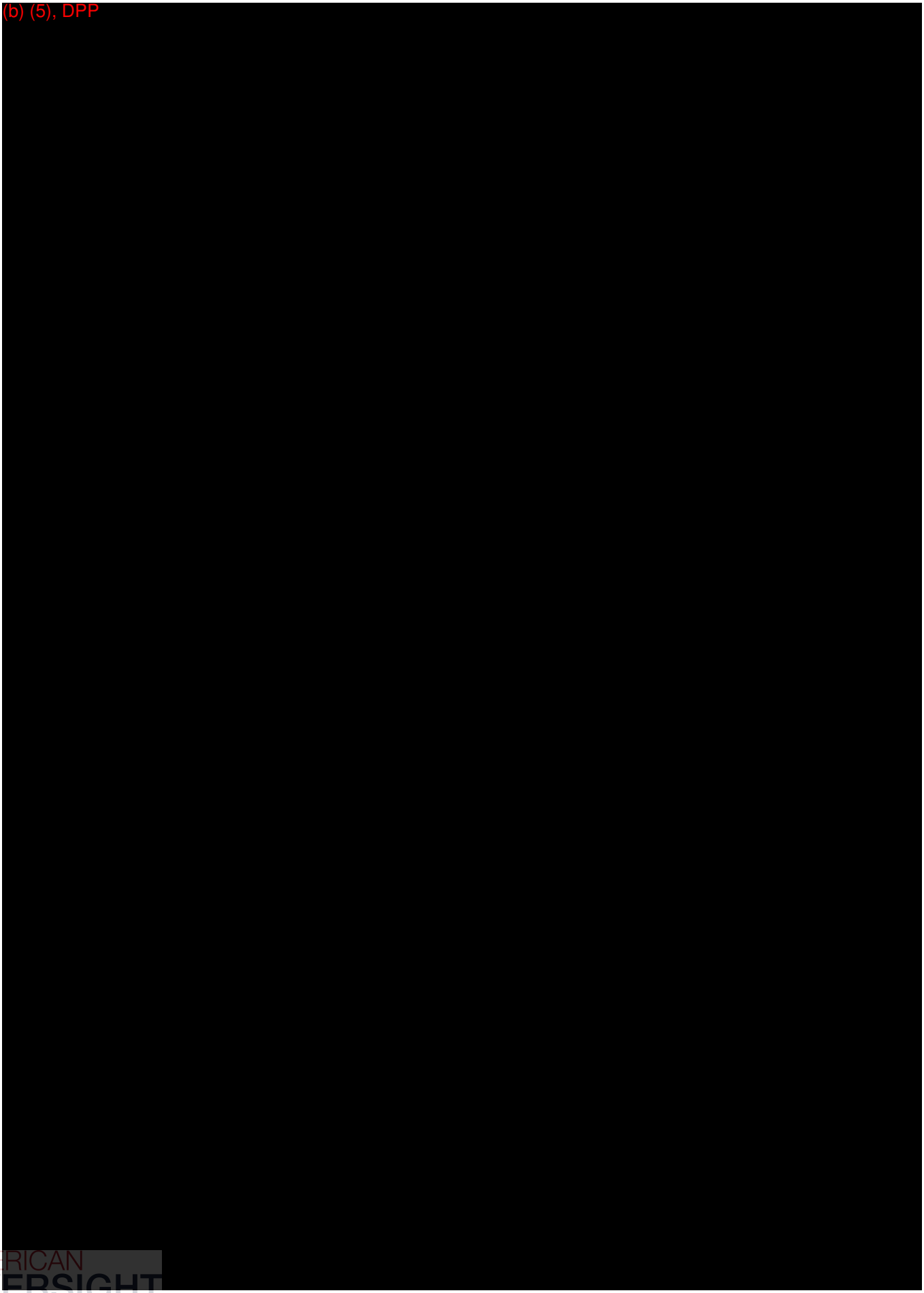
My apologies in the delay, the below press release is what we would like to send out unless you have objections.

Thanks,
Meghan

(b) (5), DPP



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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

#

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Secretary Perdue alias email address

---

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 1:48 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Subject: MA & NC P-EBT Ready

Sir -

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

OC will be sending you a press release for your approval shortly.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Campbell

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Caron, Hillary
Subject: RE: meal time approved
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 10:42:00 AM
Attachments: COVID19 Meal Times Nationwide Waiver.pdf

Hillary,

Nationwide meal time waiver approval attached.

Veronica

From: Caron, Hillary <Hillary.Caron@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 10:25 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: meal time approved

Hi Veronica-

Can I please get a copy of the meal time waiver approval? I got several notifications over the weekend on SNAP and WIC (thank you!), but I don't think I received this one.

Thanks!

-Hillary

From: Caron, Hillary
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 5:36 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: meal time approved

Awesome news! Thank you so much!!!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 5:35 PM
To: Caron, Hillary <Hillary.Caron@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: meal time approved

Hillary,

The meal time waiver has been approved. The approval paperwork is going down to the region and then state as I type.

Veronica

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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From: Caron, Hillary <Hillary.Caron@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 4:42:00 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA COVID Response Call

Hi Veronica-

Is there any update on New Mexico's meal time waiver? Based on what was discussed on the call, he's expecting an answer today. It was very concerning that no one on the call seemed to know that the request was still outstanding.

-Hillary

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:29 AM
To: Caron, Hillary <Hillary.Caron@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA COVID Response Call

Thanks, sent.

From: Caron, Hillary <Hillary.Caron@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:28 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA COVID Response Call

Yes, let's do 11:45 ET. Please send the dial-in info. Thank you very much!!!

From: Caron, Hillary
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA COVID Response Call

I think so, checking now. Thanks!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Caron, Hillary <Hillary.Caron@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA COVID Response Call

Would 11:45 am ET today with Bill work?

From: Caron, Hillary <Hillary.Caron@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:59 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA COVID Response Call

Unfortunately, 3pm won't work. The Congressman is available before 1:45pm ET or after 5:30pm ET. Would any of those times work? A call with Pam Miller or Cindy Long would be ideal if Bill is not available. I promise we can keep it to 15 minutes!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Caron, Hillary <Hillary.Caron@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA COVID Response Call

Hillary,

Is the Congressman available at 3pm ET today for a call with Bill Ludwig? If so I can send you a calendar invite with a call in line.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Caron, Hillary <Hillary.Caron@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA COVID Response Call

Hillary,

I am still working on a separate call for the Congressman. Trying to get times to suggest very soon.

Veronica

From: Caron, Hillary <Hillary.Caron@mail.house.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA COVID Response Call

Thanks, Chris! Will Congressman Luján's specific questions about New Mexico's meal time waiver request be answered on/before the call?

If the waiver hasn't been approved, the Congressman still wants to get on the phone with someone from USDA today. Before 1pm would be best.

Please let me know- thanks!

-Hillary

Hillary Caron
Legislative Director
Office of Congressman Ben Ray Luján (NM-03)
2323 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Main Office: (202) 225-6190
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:16 AM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA COVID Response Call

Hi All – USDA Food and Nutrition Service leadership will hold a call at 1:00pm for all Ag LA's to provide an update and answer questions about food program flexibilities and contingencies for states in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dial-In information is included below:

Dial-in: (b) (6) [redacted] or (b) (6) [redacted]
Access Code: (b) (6) [redacted] ##

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Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

Braddock Metro Center

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria VA 22314

DATE: March 20, 2020

CODE: COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #1

SUBJECT: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

State Directors
Child Nutrition Programs
All States

Pursuant to the COVID–19 Child Nutrition Response Act (the Act) (H.R. 6201, Title II), and based on the exceptional circumstances of this public health emergency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is establishing a nationwide waiver to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus. This waiver applies to the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program (the Child Nutrition Programs).

Section 2202(a) of the Act permits the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a waiver for all States for the purposes of providing meals under the Child Nutrition Programs, with appropriate safety measures, as determined by the Secretary.

Under Program regulations at 7 CFR 210.10(l), 220.8(l), 225.16(c)(1) and (2), and 226.20(k), Child Nutrition Program meals must follow meal service time requirements. However, FNS recognizes that in this public health emergency, waiving the meal service time requirements will support streamlined access to nutritious meals. Therefore, FNS waives, for all States, the requirements at 7 CFR 210.10(l), 220.8(l), 225.16(c)(1) and (2). State agencies may also adjust the time of meal service, as addressed at 226.20(k), including suspension of meal times as needed in the Child and Adult Care Food Program during the public health emergency.

This waiver is effective immediately, and remains in effect through June 30, 2020, or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. For the Summer Food Service Program, the requirements at 7 CFR 225.6(c)(2)(i)(B) and (c)(3)(i)(A) remain in effect; please note, under this waiver, these requirements can be met through approved pick-up schedules or delivery plans with designated times for distribution.

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Consistent with section 2202(a)(2) of the Act, this waiver applies automatically to all States that elect to use it, without further application. State agencies must inform their Regional Office if they elect to be subject to the waiver. State agencies should inform local Program operators of the flexibilities provided by this waiver as quickly as possible, and work in partnership with local operators to provide meals to all participants in a safe and accessible manner.

As required by section 2202(d), each State that receives this waiver must submit a report to the Secretary by a date to be determined that includes:

- A summary of the use of this waiver by the State agency and local program operators, and
- A description of whether this waiver resulted in improved services to children.

FNS stands ready to provide assistance to areas impacted by the coronavirus and intends to continue supporting access to nutritious meals during this public health emergency.

FNS appreciates the exceptional effort of State agencies and local Program operators working to meet the nutritional needs of child and adult participants during a challenging time. State agencies should direct questions to the appropriate FNS Regional Office.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Kline
Director
Policy and Program Development Division

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS; FNS AO Press Clearance; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 3:30- Bloomberg
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 3:48:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 3:30 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 3:30- Bloomberg

+FNCS. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 2:42 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - Bloomberg Government re: SNAP Online Purchasing (DEADLINE: 3:30pm Today)

DEADLINE: 3:30pm Today

Megan Boyanton, a reporter with Bloomberg Government, is asking for USDA's comment on a statement from the Heritage Foundation regarding the online purchasing pilot.

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

COMMENT:
"There's extensive fraud in the food stamp program, and the cards are sold to people that are not the applicant," said Robert Rector, senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. He said the online pilot "makes that more likely to occur."

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

All responses are on background.

INQUIRY:
By my count, there are now 16 states and the District of Columbia included in the pilot program. Is that total correct? Are there any other states with pending applications at the moment?

PROPOSED RESPONSE:
(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

INQUIRY:
Additionally, several lawmakers are calling for the program to be expanded nationwide. Is this a possibility in the near future?

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

INQUIRY:
More importantly, can this program and its system handle a nationwide expansion? Have there been any challenges with opening up to 16 states and D.C. alone?

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PROPOSED RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS
Cc: Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 4:30- NYT
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 4:17:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 4:14 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Cc: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 4:30- NYT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Cc: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 4:30- NYT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 4:02 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller,

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Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Cc: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>
Subject: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 4:30- NYT

+FNCS since tight turnaround

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:56 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: RUSH Media Inquiry - New York Times re: COVID, School Meals, Food Banks (Deadline: 4:30pm today)

DEADLINE: 4:30 p.m., Today (Thurs., 4/16)

Lola Fadulu at the New York Times requests **on-the-record comment** regarding USDA's COVID response.

INQUIRY: Could you send over an on-the-record comment that responds to the following questions:

- Is the department aware that the emergency has turned school cafeterias into full-scale food banks and community kitchens?
- Is the department considering a new reimbursement model for districts that are now serving adults?
- What specific relief is on the way?

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS
Subject: Re: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 10 AM: LA TIMES
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 8:25:30 AM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 8:22:11 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 10 AM: LA TIMES

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 7:02 AM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 10 AM: LA TIMES

Good morning!

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 6:44:06 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 10 AM: LA TIMES

Anne and Brandon,

Please let us know if you are good with the following media response. AO had no edits.

DEADLINE: 10 AM, Friday, 4/3

Sameea Kamal, a reporter with LA Times is requesting the most current data FNS has on the emergency allotment requests submitted by the states.

INQUIRY:
I wanted to find out if all states that applied for emergency allotments have been approved, or if some applications are still under review?

RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

Laura Stagno

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Confidential Assistant
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Office: 703-305-7464
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Stagno, Laura - FNS; FNS AO Press Clearance
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 11:30 AM- NYT
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 10:53:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 10:50 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 11:30 AM- NYT

From Andrea:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 11:30 AM- NYT

(b) (5), DPP [redacted].

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 10:06 AM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 11:30 AM- NYT

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(b) (5), DPP ?

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 10:02 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE 11:30 AM- NYT

+FNCS. Edits below.

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 9:50 AM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NY Times re: SNAP OPP (DEADLINE: 11:30am Today)

DEADLINE: 11:30am today (Friday)

New York Times reporter Tara Siegel-Bernard has two follow-up questions regarding the Online Purchasing Pilot. Her original inquiries are at the bottom of this email for reference. **This is a major media outlet.**

(b) (5), DPP

INQUIRY: The press release states that *with 16 states, more than half of all households receiving SNAP will have access to online purchasing.* That is just based on the number of SNAP users in those states, correct? Not all will necessarily have access if they live 200 miles from the nearest participating retailer? I just wanted to be sure that was the case.

(b) (5), DPP

INQUIRY: How quickly will KY, MO, and TX be operational?

(b) (5), DPP

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 1:11 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media Inquiry - NY Times re: SNAP OPP (DEADLINE: 3:00pm Today)

DEADLINE: 3pm today (Wednesday 4/22)

New York Times reporter Tara Siegel-Bernard has several follow-up questions regarding the Online Purchasing Pilot. Her original inquiry is at the bottom of this email for reference. **This is a major media outlet.**

(b) (5), DPP

INQUIRY: If a retailer's state doesn't currently use FISERV, can the retailer still participate in the pilot?

RESPONSE:
(b) (5), DPP

INQUIRY: Since Walmart is participating in the pilot, do all Walmarts in a state that is participating in the pilot have to offer online purchasing for SNAP participants?

RESPONSE:
(b) (5), DPP

INQUIRY: Why might some states *not* be pursuing online purchasing?

RESPONSE:
(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

INQUIRY: The pilot was authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. What were the challenges that slowed this process down?

RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY: NJ and MD remain "non-operational" pilot states. FreshDirect, Hyvee, Dash, and Safeway were authorized for the pilot but haven't participated. Do you expect these states and retailers to come online soon? What has been the delay?

RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 1:14 PM
To: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>; FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: For AO: Media Inquiry - NY Times re: SNAP OPP (DEADLINE: 1:00pm Today)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

INQUIRY:
What prompted this effort?

RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY:
How many states and retailers now allow SNAP recipients to buy groceries online? Is it available to all recipients in those areas or just a select group? If it's all recipients, are they notified that this is available - and if so, how?

RESPONSE:
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY:
The press release about the pilot said it would last two years, which means it's about one year in. Is it on schedule? What will happen over the next/final year? How quickly would you expect this to be implemented nationally? Are there any issues (technological or otherwise) that you've discovered that make this difficult to implement? Any snafus along the way that you're working on?

RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY: Does the technology you're working with allow recipients to both place orders and have them delivered (I ask because I thought I saw some retailers only allowed folks to order online, and then pick up).

RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

INQUIRY:
How does the technology work (money is loaded onto EBT card, which is used like a debit card)? I'm just looking for a basic explanation.

RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 11:13 AM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: For AO: Media Inquiry - NY Times re: SNAP OPP (DEADLINE: 1:00pm Today)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

DEADLINE: 1pm Today

Tara Siegel-Bernard, with The New York Times, is requesting background information on SNAP's Online Purchasing Pilot. In lieu of an interview, we have asked for questions in writing (below). **This is a major media outlet.**

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

INQUIRY:
What prompted this effort?

RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

INQUIRY:
How many states and retailers now allow SNAP recipients to buy groceries online? Is it available to all recipients in those areas or just a select group? If it's all recipients, are they notified that this is available - and if so, how?

RESPONSE:
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY:
The press release about the pilot said it would last two years, which means it's about one year in. Is it on schedule? What will happen over the next/final year? How quickly would you expect this to be implemented nationally? Are there any issues (technological or otherwise) that you've discovered that make this difficult to implement? Any snafus along the way that you're working on?

RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY: Does the technology you're working with allow recipients to both place orders and have them delivered (I ask because I thought I saw some retailers only allowed folks to order online, and then pick up).

RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

INQUIRY:
How does the technology work (money is loaded onto EBT card, which is used like a debit card)? I'm just looking for a basic explanation.

RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Cc:	Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS
Subject:	RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE AT 3:30 from Politico Magazine -- SNAP online purchasing pilot
Date:	Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:46:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:42 PM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE AT 3:30 from Politico Magazine -- SNAP online purchasing pilot

(b) (5), DPP [redacted].

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:41 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE AT 3:30 from Politico Magazine -- SNAP online purchasing pilot

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE AT 3:30 from Politico Magazine -- SNAP online purchasing pilot

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:23 PM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE AT 3:30 from Politico Magazine -- SNAP online purchasing pilot

I have edits. Working on now.

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:15 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>
Subject: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE AT 3:30 from Politico Magazine -- SNAP online purchasing pilot

Adding Anne and Brandon since this is due at 3:30.

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Pam - FNS Miller (pam.miller@usda.gov) <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Joe - FNS Tvrdy (Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov) <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Yasmin - FNS Rey (Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov) <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Cc: Lindsay - FNS Datlow (Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov) <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: For AO: Media Inquiry from Politico Magazine -- SNAP online purchasing pilot (DEADLINE: 3:30 PM, today, 4/7)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 1:17 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: For AO: Media Inquiry from Politico Magazine -- SNAP online purchasing pilot (DEADLINE: 3:30 PM, today, 4/7)

DEADLINE: 3:30 p.m. today, Tuesday, 4/7

Nancy Scola, a reporter with Politico Magazine, is requesting information on SNAP's Online Purchasing Pilot. She specifically want to know how a SNAP participants would use their EBT card to purchase groceries online and if expansions were in response to COVID-19. Please note: This is for a magazine story, so Politico is looking to make this compelling to a wide audience. **This is a major media outlet.**

The reporter had many questions, listed below with the proposed responses.

PROPOSED RESPONSE:
Statement from Secretary Perdue:
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

On background:

INQUIRY: What was the logic behind the SNAP Online Purchasing Program and why was it piloted in such a small number of places?

PROPOSED RESPONSE: (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY:
How does the pilot work?

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

INQUIRY:
What is the purchasing experience like for someone who receives SNAP benefits? Do I simply use my EBT Card the same way I might use a credit card when ordering on an online site?

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

INQUIRY:
Does USDA have any data or, absent that, any anecdotal sense that there has been an uptick in the use of SNAP benefits online since the coronavirus situation began? (b) (5), DPP

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

INQUIRY:

The pilot recently expanded to include new locations. What exactly was the scope of that expansion? And, importantly, was that expansion connected to the coronavirus situation? (b) (5), DPP

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

INQUIRY:

And what prevented someone from using their EBT card on online sites before the pilot was launched?

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

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From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS
Cc:	Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS
Subject:	RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE at 4:30: L.A. Times
Date:	Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:35:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:22 PM
To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE at 4:30: L.A. Times

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:21 PM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE at 4:30: L.A. Times

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:17 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<shelly.beatty@usda.gov>
Subject: MEDIA RESPONSE DUE at 4:30: L.A. Times

+Anne and Brandon since this is a tight turnaround

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:08 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: RUSH Media Inquiry - L.A. Times re: COVID, SNAP Flexibilities, Online Purchasing (Deadline: 4:30pm today)

DEADLINE: 4:30 p.m. Today, (Wed., 4/8)

Howard Blume at the L.A. Times has follow-up questions below on SNAP flexibilities and Online Purchasing in light of the COVID pandemic. **The L.A. Times is major media**.

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

To what extent have the anticipated rule changes in SNAP gone into effect? If they have gone into effect when was that? And to what extent has the current pandemic affected the roll-out of the rules and the number of people affected? If the rules haven't gone into effect, why is that?

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

How does or should a school district track which meals are being provided for children if adults are picking up grab-and-go meals on their behalf? In Los Angeles we are finding that one adult family member will typically pick up meals for the children, for example. There are both walk-up lines and drive-through lines, and the focus of the operation is to provide food quickly and safely, making use of masks, gloves and social distancing. Volunteers are not asking for identification or checking off names against a roster.

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

My understanding is that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner has requested a meeting with Sec. Purdue. Supt. Beutner wanted to discuss funding and reimbursement for meal distribution. Can you confirm this outreach and whether a meeting has taken place or is scheduled?

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Is it possible for the L.A. school district to provide food to adults through any of these federal programs (TEFAP, CSFP, Child & Adult Care), especially through waivers or new flexibilities? And if so, would those arrangements have to be made in advance or could the district provide food now and apply to seek reimbursement later through any of these programs?

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Blume, Howard <Howard.Blume@latimes.com>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 2:45 PM
To: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: information about school meal program during covid-19

Janna –

Thanks for this information. I have a few follow-up questions below in green.

But here's a new question. My understanding is that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner has requested a meeting with Sec. Purdue. Supt. Beutner wanted to discuss funding and reimbursement for meal distribution. Can you confirm this outreach and whether a meeting has taken place or is scheduled?

Follow-ups below.

--hb

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 3:05 PM
To: Blume, Howard <Howard.Blume@latimes.com>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: information about school meal program during covid-19

EXTERNAL SOURCE

Hello Mr. Blume,

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service was forwarded your inquiry for response. Thanks for your patience. You spoke with my colleague, Cherish, on Friday. I believe we've covered all of your questions below. Please let us know if you have any further questions. All responses are provided on background (attributable to USDA or USDA Spokesperson).

INQUIRY:
Can school districts feed anyone (i.e. other individuals in the household that are not school aged children, or even individuals without school aged children?) And how would these meals be funded, would USDA still provide reimbursements?

RESPONSE:
States switch to their Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to serve meals to children when schools are closed. Summer meals sites, including schools, can provide – and be reimbursed by USDA for – free meals to any child who is 18 years old or younger. Typically, such sites are limited to areas where 50% or more of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. However, FNS is approving state requests to waive that limitation, allowing sites to operate in any area.

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Note: Summer sites operating the Summer Food Service Program may also serve free meals to adults who are more than 18 years old and are still enrolled in high school or are enrolled in educational programs for persons with disabilities. If sites are serving meals to adults above 18 years of age who do not fit into either of those categories, those meals would not be reimbursable by USDA.

INQUIRY: Are there any other USDA or federal programs that would allow school districts to feed everyone, including those who are not school-aged individuals?

RESPONSE: The primary program responsible for addressing shortfalls in household food budgets for children and adults is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program or SNAP. With a SNAP EBT card, individuals and families can shop for food in the same way non-SNAP household do with decision-making ability over what they buy and eat.

To what extent have the anticipated rule changes in SNAP gone into effect? If they have gone into effect when was that? And to what extent has the current pandemic affected the roll-out of the rules and the number of people affected?

If the rules haven't gone into effect, why is that?

(I suspect you know the rules to which I refer, but just in case, here is an article on that topic that we wrote in December: https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2019-12-04/trump-food-stamp-work-requirements.)

As stated above, states are not able to claim parents or adults for reimbursement under the Summer Food Service Program or the Seamless Summer Option, but some schools are providing meals at low or no cost to other members of the family through nofn-federal funding sources. Some schools may also be serving as distribution sites for other federal programs such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) or the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which are geared toward adults and older adults, respectively.

One of the nationwide waivers that FNS provided was for the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program, which is inherently a group feeding program. Under the waiver, the program now has the ability to provide grab-and-go meals for the adults it serves.

Here my lack of expertise is working against me. Is it possible for the L.A. school district to provide food to adults through any of these federal programs (TEFAP, CSFP, Child & Adult Care), especially through waivers or new flexibilities? And if so, would those arrangements have to be made in advance or could the district provide food now and apply to seek reimbursement later through any of these programs?

INQUIRY: What is the reimbursement rate for these meals?

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RESPONSE: Please see here for the 2020 Summer Food Service Program reimbursement rates, by state: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-01-30/pdf/2020-01607.pdf

INQUIRY: Can school districts use these sites to feed children who are not low-income?

RESPONSE:
Yes. Typically, the Summer Food Service Program is limited to areas where 50% or more of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals. However, under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), FNS is approving requests from states to allow sites to serve free meals to children ages 18 and under in *all* areas.

INQUIRY:
To what extent do school districts need to document that only eligible students are receiving meals that are reimbursable by USDA?

RESPONSE:
Since all meals served to children through the summer meals programs are reimbursed by USDA, schools are required to track and report the number of children ages 18 and under served reimbursable meals.

How does or should a school district track which meals are being provided for children if adults are picking up grab-and-go meals on their behalf? In Los Angeles we are finding that one adult family member will typically pick up meals for the children, for example. There are both walk-up lines and drive-through lines, and the focus of the operation is to provide food quickly and safely, making use of masks, gloves and social distancing. Volunteers are not asking for identification or checking off names against a roster.

INQUIRY:
Where can I find detailed information about the partnership with Panera?

RESPONSE: We recommend contacting Panera for more details.

INQUIRY: What are the meal locations for USDA's partnership with Baylor, McLane Global, PepsiCo and others?

RESPONSE:

At the local level, Meals to You was designed to fill a gap in meal services for children in rural, frontier areas during summer months. It was built on community partners working together to identify and address outstanding needs. This innovative public-private initiative, built on best practices learned through a summer pilot program in 2019, will deliver nutritious, shelf stable meals to children affected by school closures due to COVID-19 in rural America. Communities interested in the Meals to You Expansion can work with their school districts and summer sponsors, who can then connect with the State agency that administers the school and summer feeding programs. We are continuously seeking to build

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

capacity and are pursuing ways to enlist additional vendors so that we can provide food to more rural children as additional schools close.

The first boxes went out late last week. In participating states, families with students who attend an eligible school or are eligible for free or reduced-price meals may opt-in to receive one box per child every one to two weeks for the time period of their school closure. Each box is delivered via UPS (or USPS for P.O. boxes) and contains components for 10 or 20 meals: 5 or 10 breakfasts and 5 or 10 lunches/suppers. For more information, please visit https://mealstoyou.org/. Our partners are working to get the information on which states they are currently in up on their site, but for more information please reach out to Kasey_Ashenfelter@baylor.edu at the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty.

More info on the process for participation can be found here. Our partners are actively responding to requests from state agencies with rural areas interested in participating. If you have questions about the interest of specific states in operating the program, or the availability of meals in your area, we encourage you to contact the relevant state agency. (State agency contact information can be found here.)

Best,

46890CC6

Janna Kimosh
Media Branch Chief
Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
(O) 703-305-2797
(M) (b) (6)
Email: janna.kimosh@usda.gov

From: Blume, Howard <Howard.Blume@latimes.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 2:43 PM
To: SM.OC.Press <Press@usda.gov>
Subject: information about school meal program during covid-19

Hi,

I'm seeking information in the context of the decision by Los Angeles Unified to distribute food to all who ask.

Can you feed everyone with school meal funding or just low-income students? Under what circumstances, if any, can all students be fed?
Under what circumstances, if any, can family members other than students be fed?
Under what circumstances, if any, can any individual or household receive this food, whether or not there are school-age children in the household?

To what extent do districts need to document that only eligible students are receiving food paid for

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

by the federal school lunch program?

(My understanding is that documentation requirements and eligibility rules have been relaxed, but I'm trying to determine where the Dept. of Ag draws the line. This is helpful both for the public and school districts to know.)

To what extent, if any, is there another federal program or programs that would provide meals to individuals other than school-aged children or individuals whose households do not include school-aged children?

I saw the release (https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/03/17/usda-announces-feeding-program-partnership-response-covid-19) on the department's partnership with the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty, McLane Global, PepsiCo and others. What are the locations where these programs are being provided and when did they begin? And what specifically is the government reimbursement rate for these services?

Also where can I find detailed information about the partnership with Panera?

Thanks,
Howard Blume
L.A. Times
(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; FNS AO Press Clearance; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: MEDIA RESPONSES DUE 10 AM- WSJ
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:42:39 AM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]?

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From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:27:59 AM
To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: MEDIA RESPONSES DUE 10 AM- WSJ

Added EAs and P-EBT.

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:27 AM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR AO: Media inquiry - WSJ re: food banks during COVID-19 (Deadline: 10am Monday)

+FNCS

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:19 AM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FOR AO: Media inquiry - WSJ re: food banks during COVID-19 (Deadline: 10am Monday)

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 7:29 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: Media inquiry - WSJ re: food banks during COVID-19 (Deadline: 10am Monday)

DEADLINE: 10a Monday 4/27

Wall Street Journal reporter Joshua Jamerson is working on a story about how food deserts. **This is major media.**

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INQUIRY:

Is USDA launching any programs to help people in food deserts specifically during the coronavirus crisis?

RESPONSE:

Attributable Statement from Secretary Perdue:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS
Subject: Re: MEDIA RESPOSNE DUE 4:30- CBS
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 4:40:31 PM

(b) (5), DPP .

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From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 4:24:41 PM
To: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: MEDIA RESPOSNE DUE 4:30- CBS

Adding Brandon.

From: Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 3:49 PM
To: FNS AO Press Clearance <fnspressclearance@usda.gov>
Cc: SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Subject: FOR AO: RUSH Media inquiry - CBS MoneyWatch re: SNAP benefit increase, online purchasing (Deadline: 4:30p today)

DEADLINE: 4:30p today, 5/14

CBS MoneyWatch reporter Aimee Picchi reached out for comment on USDA's recent notice to appeal a court decision to halt the ABAWD rules. OC is addressing that question, but she also asked the questions below. **This is a major media outlet.**

INQUIRY:
Policy experts also say that SNAP benefits should be increased beyond the measures already taken in response to the pandemic. Do you have a response to that?

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

INQUIRY:
There has been a push from some lawmakers to allow SNAP beneficiaries to use their benefits with more flexibility during the pandemic, such as ordering online deliveries. Is that under consideration?

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tiller, Jennifer
Subject: RE: MI Seed Issue
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:12:00 PM

Thank you. That's a lot of signatories.

From: Tiller, Jennifer <Jennifer.Tiller@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:10 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: MI Seed Issue

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dan Kotman

April 15, 2020

202-225-6276

Michigan Representatives Request Clarification of Governor's Executive Order Regarding Access to SNAP Benefits

Jackson, MI—U.S. Representatives Tim Walberg (MI-07), Jack Bergman (MI-01), Bill Huizenga (MI-02), John Moolenaar (MI-04), Fred Upton (MI-06), and Paul Mitchell (MI-10) sent a letter to Governor Whitmer requesting further clarification of the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order (Executive Order 2020-42) as it pertains to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which low-income families rely on to put food on the table. Under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, SNAP benefits can be used to purchase seeds and plants to promote nutrition and the value of homegrown food. In Michigan, nearly 1.25 million people receive food assistance through this federal program.

"This past weekend multiple press reports alluded to a moratorium on the purchase of seeds and plants under Executive Order 2020-42. Specifically, concerns were raised about the mandated closure of businesses such as greenhouses and the closure of garden centers and plant sales within businesses larger than 50,000 square feet," **the lawmakers wrote**. "Many of these businesses are SNAP-authorized retailers which consumers regularly depend on to purchase high quality seeds and plants to feed their families year-round. We request necessary clarification on Executive Order 2020-42 so all stores, regardless of size, can comply with allowing use of all SNAP benefits.

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A copy of the letter is below and a PDF can be downloaded here.

Dear Governor Whitmer:

As you well know, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is creating unprecedented challenges for our nation and the entire world. We recognize the challenges caused by COVID-19 require a strong, coordinated, response at the federal, state, and local levels to address concerns related to the health, safety, and economic well-being of all Michigan residents. With this in mind, we write to request further clarification, and if necessary, reconsideration, of Executive Order 2020-42 as it pertains to the purchase of goods from garden centers or plant nurseries.

Per Section 3(k)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (as amended through P.L. 115–334), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits can be used to purchase "seeds and plants for use in gardens to produce food for the personal consumption of the eligible household." As you may know, these food sources are particularly important for low-income families. This past weekend multiple press reports alluded to a moratorium on the purchase of seeds and plants under Executive Order 2020-42. Specifically, concerns were raised about the mandated closure of businesses such as greenhouses and the closure of garden centers and plant sales within businesses larger than 50,000 square feet. Many of these businesses are SNAP-authorized retailers which consumers regularly depend on to purchase high quality seeds and plants to feed their families year-round. We request necessary clarification on Executive Order 2020-42 so all stores, regardless of size, can comply with allowing use of all SNAP benefits.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports that every month, more than 19 million households use SNAP to get nutritious food. For every $1 dollar spent on seeds and fertilizer, home gardeners can grow an average of $25 worth of produce. Growing food from seeds and plants makes SNAP benefits last longer, allowing recipients to double the value of their benefits over time while promoting a more healthy diet. Supplementing SNAP with homegrown food makes it possible for families to buy food products that they wouldn't normally be able to afford.

Being producers as well as consumers is an empowering experience for SNAP participants. It allows them to feel self-reliant. It is also another great way to promote nutrition, enabling people to take pride in eating their own homegrown fruits and vegetables.

While we continue the discussion on appropriate measures to prioritize the health and well-being of all Michigan citizens, we respectfully ask that you ensure all applicable SNAP-authorized retailers are permitted to continue selling these vital seeds and plants.

###

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: MN Online Pilot
Date: Friday, May 1, 2020 10:42:00 AM

Thank you!

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 10:30 AM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: MN Online Pilot

Draft press release below. Jordan, Lillie has been forwarding the Press release once OC sends it. Let me know if you have questions.

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 10:10 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: MN Online Pilot

Sir,
FNS has received an approvable plan from Minnesota for the SNAP online pilot. Previously announced states include: Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, North Carolina, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, and Vermont covering more than half of all SNAP recipients.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

The State has been notified.

Minnesota Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

USDA is expanding access to innovative online food purchase program

Release & Contact Info

Press Release
Release No. 0225.20

Contact: USDA Press

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Email: press@oc.usda.gov

(Washington, D.C., April 21, 2020) – (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

#

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Re: Monday Committee briefings COVID
Date:	Saturday, March 7, 2020 8:22:15 PM

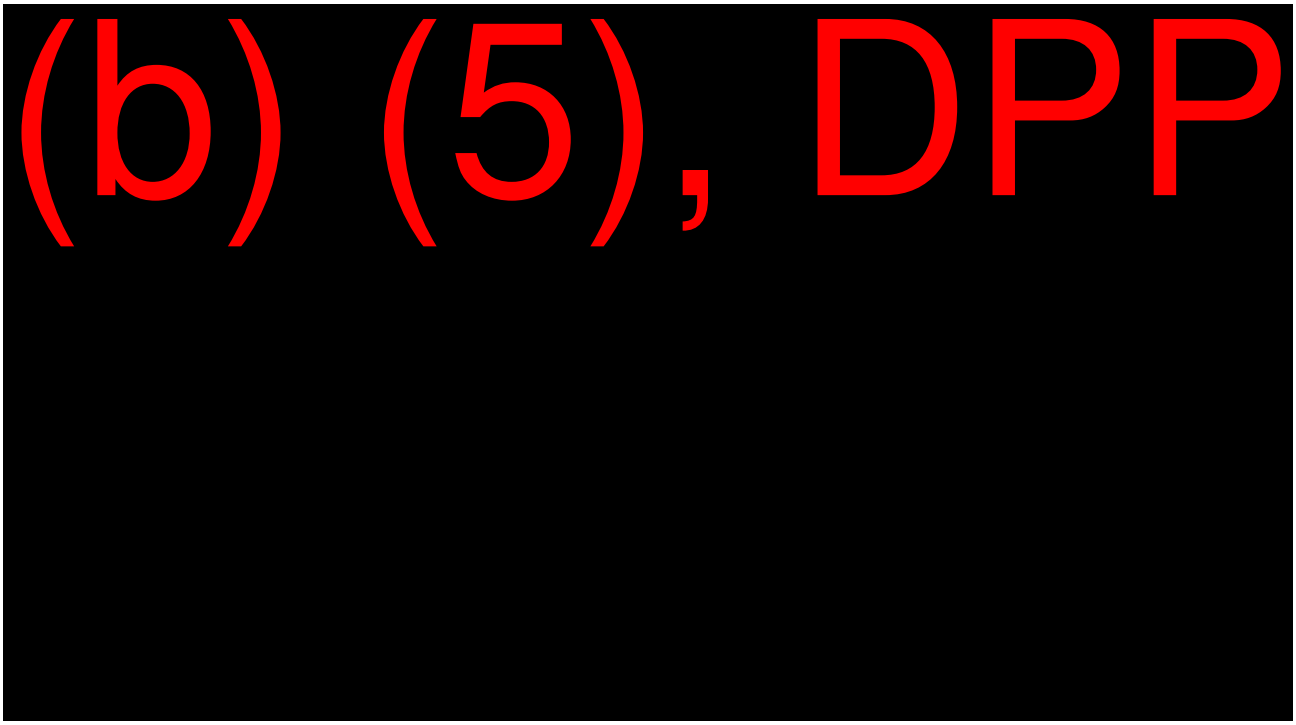
+ Campbell

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 8:15:46 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Cc: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Subject: Monday Committee briefings COVID

All,

In preparation for Monday afternoon's Committee call briefings on FNS and coronavirus, I wanted to share with you some of the questions/concerns the Hill has shared to me.



Veronica

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS; Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov); Whalen, Karla - AMS
Subject: RE: Morning Hill News
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2020 9:12:00 AM

Good morning,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 7:13 AM
To: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Beatty, Shelly R - FNS <shelly.beatty@usda.gov>; Carter, Scott - FNS <scott.carter@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Currie, Jack - FNS <jack.currie@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Evans, Gregg - FNS <gregg.evans@usda.gov>; Fiala, Anne - FNS <anne.fiala@usda.gov>; FNS - FNCS Leadership <FNCSLeadership@usda.gov>; FNS - Regional Public Affairs Staff <fn-regional-cga@usda.gov>; Garcia, Kristin - FNS <kristin.garcia@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Isa, Jalil - FNS <jalil.isa@usda.gov>; Larson, Jessica - CNPP <jessica.larson1@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Nguyen, Jimmy - FNS <jimmy.nguyen@usda.gov>; Olson, Sara - FNS <sara.olson@usda.gov>; Orzechowski, Samuel - FNS (Contractor) <samuel.orzechowski@usda.gov>; Perkins, Celeste - FNS <celeste.perkins@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Terry, Neva - FNS <neva.terry@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Wood, Yibo - FNS <yibo.wood@usda.gov>; Pitulej, Robert - FNS <Robert.Pitulej@usda.gov>; Larson, Kiley - FNS <kiley.larson@usda.gov>; Mouw, Traci - FNS <traci.mouw@usda.gov>; Hall, Ann - FNS <ann.hall@usda.gov>; Hortin, Steve - FNS <steve.hortin@usda.gov>; Guymon-LeMoult, Kimberly - FNS (Detailee) <Kimberly.Guymon-Lemoult@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - AMS <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>
Subject: Morning Hill News

Good Morning,

In Hill News, Amazon expands its use of the SNAP online purchasing pilot to residents of Washington state.

Thanks,

Kiev Randall, MS, RD
Tribal & Congressional Liaison
Government Affairs Branch

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Kiev.Randall@usda.gov
Phone: 703-305-2828

From: POLITICO Pro's Morning Agriculture
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 5:49:42 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Wilson II, Anthony - FNS
Subject: How farmers feel about USDA's hemp rules — Amazon expands acceptance of food stamps — Coronavirus could dent Chinese ag purchases

Jan 30, 2020 View in browser

2018 Newsletter Logo: Morning Agriculture

BY **RYAN MCCRIMMON**

QUICK FIX

— Farm groups and hemp advocates submitted nearly 2,500 comments on the Agriculture Department's proposed regulations for

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industrial hemp production before the public comment period ended on Wednesday. POLITICO dug through them so you don't have to.

— The Seattle-based tech giant will offer online use of food stamps in its hometown and soon the entire state of Washington. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients in New York can already use benefits to buy groceries on Amazon under a USDA pilot program.

— USDA is keeping a close eye on the coronavirus outbreak in China, which could put a damper on any boost in U.S. farm exports under the new "phase one" trade agreement. Secretary Sonny Perdue said it's unclear how big the impact will be on agriculture.

HAPPY THURSDAY, JAN. 30! Welcome to Morning Ag, where we need this arugula shortage to end immediately. It's disrupting your host's daily salad routine. Send tips to rmccrimmon@politico.com and @ryanmccrimmon, and follow us @Morning_Ag.

DRIVING THE DAY

HOW FARMERS FEEL ABOUT USDA'S HEMP RULES: Hemp has been one of the hottest regulatory issues in agriculture since the 2018 farm bill legalized the plant for nationwide production. The first growing season with a federal framework in place is right around the corner, and interest within the industry is still booming, based on the flood of comments USDA received on its new hemp program unveiled in October.

Among the thousands of comments from farmers, businesses and lawmakers were plenty of complaints about how the federal rules could hamper hemp growers — though most commenters were glad to have some guidance after being stuck in regulatory limbo for much of 2019.

So who weighed in?

— The American Farm Bureau Federation wants USDA to develop a

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seed certification program to help farmers who buy seeds overseas with unknown THC concentrations — which could jeopardize their crop's ability to qualify as hemp.

— The National Farmers Union took issue with the rule's "negligence" threshold: If a plant exceeds a 0.5 percent level of THC, farmers risk losing their license. NFU said that's too rigid, especially in the early years as producers try to develop best practices for growing hemp.

— The U.S. Hemp Roundtable, which represents companies that sell hemp-derived products, objected to the requirements that only DEA-certified labs can be used to test hemp, which the group said could lead to testing bottlenecks. Pro Ag's Liz Crampton has the full rundown.

AMAZON ALLOWS WIDER USE OF FOOD STAMPS: More than 800,000 SNAP recipients in Washington state will soon be able to redeem their benefits to buy groceries on Amazon, now that the nearly trillion-dollar tech company is expanding its participation in USDA's online pilot program. The program opened to Seattle-area SNAP recipients on Wednesday and will open statewide soon after, Amazon announced on its corporate blog.

The USDA initiative was created by the 2014 farm bill. The department in 2017 enlisted a handful of large retailers, including Amazon, Walmart and Safeway, to participate in the pilot, which was meant to test the feasibility of eventually allowing online use of SNAP benefits nationwide.

The trial-run launched last April in New York, home to some 2.5 million SNAP recipients, and it's set to eventually include Alabama, Iowa, Maryland, Nebraska, New Jersey and Oregon. The eight states together had 6.4 million residents receiving benefits, as of October, or roughly a sixth of all SNAP recipients in the U.S.

Benefits will cover the cost of groceries but not service or delivery charges, according to USDA. Amazon said it will offer free shipping

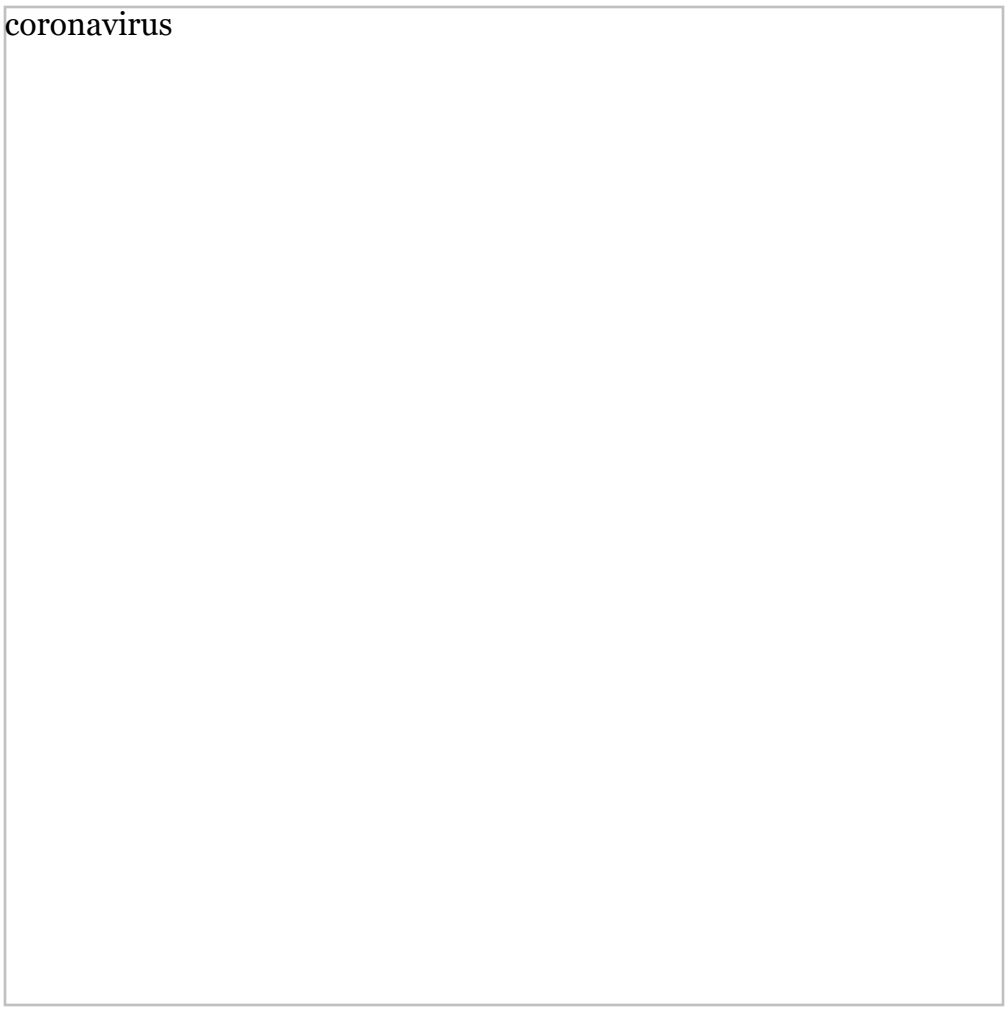
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options and won't require a Prime membership for SNAP users.

GO GLOBAL IN 2020: Led by POLITICO's man about town Ryan Heath, the new "Global Translations" newsletter is a weekly guide through the global news maze and connects readers to others who think and act beyond their own country's borders. At launch, the newsletter will feature three main sections: Game changing developments & power plays with a spotlight on global news impacting policy and markets; a "Sustainability Spotlight," that unpacks the latest sustainability trends including interviews with CEOs and Chief Sustainability Officers; and "Institutionalized," featuring updates from a community of global power players setting and influencing the agenda. SUBSCRIBE TODAY.

TRADE CORNER

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An employee sprays disinfectant as a precaution against the coronavirus. | Ahn Young-joon/AP Photo

CORONAVIRUS COULD DENT AG EXPORTS TO CHINA: Perdue on Wednesday said he's closely monitoring the deadly virus and its potential to hurt Beijing's ability to follow through on its commitment to buy huge sums of U.S. farm goods over the next two years, your host reports.

"It obviously is going to have some ramifications economy-wide, which we hope will not inhibit the purchase goal that we have for this year," he told reporters on a conference call. "The honest answer is, we just don't know yet, but we're hoping for a very quick conclusion."

The stakes: China has pledged to buy some $40 billion in U.S. ag products in 2020 and 2021, each. Trade analysts have already questioned whether such large purchases are possible, given supply

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and demand limitations and global trade rules. Sustained fallout from the coronavirus would represent a starker obstacle to those goals.

More from Perdue: The USDA chief, who was in Rome as part of his tour through Europe this week, also laid out what the Trump administration is seeking in a U.S.-EU trade deal — including staving off Europe's geographical protections for foods like parmesan and feta cheese.

ROW CROPS

— Get set for stealth Brexit: After years of international anguish, the U.K. will quietly leave the EU on Friday. The looming exit-date barely registered at the World Economic Forum last week in Davos, Switzerland, and U.K. leaders are busy sparring over high-speed rail and Chinese telecom giant Huawei, writes POLITICO's Ryan Heath.

— House Democrats' sweeping infrastructure package includes $86 billion to expand internet connectivity in hard-to-reach communities over the next five years. Most of the funds would go to broadband infrastructure, while $12 billion is slated for 911 upgrades. More from Pro Tech's John Hendel. (Also: Read more about the package and the clean water and energy provisions.)

— Erland Herfindahl will take over as U.S. senior U.S. trade representative in Brussels next month, in place of Kate Kalutkiewicz, who is returning to Washington. Herfindahl oversaw the U.S. trade preference program for developing nations as deputy assistant USTR, per POLITICO Europe's Jakob Hanke.

— House lawmakers advanced legislation to unwind the Trump administration's changes to endangered species laws. The Interior Department last year issued three regulations to roll back decades-old protections for threatened wildlife, including climate change provisions, Pro Energy's Anthony Adragna reports.

— Scientists have developed an African swine fever vaccine that's proved 100 percent effective so far, according to the

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American Society for Microbiology. There's currently no vaccine on the market for the deadly disease that has wiped out millions of pigs in China and other nations. Bloomberg has the story.

— The Federal Reserve held interest rates steady as the central bank maintains its wait-and-see approach amid modest economic growth but lower household spending, writes Pro Financial Services' Katy O'Donnell. Also on Wednesday, Chair Jerome Powell said he expects the Fed to play a role in shoring up the financial system against the risks posed by climate change.

— Our friends at The New Food Economy officially rebranded this week as The Counter, now that the sweeping changes over the last decade in how Americans evaluate their food are no longer really "new." Take a look.

— The Nutrition Coalition hired Washington, D.C., physician Ted Eytan as associate director. The group aims to "bring rigorous science to nutrition policy," including a focus on the 2020 Dietary Guidelines process. Read the announcement.

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ON THE CALENDAR

— 10 a.m. USTR holds a hearing on U.S. trade benefits for developing nations, including testimony from agricultural groups. 1724 F St. NW.

Send your calendar items to agcalendar@politico.com.

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1520 of 1524

USDA-20-1045-A-001723

From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Cyrus Huncharek; SM.OSEC.AGSEC.OES; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Carter, Scott - FNS
Cc:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject:	RE: National Disability Rights Network Letter on SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot
Date:	Tuesday, April 14, 2020 1:21:00 PM

Hi Cyrus:

Thanks for the note and for your work.

In light of the current situation, FNS is working with all states that are interested in implementing the online purchasing option. Though FNS is receiving interest to expand the SNAP online pilot program, the responsibility is on state agencies, their third-party processor, and any retailers who wish to participate. This is unfortunately a complicated process that must be worked through carefully to ensure there isn't harm to the entire state's EBT system. To ease the process, FNS put together a simplified template for states who wish to enter the online pilot.

Please note that four additional states—Arizona, California, Florida and Idaho—have been added to the list of states approved to participate in the SNAP Online Purchasing pilot. This is in addition to states where the SNAP online purchasing pilot is already operating with select retailers: Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington.

We will work on a full response to your letter when received. Thank you for the input.

Regards,
Brandon

From: Cyrus Huncharek (b) (6) @ndrn.org>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 5:48 PM
To: SM.OSEC.AGSEC.OES <SM.OSEC.AGSEC.OES@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Carter, Scott - FNS <scott.carter@usda.gov>
Subject: National Disability Rights Network Letter on SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot

Good evening all,

First, I hope this email finds you all safe and healthy. My name is Cyrus Huncharek and I am a Public Policy Analyst at the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN). NDRN is the non-profit membership association of the nationwide network of Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agencies in every state and territory. The P&A Network comprises the nation's largest provider of legally-based advocacy services for individuals with disabilities.

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We have heard from a few P&As that have received complaints from SNAP beneficiaries with disabilities who are unable to have their groceries delivered to their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge USDA to expand the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot program to all states and territories and extend eligibility for the program to more retailers. We believe it is important that some of our most vulnerable citizens be able to obtain needed supplies and groceries online during the pandemic.

Please find the attached letter for more information regarding our position on this topic. A physical copy will be mailed to USDA and FNS once we have access to our offices.

If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me and thank you for the consideration of this request.

Cyrus Huncharek
Public Policy Analyst
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
820 First Street NE, Suite 740
Washington, DC 20002
Office: (202) 408-9514 x102
Mobile: (b) (6)

NATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS NETWORK
Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Disabilities

Preferred Pronouns: He/Him/His

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: NBC Rebuttal
Date:	Friday, May 8, 2020 3:00:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 2:48 PM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: NBC Rebuttal

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: NBC Rebuttal

Please send us any edits by 3pm – highlight your edits.

Thanks!

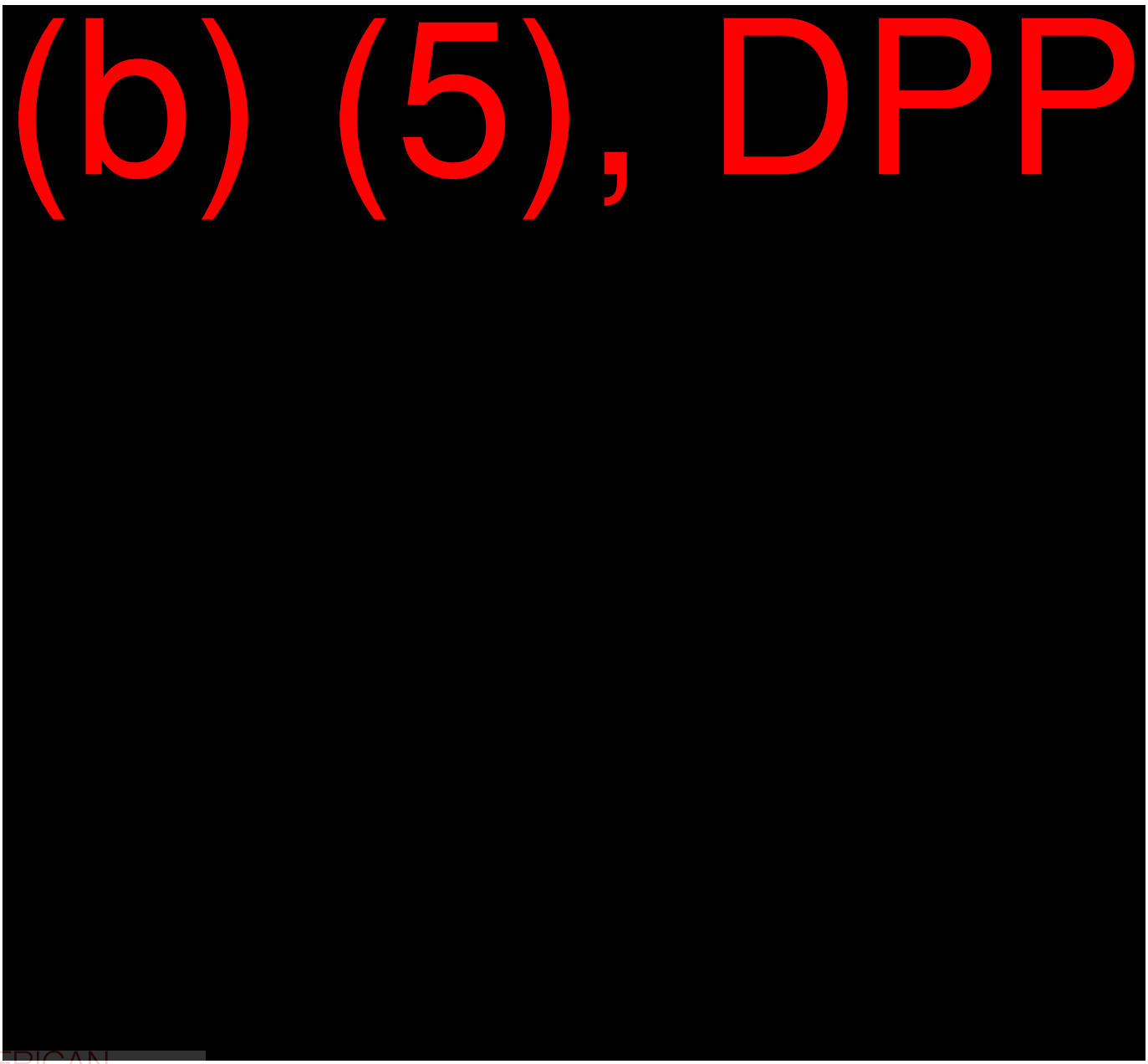
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

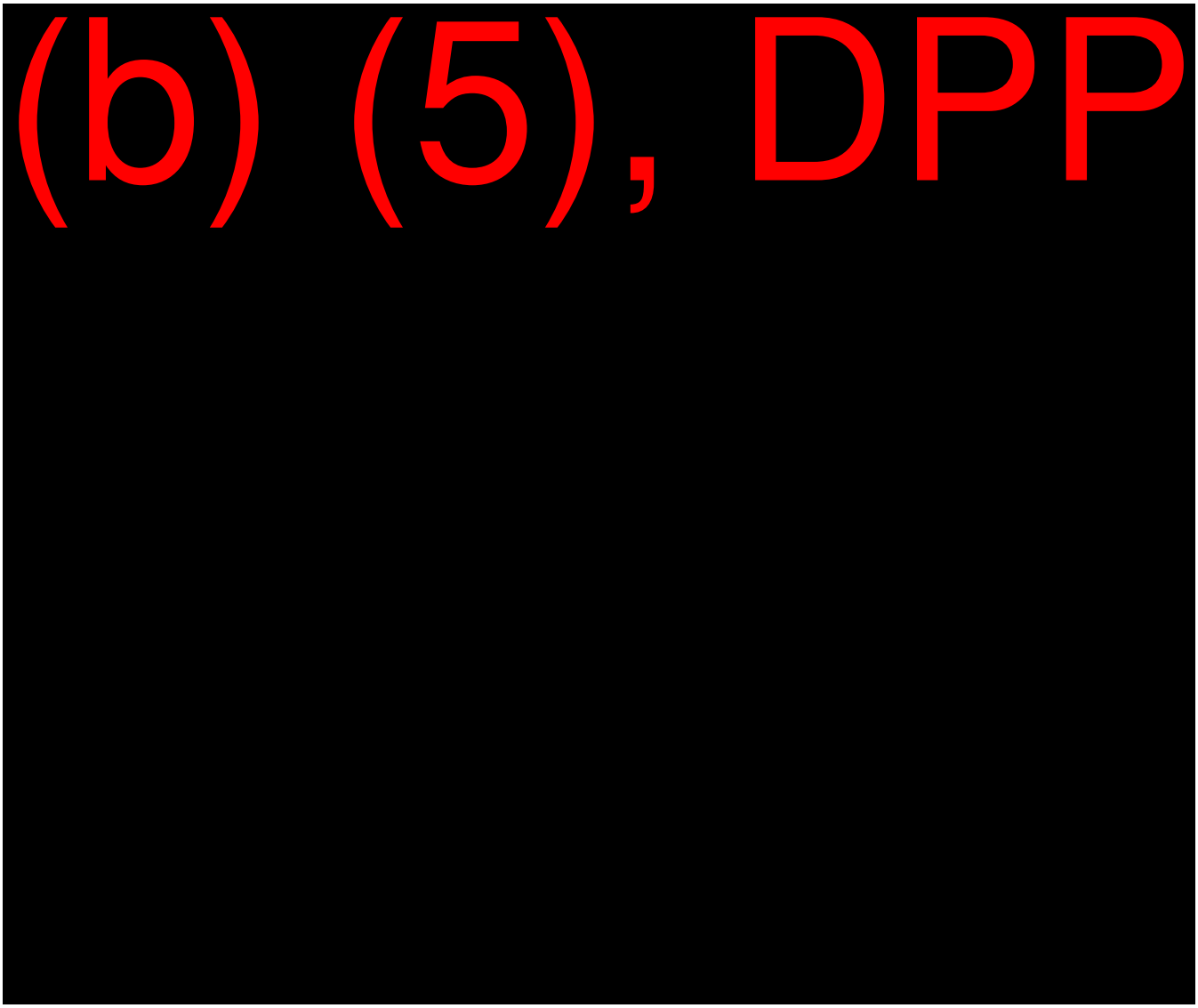
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

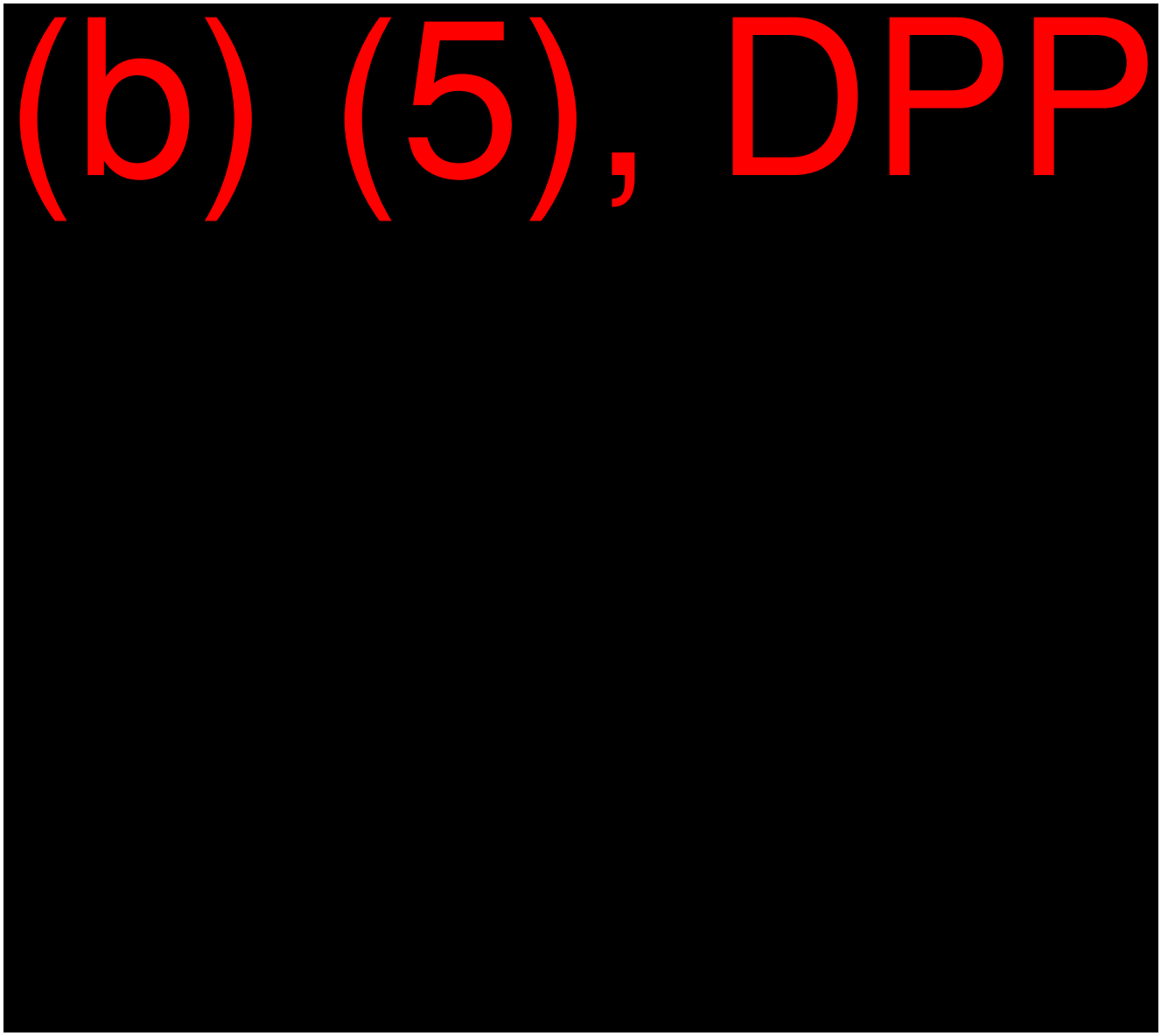


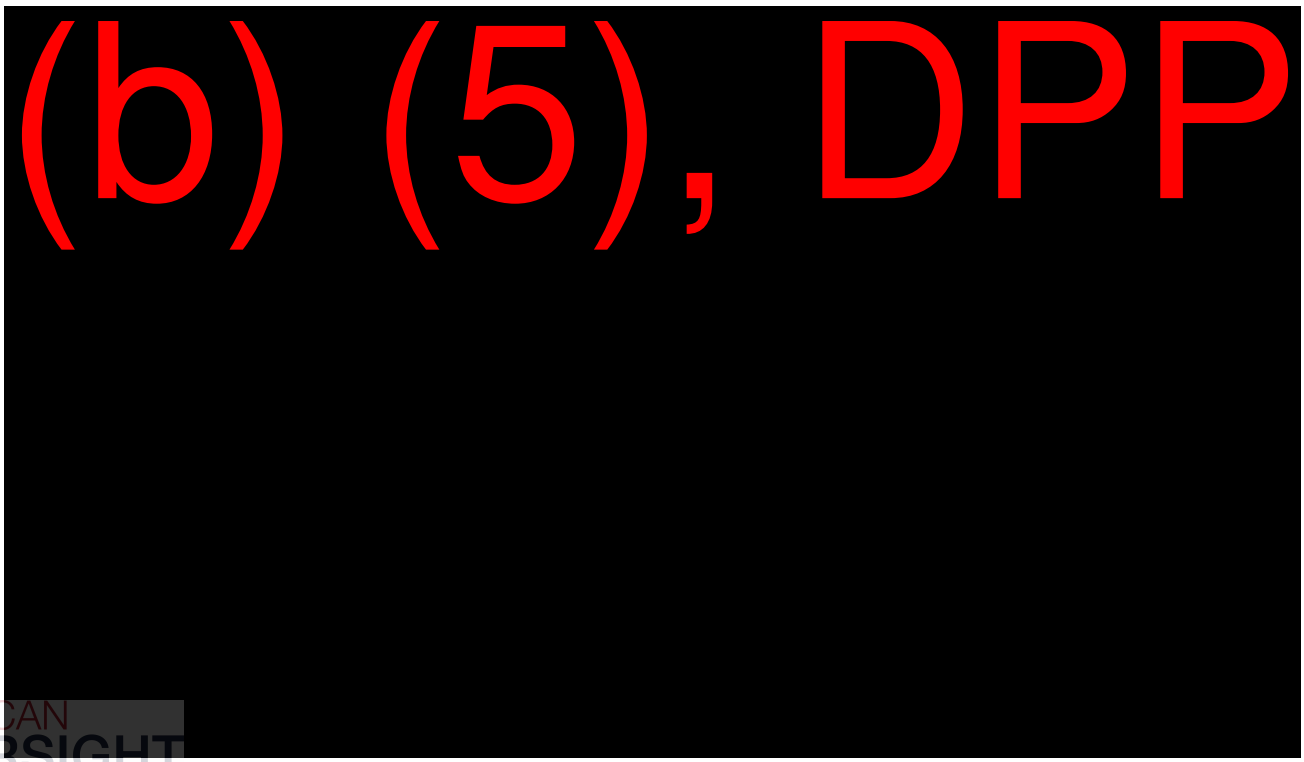
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



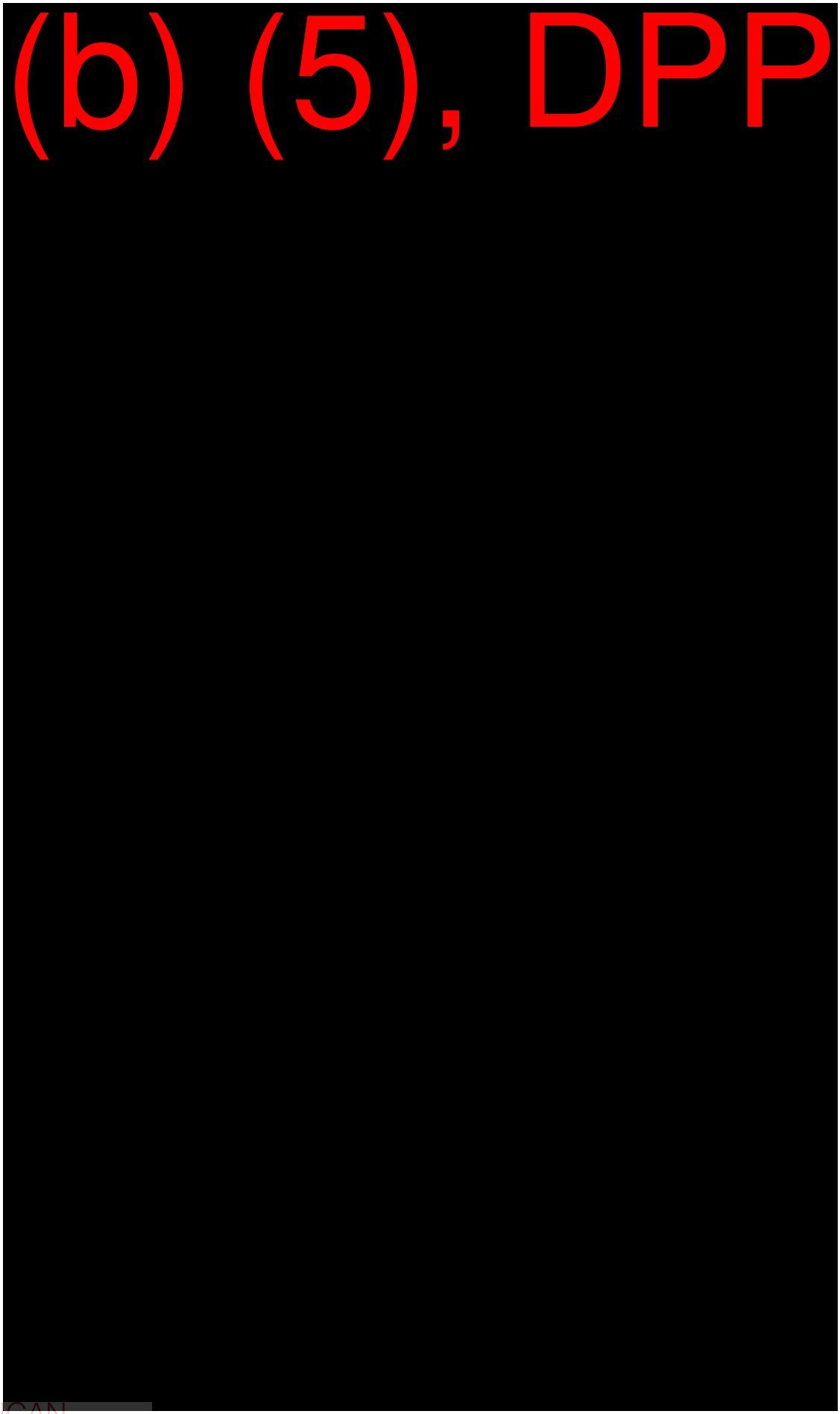


AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

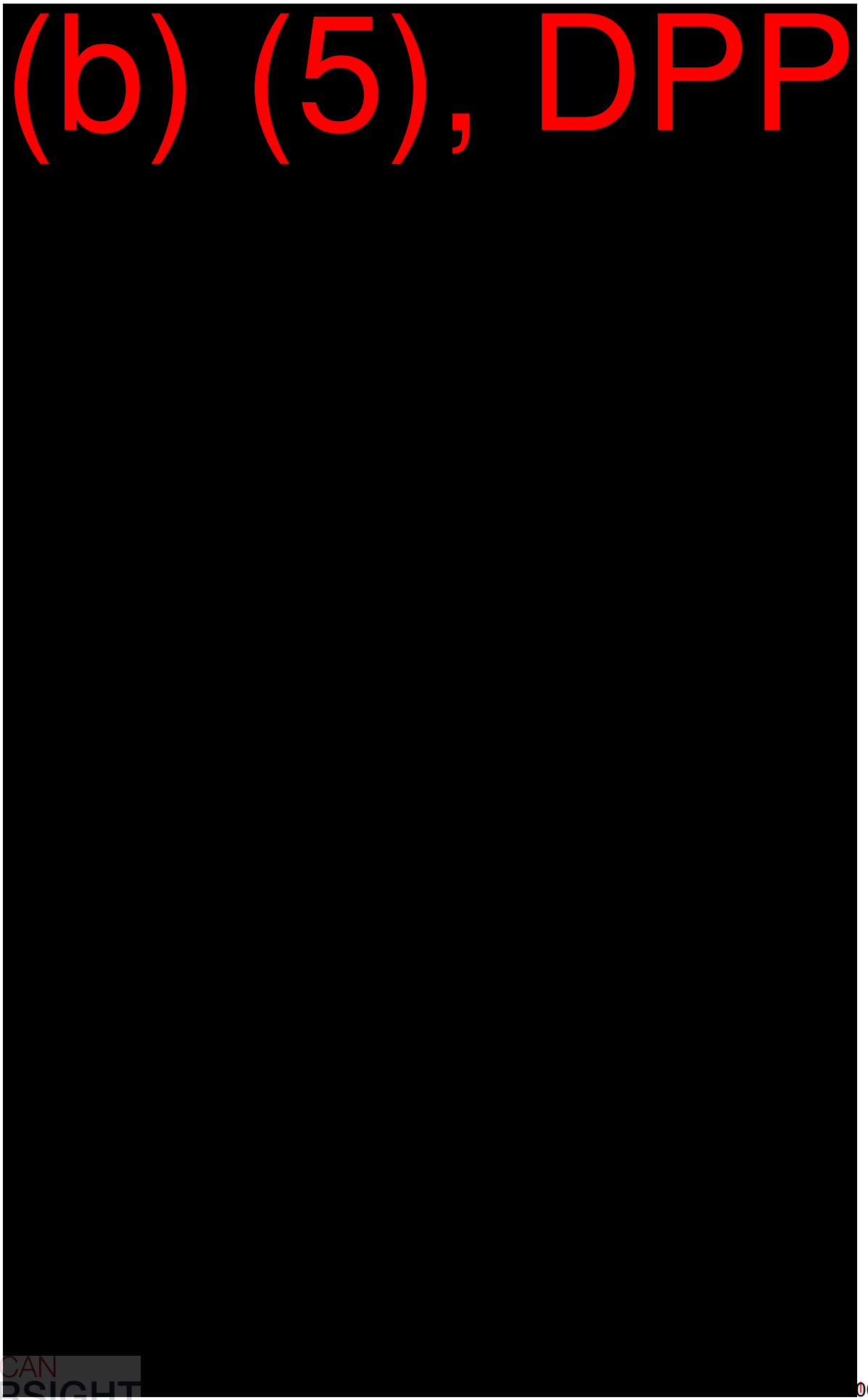




AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



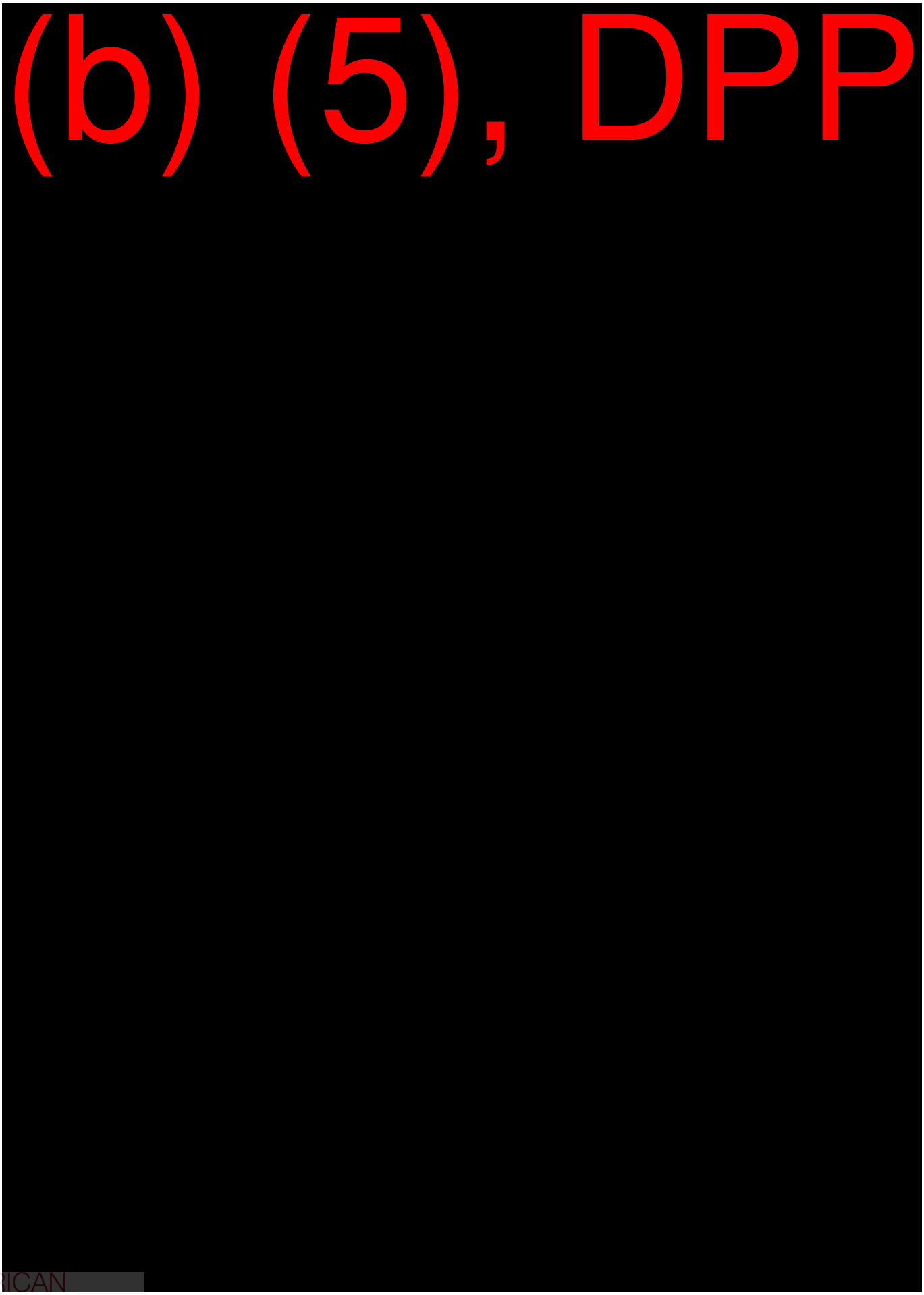
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(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

Meghan Rodgers
Deputy Communications Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-5555
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: new bill
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 4:52:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: new bill

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

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From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 3:09:57 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: new bill

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] Can we talk before 4:30PM?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7:31 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: new bill

Campbell,

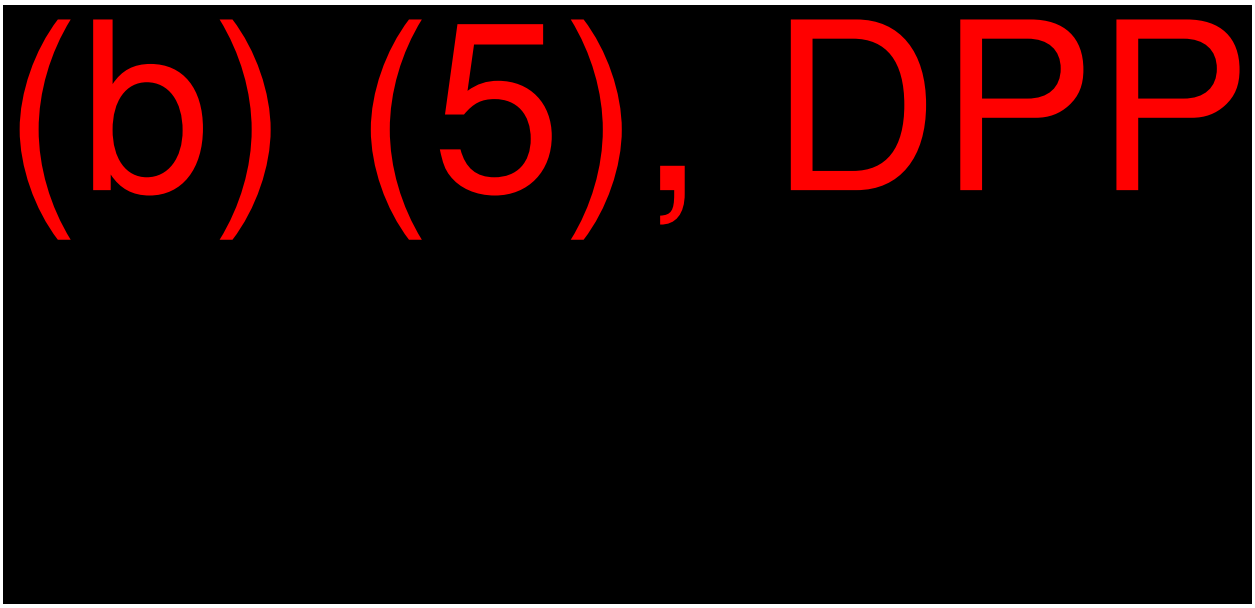
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Hoyos, Andres (Hassan); Holmes, Kerry (Hassan)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Koester, Tom (Hassan); Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: New Hampshire State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 16, 2020 4:44:00 PM

Andres,

Thank you for the email.

There is no additional reimbursement for home delivery or mobile meals delivery, but related expenses, such as postage or delivery service fees, would be considered an allowable cost under the SFSP or SSO. Delivery costs could also be paid with non-program funds such as State or local funds, or private donations.

Our regional Food and Nutrition Service staff are also available to provide technical assistance to states and program providers in regards to specific or unique plans for a community.

Thank you,
Veronica

From: Hoyos, Andres (Hassan) <Andres_Hoyos@hassan.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Holmes, Kerry (Hassan) <Kerry_Holmes@hassan.senate.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Koester, Tom (Hassan) <Tom_Koester@hassan.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: New Hampshire State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

Hi Veronica –

We have been getting some questions from New Hampshire districts if they are able to deliver these meals and if so will they be reimbursed for any costs associated. If you can please provide any more guidance on what they are allowed to do and not do it would be greatly appreciated.

Best,
Andres

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:12 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: New Hampshire State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

Good Evening,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

This email is to inform you that today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the New Hampshire Department of Education to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the approval currently**.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thanks,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot - COVID FNS incoming letter
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:41:00 AM
Attachments: COVID fns draft vw.03.24.20.docx
image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png

Noah, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov) <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov) <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot - COVID FNS incoming letter

Noah, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot

From: Childers, Rob (Menendez) <Rob_Childers@menendez.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:06 AM
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot

Chris and Kiev,

Please find attached a letter from Senators Menendez, Booker and Congressman Pascrell to Secretary Perdue regarding USDA's pilot program that allows SNAP recipients to use their benefits online.

Best,
Rob

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Robert T.J. Childers, Jr.
Legislative Assistant • U.S. Senator Bob Menendez
Office 202.224.4744 • 528 Hart Senate Office Building



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Sincerely,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot - COVID FNS incoming letter
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:38:00 AM
Attachments: sen booker menedez NJ snap online pilot covid draft reply vw.03.26.20.docx
image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png

I sent wrong attachment earlier. Here it is.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov) <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot - COVID FNS incoming letter

Noah, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov) <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Cc: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov) <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot - COVID FNS incoming letter

Noah, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot

From: Childers, Rob (Menendez) <Rob_Childers@menendez.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:06 AM
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: New Jersey SNAP Online Pilot

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Chris and Kiev,

Please find attached a letter from Senators Menendez, Booker and Congressman Pascrell to Secretary Perdue regarding USDA's pilot program that allows SNAP recipients to use their benefits online.

Best,
Rob

Robert T.J. Childers, Jr.
Legislative Assistant • U.S. Senator Bob Menendez
Office 202.224.4744 • 528 Hart Senate Office Building



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DRAFT Response to Sen Booker/Menendez (NJ)



Sincerely,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Ludwig, William - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS
Subject: Re: News Release: Texas Receives Approval for SNAP Online Grocery Purchases
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 7:25:37 AM

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From: Ludwig, William - FNS <william.ludwig@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 7:18:53 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: News Release: Texas Receives Approval for SNAP Online Grocery Purchases

FYI next PEBT then SNAP E&T!!! LOL have a great weekend.

Bill
Get Outlook for iOS

From: Byrd, Vernzel Mosby - FNS <vernzel.byrd@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 6:13:51 AM
To: Ludwig, William - FNS <william.ludwig@usda.gov>; Twitty, Karen - FNS <karen.twitty@usda.gov>; Crudup, Dwight - FNS <dwight.crudup@usda.gov>
Cc: Longoria, Efraim (Eddie) - FNS <efraim.longoria@usda.gov>; Lankster, Leslie - FNS <leslie.lankster@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: News Release: Texas Receives Approval for SNAP Online Grocery Purchases

FYI.

From: Texas Health and Human Services Commission <txhhs@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 3:22 PM
To: Byrd, Vernzel Mosby - FNS <vernzel.byrd@usda.gov>
Subject: News Release: Texas Receives Approval for SNAP Online Grocery Purchases

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

NEWS RELEASE

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Phil Wilson
HHS Executive Commissioner

Date: April 23, 2020
Contact: Elliott Sprehe, 512-424-6951
Elliott.Sprehe@hhsc.state.tx.us

Texas Receives Approval for SNAP Online Grocery Purchases

AUSTIN –Texas Health and Human Services recently received federal approval to allow Texans to purchase groceries online using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pilot program is expected to start by May 18 statewide.

"By allowing SNAP recipients to purchase groceries online throughout the COVID-19 response, we are removing barriers to healthy and nutritious food for many families in Texas," said Governor Greg Abbott. "I am grateful to our federal partners at the USDA for approving this request. As the Lone Star State continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are exhausting all avenues to both protect the health and safety of Texans while ensuring families, including recipients of SNAP, have the ability to provide for their families during this challenging time."

"Because families, including SNAP recipients, have had to adjust to social distancing and staying home when possible, some homes have encountered challenges when finding certain grocery items," said HHS Access and Eligibility Deputy Executive Commissioner Wayne Salter. "Adding another option for Texans using SNAP to get the healthy and nutritious food their families need helps ease the minds of families and limit their exposure to COVID-19."

With approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, HHSC is implementing a pilot program to allow online grocery purchasing for SNAP clients in Texas. Walmart and Amazon are the first retailers to join the pilot in Texas, scheduled to start by May 18.

This announcement is the latest change Gov. Abbott and HHSC has made to

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the SNAP program in response to COVID-19, and SNAP clients are now receiving their maximum eligible allotment and have also had renewal requirements temporarily waived.

More information about SNAP benefits is available here.

-30-

You have subscribed to get updates about Texas Health and Human Services (HHS). For more information about HHS, please visit our website.

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(en español)

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This email was sent to vernzel.byrd@fns.usda.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of:
Texas Health and Human Services Commission · 4900 North Lamar Blvd · Austin TX 78751 · 1-800-439-1420

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1740 of 1755

USDA-20-1045-A-001748

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: NH PEBT
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 10:00:00 AM

thanks

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 9:54 AM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: NH PEBT

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: NH PEBT

Sir,
FNS has received an approvable plan for New Hampshire on P-EBT.

Previously announced P-EBT states include Michigan, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Arizona, Illinois, Alabama, Wisconsin, California, Connecticut, Kansas, Virginia, Maryland, New Mexico, Delaware, Oregon, North Dakota, West Virginia, Vermont, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, New Jersey and Ohio. The total is now 26 states.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

The state have been notified.

USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in New Hampshire

Pandemic EBT to Feed Children during COVID-19 National Emergency

Release & Contact Info

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Press Release
Release No. 0224.20

Contact: USDA Press
Email: press@oc.usda.gov

(Washington, D.C., April XX, 2020) – (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

#

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: RE: notice needed today
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:56:00 PM

Will do, thanks.

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:56 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thank you!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

Thank you. Here's the draft hill notice. If you see any errors or needed clarifications please let me know ASAP.

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:49 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

I think (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

… Jeff

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:44 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:32 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:08 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

The SNAP notice was just sent to the regions (attached). As with WIC, waivers are being extended to June 30. Guidance for SNAP waivers beyond June 30 will again, like WIC, be forthcoming.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

… Jeff

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 4:33 PM
To: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: notice needed today

EGA + veronica:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: RE: notice needed today
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 7:05:00 PM

The hill has been notified. thanks.

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 7:02 PM
To: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: notice needed today

(b) (5), DPP . Thanks Veronica!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 6:13:10 PM
To: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

For a timing update: (b) (5), DPP

From: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 6:00 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

Looks fine to me as well.

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

… Jeff

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:56 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

Looks good! Thanks. (b) (5), DPP
[redacted]
you!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

Thank you. Here's the draft hill notice. If you see any errors or needed clarifications please let me know ASAP.

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

From: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:49 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

I think(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

… Jeff

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:44 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:32 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:08 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: notice needed today

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The SNAP notice was just sent to the regions (attached). As with WIC, waivers are being extended to June 30. Guidance for SNAP waivers beyond June 30 will again, like WIC, be forthcoming.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

… Jeff

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 4:33 PM
To: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: notice needed today

EGA + veronica:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: NV Online Pilot
Date: Friday, May 1, 2020 6:48:00 PM

Thank you

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 6:34 PM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: NV Online Pilot

Draft press release below.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 6:16:12 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: NV Online Pilot

Sir,
FNS has received an approvable plan from Nevada for the SNAP online pilot. Previously announced states include: Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, North Carolina, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, Vermont, and Minnesota covering more than half of all SNAP recipients.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

The State has been notified.

Nevada Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

USDA is expanding access to innovative online food purchase program

Release & Contact Info

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Press Release
Release No. 0225.20

Contact: USDA Press
Email: press@oc.usda.gov

(Washington, D.C., April 21, 2020) – (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

#

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: OCR Incoming Letter Report t 4.8.20
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:05:11 PM

Great, I'm ready to send the digest once I get that from you.

From: "Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC" <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 8:58 PM
To: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: OCR Incoming Letter Report t 4.8.20

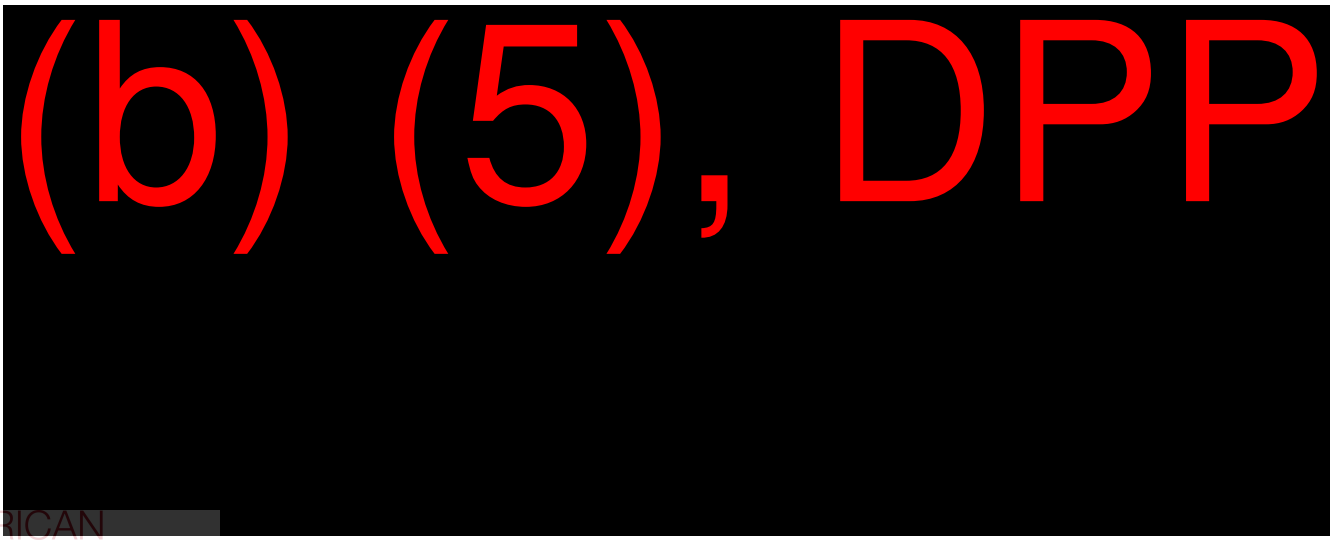
Writing one now

--
Evan B. Lee
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
c: (b) (6)

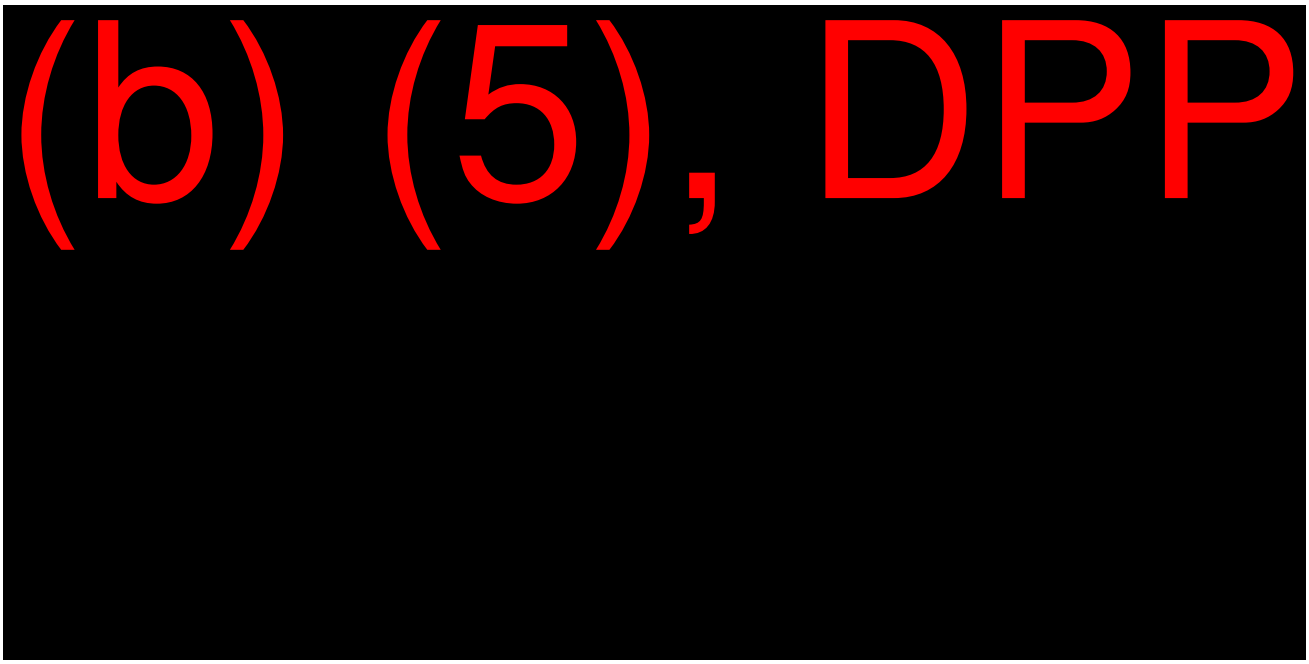
From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:53:02 PM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: OCR Incoming Letter Report t 4.8.20

(b) (5), DPP

From: "Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC" <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 8:03 PM
To: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: OCR Incoming Letter Report t 4.8.20

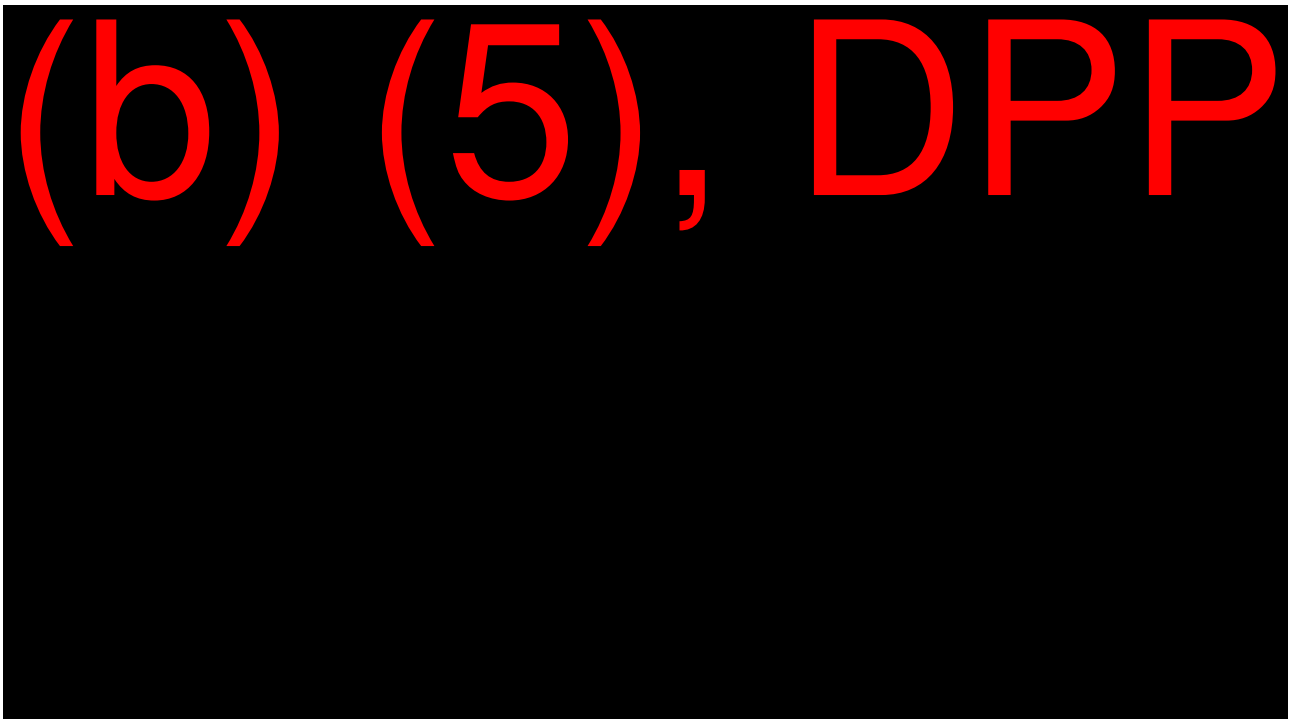


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--
Evan B. Lee
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
c: (b) (6)

From: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 7:06 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: OCR Incoming Letter Report t 4.8.20



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(b) (5), DPP

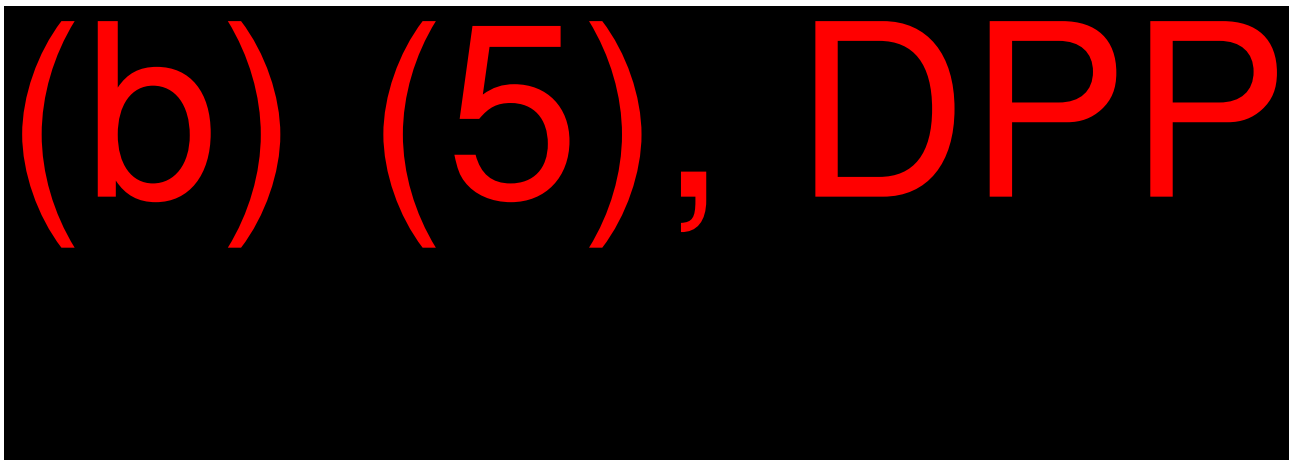
--
Evan B. Lee
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
c: (b) (6)

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 6:43 PM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: OCR Incoming Letter Report t 4.8.20

(b) (5), DPP

From: "Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC" <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 6:20 PM
To: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: OCR Incoming Letter Report t 4.8.20

Ken, below is our summary of Congressional letters received on April 8, 2020. Copies of the letters attached. Please let me know if you have any questions.



Evan B. Lee

Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: OPS/EGA -- Government Affairs Shared Mailbox Notice
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:00:00 PM

No I don't have much right now. Until they send the nightly flood of waivers

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: OPS/EGA -- Government Affairs Shared Mailbox Notice

Perfect! Can I help you with anything?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: OPS/EGA -- Government Affairs Shared Mailbox Notice

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: OPS/EGA -- Government Affairs Shared Mailbox Notice

Veronica,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

-Chris

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 2:38 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: OPS/EGA -- Government Affairs Shared Mailbox Notice

So, to clarify, (b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

From: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>;

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Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>; AFND_SNAS_FO <SNASFO@USDA.GOV>; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Hermsen, Elizabeth - FNS <elizabeth.hermsen@usda.gov>; Cullo, Diane - OTR, Washington, DC <diane.cullo@usda.gov>; Cronin, Linda - OTR, Washington, DC <linda.cronin@usda.gov>; Harris, Jeffrey - OTR, Washington, DC <jeffrey.harris@usda.gov>; Eliff, Tama - FNS <tama.eliff@usda.gov>; FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>
Cc: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Abelev, Melissa - FNS <melissa.abelev@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Hughes, Sarah - FNS <sarah.hughes@usda.gov>; Wood, Yibo - FNS <yibo.wood@usda.gov>; Perkins, Celeste - FNS <celeste.perkins@usda.gov>; Nguyen, Jimmy - FNS <jimmy.nguyen@usda.gov>
Subject: OPS/EGA -- Government Affairs Shared Mailbox Notice

Good Afternoon AO/OCR/OTR/FNS OPS and Programs:

In an effort to better track congressional inquiries, the FNS Government Affairs team will now use a shared mailbox to receive, process and respond to all inquiries.

Starting today, please use and/or be on the lookout for congressional inquiries from **SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov**.

Also for your awareness, I want to introduce Sarah Hughes. Sarah is on detail from the SNAP Program for the next two months and we are excited to have her join the team. Yibo Wood, a current OPS/EGA staff member, will also be helping us with the increased work at present.

We have assigned members of our team to be on-point by program area:

- Sarah Hughes --SNAP
- Kiev Randall – Tribal and FDPIR
- Anthony Wilson – SNAS & Disaster notifications
- Yibo Wood – Child Nutrition

When sending e-mails from this shared e-mail address, the Government Affairs staff member will continue to identify themselves, should you have any additional questions related to that specific inquiry.

Thanks.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Pandemic EBT Update with SP
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 1:18:00 PM

Yes (b) (5), DPP

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 1:15:56 PM
To: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Pandemic EBT Update with SP

Lauren and I have been discussing (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 1:12 PM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Cc: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Pandemic EBT Update with SP

Yes, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Cc: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Pandemic EBT Update with SP

FYI (b) (5), DPP .

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Subject: Pandemic EBT Update with SP

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Lauren and Hailey,

If possible, [redacted] (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Miller, Pam - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject:	RE: PEBT Hill notification
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 8:56:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 8:52 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: PEBT Hill notification

All,

This email provides an update on USDA implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

The Act provides the Secretary of Agriculture authority to approve State agency plans for temporary emergency standards of eligibility and levels of benefits under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 for children who would normally receive free or reduced price school meals but are unable to attend their school due to closure related to the COVID-19. State Agencies may submit plans for schools closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency designation during which the school would otherwise be in session. The attached is guidance to State agencies on plan requirements in order to receive approval.

States agencies have been provided a copy of this guidance document on this provision. For additional information regarding FNS's response to COVID-19, please visit this link, https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with any questions.

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From:	Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: PELOSI AND SCHUMER -- to President Trump on Coronavirus Response: Put Health and Safety of American People Before Corporate Needs
Date:	Monday, March 9, 2020 9:50:19 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

(b) (5), DPP

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: PELOSI AND SCHUMER -- to President Trump on Coronavirus Response: Put Health and Safety of American People Before Corporate Needs

(b) (5), DPP

From: Veronica Wong <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Date: Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 7:11 PM
To: Campbell Shuford <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>, Anne DeCesaro <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>, "Miller, Pam - FNS" <pam.miller@usda.gov>, "Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC" <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>, Rebeckah Adcock <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>, "Datlow, Lindsay - FNS" <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>, Alec Varsamis <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>, Michawn Rich <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Cc: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: PELOSI AND SCHUMER -- to President Trump on Coronavirus Response: Put Health and Safety of American People Before Corporate Needs

From: Ross, Patricia <Patti.Ross@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2020 6:53 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: PELOSI AND SCHUMER -- to President Trump on Coronavirus Response: Put Health and Safety of American People Before Corporate Needs

FYI

From: Speaker Pelosi <Speaker.Pelosi@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2020 6:49 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: PELOSI AND SCHUMER -- to President Trump on Coronavirus Response: Put Health and Safety of American People Before Corporate Needs



Contact: Drew Hammill (Pelosi), 202-226-7616
Justin Goodman (Schumer), Press@schumer.senate.gov

March 8, 2020

Pelosi, Schumer to President Trump on Coronavirus Response: Put Health and Safety of American People Before Corporate Needs

Dem Leaders Say Any Proposal to Address Outbreak's Impact on Economy Must Include Paid Sick Leave for Workers, Among Other People-Focused Initiatives

Washington, D.C. – House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer released the following joint statement today urging President Trump to prioritize the needs of American workers and their families before the needs of major corporations in the government's response to the coronavirus outbreak:

"We are hoping to work with the administration on a coordinated, government-wide plan to respond to the coronavirus. We are pleased that we passed an emergency response bill on an overwhelming, bipartisan basis that provided a significant increase in resources beyond the administration's request.

"However, President Trump continues to manufacture needless chaos within his administration and it is hampering the government's response to the coronavirus outbreak. In light of reports that the Trump administration is considering new tax cuts for major corporations impacted by the coronavirus, we are demanding that the administration prioritize the health and safety of American workers and their families over corporate interests.

- **Paid sick leave** — workers impacted by quarantine orders or responsible for caring for children impacted by school closures must receive paid sick leave to alleviate the devastating consequences of lost wages;
- **Enhanced Unemployment Insurance** — we must ensure unemployment

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insurance benefits are available and sufficient for workers who may lose their jobs from the economic impacts of the epidemic;

- **Food security** — we must expand SNAP, WIC, school lunch and other initiatives and suspend implementation of any regulations that weaken federal food assistance, in order to ensure vulnerable populations do not lose access to food during this epidemic;
- **Clear protections for frontline workers** — we must have clear standards and sufficient distribution of necessary protective equipment for health care and other workers who are in contact with people who have been exposed or are suffering from the virus as well as the people responsible for cleaning buildings and public facilities;
- **Widespread and free coronavirus testing** — to control the spread of coronavirus, the administration must ensure that all Americans who need an evaluation are able to access locations for cost-free testing and rapidly increase the unacceptably low daily test processing capacity inside the U.S.;
- **Affordable treatment for all** — patients must be reimbursed for any non-covered coronavirus-related costs, or else the epidemic will be worsened because Americans will fear they cannot afford the costs associated with treatment;
- **Anti-price gouging protections** — we must ensure that Americans are protected from price gouging of medical and non-medical essentials during this emergency;
- **Increase capacity of medical system** — we must use our emergency response mechanisms to mobilize resources and facilities in order to respond to surges in demand.

"The administration must move more quickly and seriously to address the severe impacts of the coronavirus on the financial security of America's families."

# # #

Press Release Link:
https://www.speaker.gov/newsroom/3820-0
www.Speaker.gov – Twitter – YouTube – Flickr – Facebook – Instagram – Medium – The Gavel

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Policy Request: Ag Day Stakeholder Call Tomorrow
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:45:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png

(b) (5), DPP

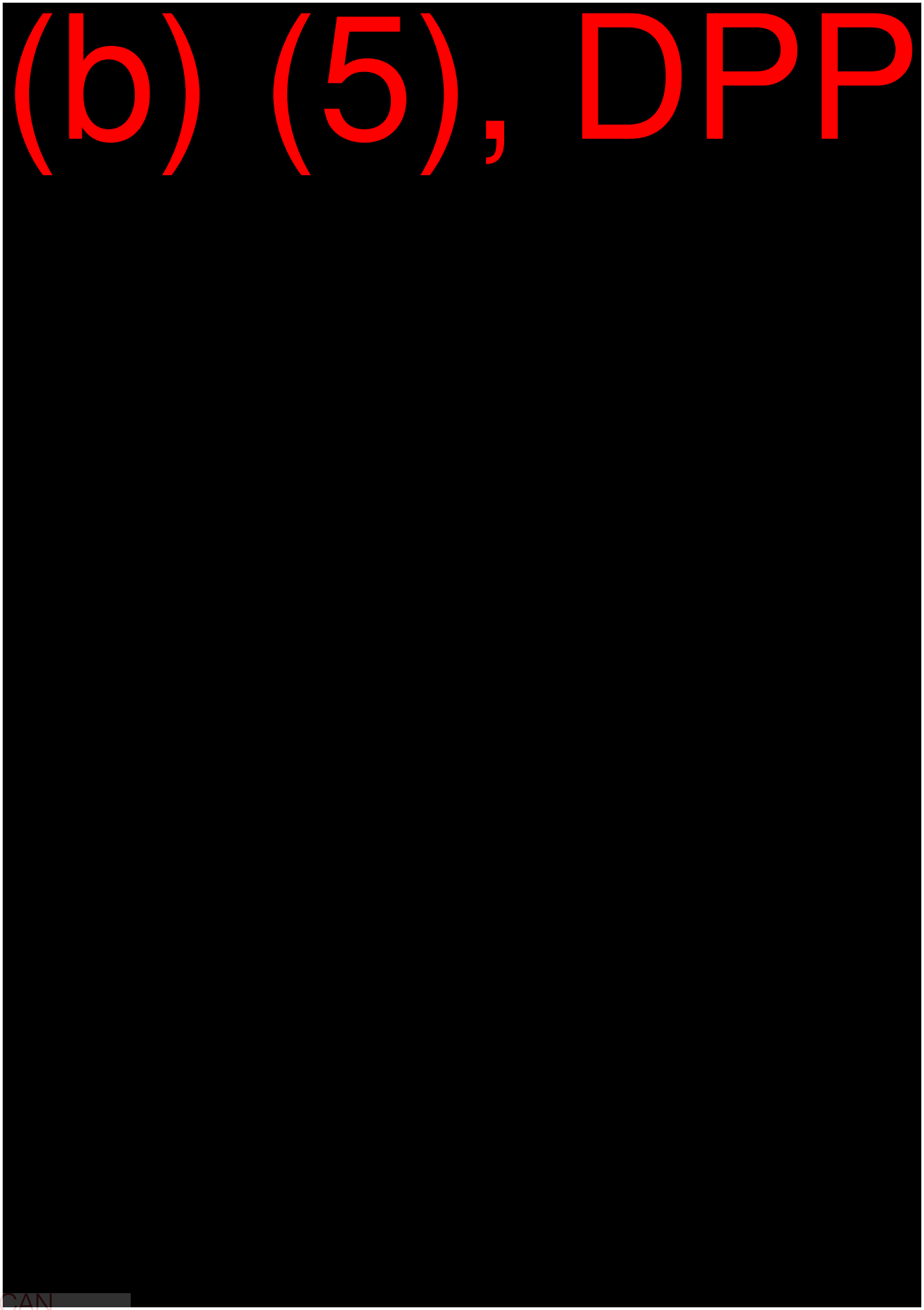
From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:38 AM
To: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Policy Request: Ag Day Stakeholder Call Tomorrow

(b) (5), DPP

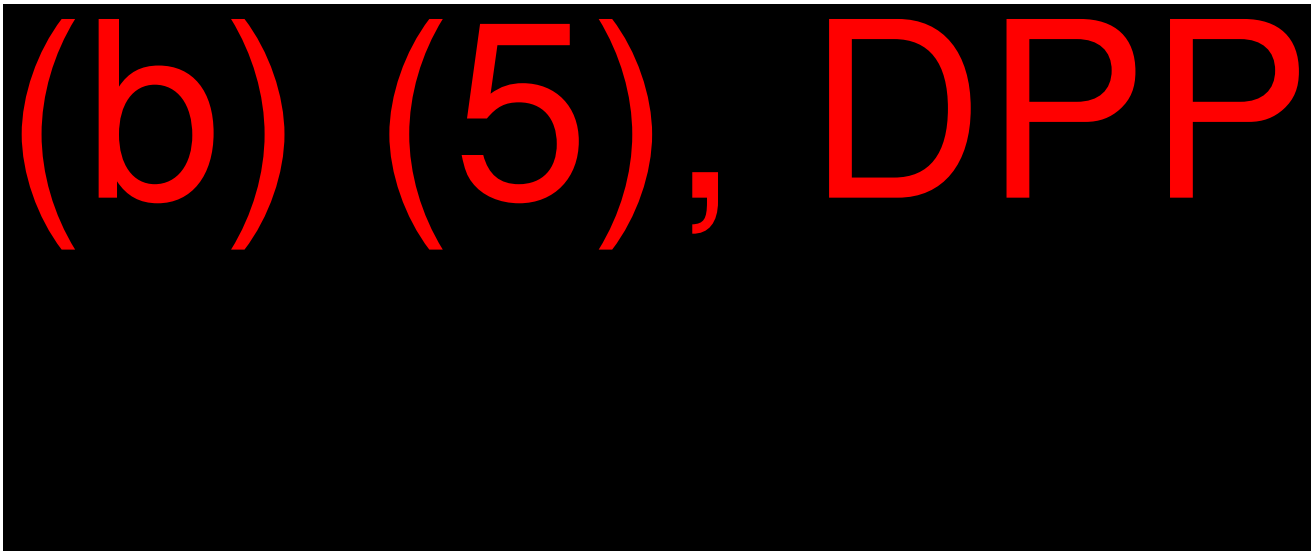
From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:24 AM
To: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Policy Request: Ag Day Stakeholder Call Tomorrow

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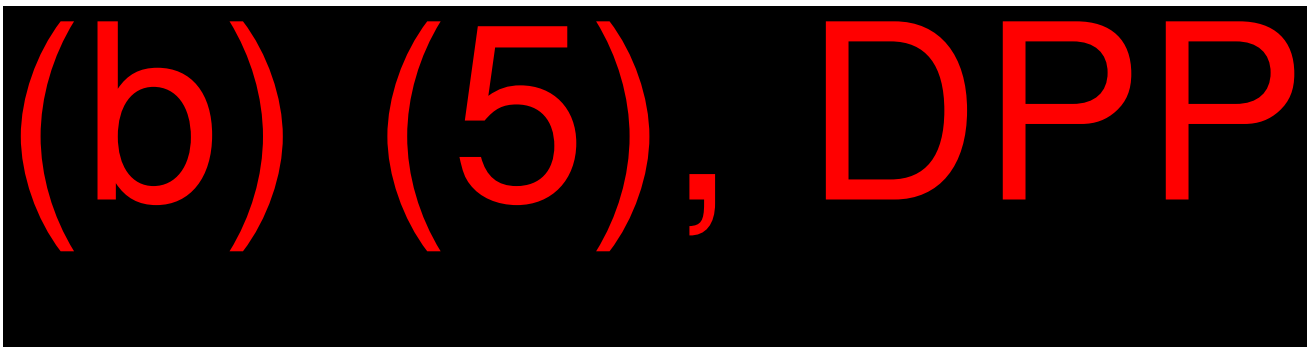


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From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: Policy Request: Ag Day Stakeholder Call Tomorrow

Folks,



Thanks all,
Blake



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(b) (5), DPP

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Blake Rollins
Deputy Chief of Staff

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (b) (6) (cell)

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From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Policy Request: Ag Day Stakeholder Call Tomorrow
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:44:55 AM
Attachments: DRAFT-Agriculture Leader Stakeholder Call 3.24.20.docx
image001.png

(b) (5), DPP

Thanks all,
Blake

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Campbell Shuford (campbell.shuford@usda.gov) <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Kristi J. Boswell; Dudley Hoskins (dudley.hoskins@usda.gov); Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Cc: Lillie Brady <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: Policy Request: Ag Day Stakeholder Call Tomorrow

Folks,

(b) (5), DPP

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Thanks all,
Blake

(b) (5), DPP

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Blake Rollins
Deputy Chief of Staff

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (b) (6) (cell)

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Ag Day Stakeholder Call
March 24th, 2020
2:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP

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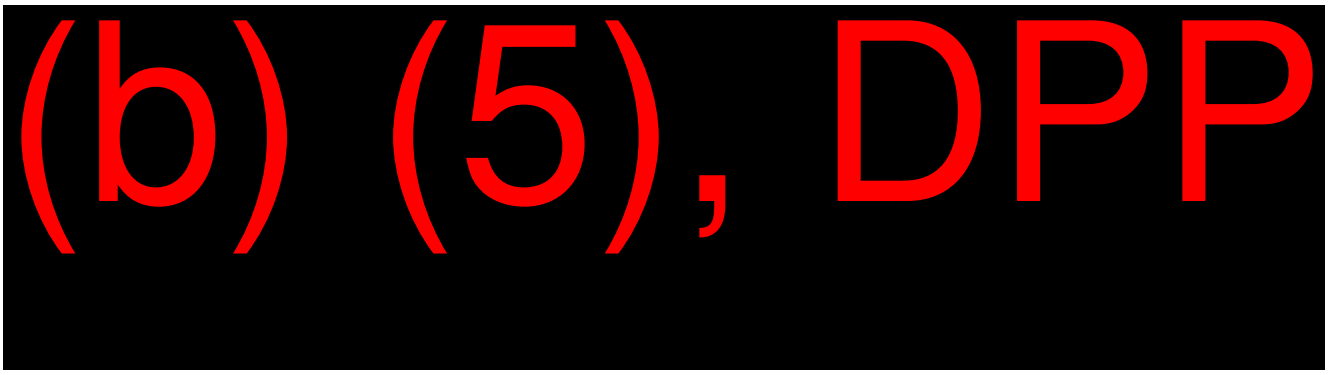
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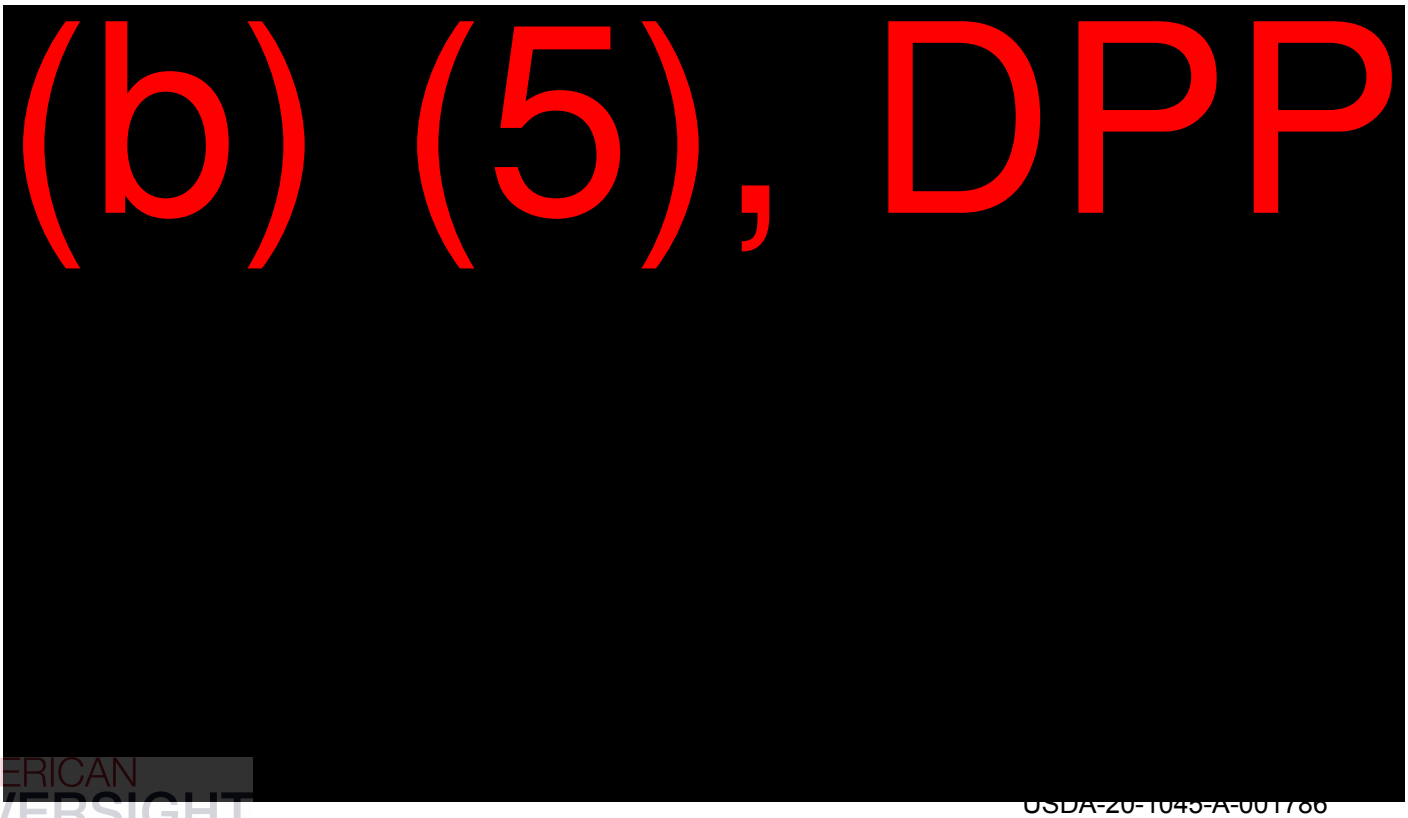
From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Policy Request: Ag Day Stakeholder Call Tomorrow
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:25:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Thank you!

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:24 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Policy Request: Ag Day Stakeholder Call Tomorrow

FYI in case t(b) (5), DPP

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:24 AM
To: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Policy Request: Ag Day Stakeholder Call Tomorrow



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(b) (5), DPP

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Cc: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: Policy Request: Ag Day Stakeholder Call Tomorrow

Folks,

(b) (5), DPP

Thanks all,
Blake

(b) (5), DPP

Blake Rollins
Deputy Chief of Staff

United States Department of Agriculture

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Office: (b) (6) (cell)

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From:	Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: Policy Request: Ag Day Stakeholder Call Tomorrow
Date:	Tuesday, March 24, 2020 11:52:25 AM
Attachments:	DRAFT-Agriculture Leader Stakeholder Call 3.24.20.docx image001.png

Latest version attached. I'm going to consider this final, unless there are any last second objections.

Thanks all,
Blake

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:45 AM
To: 'Campbell Shuford (campbell.shuford@usda.gov)' <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Kristi J. Boswell; Dudley Hoskins (dudley.hoskins@usda.gov); Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Cc: 'Lillie Brady' <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Policy Request: Ag Day Stakeholder Call Tomorrow
Importance: High

Folks, see attached. Please take a look at your section(s).

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks all,
Blake

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Campbell Shuford (campbell.shuford@usda.gov) <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Kristi J. Boswell; Dudley Hoskins (dudley.hoskins@usda.gov); Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC

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<Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Cc: Lillie Brady <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: Policy Request: Ag Day Stakeholder Call Tomorrow

Folks,

Tomorrow SP is going to speak to a very large group of stakeholders (Farm groups, Ag labor groups, Food Supply Chain companies, Farm Bureau Presidents, NASDA members, and others). It's going to be the broadest call we've done so far. He's going to do Q/A as well.

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks all,
Blake

Topics I'm tracking for tomorrow' call:

- (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

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Blake Rollins
Deputy Chief of Staff

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (b) (6) [redacted] (cell)

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Ag Day Stakeholder Call

March 24th, 2020

2:00 PM

Groups invited to the Call: Food Supply Chain Companies, Farm Groups, Ag Labor groups, NASDA, and Farm Bureau Presidents.

(b) (5), DPP

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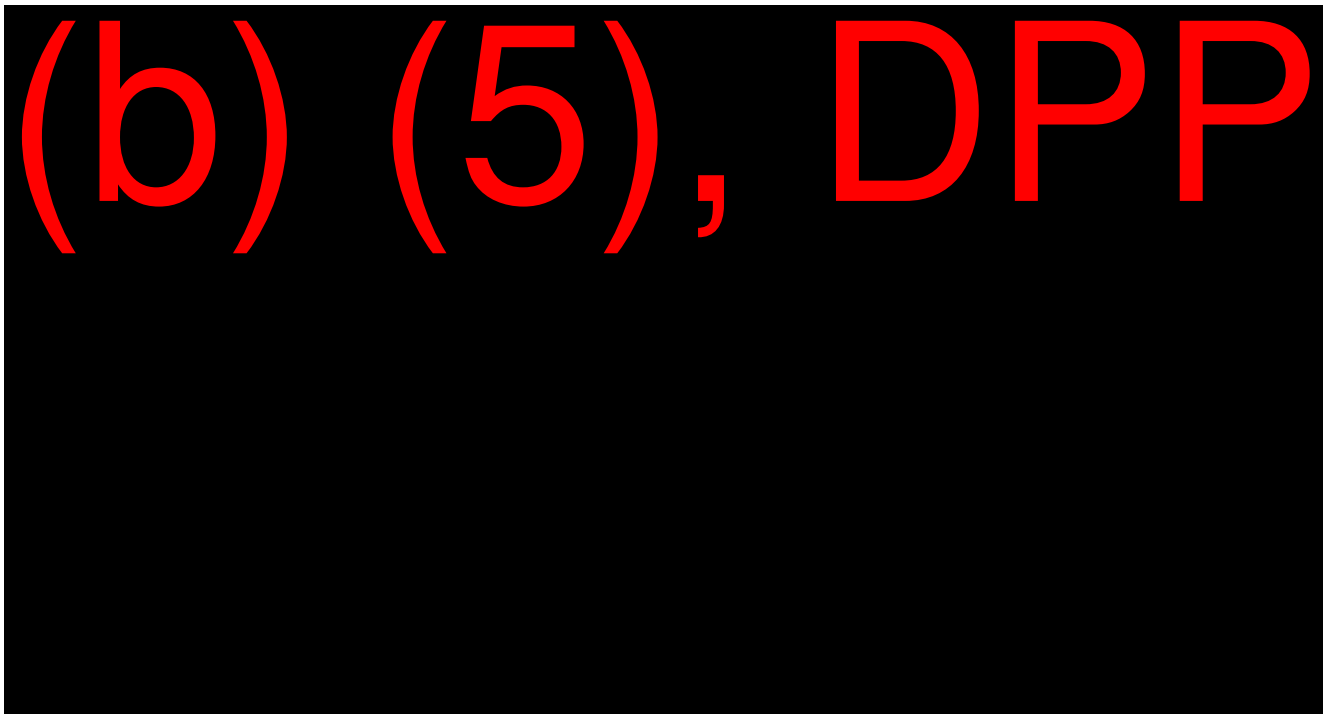
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: T.A. Hawks; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Politico Article
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 3:11:52 PM
Attachments: image002.png
image003.png
image004.png

Rgr thanks TA.

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: T.A. Hawks (b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2020 3:13:37 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Politico Article

Hey team, following back up on my email a couple of weeks ago and don't need anything just keeping you in the loop on convos between USDA and Feeding America, re: the Hill focused advocacy campaign. The Secretary made communication a priority in his meeting with Claire Babineaux-Fontenot at FA, so wanted to keep you both informed too.

Hope the weekend is treating you well.

MONUMENT ADVOCACY

T.A. Hawks
p: 202.719.9999 ext. (b)(6) m: (b) (6)
w: www.monumentadvocacy.com e: tahawks@monumentadvocacy.com

From: Carrie Calvert (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 10:42 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; K Leone (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; T.A. Hawks (b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com>
Subject: RE: Politico Article

Hi Brandon,

Thanks for reaching out about the article. We are happy to talk about our work to advocate for SNAP and other resources to address the unprecedented situation we are facing and the need for food assistance. With an additional 17 million likely to become food insecure due to COVID-19 related job loss, we know that it will take a strong federal and charitable response to address this need. While our network is doing all we can to raise additional funds and to find food, as you know it's falling fall short of what the demand is. USDA foods have been a critical backstop for our food banks, and will be in the months to come as well, but we just can't absorb all of the need. Another critical backstop is SNAP. USDA's extension of the emergency allotments has been a significant help to many SNAP participants, but that is only as long as the pandemic lasts, and the economic recovery will be longer. Our concern, and the case for increasing SNAP benefits by 15 for a longer length of time, is the need for

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

additional food resources throughout the length of the recovery.

Our food banks are worried. We've raised a historic level of funds, and yet it doesn't even come close to allowing us to purchase or source enough food to meet the need. They are urging us to take action in all areas to advocate for increased resources to meet the need through increases in TEFAP, USDA food purchases, child nutrition program funding, and SNAP. I worked at Feeding America during the 2008 recession, and the current level of worry and concern is worse than anything I've ever seen.

As we mentioned to your team two weeks ago, to make the strongest case possible, we are launching an advocacy campaign, with media in several states, to highlight the positive impact a SNAP increase would have. The goal, as you can see from one of the ads here, is to highlight the positive role SNAP plays in addressing food insecurity and urge Congress to include it in the next COVID legislation. States across the country that have both rural and urban populations and are represented by both Democrats and Republicans were selected for the first round of ads. Our goal is to strengthen and grow bipartisan support in Congress for increasing SNAP to address the unprecedented situation Americans are facing.

Feeding America is always careful to ensure that our advocacy is issue based and is not political in nature, and is about building support for an issue. Please let us know if you have any other questions, we are always happy to discuss our work.

Thanks,

Carrie

Carrie Calvert
VP, Government Relations, Agriculture & Nutrition

Feeding America
National Organization
1627 I Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006
tel +1.202.795.2459 x=(b) (6)
ccalvert@feedingamerica.org

Our mission is to feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage our country in the fight to end hunger. **Learn more at feedingamerica.org**
Together We Can Solve Hunger!™

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 8:29 PM
To: Kate Leone (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>; Carrie Calvert (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; T.A. Hawks (b) (6) @monumentadvocacy.com>
Subject: Politico Article

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not open attachments/click links if source is unknown.
Hi Kate and Carrie –

I hope that you are both staying well. Please let your team know we appreciate all your work in helping us distribute food to those in need, especially over the last couple of months.

We have received questions about a Politico story that ran yesterday stating that Feeding America is launching a half million dollar ad campaign targeted to pressure Senators on potential votes. Can you please confirm if that

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

article was accurate, or clarify any of it that was not accurate?

Thanks,

Brandon

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Information withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Purdue and Censky alias email addresses.

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: PeloBarbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>si strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 9:35:00 PM
Attachments: Summary.Coronavirus Families First Response Act.pdf

---

Sir –

As Ken noted, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Please let us know if you need anything additional.

Regards,
Brandon

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:41 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Pelosi strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package

Okay. Just forward a summary whenever we can create one. Brandon, I'm open to (b) (5), DPP [redacted].

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:05 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: Re: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Pelosi strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package

(b) (5), DPP

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)

Email addresses withheld pursuant to (b)(6) are Purdue and Censky alias addresses

---

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 6:24:18 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Pelosi strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package

FYI-(b) (5), DPP

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)

From: POLITICO Pro <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 6:14:59 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Pelosi strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package

Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that she has clinched a deal with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on a large-scale coronavirus response package meant to provide paid leave for workers, expand food aid and support widespread testing for the illness at no cost to patients.

The development sent a wave of relief across Capitol Hill, which had been nervously awaiting the results of two days of backroom negotiations. The House is expected to pass the legislation quickly, with the Senate likely to follow suit as early as Monday.

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1 of 1 USDA-20-1045-A-001802

Families First Coronavirus Response Act



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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: RE: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 9:18:00 AM

Lindsay – (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 8:59 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

Also – (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 8:55 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

Thank you for your help this.

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 8:30 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP ?

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 8:29:09 AM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

(b) (5), DPP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 8:28 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

(b) (5), DPP

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 8:21:02 AM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

Attached is the request.

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 8:20 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 8:11:05 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:34 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

See below. (b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:23 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

(b) (5), DPP .

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From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:22:09 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

(b) (5), DPP ?

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:02 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

FYI Carrie just sent this

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Carrie Calvert (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:58:54 PM
To: Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Castro, Laura - FNS <laura.castro@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

Hi, I wanted to forward this to you. According to an email I had with our Ohio State Association of Food Banks tonight, they shared the below information with me. This seems really dire and I'm very worried about the public health consequences of requiring a signature to receive TEFAP food right now. This goes against every public health recommendation that we have seen.

Thanks,

Carrie

We already have miles long lines of traffic jams waiting for food assistance. We are going to lose staff, volunteers, guard members and hungry families as a result of community spread and I fear its already

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happening...people are at risk of getting very sick and likely will die because of the inability of our inability to have the flexibility we need. No county/state SNAP workers in Ohio are being forced to collect signatures in person on applications. We can't keep our staff and National Guard safe with these rules. Our Disaster Household Distribution application is targeted based on the most vulnerable 1.2 million out of the 1.72 million Ohioans that are food insecure. Our FNS Regional Office is unfamiliar with the regulations and claims that we cannot request a DHD program statewide, which the regulations at 7 CFR 250.69 clearly allow. To my knowledge they are still refusing to forward it to FNS HQ.



Carrie Calvert
VP, Government Relations, Agriculture & Nutrition

Feeding America
National Organization
1627 I Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006
tel +1.202.795.2459 (b) (6)
(b) (6) @feedingamerica.org

Our mission is to feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage our country in the fight to end hunger. **Learn more at feedingamerica.org**
Together We Can Solve Hunger!™

From: Lisa Hamler-Fugitt (b) (6) @ohiofoodbanks.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:09 PM
To: Carrie Calvert (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>; Geoffrey Plague (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>; Robert Campbell (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>; Kate Leone (b) (6) @feedingamerica.org>
Subject: Fwd: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not open attachments/click links if source is unknown.
Fyi

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get Outlook for Android

From: Peery, Sarah (Portman) <Sarah_Peery@portman.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 6:53:26 PM
To: Joree Novotny (b) (6) @ohiofoodbanks.org>; Lisa Hamler-Fugitt (b) (6) @ohiofoodbanks.org>
Cc: Denis, Lydia (Portman) <Lydia_Denis@portman.senate.gov>
Subject: Fw: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

Wanted to make sure you saw this letter sent today urging swift action on the ODJFS DHD application.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks for all of your help!

From: Portman Press
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 6:51 PM
Subject: Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, April 1, 2020

MEDIA CONTACT: Emily Benavides | 202-224-5190

https://bit.ly/2xKxrkw

Portman, Brown Ohio House Members Urge USDA Approval of Ohio COVID-19 Disaster Food Distribution Program

Senators Urging Swift Approval of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' (ODJFS) Request to Operate Disaster Household Distribution Program to Efficiently and Safely Provide Meals to Ohio Families During the COVID-19 Outbreak

CINCINNATI, OH – Today, U.S. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) were joined by Ohio House Members in a letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue urging swift approval of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' (ODJFS) request to operate the Disaster Household Distribution Program. USDA's Disaster Household Distribution Program is run through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and works to feed hungry families in times of crisis like the COVID-19 outbreak more efficiently and safely. Swiftly approving ODJFS's request will allow foodbanks throughout Ohio to distribute more food across the state and reduce verification requirements, which will in turn make it easier for staff and volunteers at foodbanks to maintain social distancing protocols, keeping themselves and their clients safe. In addition to Brown and Portman, the letter was also signed by U.S. House Representatives Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Tim Ryan (D-OH), Mike Turner (R-OH), Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH), Steve Chabot (R-OH), Robert E. Latta (R-OH), Joyce Beatty (D-OH), David Joyce (R-OH), Steve Stivers (R-OH), Troy Balderson (R-OH), and Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH).

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According to ODJFS, as of March 26, 2020, the state had received more than 187,800 new claims in unemployment in a single week. During this time, many food banks reported a significant – greater than 50 percent – increase in clients, with roughly two-thirds of the total utilizing emergency food services for the first time. ODJFS' application estimates that 1.25 million Ohioans – 10.7 percent of Ohio's population – will be served at food banks by April 30th.

"While we appreciate USDA's proactive issuance of waivers for some nutrition assistance programs and swift adoption of new authority for others, ODJFS requires more tools and additional flexibilities to meet increasing demand while keeping staff, volunteers, and clients safe," **the members wrote.** *"Ohioans are facing significant economic challenges as the country takes action to halt the spread of COVID-19. As more Ohioans lose work, emergency food providers in every part of the state are seeing a massive increase in demand for food assistance."*

A copy of the letter can be read below and **here**.

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write in support of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' (ODJFS) request to operate the Disaster Household Feeding Program, and to urge you to act swiftly on this request for the State of Ohio.

Ohioans are facing significant economic challenges as the country takes action to halt the spread of COVID-19. As more Ohioans lose work, emergency food providers in every part of the state are seeing a massive increase in demand for food assistance. According to ODJFS, as of March 26, 2020, the state has received more than 187,800 new claims in unemployment in a single week. During this time, many food banks reported a significant – greater than 50 percent – increase in clients, with roughly two-thirds of the total utilizing emergency food services for the first time.

Our emergency food system has not seen this kind of demand before. While we appreciate USDA's proactive issuance of waivers for some nutrition assistance programs and swift adoption of new authority for others, ODJFS requires more tools and additional flexibilities to meet increasing demand while keeping staff, volunteers, and clients safe.

ODJFS's request would apply to households using the foodbanks across the state during the period of the request, which is estimated to be 1,251,200, approximately 10.7 percent of Ohio's population. Approval of Ohio's Disaster Household Feeding Program will help protect the lives, safety and health of the citizens of Ohio and reduce the rapid spread of COVID-19.

We fully support ODJFS's request, and urge your prompt consideration. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

###

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: RE: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 7:19:00 PM

Thanks! The hill has been notified.

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 7:10 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]. Thank you!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 6:55 PM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval

Here is the draft notice. I tried to pull almost directly from the letter. Let me know if you have any changes.

All,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 6:30 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval

Here ya go. Let me know if you need anything else.

From: Dombroski, Patricia - FNS <patricia.dombroski@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 6:28 PM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval

PR has confirmed receipt….
Have a good evening☺.
Pat

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:29 PM
To: Dombroski, Patricia - FNS <patricia.dombroski@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval

Hi Pat,

Pam said she emailed you separately with approval to move forward. When it's ready could you please send me the final signed approval? I need to share it with OCR for the Hill notice. Thanks!

From: Dombroski, Patricia - FNS <patricia.dombroski@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval

Hi….just checking if anyone has an update on the status? We are still waiting to hear if we can move forward with the approval, or let PR know it is still under review.
Thanks
Pat

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 9:51 AM
To: Dombroski, Patricia - FNS <patricia.dombroski@usda.gov>
Cc: Lockstein, Howard - FNS <howard.lockstein@usda.gov>; Limbacher, Diana - FNS <diana.limbacher@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval

Thanks Pat. Please send Yasmin, Laura, and I the final signed approval when complete.

I will be out this afternoon so Laura/Yasmin will need to share it with OCR.

Happy Friday, May 15, 2020

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Dombroski, Patricia - FNS <patricia.dombroski@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Lockstein, Howard - FNS <howard.lockstein@usda.gov>; Limbacher, Diana - FNS <diana.limbacher@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval

Hi joe,
Can you please give me a quick call and we can discuss….908.49.638

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 8:39 AM
To: Dombroski, Patricia - FNS <patricia.dombroski@usda.gov>; Lockstein, Howard - FNS <howard.lockstein@usda.gov>; Limbacher, Diana - FNS <diana.limbacher@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks,

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 3:14 PM
To: Dombroski, Patricia - FNS <patricia.dombroski@usda.gov>; Gagliardi, David - FNS <david.gagliardi@usda.gov>; Lockstein, Howard - FNS <howard.lockstein@usda.gov>; Limbacher, Diana - FNS <diana.limbacher@usda.gov>
Subject: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval

Do yall have time for a quick call on this at 3:45 or 4:45 this afternoon?

Thanks,

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Dombroski, Patricia - FNS <patricia.dombroski@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 2:37:31 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Long, Cindy - FNS <cindy.long@usda.gov>; Burr, David - FNS <david.burr@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Greenwood, Lisa - FNS <lisa.greenwood@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Gagliardi, David - FNS <david.gagliardi@usda.gov>; Lockstein, Howard - FNS <howard.lockstein@usda.gov>; Limbacher, Diana - FNS <diana.limbacher@usda.gov>
Subject: PR NAP Relief and CARES & Family First Plan approval

Good afternoon Brandon and Pam,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP . Highlights of the Plan include:

(b) (5), DPP

Please let me know if a call would be helpful to answer any questions.
Thanks
Pat

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Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Secretary Perdue alias email address

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Press Release - For Your Approval
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:50:46 AM

Good to go

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 9:13:10 AM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Taylor.Crowe@usda.gov>
Subject: Press Release - For Your Approval

Sir -

Below is a press release announcing flexibilities for parents, making it easier to access USDA food for their kids. I'm copying Campbell if you have any questions. Please let us know if this is good to go.

Thanks,
Meghan

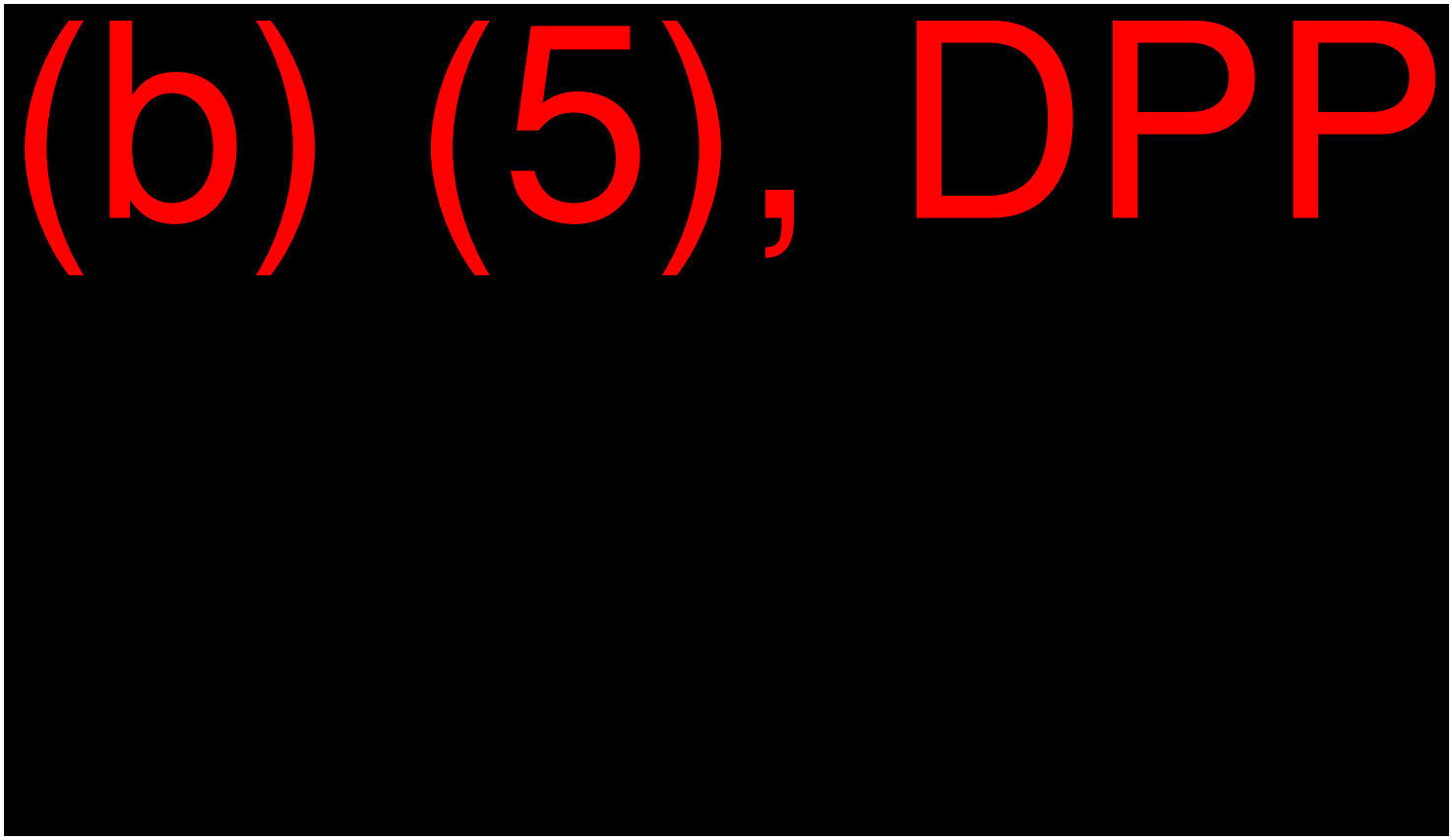
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Press Release for Review before sending to SP
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:32:12 PM

I already did an hour ago ahead of the rest of the hill. Thanks!

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:31:29 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Press Release for Review before sending to SP

Can you let Veronica notify stabenow?

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:30:28 PM
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Release for Review before sending to SP

I am hitting send now.

Alec Varsamis

From: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:30 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Release for Review before sending to SP

Confirming I am good to send the same hill notice to Gov office?

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Release for Review before sending to SP

Confirmed by MI!

Good to go!

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Release for Review before sending to SP

Waiting for MI to confirm receipt.

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:36 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Press Release for Review before sending to SP

Amazing. Thank you!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:35:13 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Release for Review before sending to SP

SP and VP signed off. We will send at 12:30pm today.

Alec Varsamis

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:01 AM
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Release for Review before sending to SP

Yes, good here.

Michigan's governor is doing a press conference at 3pm today and will be talking about p-EBT.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

We suggest (b) (5), DPP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Release for Review before sending to SP

Looks great to me!

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:34 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: Press Release for Review before sending to SP

Sending this version of the press release to SP for approval this morning when you clear:

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

Alec Varsamis

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:28 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Upcoming FNCS Items

We will keep you posted when we give MI the go ahead, but here is the language for the Hill/IGA notification.

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 7:22 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Upcoming FNCS Items

Draft of the mass denial letter is attached for your awareness.

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 3:03 PM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Upcoming FNCS Items

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Pedua alias email address

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Press release for your approval
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:26:44 AM

Good to go

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From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:19:56 AM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Taylor.Crowe@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Subject: Press release for your approval

Sir -

We would like to send out this Pandemic EBT release this afternoon. Please let me know if you have edits or if it's good to go.

Meghan

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



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Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue alias email address

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Press Release for your approval
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 4:39:00 PM

Good to go! Campbell, how a bout sending a copy to First Lady of Wyoming!

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 1:44 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Press Release for your approval

Sir –

We would like to send out the below FNS press release extending flexibilities today. Campbell is looped in in case you have any questions on the policy. Let me know if you need anything else or if this is good to go.

Meghan

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

###

Meghan Rodgers
Deputy Communications Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-5555
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: P-SNAP - do we need legislative authority?
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 3:22:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Will do.

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 3:15 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: (b) (5), DPP, ACP ?

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 11:42:41 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: (b) (5), DPP, ACP ?

From: Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC <gena.kochan@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 4:00:40 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Marshall, Andrea - OGC, Washington, DC <andrea.marshall@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP ?

Hi, Pam. (b) (5), DPP, ACP

Thanks,

Gena

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 10:50 PM
To: Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC <gena.kochan@usda.gov>
Cc: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP ?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Gena
(b) (5), DPP, ACP
Thank you!
pam

From: Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC <gena.kochan@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 10:40 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Subject: RE (b) (5), DPP, ACP ?

You're welcome!

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 10:31 AM
To: Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC <gena.kochan@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Kim, Mina - OGC, Washington, DC <mina.kim@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP ?

Thanks, Gena!
(b) (5), DPP, ACP
I know we have a lot of demands on all of you right now, so we truly appreciate all of your assistance!
pam

From: Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC <gena.kochan@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 10:20 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Kim, Mina - OGC, Washington, DC <mina.kim@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP ?

Hi, Pam. (b) (5), DPP, ACP .

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 9:35 AM
To: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Kochan, Gena - OGC,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Washington, DC <gena.kochan@usda.gov>; Kim, Mina - OGC, Washington, DC <mina.kim@usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (5), DPP, ACP ?

Hi all
(b) (5), DPP, ACP
Thanks for the clarification!

Pam Miller
Administrator

Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 703-305-2060
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

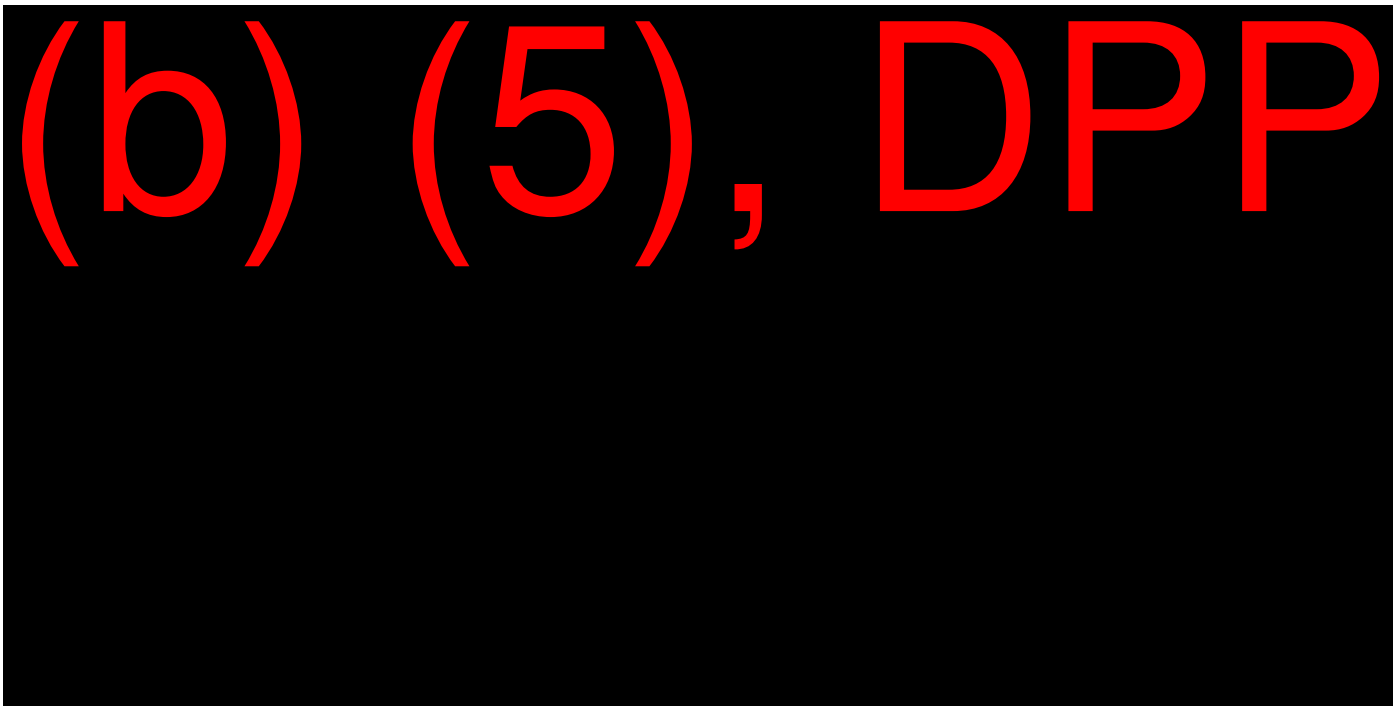
From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: PSNAP estimates
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 9:06:40 AM

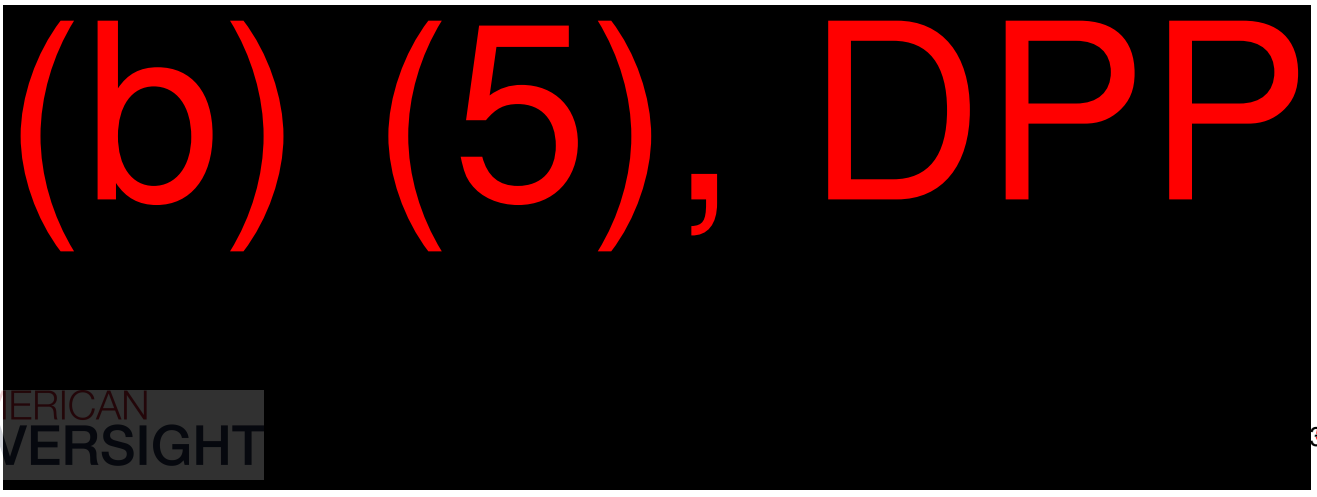
+ Campbell

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From: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 8:42 AM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: PSNAP estimates

Good Morning Ken





AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

- (b) (5), DPP

Erica Navarro
Director
Office of Budget and Program Analysis
Office: 202-720-3294
Cell: (b) (6)
Erica.navarro@usda.gov

For scheduling, please contact Tania Jones at 202-690-2018

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: PSNAP estimates
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 12:52:03 PM

Getting you added to a 2pm leg update with SP, come with your numbers. Thanks Erica!

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)

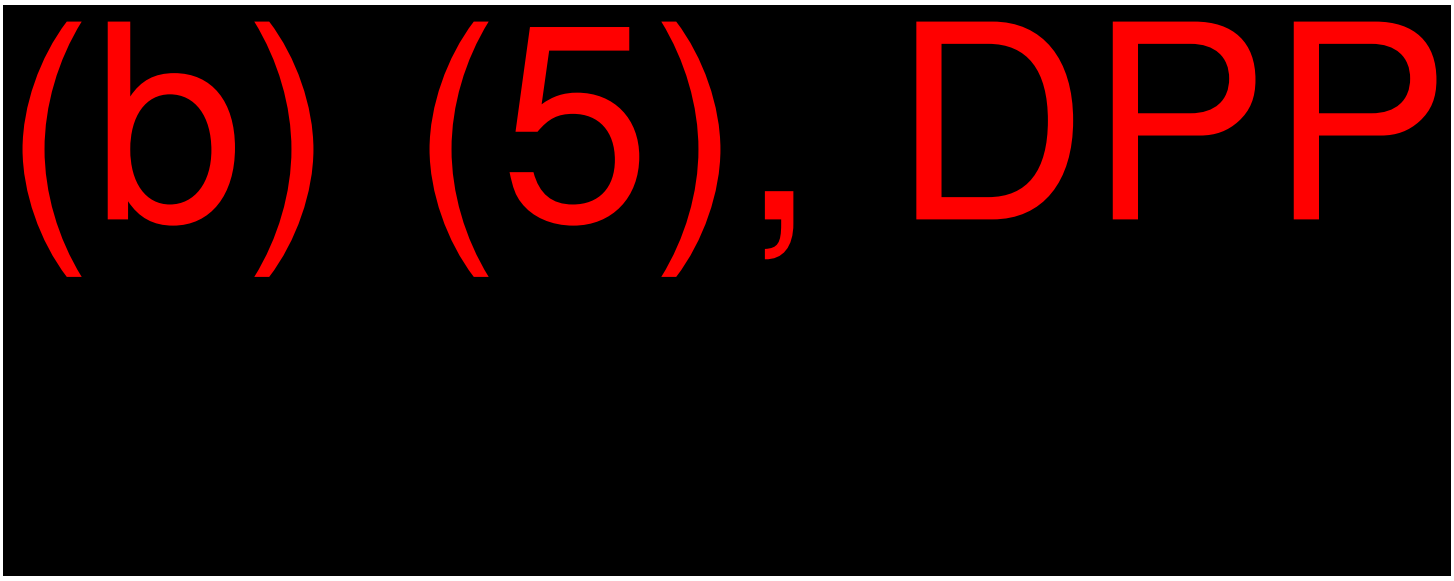
From: Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 8:42:34 AM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Cc: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: PSNAP estimates

Good Morning Ken

(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Erica Navarro
Director
Office of Budget and Program Analysis
Office: 202-720-3294
Cell: (b) (6)
Erica.navarro@usda.gov

For scheduling, please contact Tania Jones at 202-690-2018

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Ratchford, Eric - FNS
To:	Eddie Garcia Fuentes
Cc:	Alberto E. Fradera Vazquez; Dombroski, Patricia - FNS; Limbacher, Diana - FNS; Gagliardi, David - FNS; Jenkins, Bill - FNS; Lockstein, Howard - FNS; Denson, April - FNS; Kelsey, Daniel T. - FNS; Lyons, Shawn - FNS; Ortiz-Medina, Carlos - FNS; Lopez, Aracelis - FNS; Morales, Alberto - FNS
Subject:	RE: COVID-19 Funding for Puerto Rico (Families First Coronavirus Response Act & CARES Act 2020)
Date:	Friday, April 17, 2020 2:30:10 PM

Good afternoon Secretary Garcia Fuentes:
Hope this message finds you doing well. I wanted to circle back to see if you or your team needs any additional guidance or technical assistance regarding drafting a plan for the receipt of the COVID-19 NAP funds. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or ideas you would like FNS to assist you with. If you do not require any assistance at this time, could you please give us a time frame you anticipate submitting your plan. We greatly appreciate your leadership and partnership.
Best regards,
Eric

Eric Ratchford
Director,
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
Mid-Atlantic Region
300 Corporate Blvd.
Robbinsville, NJ 08691
609-259-5088 (w)
(b) (6) (c)
609-259-5062 (f)
eric.ratchford@usda.gov

From: Ratchford, Eric - FNS
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 3:49 PM
To: Eddie Garcia Fuentes <eddie.garcia@familia.pr.gov>
Cc: Alberto E. Fradera Vazquez <alberto.fradera@familia.pr.gov>; Dombroski, Patricia - FNS <patricia.dombroski@usda.gov>; Limbacher, Diana - FNS <diana.limbacher@usda.gov>; Gagliardi, David - FNS <david.gagliardi@usda.gov>; Jenkins, Bill - FNS <bill.jenkins@usda.gov>; Lockstein, Howard - FNS <howard.lockstein@usda.gov>; Denson, April - FNS <april.denson@usda.gov>; Kelsey, Daniel T. - FNS <daniel.kelsey@usda.gov>; Lyons, Shawn - FNS <shawn.lyons@usda.gov>; Ortiz-Medina, Carlos - FNS <carlos.ortiz-medina@usda.gov>; Lopez, Aracelis - FNS <aracelis.lopez@usda.gov>; Morales, Alberto - FNS <alberto.morales@usda.gov>
Subject: COVID-19 Funding for Puerto Rico (Families First Coronavirus Response Act & CARES Act 2020)

Good afternoon Secretary Garcia Fuentes:

It was a pleasure meeting with you and your team, via conference call, on Wednesday April 8, 2020 to discuss the funding made available to Puerto Rico through the recently passed

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. As discussed, the Families First Act provides $100 million in funding to be shared by Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands territories; and the CARES Act provides $200 million for the same three territories to share. Puerto Rico's share of this funding is as follows:

Families First Act -	**$ 98,981,905**
CARES ACT -	**$197,960,000**
Total -	**$296,941,905**

The purpose of this funding is for nutrition assistance in a manner that helps to prepare for and respond to the Puerto Rico coronavirus needs. While the *CARES* and *Family First Funds* must be tracked separately, both sources can be used for a like purpose, i.e., to increase benefits under NAP, targeted benefits for school age children who are currently not attending school due to school closure, issuing supplements to bring NAP households up to the maximum allotment level, etc. We discussed the need for your agency to submit a plan to the Food and Nutrition Service. The plan should include a detailed description of what the funds will be used for and how they will be tracked and reported separately from other funding. The plan should also reference both funding sources (Families First Act and CARES Act) even if they will both be utilized for the same purpose.

We are readily available to provide technical assistance to discuss your ideas for the use of these funds or to answer questions about your plan submission. We hope to receive your plan as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me @ 609-203-3916 or 302-345-9181 (personal cell) if you have any questions.

Best regards,
Eric

Eric Ratchford
Director,
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
Mid-Atlantic Region
300 Corporate Blvd.
Robbinsville, NJ 08691
609-259-5088 (w)
(b) (6) (c)
609-259-5062 (f)
eric.ratchford@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Q/As for your approval
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 11:12:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:50 AM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Q/As for your approval

Hey guys –

Below are Q&A that the National Association of Counties requested from RD for them to be able to include in a newsletter to their members. FNS assisted in drafting. I wanted to run these past you and make sure you have no issues with them – let me know. Thanks!

QUESTION: How much additional Emergency Food Assistance funding and supplies will be given to states and counties due to increase in demand? When could we expect those to be received?

ANSWER: (b) (5), DPP

QUESTION: Will people that have not presently been enrolled in the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) be able to apply for SNAP benefits online and get benefits without having to go into a local office?

ANSWER: (b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Meghan Rodgers
Deputy Communications Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-5555
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lucas, Jane
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Question for you from a Politico article
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 1:27:00 PM

+Campbell. Campbell is the Secretary's Senior Advisor for Nutrition. She can provide more insight than I can!

And same girl!! The sooner the better!

Thanks,

Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Lucas, Jane (b) (6) [redacted]@alston.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 1:16 PM
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Subject: Question for you from a Politico article

Hey,

Hope you're surviving this. I'm so ready for things to return to normal.

Can you help me understand a reference in yesterday's Politico article about SNAP? If you aren't the right person, can you recommend someone else?

In the below article, I'm trying to understand what it means by "USDA is also issuing guidance to states that may want to extend these allotments." Is that an extension of a defined set of benefits or does that mean that USDA is open to some innovative ideas in the EBT program and states may have some authority to engage in innovation?

Thanks for any insight you can provide!

Jane

USDA touts major SNAP benefits boost

By Helena Bottemiller Evich

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

04/22/2020 12:32 PM EDT

The Agriculture Department touted today that it's sending billions of dollars more each month in food stamp benefits to help Americans during Covid-19 — a marked change for an administration that's been laser-focused on highlighting how it's been cutting spending on the program.

The increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits stem from the trillions in aid Congress' has provided in response to the pandemic. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, H.R. 6201 (116), provided emergency allotments to SNAP recipients that total $2 billion a month, or a 40 percent increase, USDA said. The department was already pushing out $4.5 billion in benefits to SNAP households each month before the increase.

The emergency allotments allowed by Congress give states the ability to increase benefits for up to two months. All 50 states, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia have been cleared to send additional emergency benefits. USDA is also issuing guidance to states that may want to extend these allotments.

"These are unprecedented times for American families who are facing joblessness and hunger," Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said in a statement touting the increases.

The secretary credited President Donald Trump for the aid, even as the administration's mandate last year was to shrink the country's social safety programs.

"President Trump is taking care of America's working-class families who have been hit hard with economic distress due to the coronavirus," Perdue said.

Jane Lucas
Alston & Bird, LLP
950 F Street, NW | Washington, D.C. 20004-2601
Desk: (b) (6) | Cell: (b) (6)
jane.lucas@alston.com
Admitted in South Dakota. Admission pending to the DC bar.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Re: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post
Date:	Monday, March 2, 2020 11:50:32 AM

(b) (5), DPP

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 11:50:00 AM

To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>

Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>

Subject: Re: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

(b) (5), DPP ?

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 11:17 AM

To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC

Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

Good morning, all,

(b) (5), DPP

Thanks,
Dirk

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 11:07:47 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

Hello all,

FNS proposes(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

Brooke Hardison

Communications Director

Food and Nutrition Service

United States Department of Agriculture

Office: 703.605.0229

Cell: (b) (6)

Email:Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 7:53 AM

To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>

Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>

Subject: Fwd: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Thanks,

Alec

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Illenberg, Mike - OC, Washington, DC <mike.illenberg@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 7:41 AM
To: SM.FN.Press
Cc: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Reiley, Laura (b) (6) @washpost.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2020 2:25:16 PM
To: Illenberg, Mike - OC, Washington, DC <mike.illenberg@usda.gov>
Subject: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

Mike, I'm wondering if you can guide me. In the event of a pandemic like covid-19, are there federal provisions to increase SNAP and WIC allocations? And if there were to be things like community-wide quarantines, how would people get their food? I'm gearing up this week to do some stories about what our food system looks like in the face of this kind of challenge.

Sincerely,

Laura Reiley
Business of food reporter
The Washington Post
(b) (6) office
(b) (6) cell
@lreiley

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post
Date: Monday, March 2, 2020 11:22:57 AM

[redacted]

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 11:17:08 AM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

Good morning, all,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks,
Dirk

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

(b) (5), DPP [redacted].

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 11:07:47 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

Hello all,

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Brooke Hardison
Communications Director
Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 703.605.0229
Cell: (b) (6)
Email: Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 7:53 AM
To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; SM.FN.Press <fnspress@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

(b) (5), DPP

Thanks,

Alec

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Illenberg, Mike - OC, Washington, DC <mike.illenberg@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 7:41 AM
To: SM.FN.Press
Cc: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Reiley, Laura <(b) (6) @washpost.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2020 2:25:16 PM
To: Illenberg, Mike - OC, Washington, DC <mike.illenberg@usda.gov>
Subject: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

Mike, I'm wondering if you can guide me. In the event of a pandemic like covid-19, are there federal provisions to increase SNAP and WIC allocations? And if there were to be things like community-wide quarantines, how would people get their food? I'm gearing up this week to do some stories about what our food system looks like in the face of this kind of challenge.

Sincerely,

Laura Reiley
Business of food reporter
The Washington Post
(b) (6) office
(b) (6) cell
@lreiley

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post
Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 2:24:09 PM

(b) (5), DPP .

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 2:20:28 PM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

Oooops I forgot to add you lol

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 1:18 PM
To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

(b) (5), DPP

From: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 12:48 PM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

(b) (5), DPP
Just my thoughts

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

(b) (5), DPP ?

From: Reiley, Laura (b) (6) @washpost.com>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

Hey there, any chance of speaking to someone or getting more info on this? Would online SNAP EBT be allowed in all states? Might WIC expand to include things like diapers, hand sanitizers, etc.?

And as I asked yesterday, if you can guide me to anything that is more explicit in terms of a pandemic preparedness plan for food, I'd be appreciative. "USDA is monitoring the situation closely" does not give me any specifics of how the system might be mobilized to feed food insure Americans who may be quarantined or kids who are out of school. It's a relief to know that there are additional funds available for a rise in enrollment, but I'm interested in what access looks like and what expansions of items might be considered.

Laura Reiley
Business of food reporter
The Washington Post
(b) (6) office
(b) (6) cell
@lreiley

From: Reiley, Laura
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2020 12:43 PM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

Can you point me to a USDA doc that delineates protocols and procedures for food aid and assistance in the event of a pandemic. And what is FNS's specific role in a pandemic, just so I fully understand? And can someone answer these questions:

- If there are **quarantines**, how do people spend their SNAP money or receive their WIC allowance? Is there a plan that would deliver food assistance or develop a volunteer network?
- SNAP: this shows the need to ensure that participants can use their EBT cards **online** to the maximum extent possible but options now to that effect are very limited. How can that be brought to scale faster/more efficiently?
- SNAP ED: can states use grants to educate participants about pandemic preparedness? If not, should Congress/USDA allow it?
- WIC: could items like hand sanitizer be added temporarily to the food package to better protect low-income mothers/young children?
- Who could I talk to about quantities of food reserves?

Laura Reiley

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Business of food reporter
The Washington Post
(b) (6) office
(b) (6) cell
@lreiley

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2020 12:34 PM
To: Reiley, Laura <(b) (6) @washpost.com>
Subject: RE: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

From a USDA Spokesperson: "USDA is monitoring the situation closely in collaboration with our federal and state partners. Both SNAP and WIC have contingency funds to cover any increase in enrollment. As with any disaster, FNS is ready to assist in the government-wide effort to ensure all Americans have access to food in times of need."

On Background: In the event of an emergency or disaster situation, Food and Nutrition Service programs are just one part of a much larger government-wide coordinated response. All of our programs, including SNAP and WIC, have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow us to respond to on-the-ground realities and take action as directed by Congress.

From: Reiley, Laura (b) (6) @washpost.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2020 2:25:16 PM
To: Illenberg, Mike - OC, Washington, DC <mike.illenberg@usda.gov>
Subject: question from business of food reporter at Wash Post

Mike, I'm wondering if you can guide me. In the event of a pandemic like covid-19, are there federal provisions to increase SNAP and WIC allocations? And if there were to be things like community-wide quarantines, how would people get their food? I'm gearing up this week to do some stories about what our food system looks like in the face of this kind of challenge.

Sincerely,

Laura Reiley
Business of food reporter
The Washington Post
(b) (6) office
(b) (6) cell

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

@lreiley

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Rapid Response 8633643
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 5:10:00 PM
Attachments: FNCS 8633643 Meng + vw edits.04.22.20.docx

My suggested edits attached. Thanks.

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:15 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; ONeill, Stephen - OBPA, Washington, DC <Stephen.ONeill@usda.gov>; Norman, Jackie - OBPA, Washington, DC <jackie.norman@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: Rapid Response 8633643

All,

Here is a letter ready for your review and clearance. Please use track changes if there are edits and let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Zach

Zach Jacobs

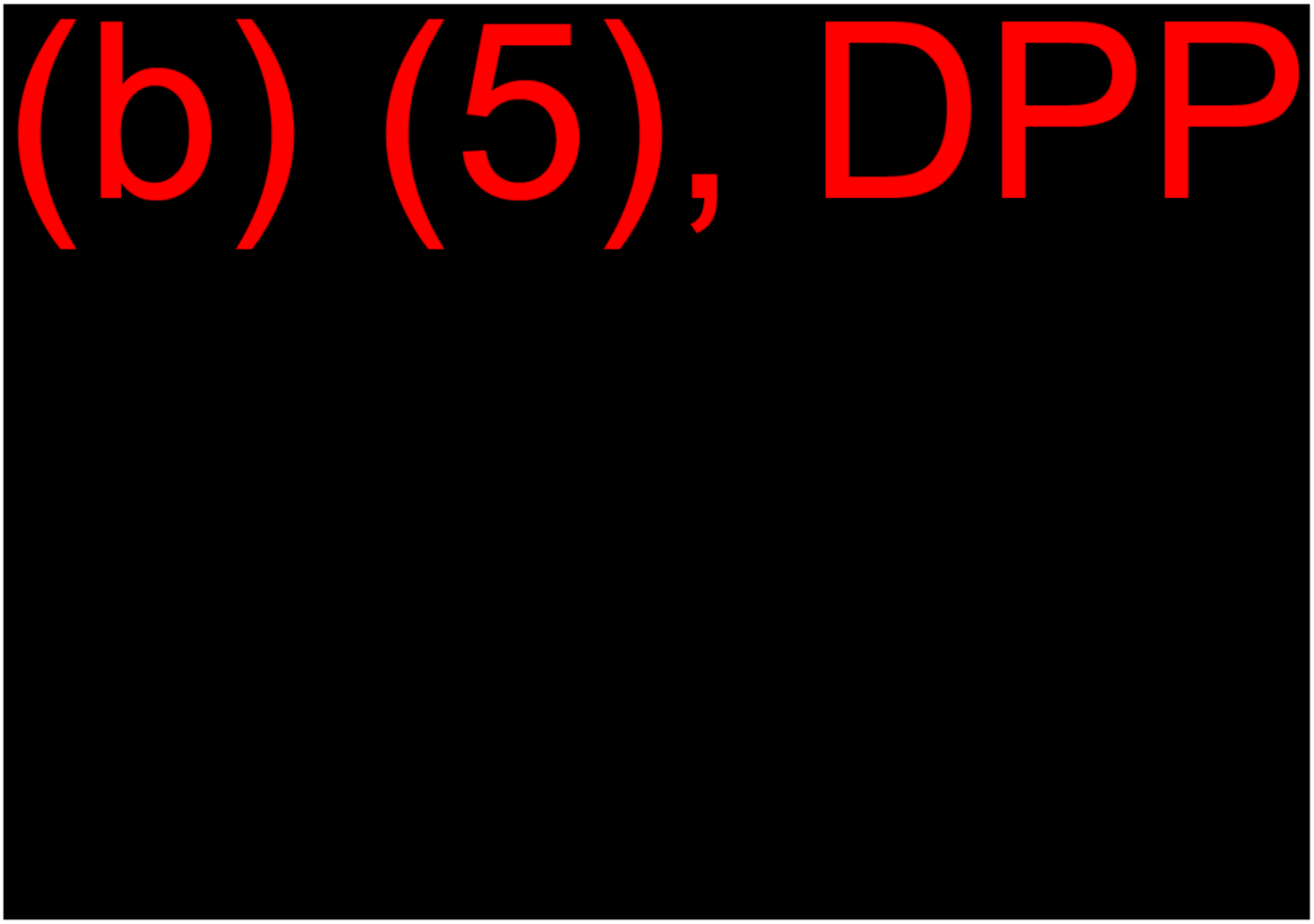
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Grace Meng
U.S. House of Representatives
2209 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Meng:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Rapid Response FNCS 8629234; 8630649; 8630879; 8631154; 8631310
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:07:00 AM
Attachments: FNCS 8630879 Brown +13 vw edits.04.07.20.docx

Zach,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 6:05 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Subject: Rapid Response FNCS 8629234; 8630649; 8630879; 8631154; 8631310

Veronica,

Please review and clear these letters in this Rapid Response Zip File within 24 hours of receiving this email.

The Ellis letter may (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thank you,
Zach

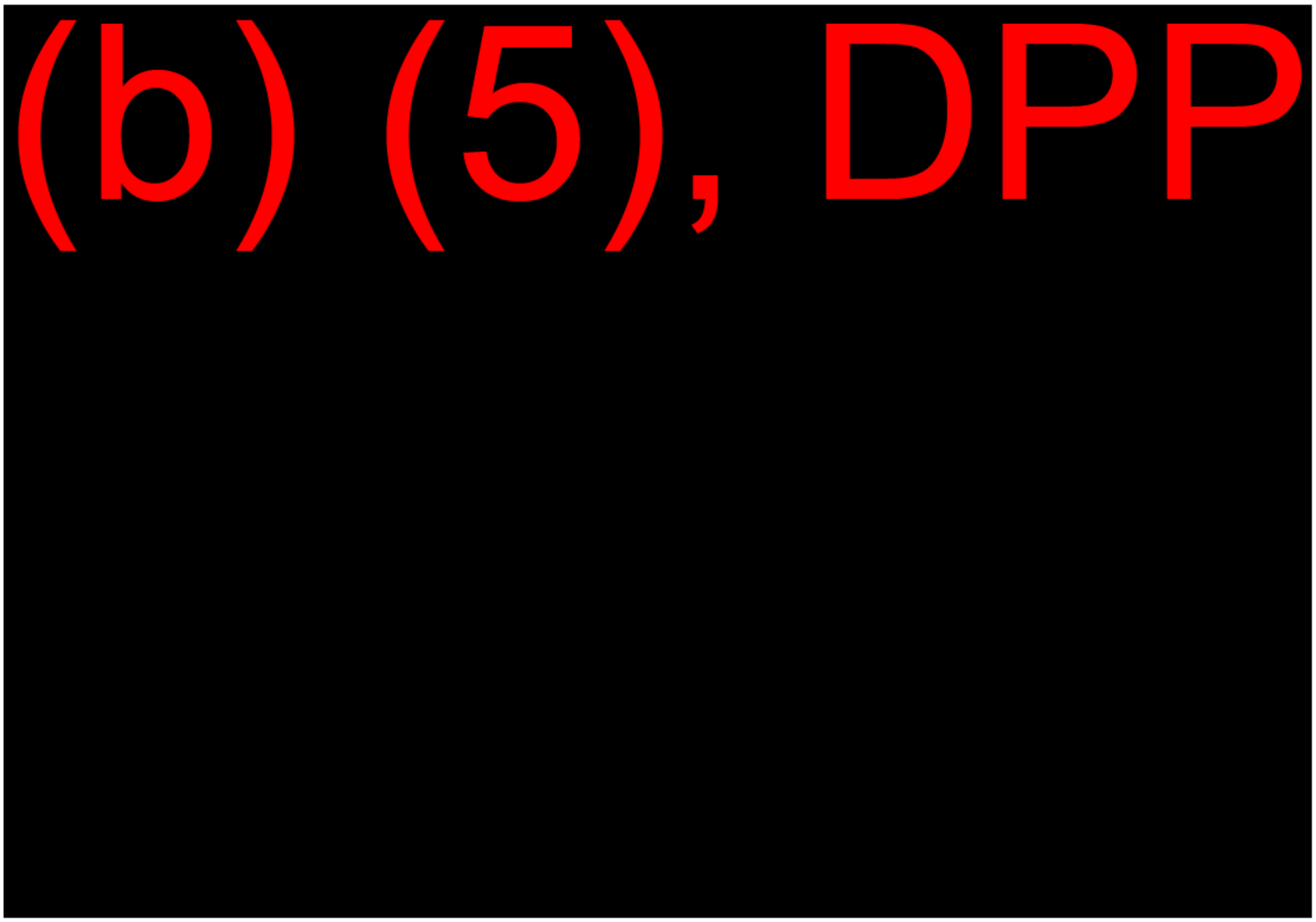
Zach Jacobs
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Portman:



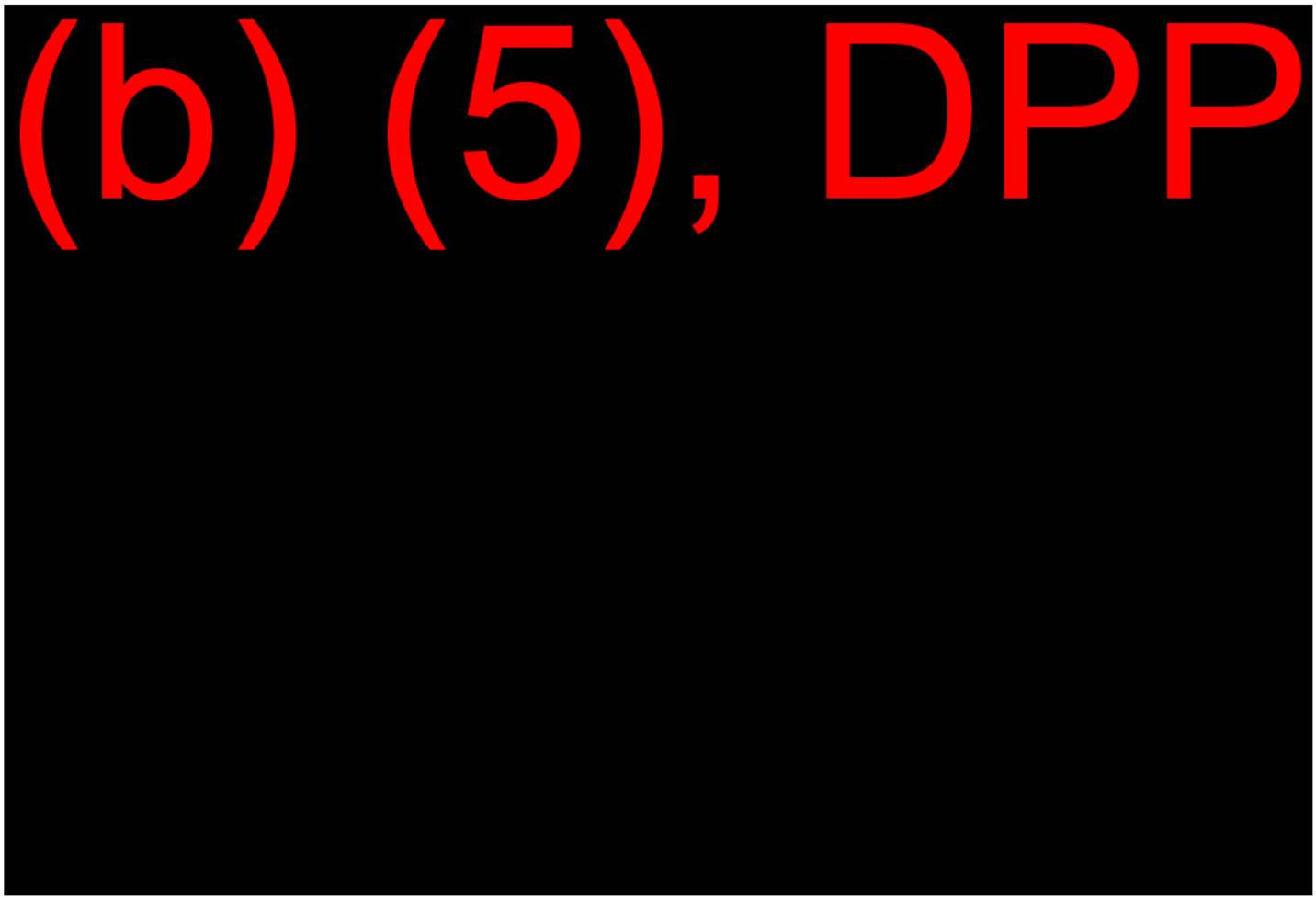
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
U.S. House of Representatives
2344 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Fudge:



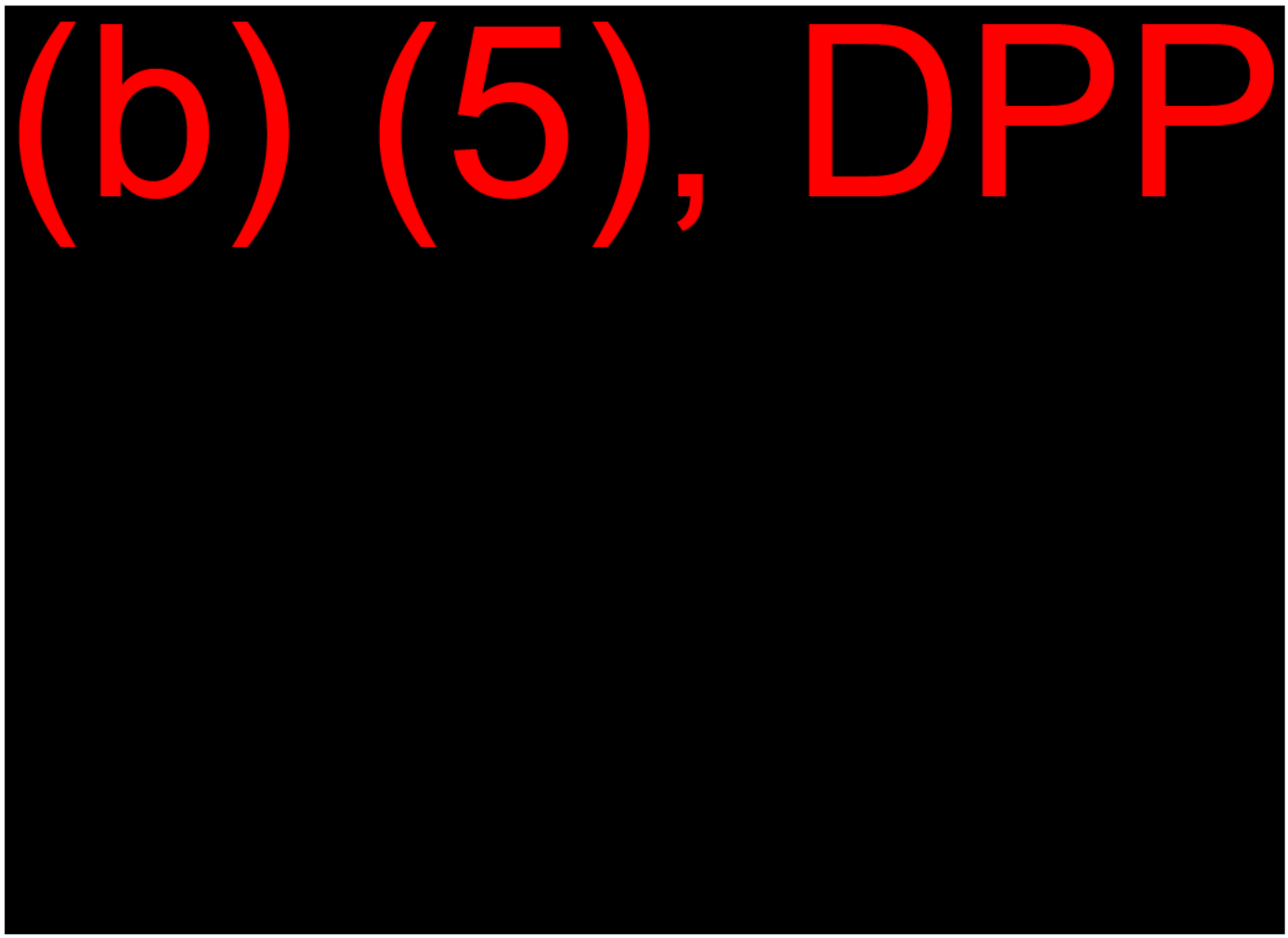
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Michael R. Turner
U.S. House of Representatives
2082 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Turner:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
U.S. House of Representatives
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Kaptur:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Robert E. Latta
U.S. House of Representatives
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Latta:



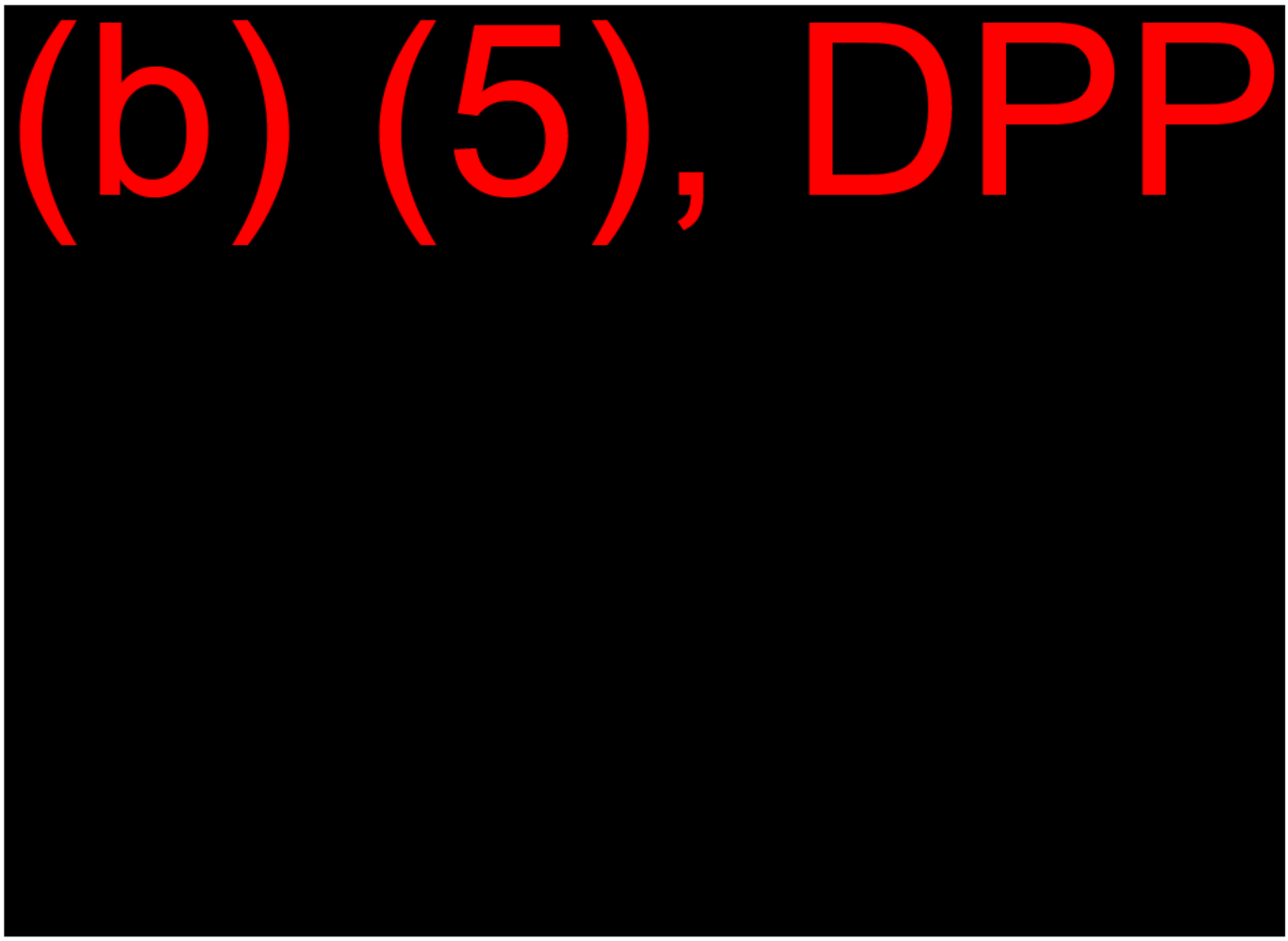
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Anthony Gonzalez
U.S. House of Representatives
1023 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Gonzalez:



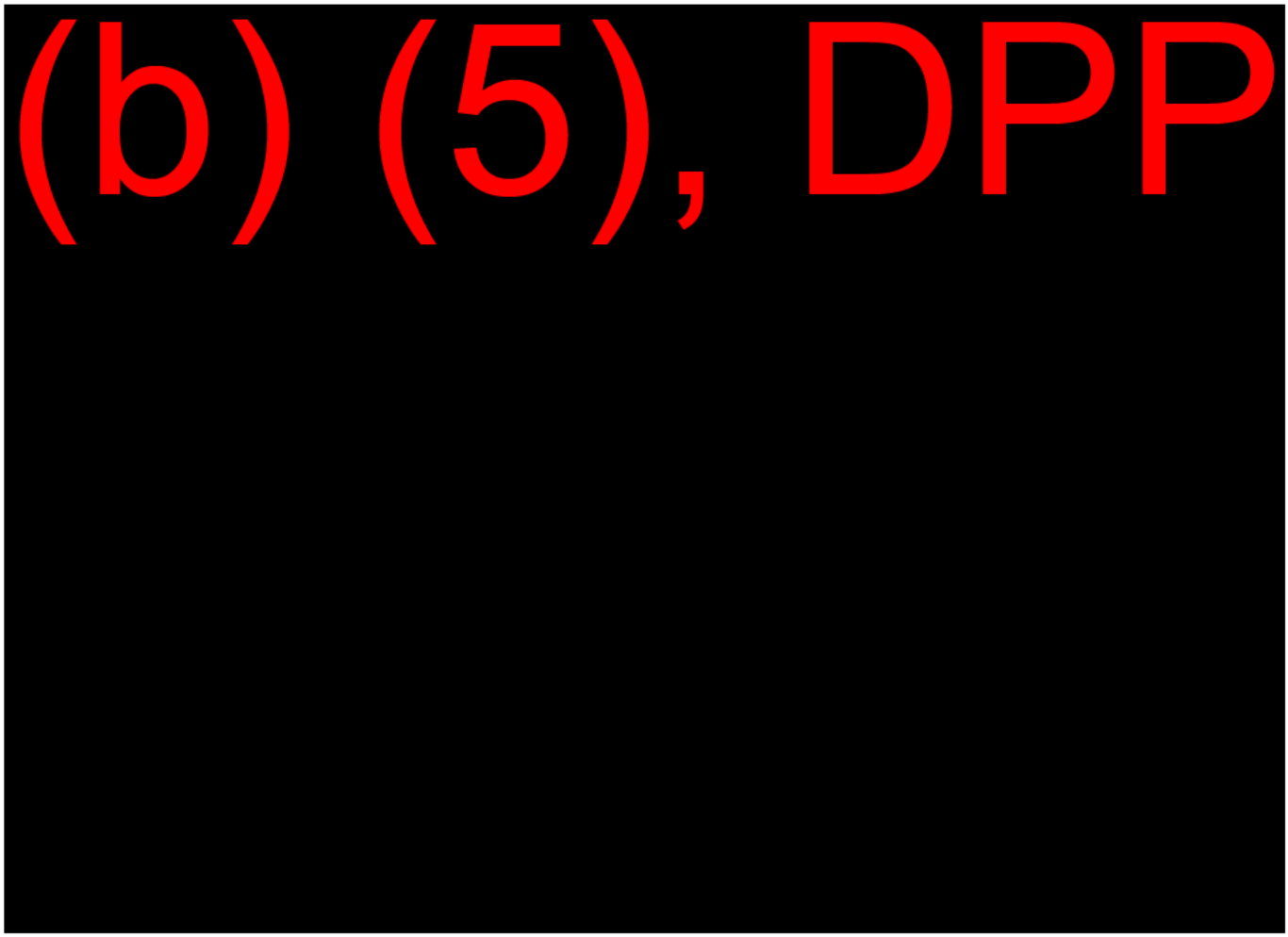
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Tim Ryan
U.S. House of Representatives
1126 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Ryan:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Steve Stivers
U.S. House of Representatives
2234 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Stivers:



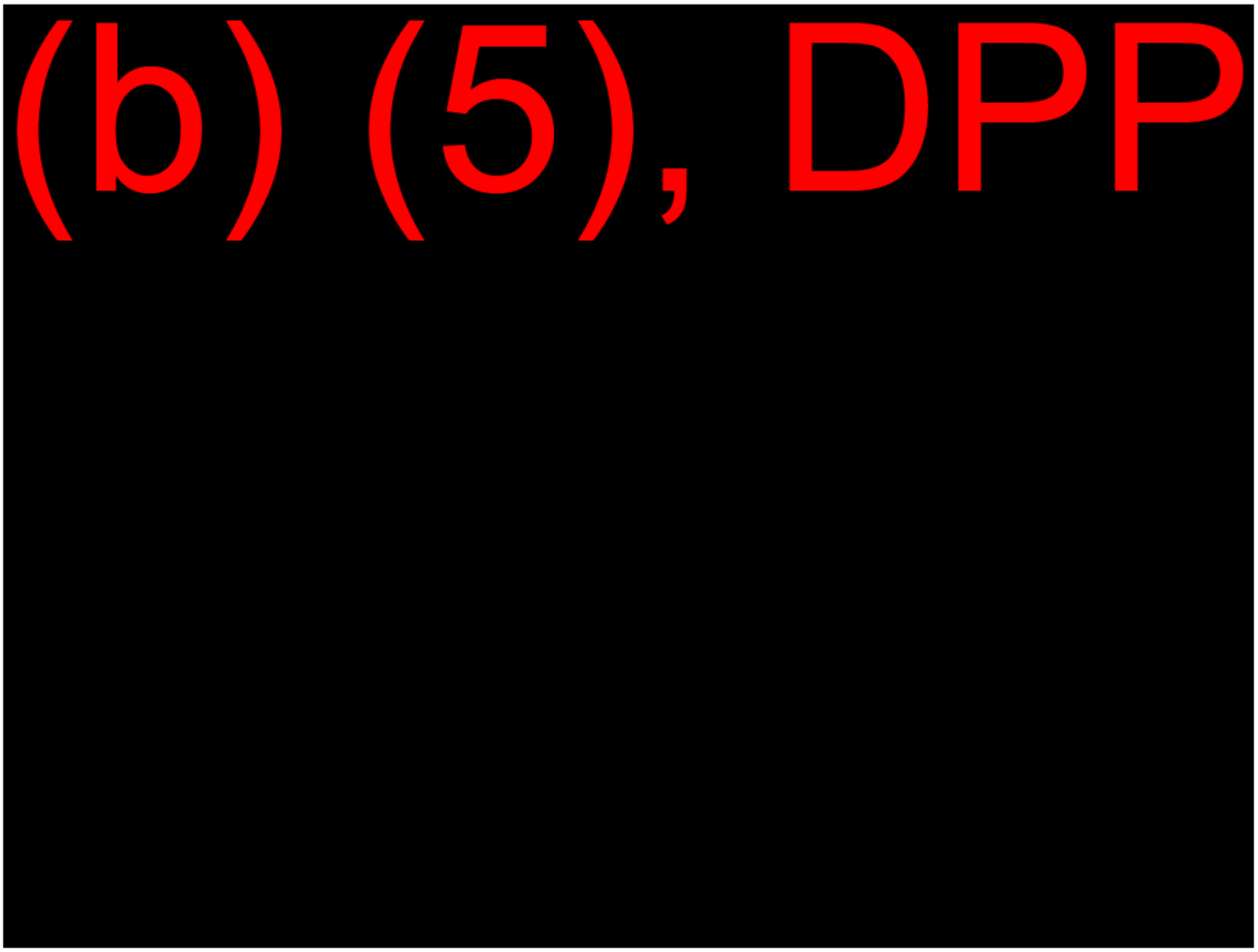
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Joyce Beatty
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Beatty:



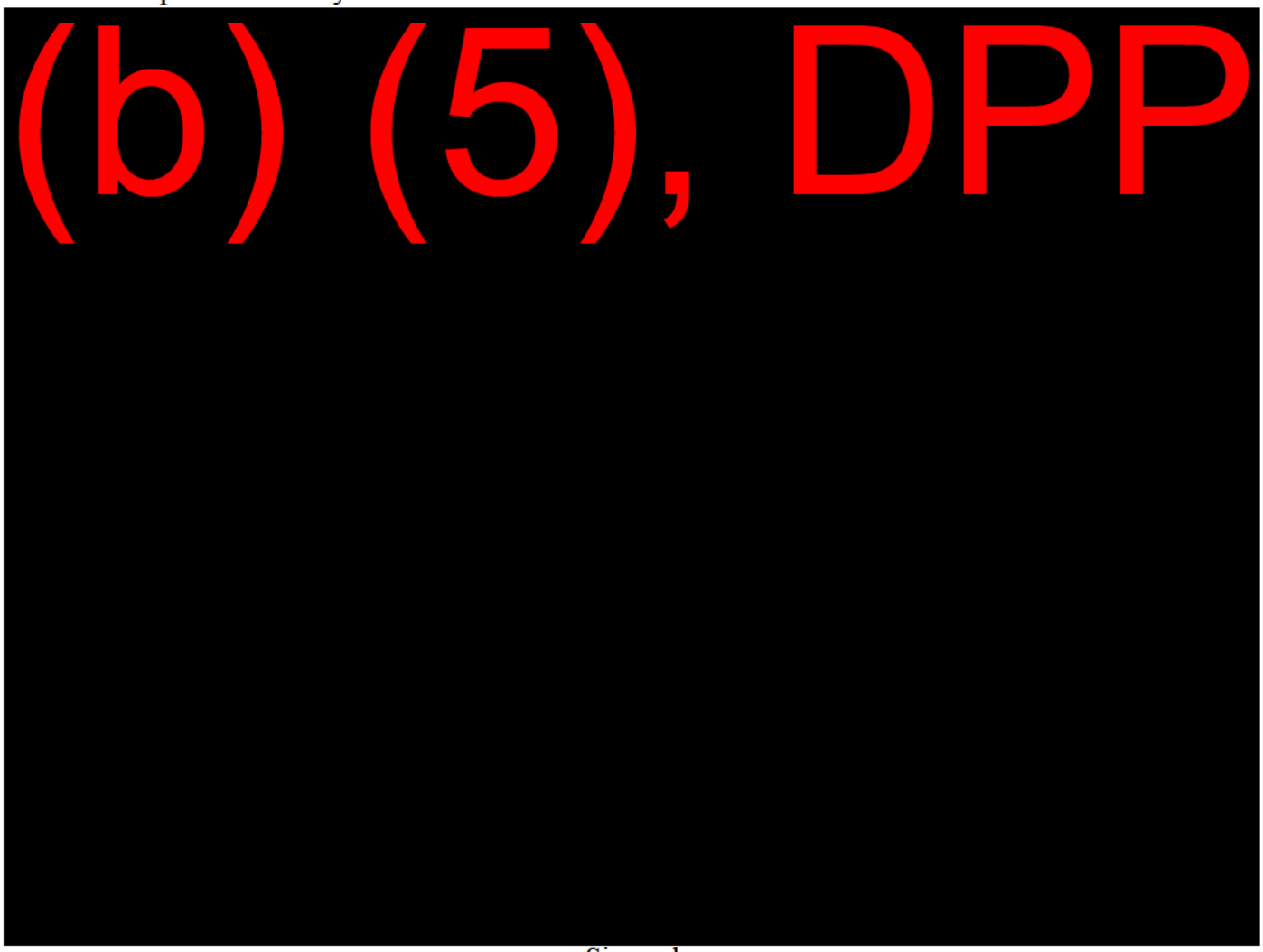
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable David P. Joyce
U.S. House of Representatives
1124 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Joyce:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Steve Chabot
U.S. House of Representatives
2408 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Chabot:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup, D.P.W
U.S. House of Representatives
2419 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Wenstrup:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Troy Balderson
U.S. House of Representatives
1221 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Balderson:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lester, Susan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Rapid Response FNCS: 8626522, 8626922, 8627321, 8627327, 8629395, 8629436
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:45:00 PM
Attachments: FNCS 8627327 Blumenthal, Murphy vw edit.03.30.20.docx
FNCS 8626922 Casey vw edit.03.30.20.docx
FNCS 8626522 Reed vw edit.03.30.20.docx

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 2:39 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Lester, Susan - OSEC, Washington, DC <Susan.Lester@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: Rapid Response FNCS: 8626522, 8626922, 8627321, 8627327, 8629395, 8629436

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

All— Please clear these 6 congressional and stakeholder letters. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]. We are sending in one email to cut down on all the email traffic. Clear by responding over email.

In an attempt to turn these letters around quickly, please respond to this email **within 24 hours of receipt.**

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Best,
Zach

Zach Jacobs
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

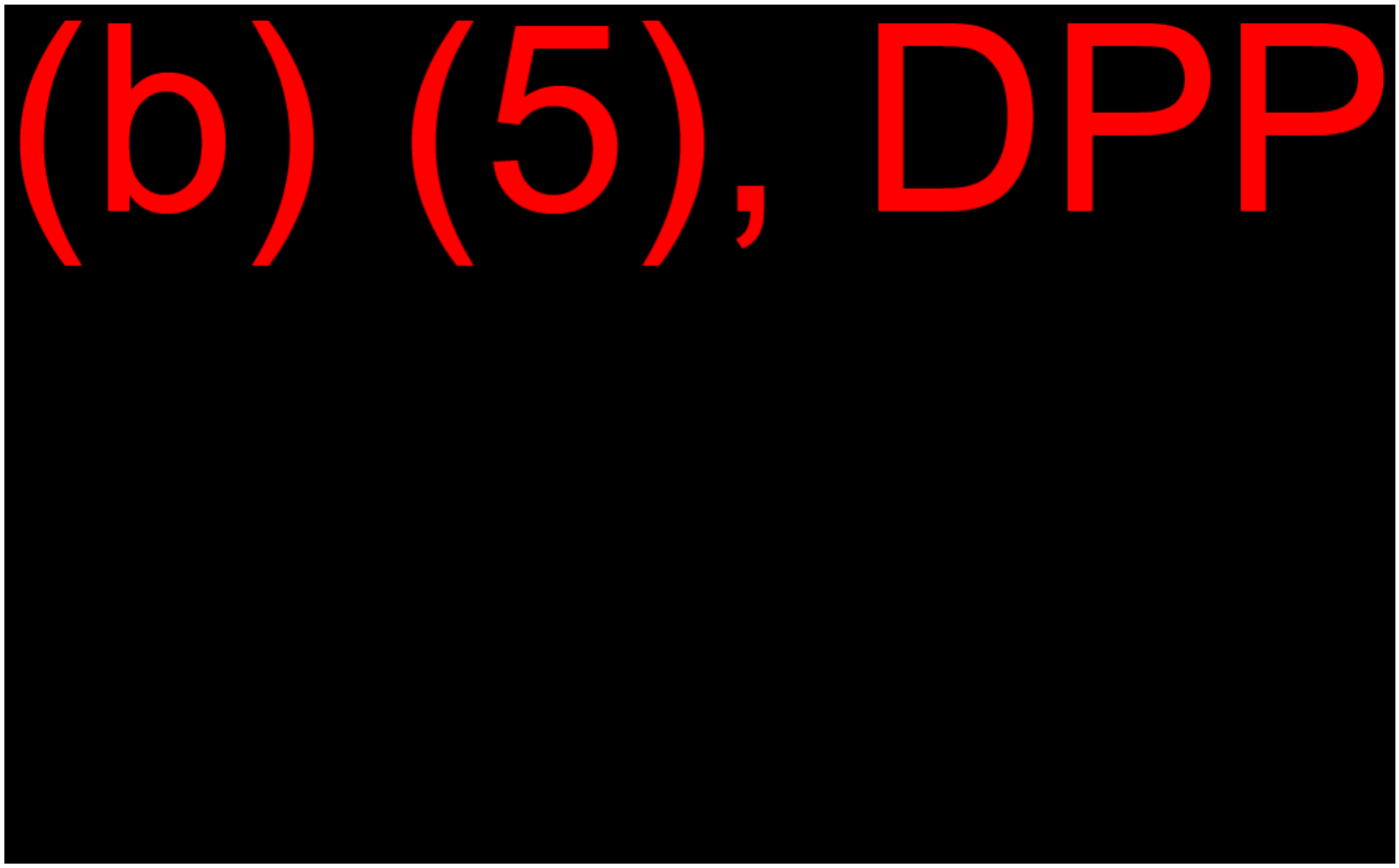
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed:



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

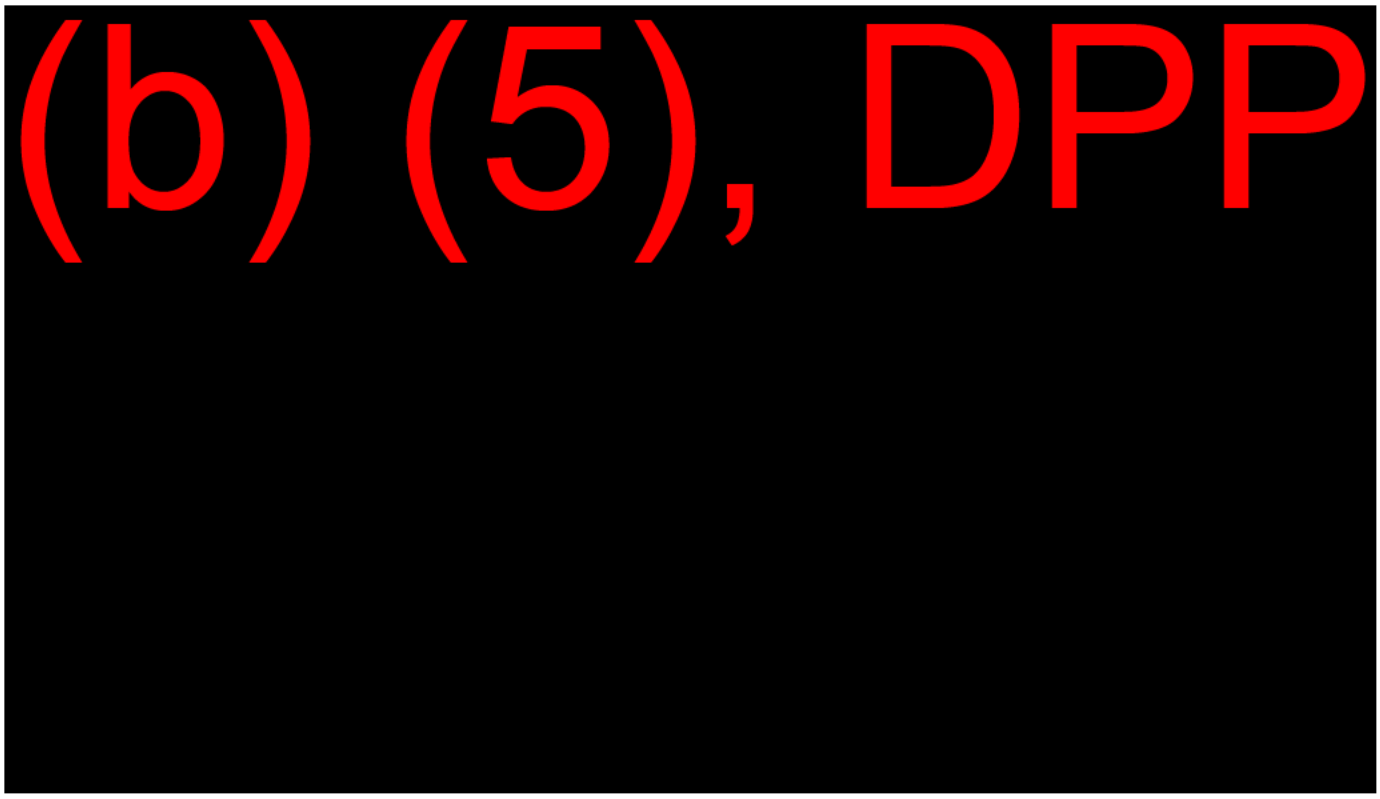
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

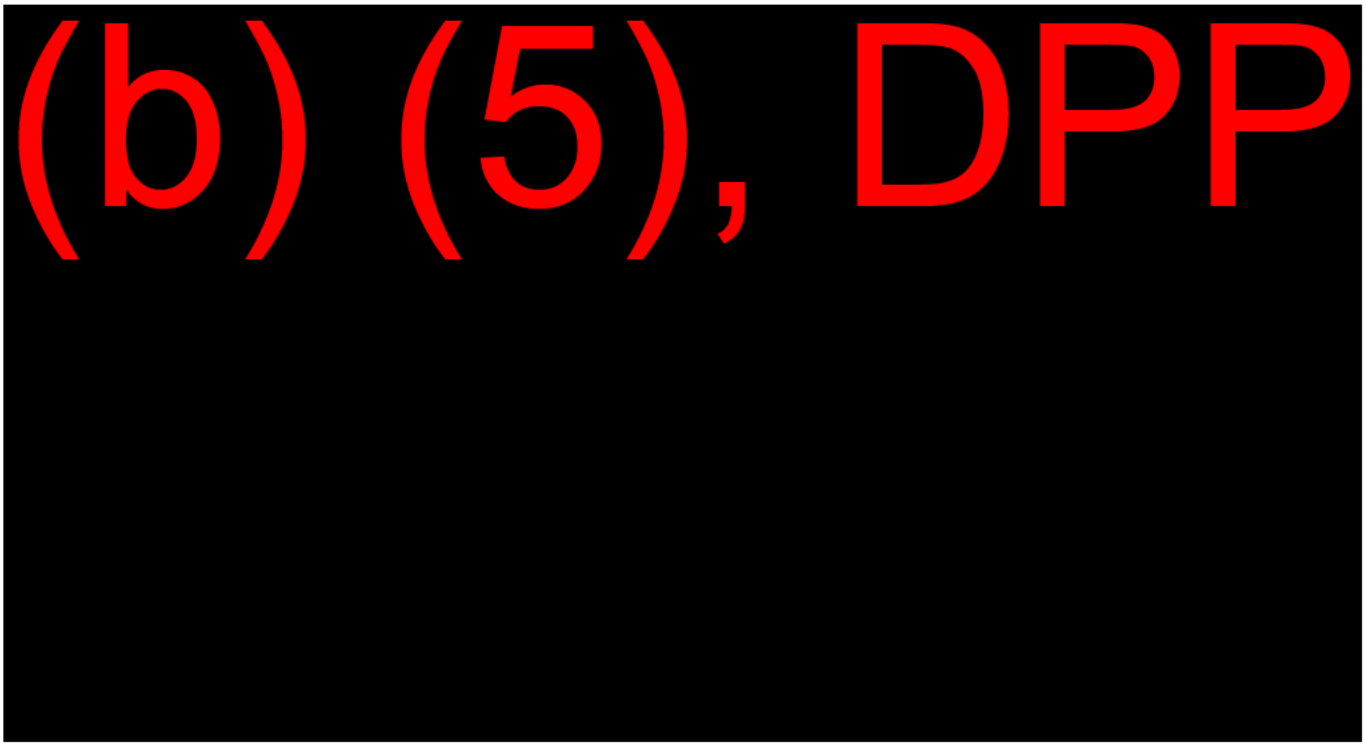
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate

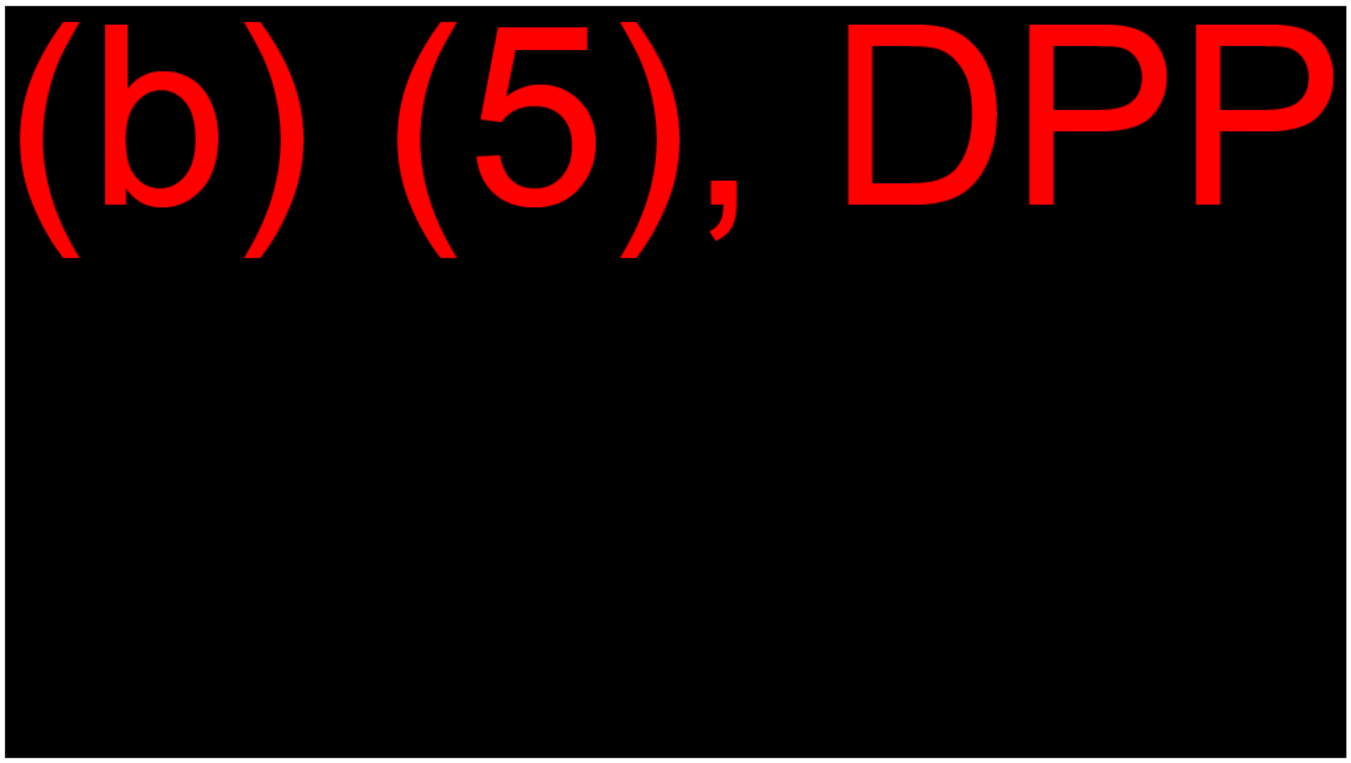
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC; Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov)
Subject: RE: Rapid Response Letters: 8626525, 8626078, 8626006, 8625814, 8625074, 8624329, 8623361, 8626534, 8626538, 86226539, 8628735
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 8:36:00 AM
Attachments: FNCS 8628735 Gov. Tom Wolfe vw.03.27.20.docx
FNCS 8626534 Reed vw.03.27.20.docx
FNCS 8625814 Middleton vw.03.27.20.docx

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Thank you all for your hard work.

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:32 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Lester, Susan - OSEC, Washington, DC <Susan.Lester@usda.gov>; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Subject: Rapid Response Letters: 8626525, 8626078, 8626006, 8625814, 8625074, 8624329, 8623361, 8626534, 8626538, 86226539, 8628735

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

All— Please clear these 11 congressional and stakeholder letters. (b) (5), DPP [redacted] We are sending in one email to cut down on all the email traffic. Clear by responding over email.

In an attempt to turn these letters around quickly, please respond to this email **within 24 hours of receipt.**

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Best,
Zach

Zach Jacobs
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cell: (b) (6)

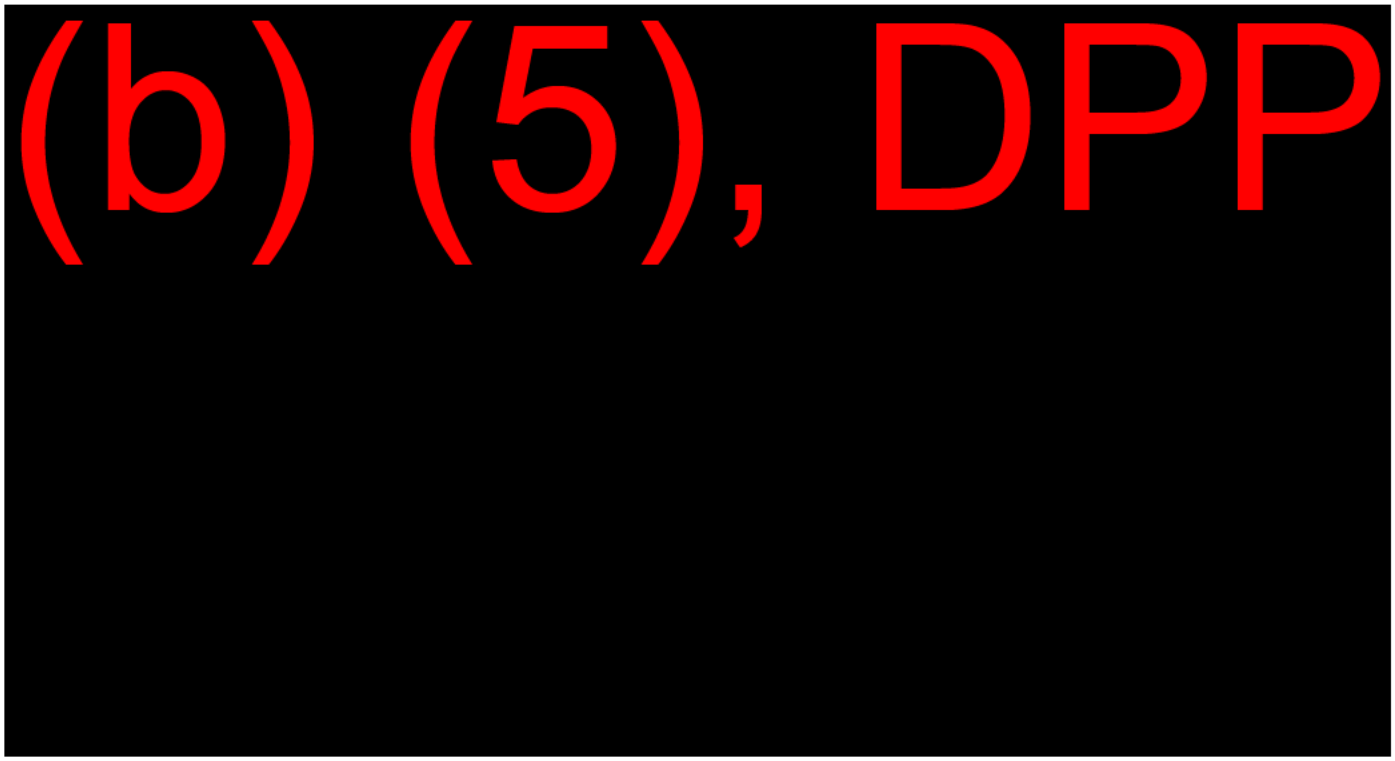
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Ms. Rebecca Middleton
Executive Director
425 3rd Street SW
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Ms. Middleton:



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

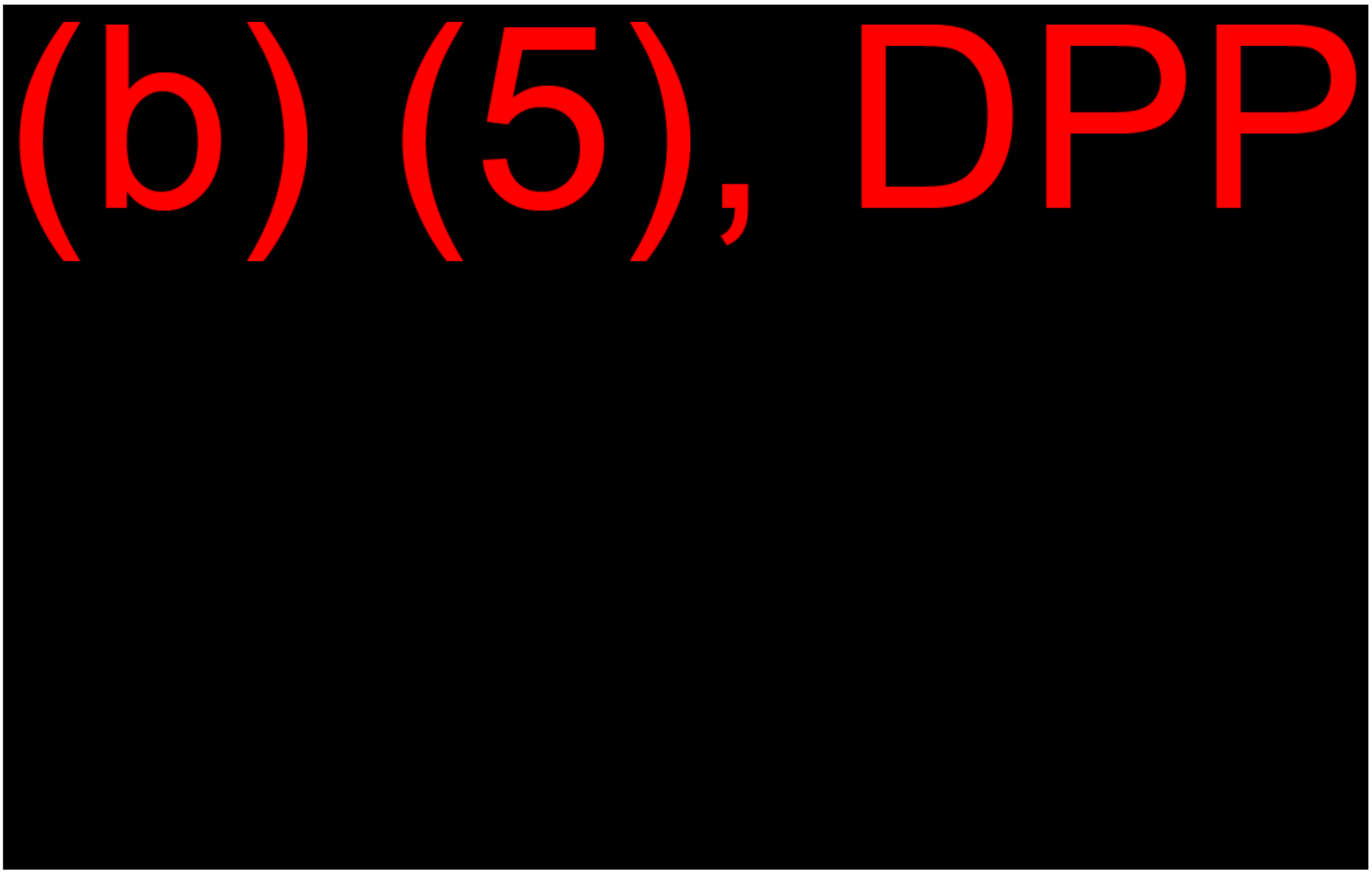
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of the State of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Rapid Response Question - LA
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:13:00 PM
Attachments: SWRO-Louisiana-DHD-Final-Approval.pdf

Yes, they have. As has Pennsylvania and Virginia – Disaster Household food distribution.

On March 27, USDA FNS approved Louisiana's Department of Agriculture and Forestry's request to use USDA Foods to operate disaster household distribution in response to food assistance needs resulting from the COVID-19 National Emergency. The disaster household distribution food package will be provided to impacted households most in need through LDAF's network of five food banks at approximately fifty distribution sites throughout the state between March 28 and April 26, 2020.

Additionally, Louisiana has approved flexibilities in the SNAP, Child Nutrition Programs, and the WIC program.

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 5:56 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Subject: Rapid Response Question

Hey Veronica,

I wanted to check in on Louisiana to see if they had a designation yet or if this letter could get the regular formal letter?

Thank you,
Zach

Zach Jacobs
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

March 27, 2020

SUBJECT: Approval of Disaster Household Distribution in Response to the National Emergency Declaration Due to COVID-19

TO: Bill Ludwig
Regional Administrator
Southwest Regional Office

This memorandum is in response to the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's (LDAF) request to use U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foods to operate disaster household distribution. This request is in response to food assistance needs resulting from the COVID-19 National Emergency declared by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020.

LDAF, which administers The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), requested that USDA approve the use of USDA Foods from TEFAP for disaster household distribution. The disaster household distribution food package will be provided to impacted households most in need of food assistance through LDAF's network of five food banks at approximately fifty distribution sites throughout the state.

Due to the current economic situation and the severe impact of the COVID-19 emergency on the hospitality industry in Louisiana, approval is granted for disaster household distribution beginning March 28, 2020 through April 26, 2020. This approval allows LDAF to serve up to 600,000 individuals using USDA Foods available on-hand. The following foods are approved for the disaster household distribution food package for a household of one-to-two members: rice, pasta, canned vegetables, canned fruit, and protein items. Frozen meats are allowed to be distributed only at agencies that have proper cold and frozen storage facilities.

For larger households, LDAF has approval to provide additional disaster household distribution food packages based on household size. For example, a household of four could receive two disaster household distribution food packages.

Terms of Approval:

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving LDAF's request under the following terms:

1. LDAF must provide on a weekly basis beginning the week of March 30, 2020 an estimate of: 1) the amount of TEFAP inventory used for the disaster household distributions; and 2) the number of persons served under disaster household distribution.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2. Please conduct outreach and distribution efforts in a manner to ensure that households that are suffering significant economic losses or significant food access challenges due to COVID-19 are served first.

3. Approval for disaster household distribution is granted through April 26, 2020. Existing TEFAP inventories must be utilized to operate a disaster household distribution including orders placed and scheduled for delivery. Please keep in mind that replacement foods may not be available for delivery until July 2020 and beyond.

Authority

The approval of disaster household distribution of USDA Foods is in accordance with FNS regulations at 7 CFR 250.69. LDAF must provide a summary report via the FNS-292A form within 45 days following termination of the disaster household distribution. The information reported on the FNS-292A is the location of distribution sites, the number of persons served, and the type and quantity of USDA Foods distributed.



Diane M. Kriviski
Deputy Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Rapid Response Question - LA
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:02:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP. Thanks.

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 4:50 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Rapid Response Question - LA

Here is the letter and (b) (5), DPP !

Thanks,
Zach

Zach Jacobs
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6:14 PM
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Rapid Response Question - LA

Yes, they have. As has Pennsylvania and Virginia – Disaster Household food distribution.

On March 27, USDA FNS approved Louisiana's Department of Agriculture and Forestry's request to use USDA Foods to operate disaster household distribution in response to food assistance needs resulting from the COVID-19 National Emergency. The disaster household distribution food package will be provided to impacted households most in need through LDAF's network of five food banks at approximately fifty distribution sites throughout the state between March 28 and April 26, 2020.

Additionally, Louisiana has approved flexibilities in the SNAP, Child Nutrition Programs, and the WIC program.

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 5:56 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Subject: Rapid Response Question

Hey Veronica,

I wanted to check in on Louisiana to see if they had a designation yet or if this letter could get the regular formal letter?

Thank you,
Zach

Zach Jacobs

Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: Rapid Response: 8627745, 8627539, 8627567, 8628826, 8626519, 8627744, 8628821, 8627486, 8628827, 8628809, 8628034, 8626519, 8627559, 8627867
Date:	Friday, March 27, 2020 9:10:00 AM
Attachments:	FNCS 8628827 Fitzpatrick vw.03.27.20.docx FNCS 8628826 Casey vw.03.27.20.docx FNCS 8628821 Warner and Kaine vw.03.27.20.docx FNCS 8627559 Greenaway EIA Zach vw.03.27.20.docx FNCS 8627539 Fudge +1 Chris vw.03.27.20.docx

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

From: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 6:19 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Lester, Susan - OSEC, Washington, DC <Susan.Lester@usda.gov>; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Subject: Rapid Response: 8627745, 8627539, 8627567, 8628826, 8626519, 8627744, 8628821, 8627486, 8628827, 8628809, 8628034, 8626519, 8627559, 8627867
Importance: High

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

All— Please clear these 14 congressional and stakeholder letters. (b) (5), DPP [redacted]. We are sending in one email to cut down on all the email trafic. Clear by responding over email.

In an attempt to turn these letters around quickly, please respond to this email **within 24 hours of receipt.**

Sincerely,

Noah Jackson
Office of Congressional Relations
Cell: (202)731-9351

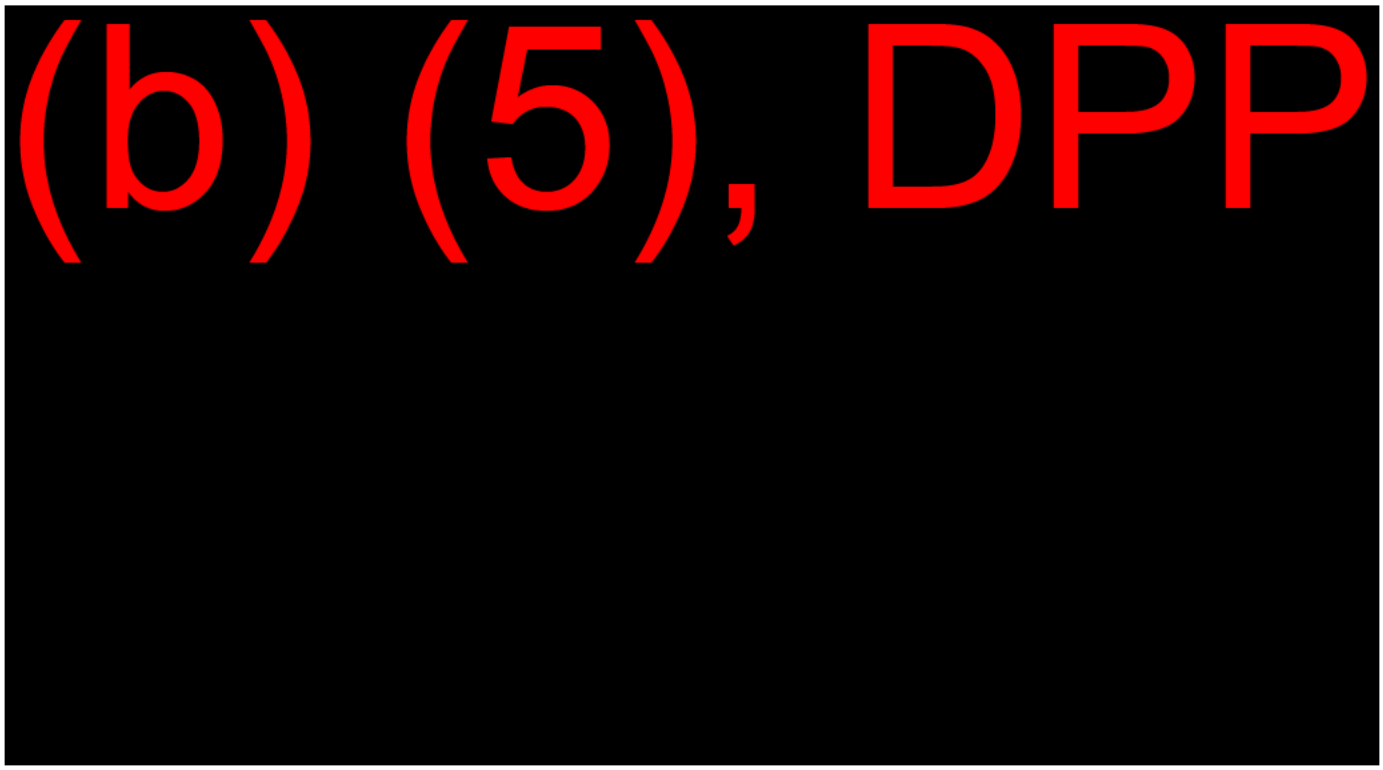
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Marcia Fudge
U.S. House of Representatives
2344 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Fudge,



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

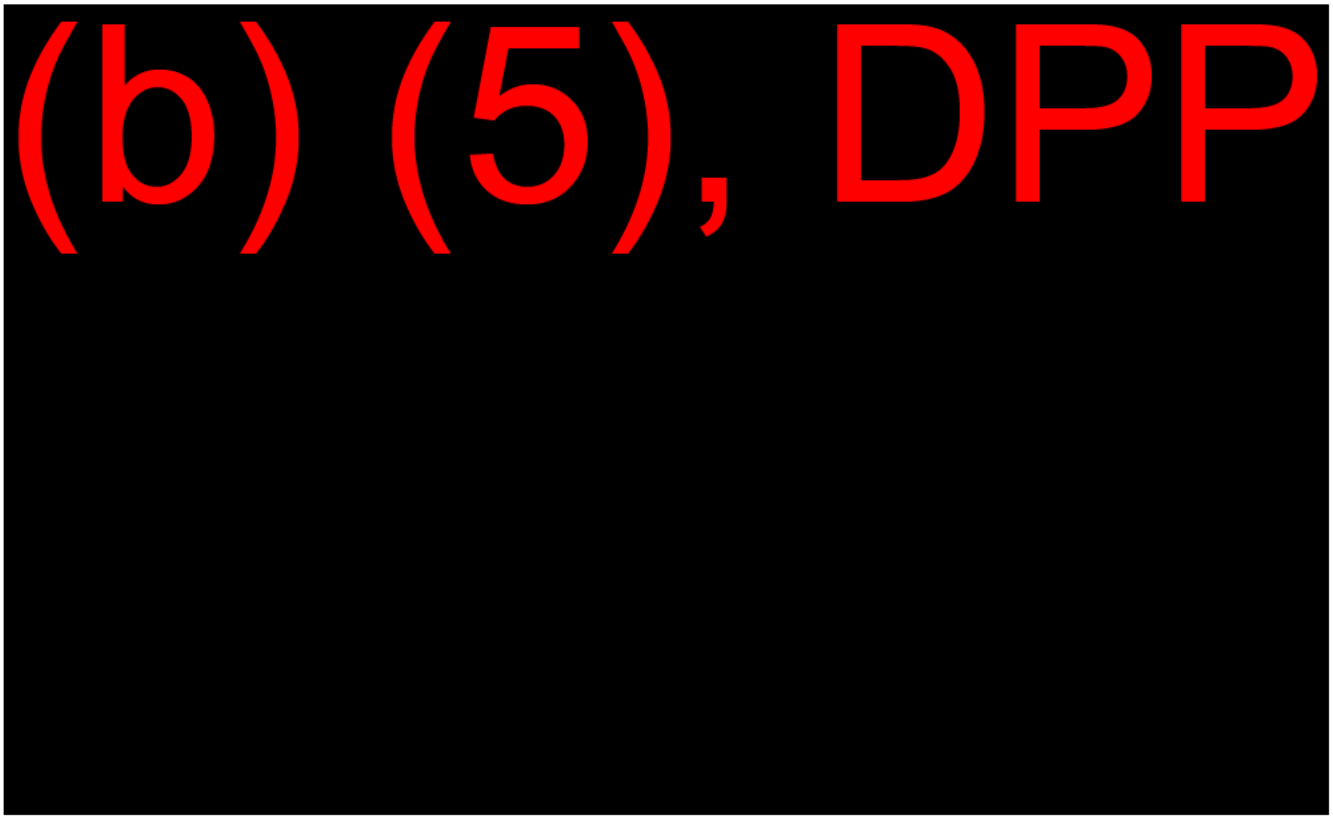
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Robert C. “Bobby” Scott
U.S. House of Representatives
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Scott,



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Reverend Doulas Greenaway
President and CEO
National WIC Association
2001 S Street, NW
Suite 580
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Reverend Greenaway:

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

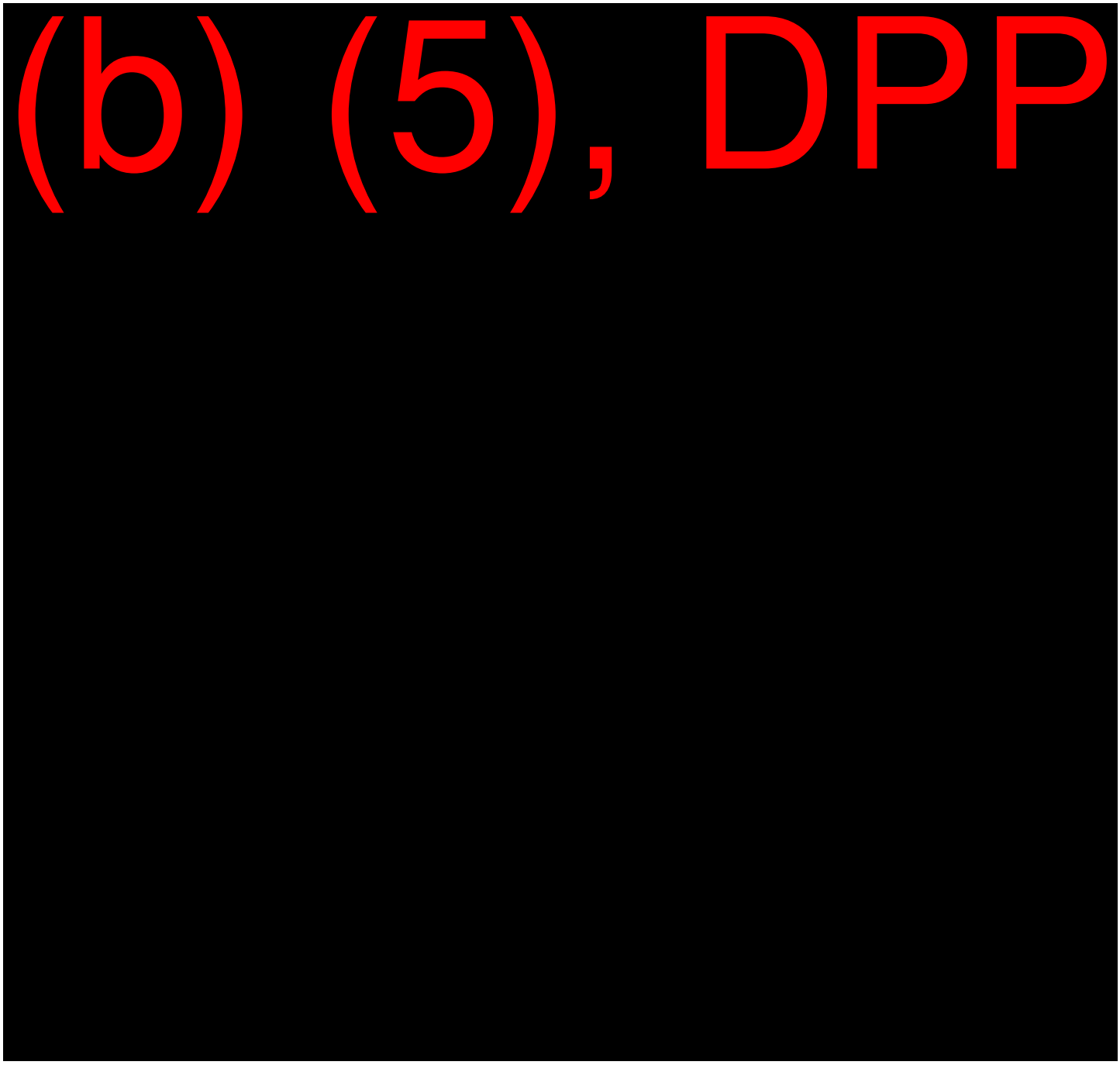
Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

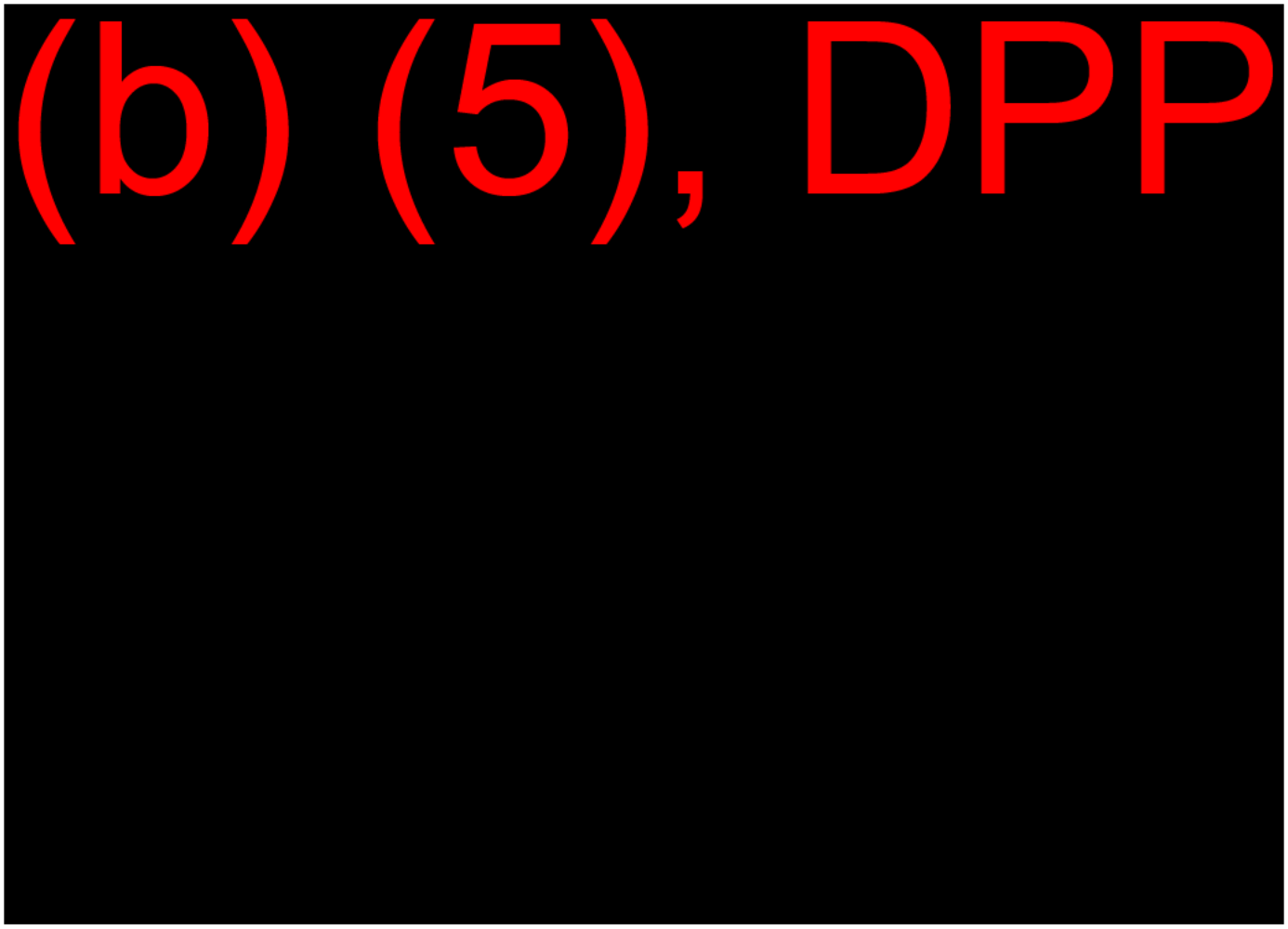
(b) (5), DPP

The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warner:



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

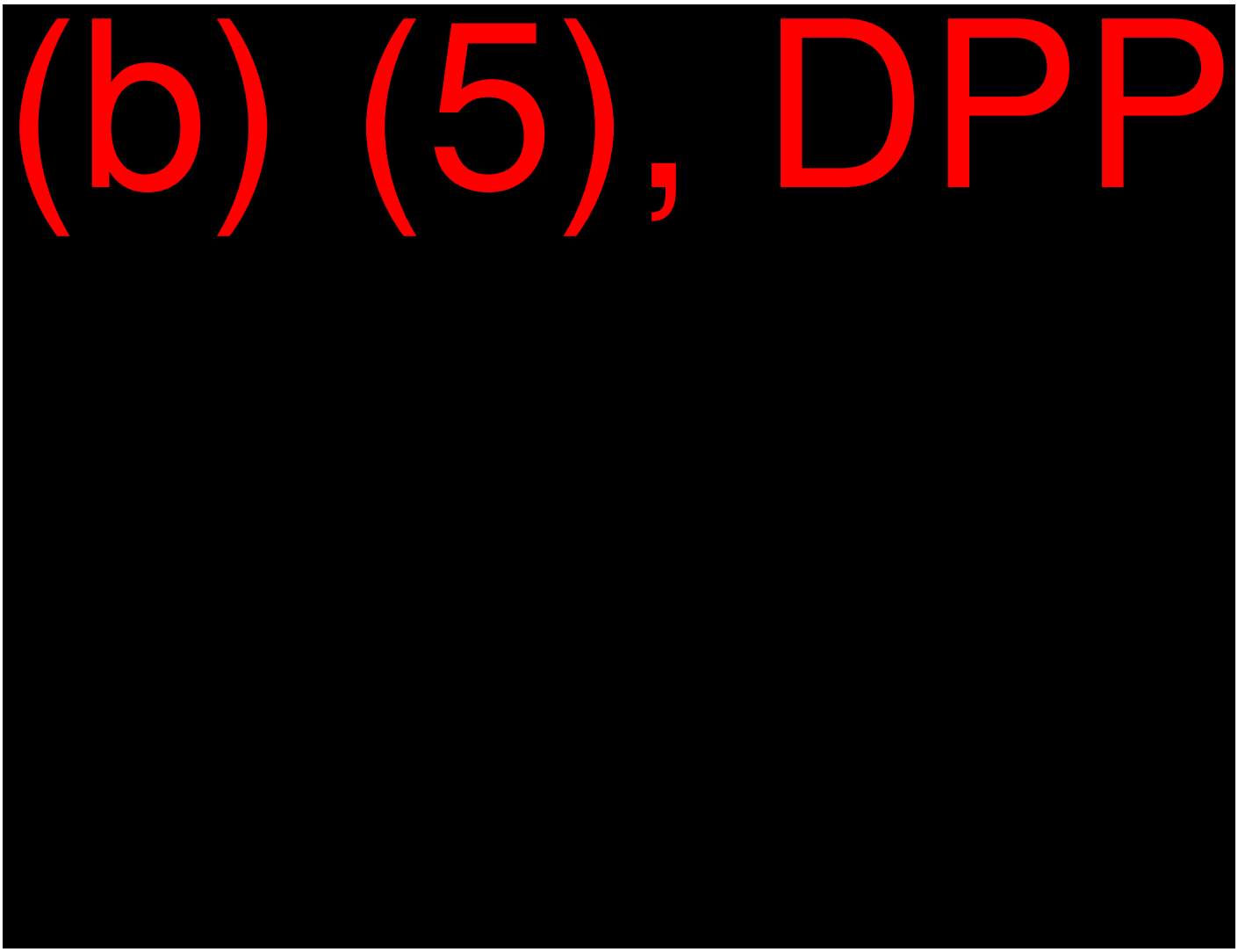
Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

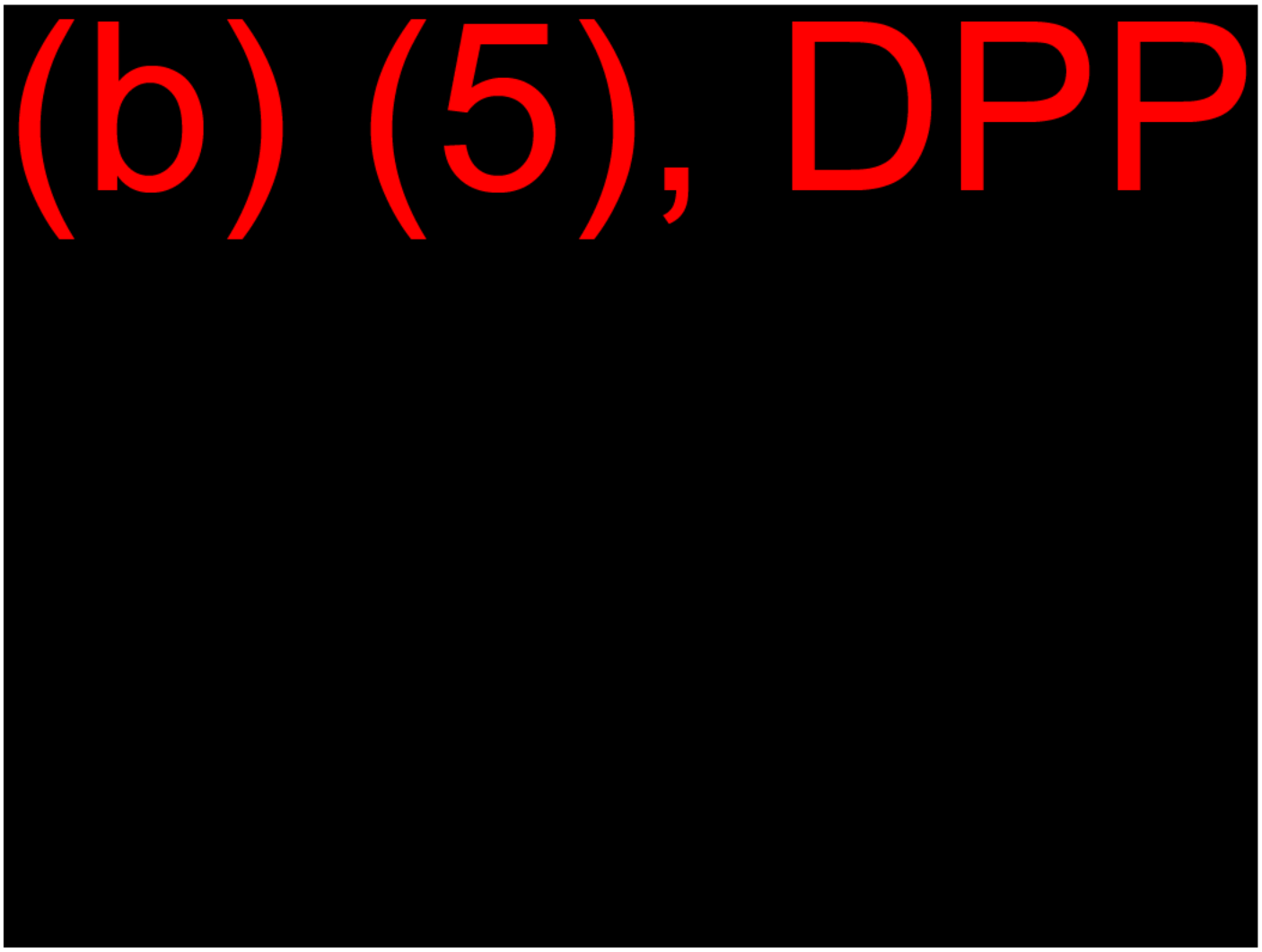
The Honorable Tim Kaine
United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kaine:



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

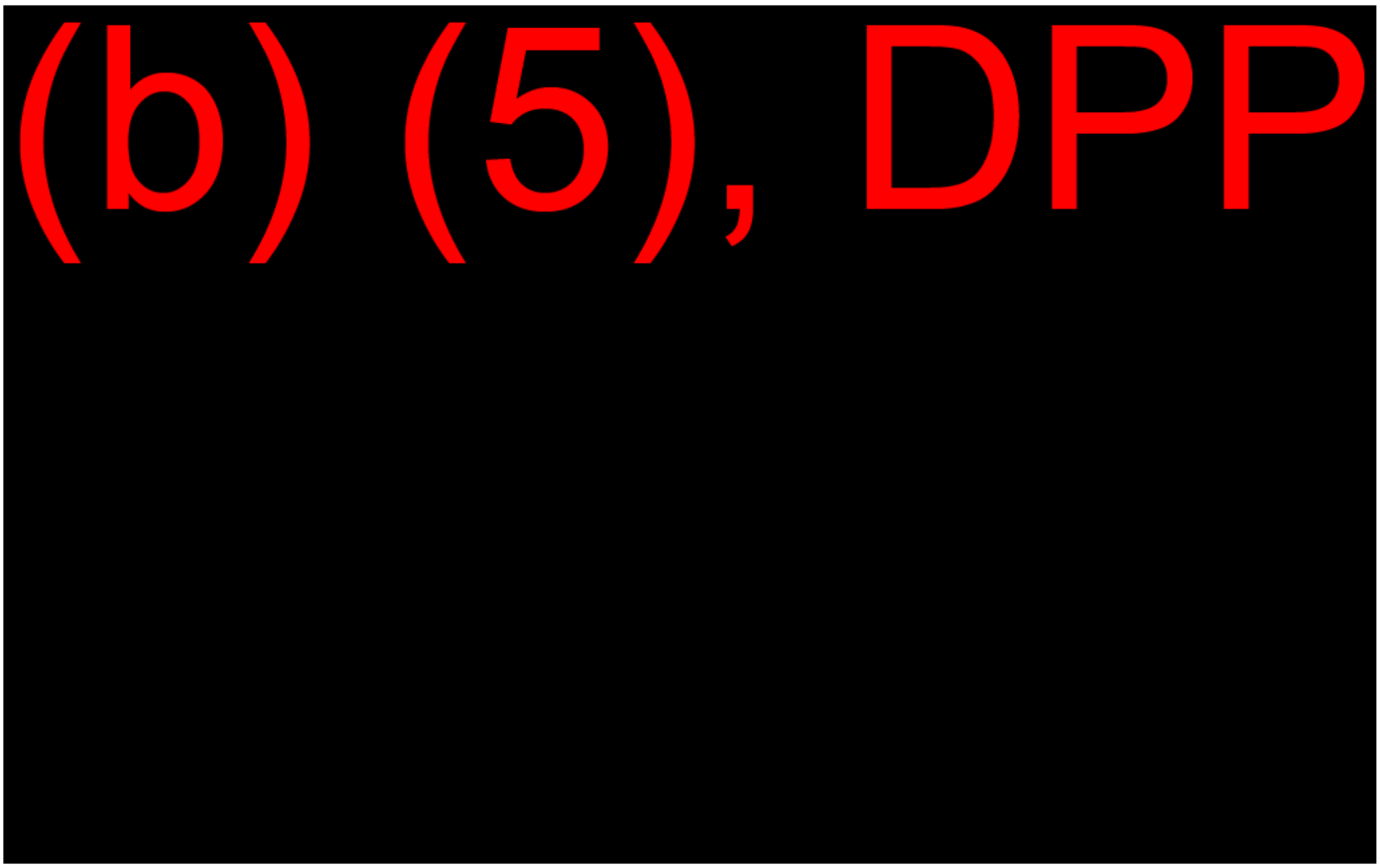
The Honorable Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP



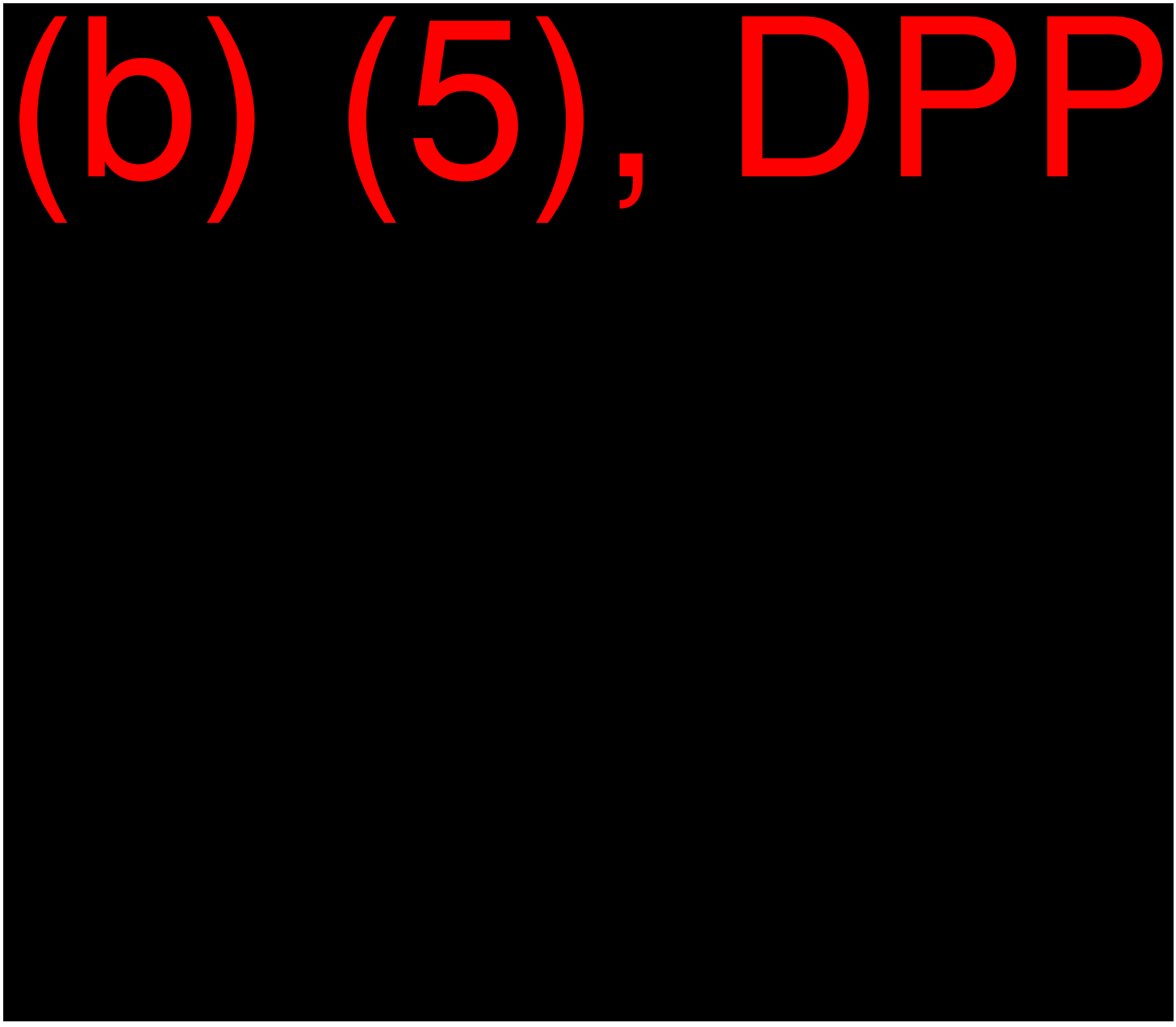
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
1722 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Fitzpatrick:



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: RAPID RESPONSE: 8633931; 8635841; 86336938
Date:	Wednesday, April 29, 2020 3:49:00 PM
Attachments:	FNCS 8633931 Schumer and Gillibrand AD vw edits.04.29.20.docx FNCS 8635938 Adams AD vw edits.04.09.20.docx

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]. Thanks.

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 2:48 PM
To: ONeill, Stephen - OBPA, Washington, DC <Stephen.ONeill@usda.gov>; Norman, Jackie - OBPA, Washington, DC <jackie.norman@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>; Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RAPID RESPONSE: 8633931; 8635841; 86336938

All,

Attached are some FNCS Rapid Response Letters that are ready for your review and clearance. Please use track changes if you have any edits and let me know if there is anything you may need from me.

Best,
Zach

Zach Jacobs

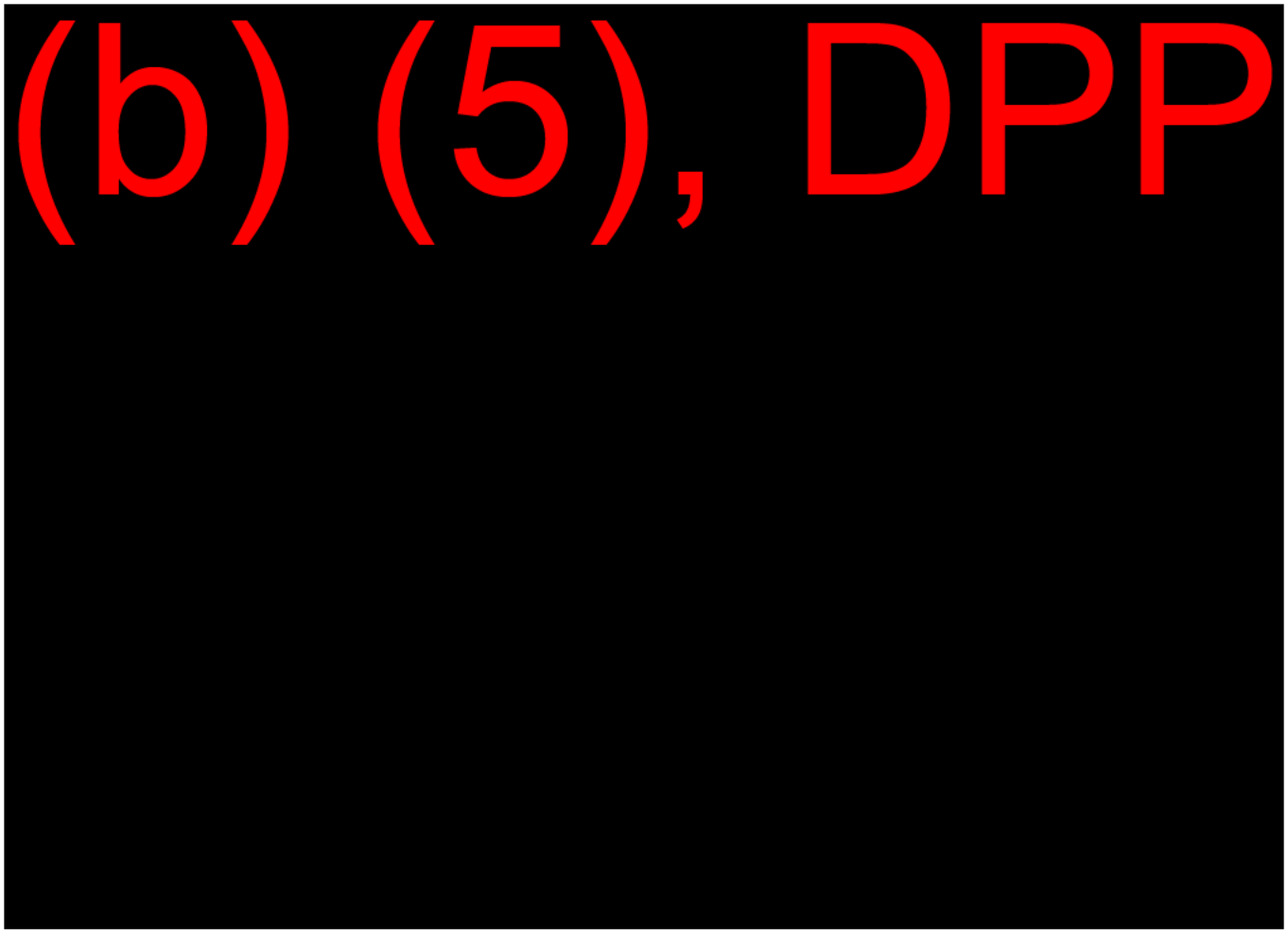
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
2436 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Adams:



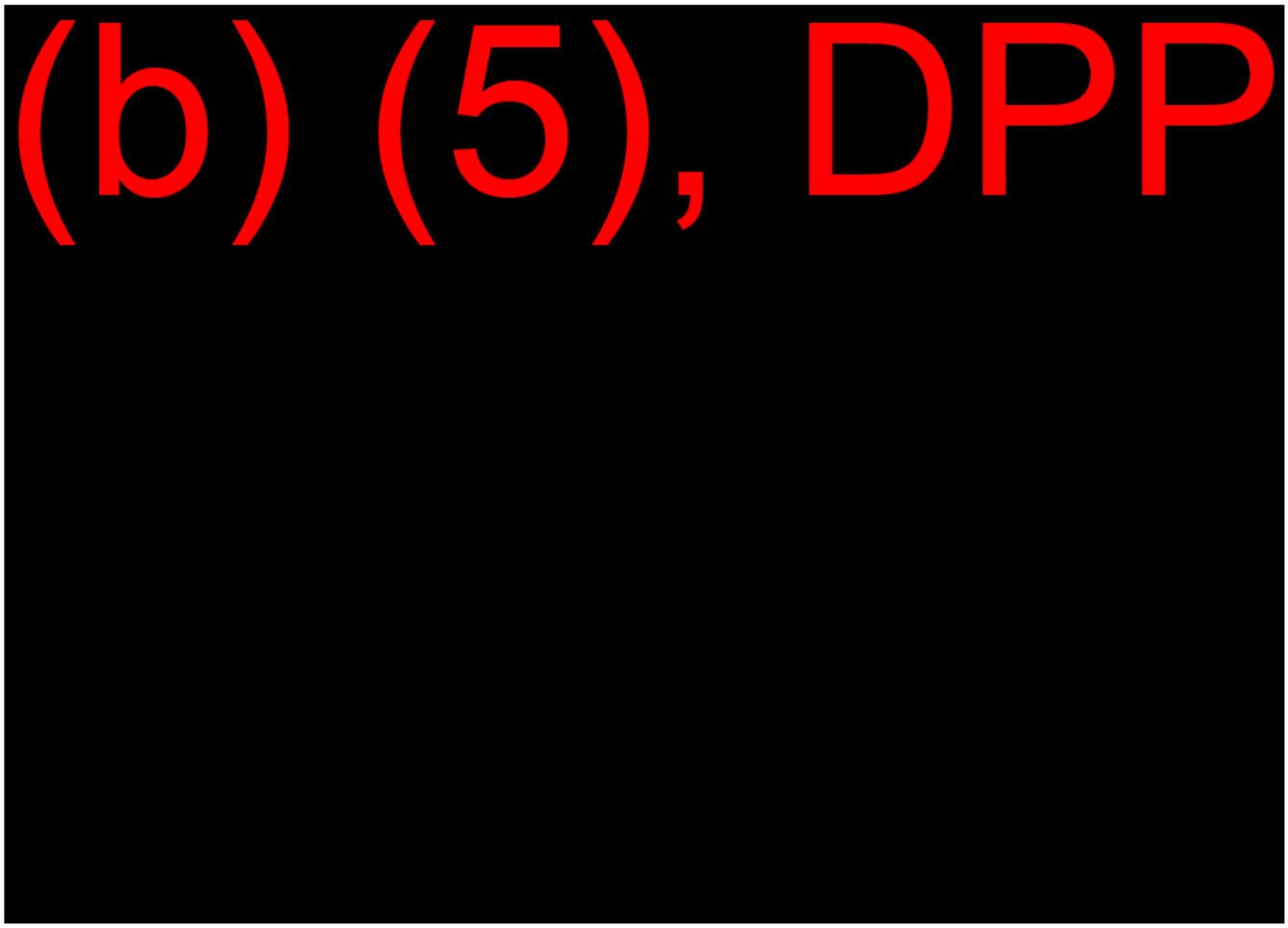
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Abigail D. Spanberger
U.S. House of Representatives
1239 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Spanberger:



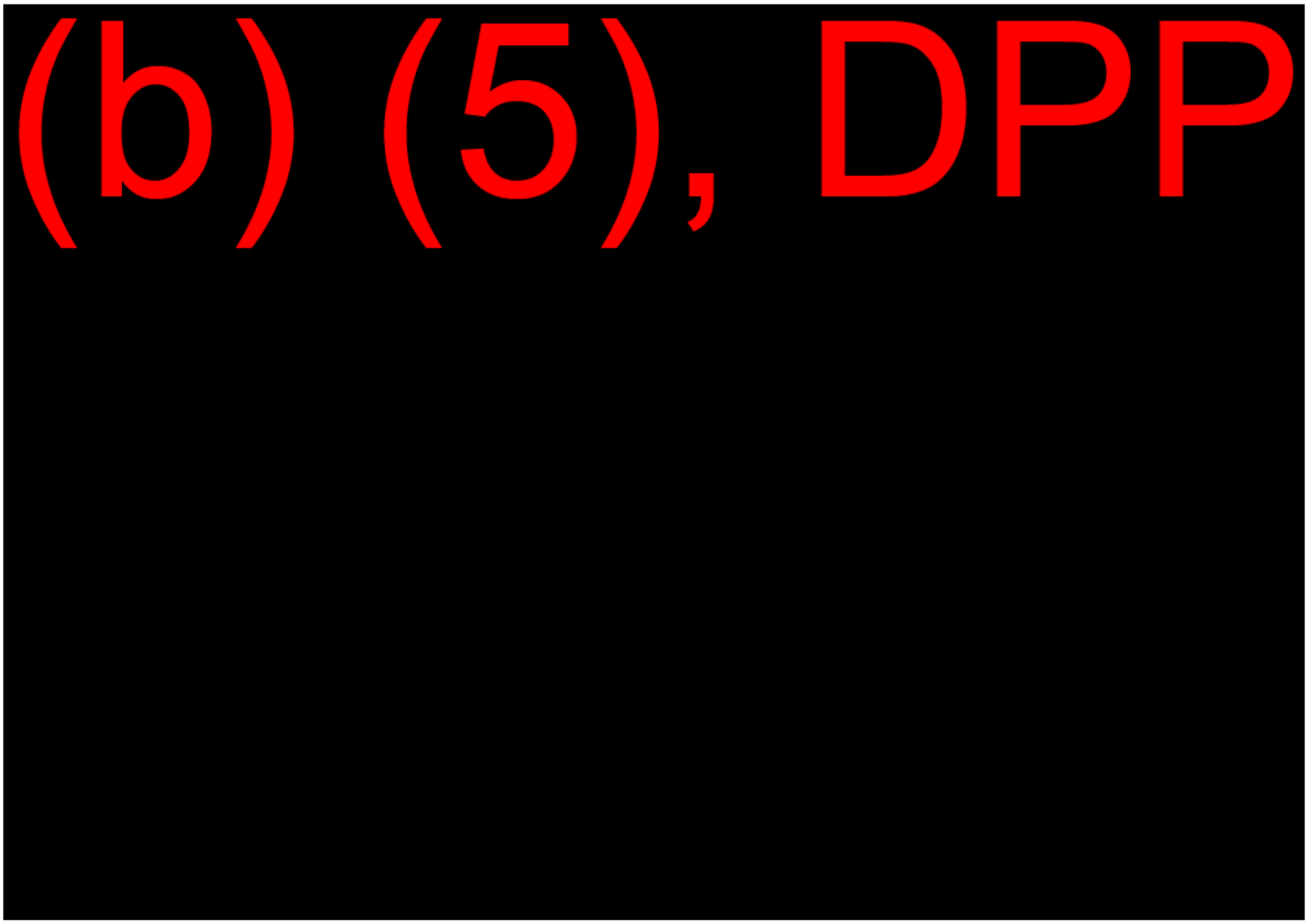
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Adam B. Schiff
U.S. House of Representatives
2269 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Schiff:



Sincerely,

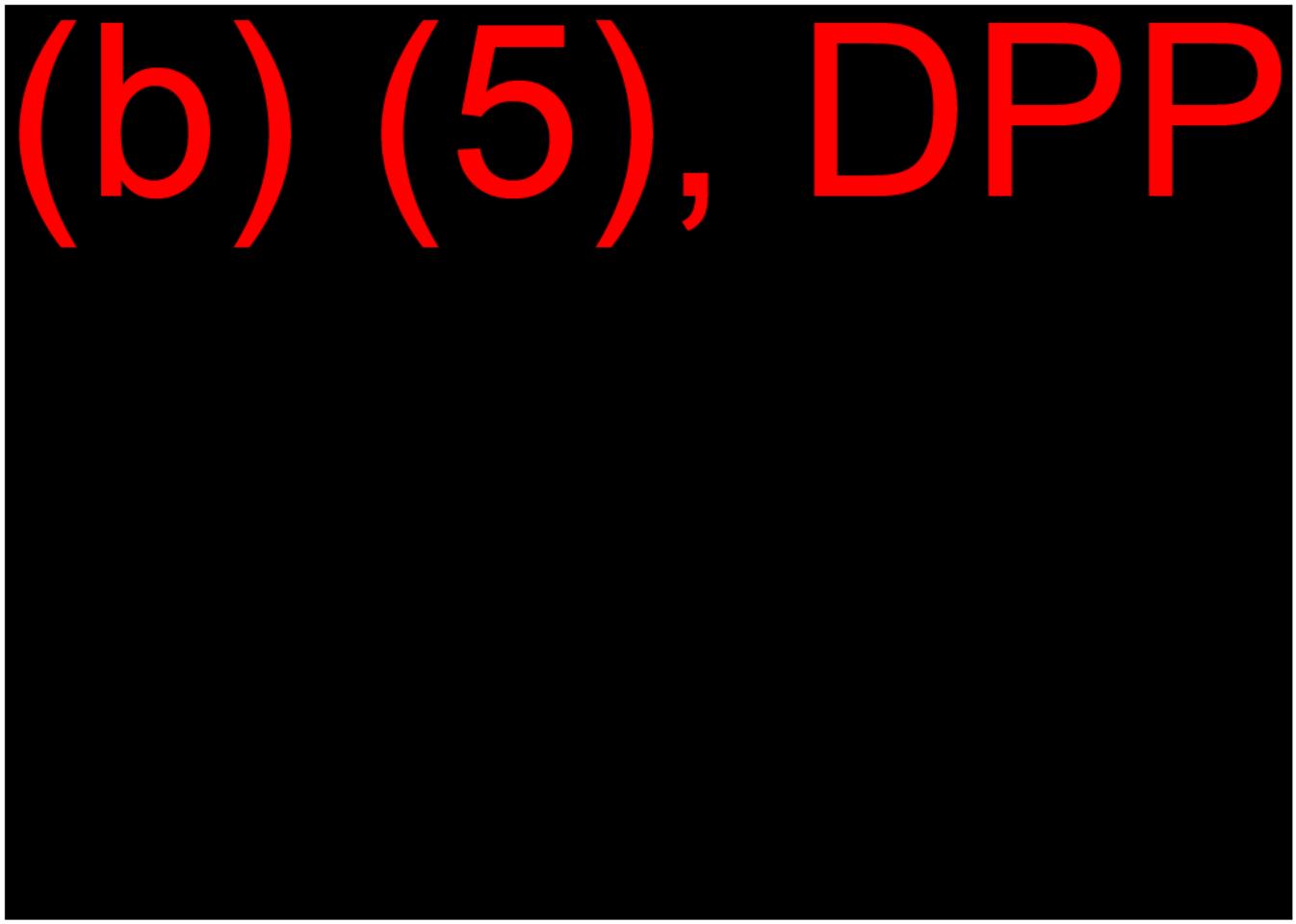
Sonny Perdue

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Secretary

The Honorable Adam Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:



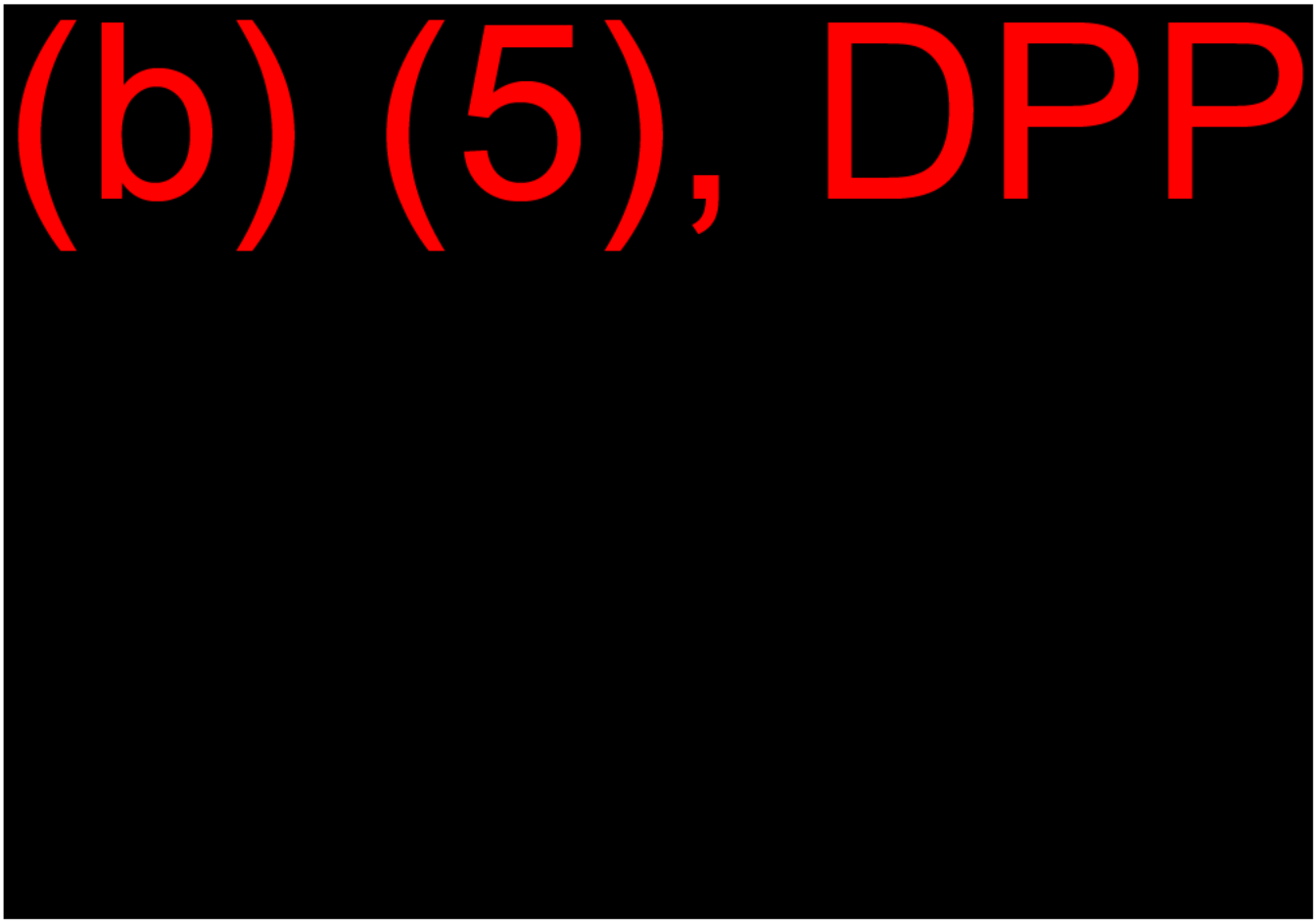
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Adriano Espaillat
U.S. House of Representatives
1630 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Espaillat:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Al Green
U.S. House of Representatives
2347 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Green:



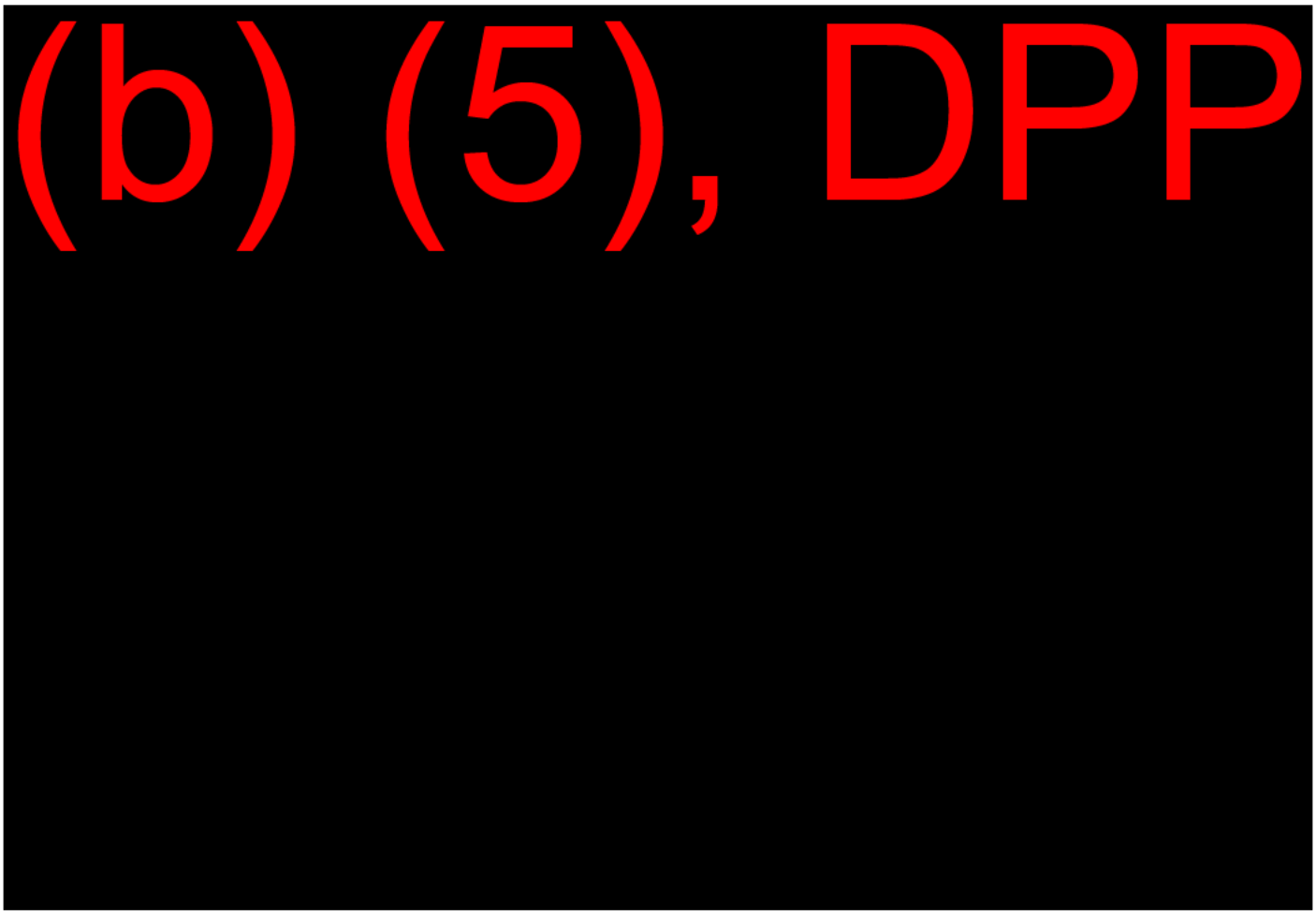
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Al Lawson
U.S. House of Representatives
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lawson:



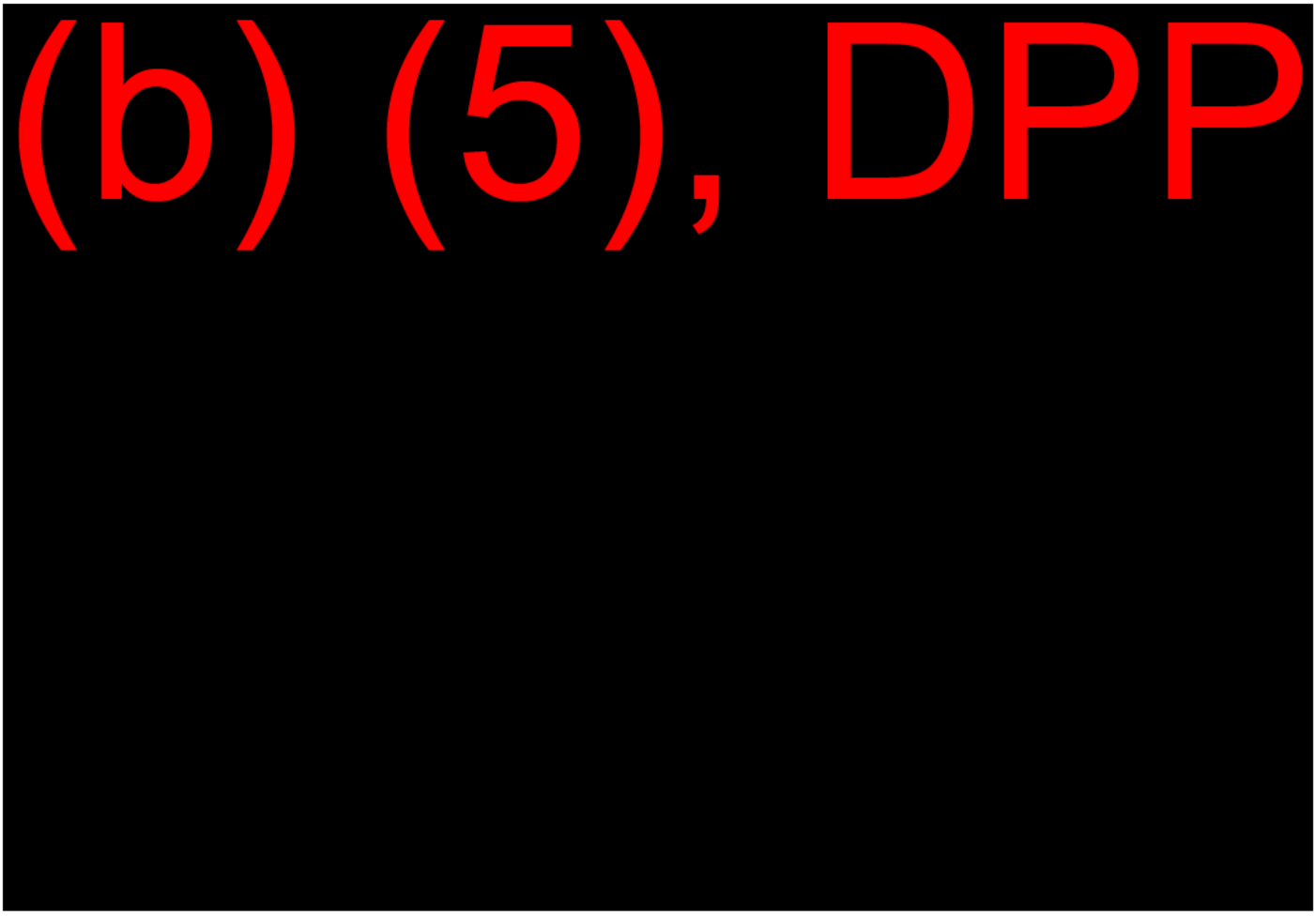
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Albio Sires
U.S. House of Representatives
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Sires:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings
U.S. House of Representatives
2353 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hastings:



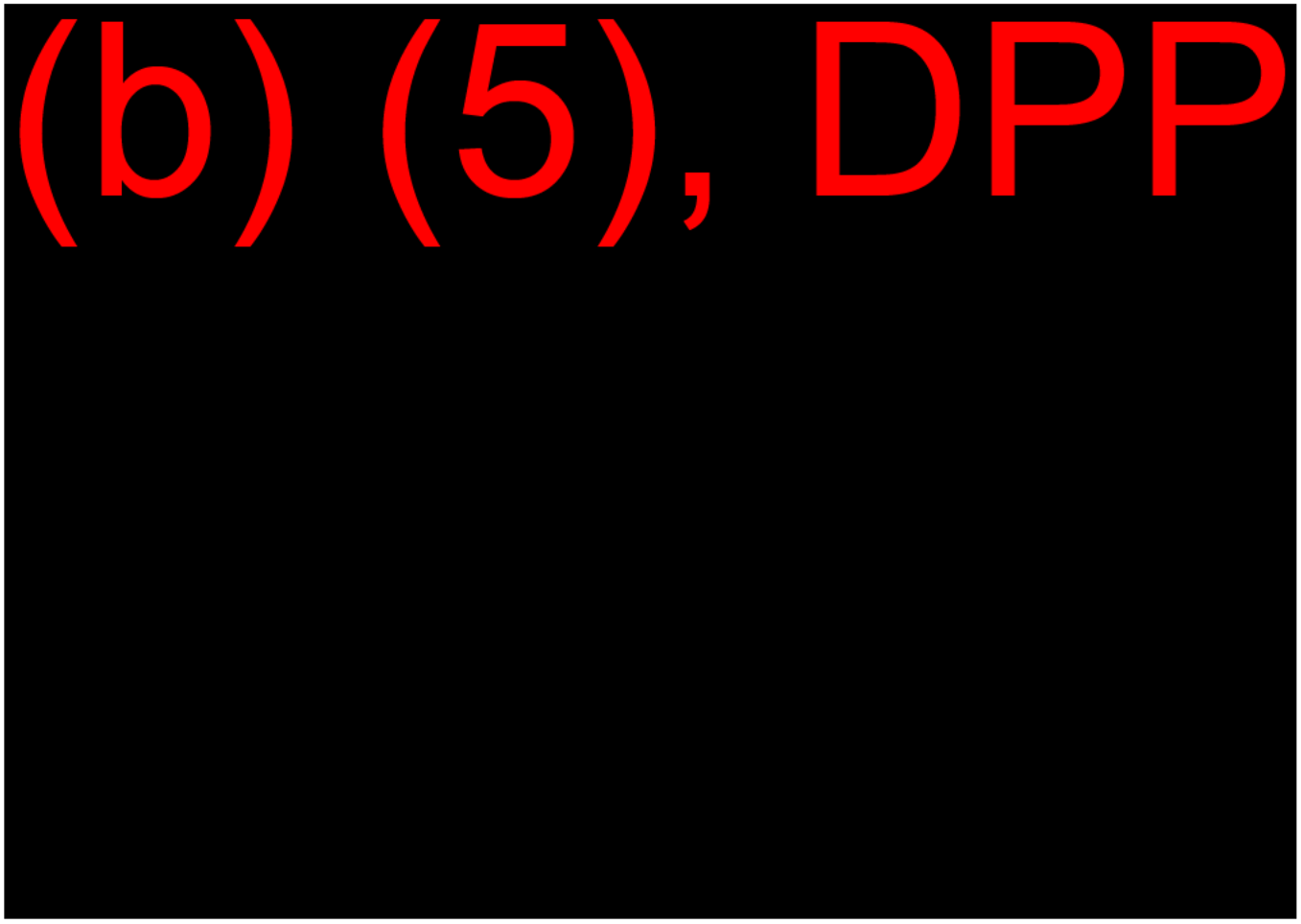
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable André Carson
U.S. House of Representatives
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Carson:



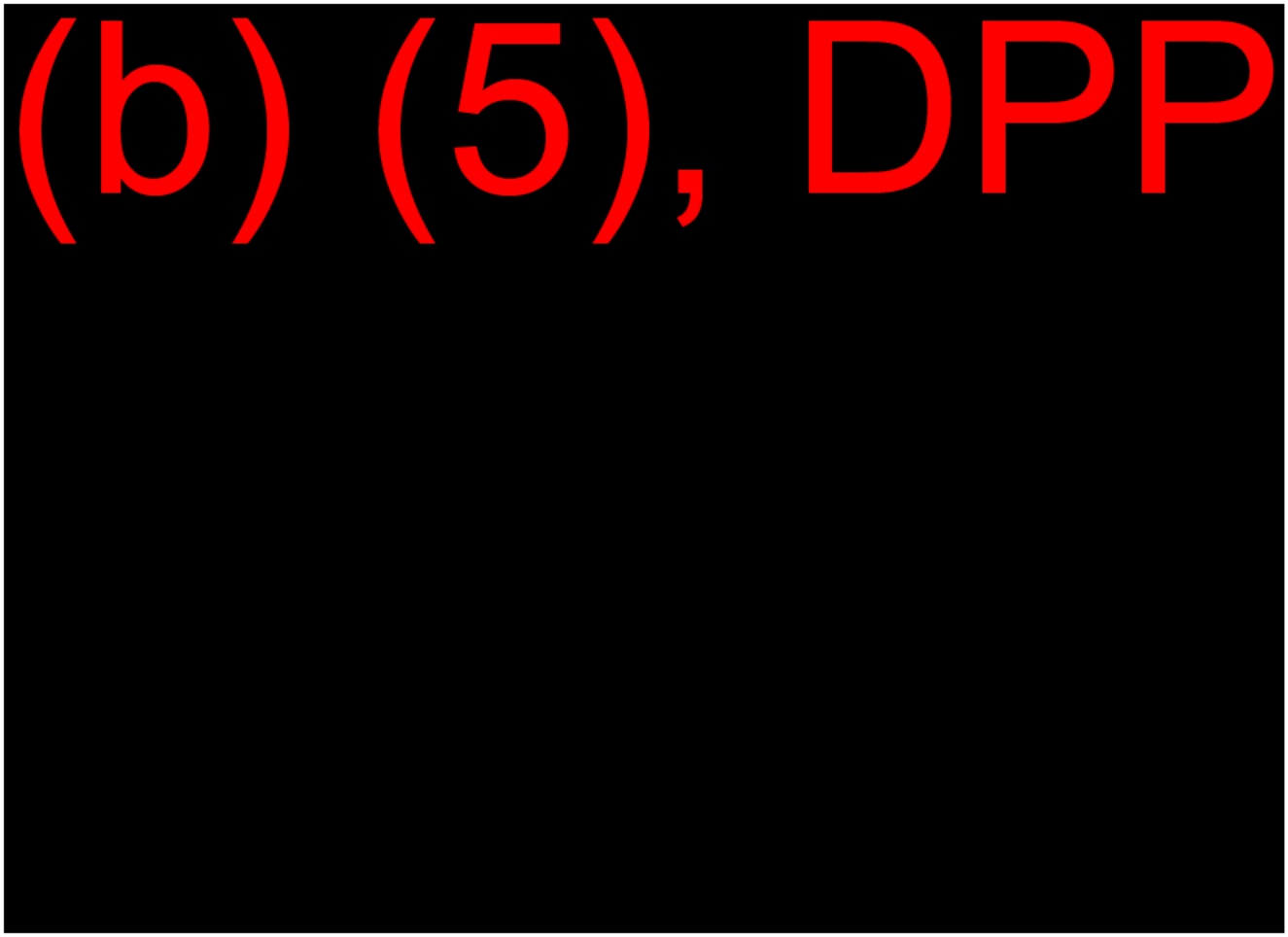
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:



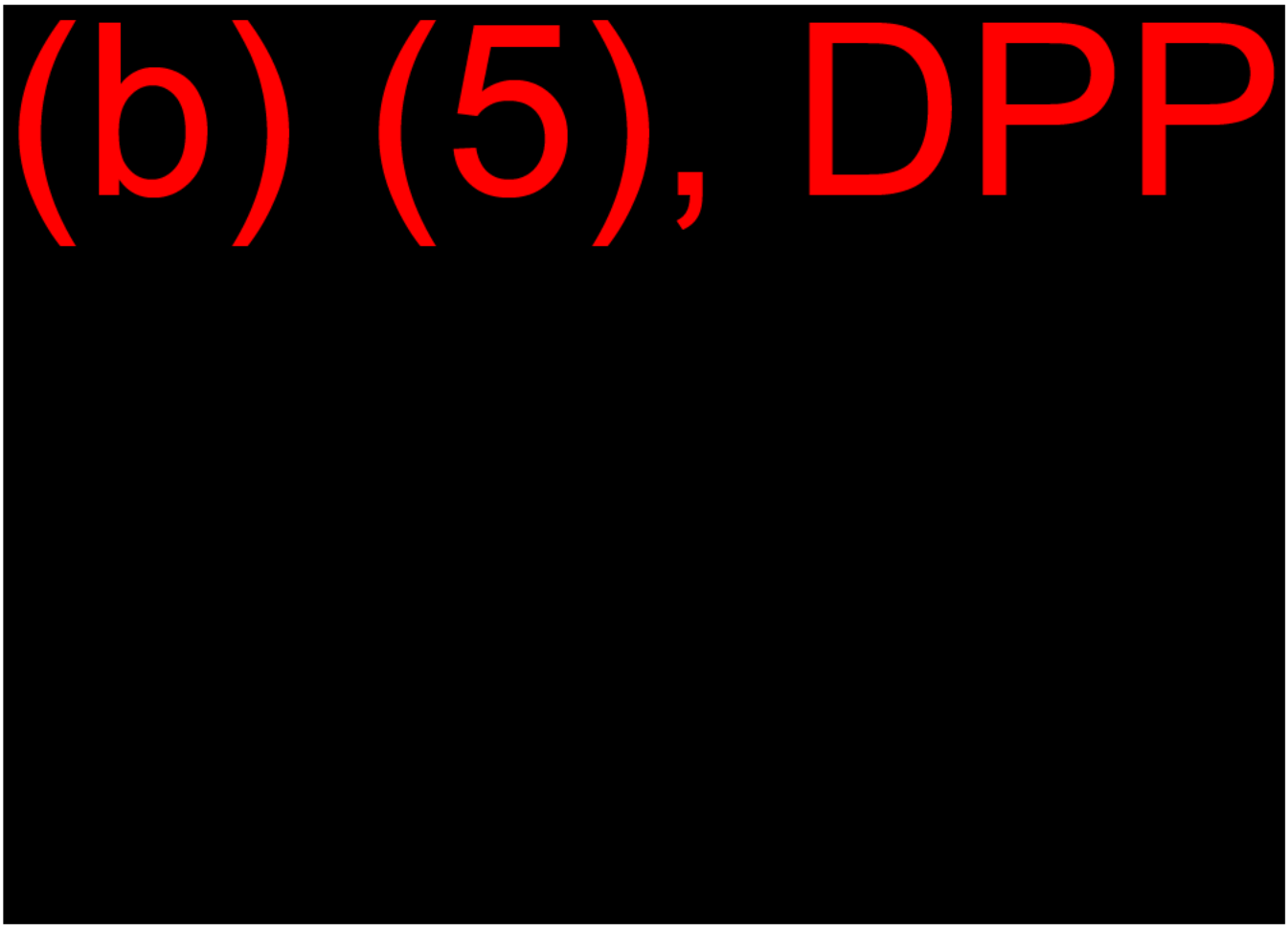
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
U.S. House of Representatives
1323 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Brown:



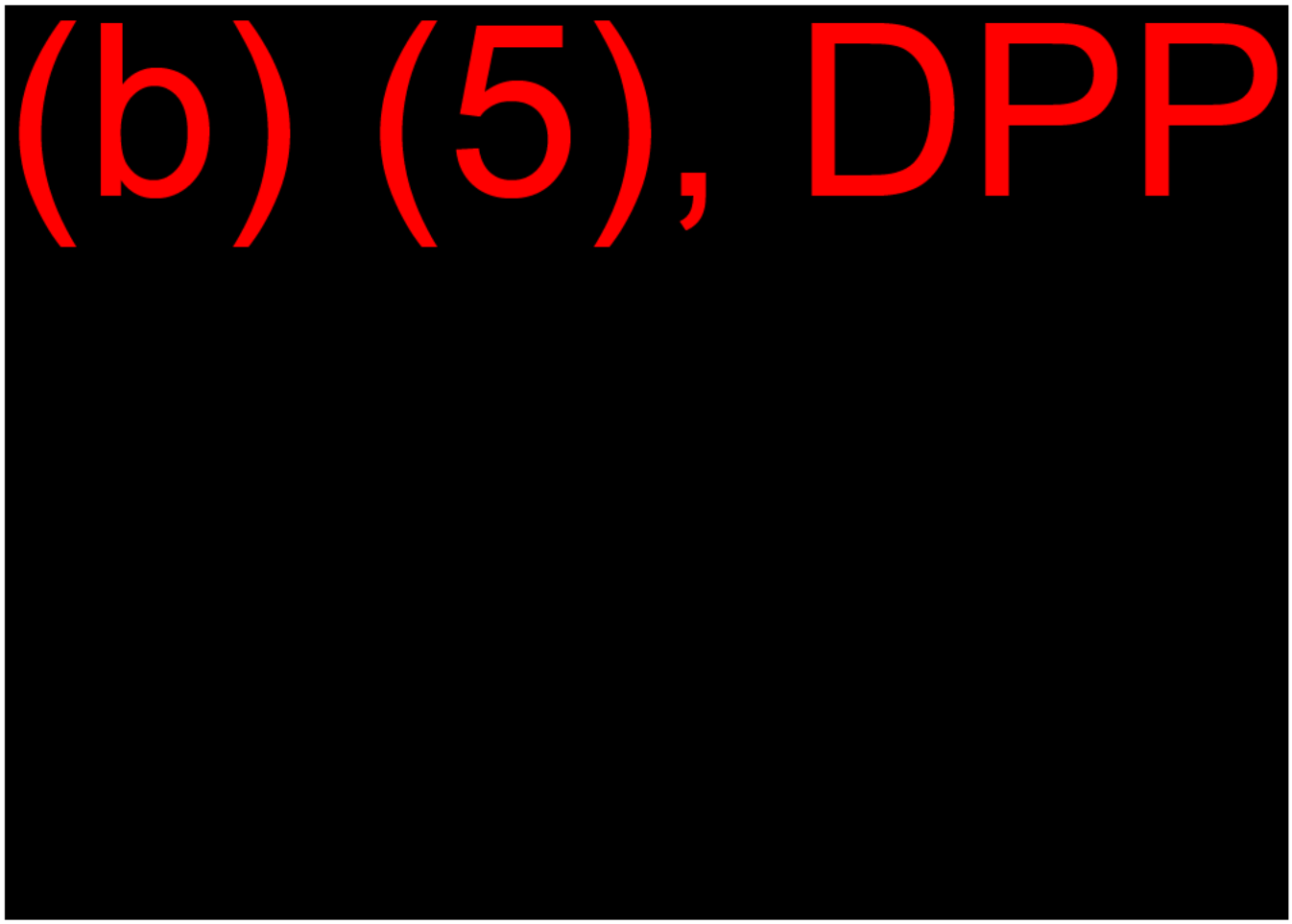
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Barbara Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
2407 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lee:



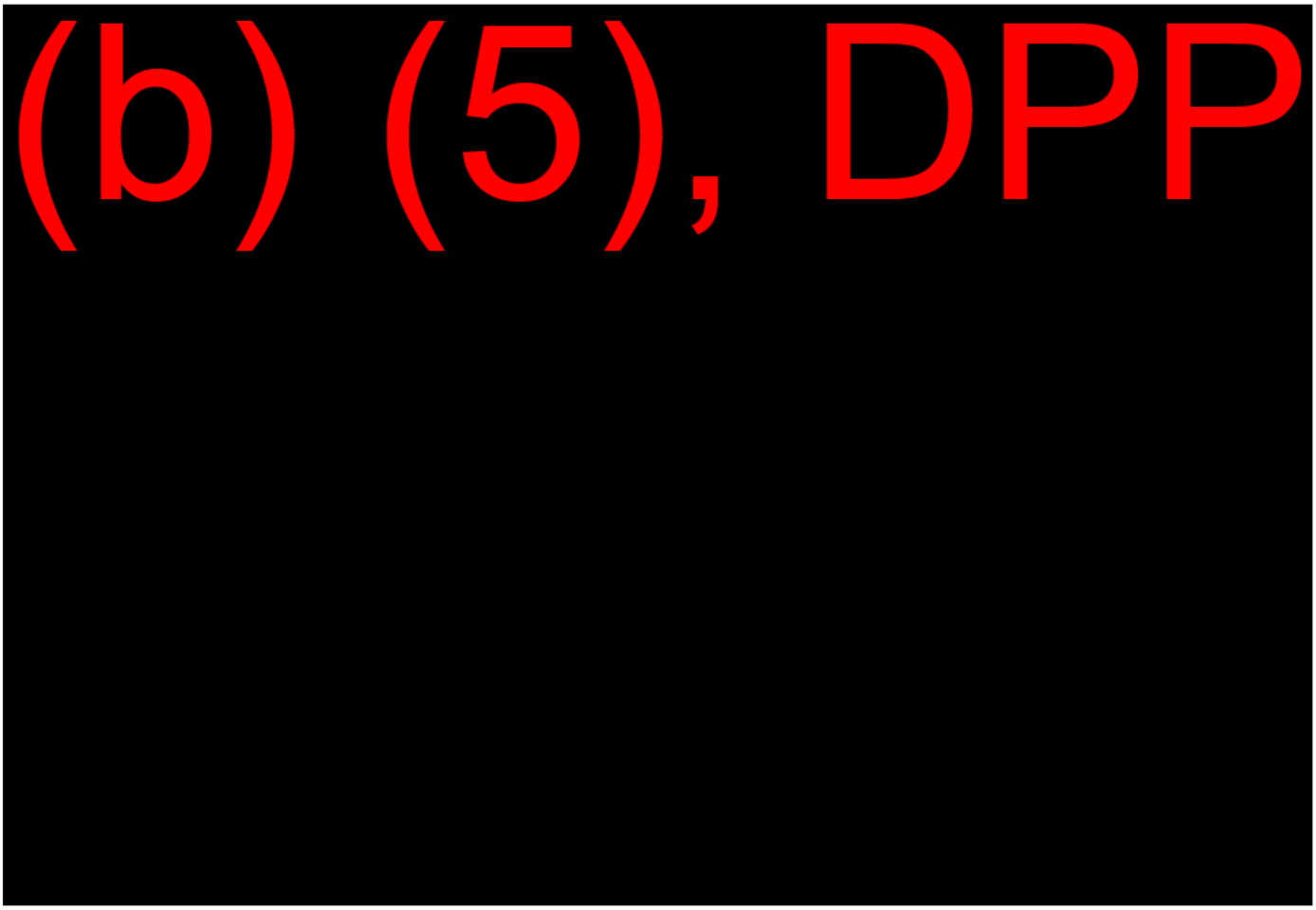
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
2466 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Bill Foster
U.S. House of Representatives
2366 House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Foster:



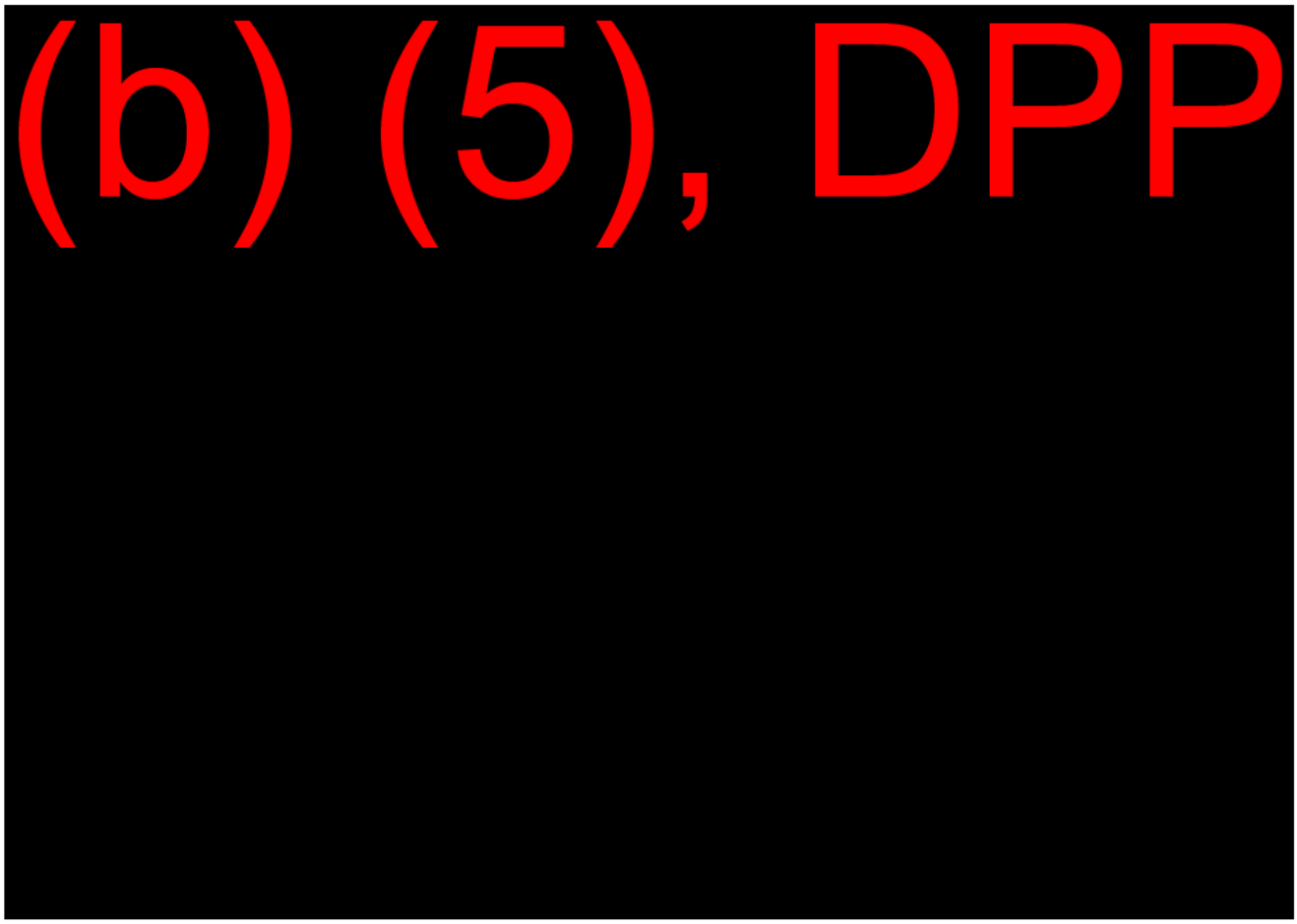
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
U.S. House of Representatives
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:



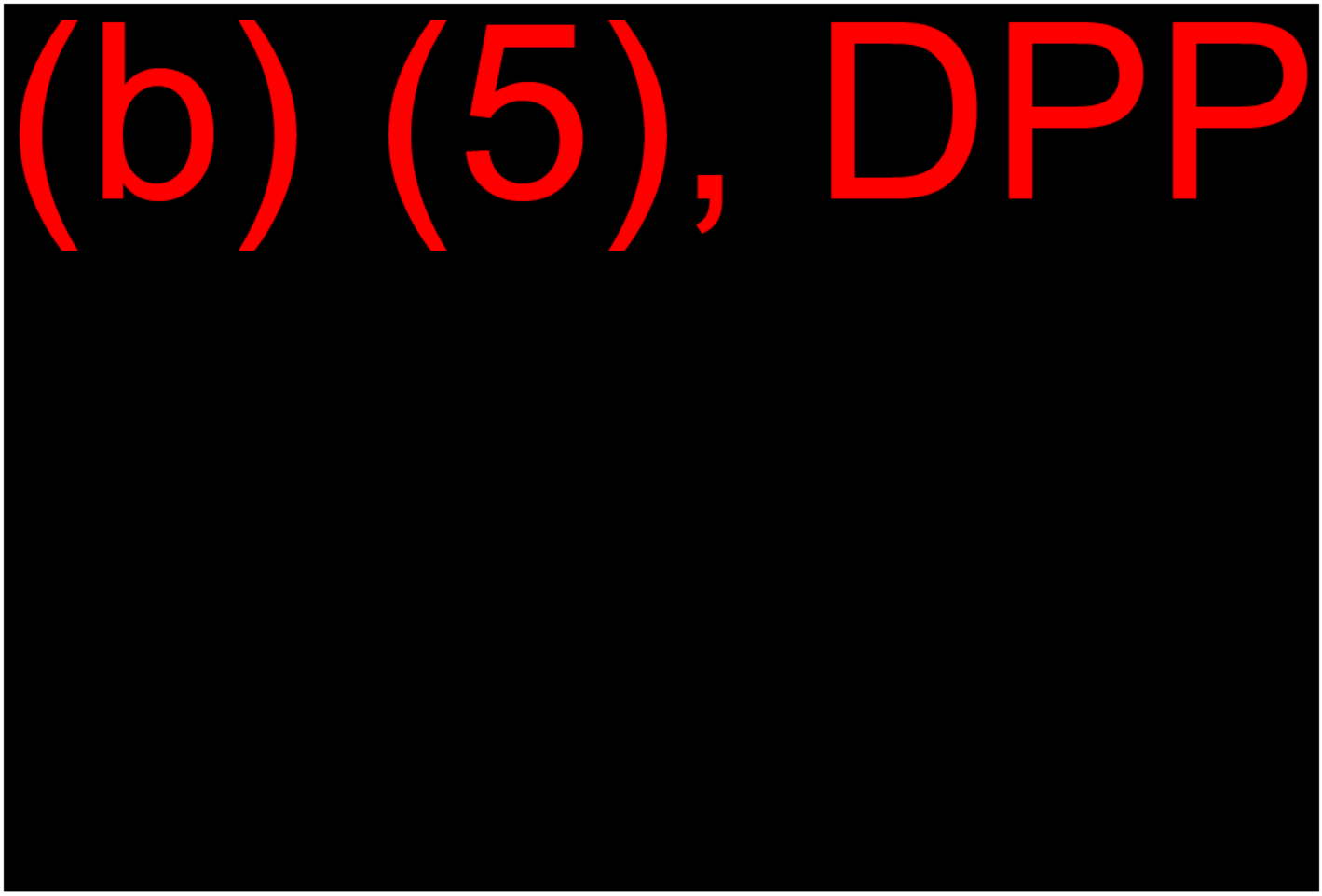
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman
U.S. House of Representatives
2442 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Watson Coleman:



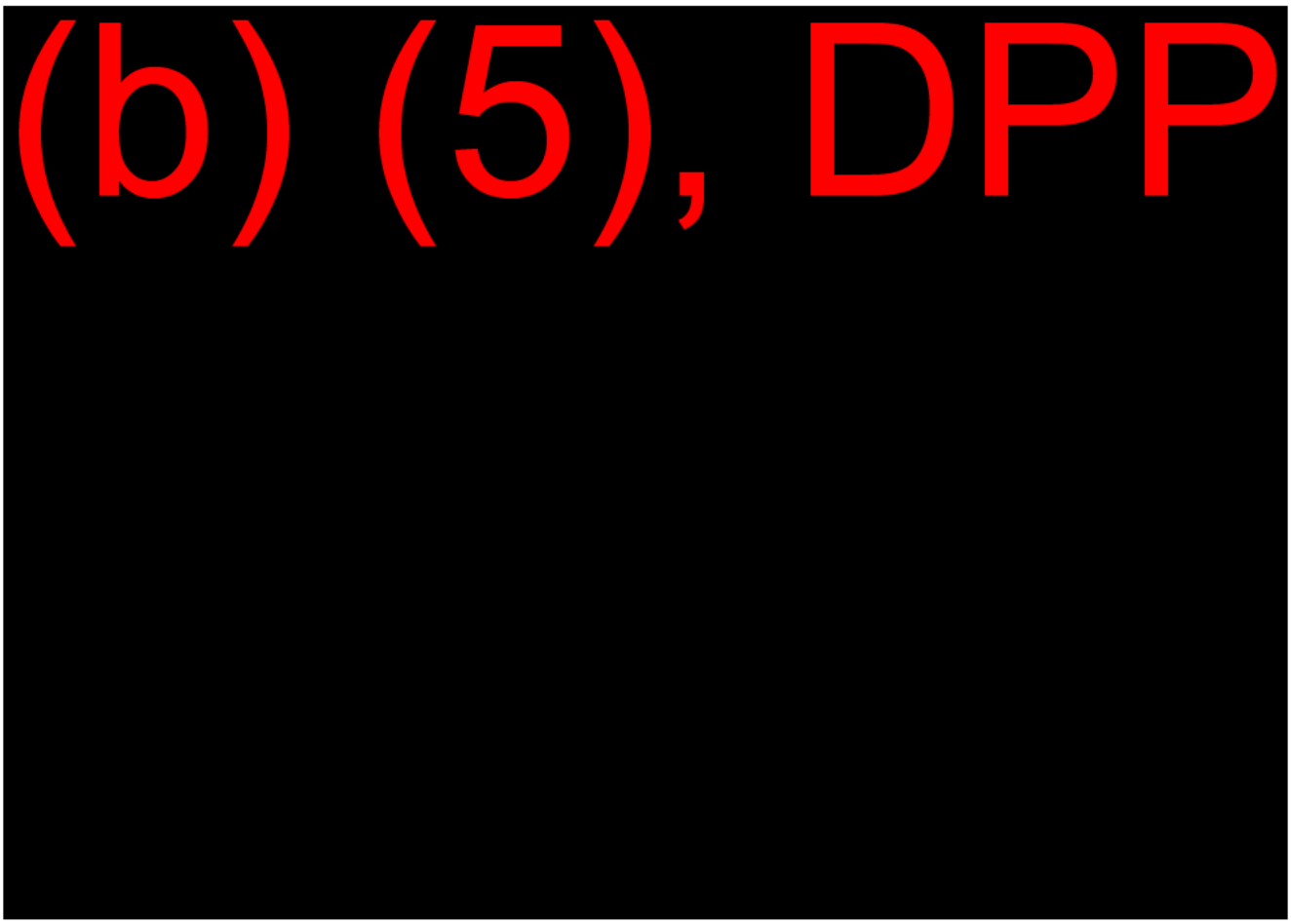
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Brenda L. Lawrence
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lawrence:



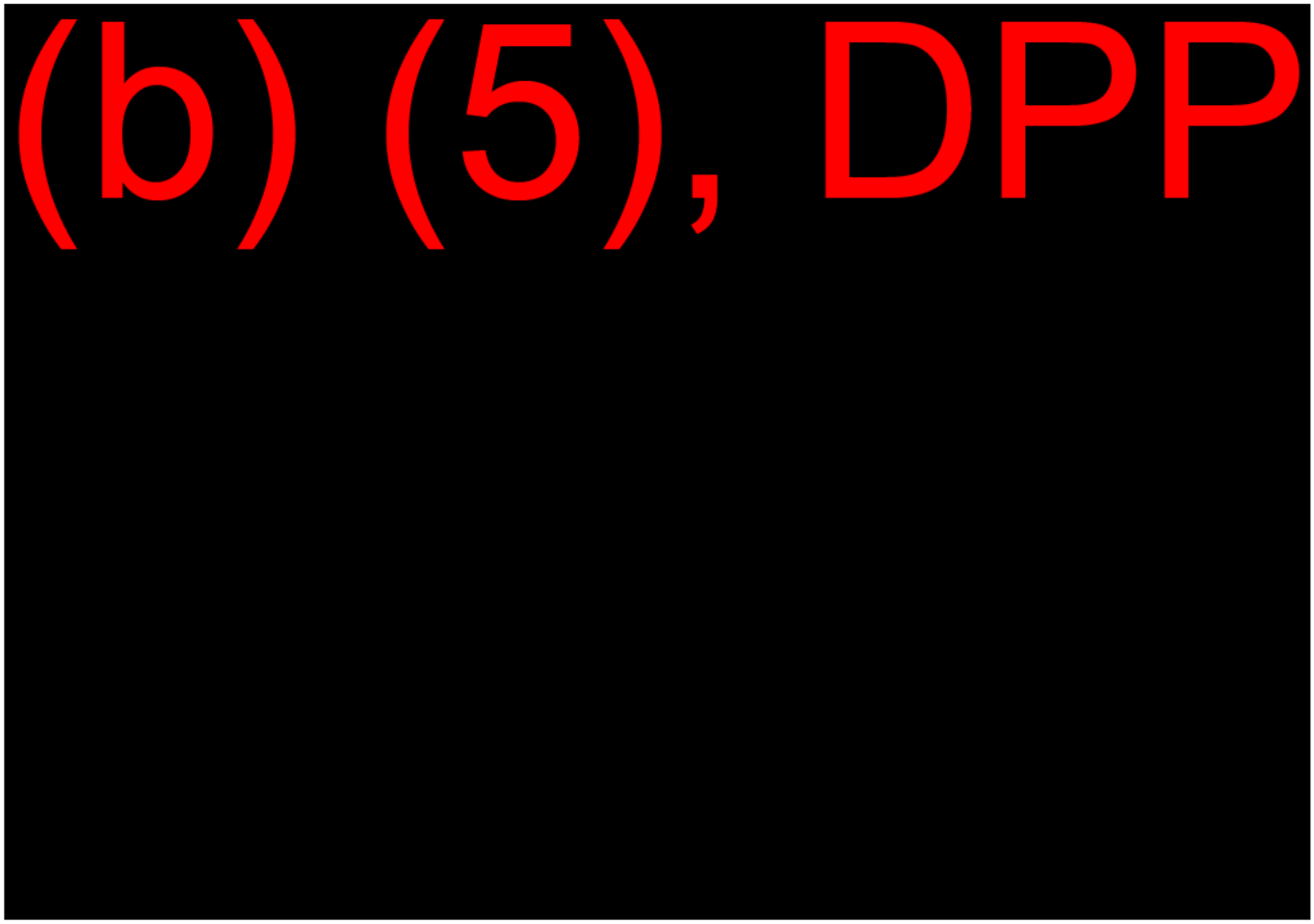
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Cedric L. Richmond
U.S. House of Representatives
506 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Richmond:



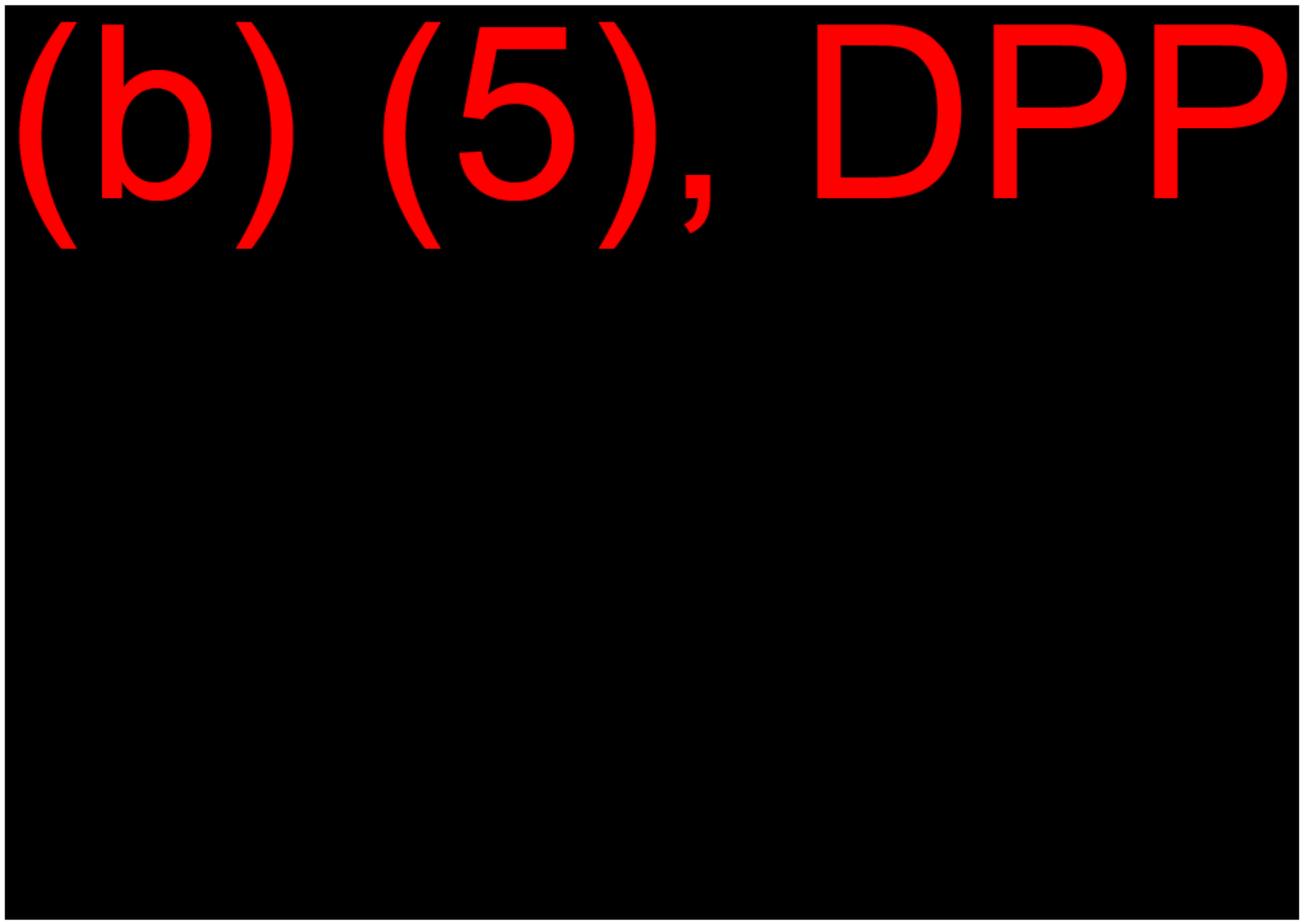
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
U.S. House of Representatives
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Pingree:



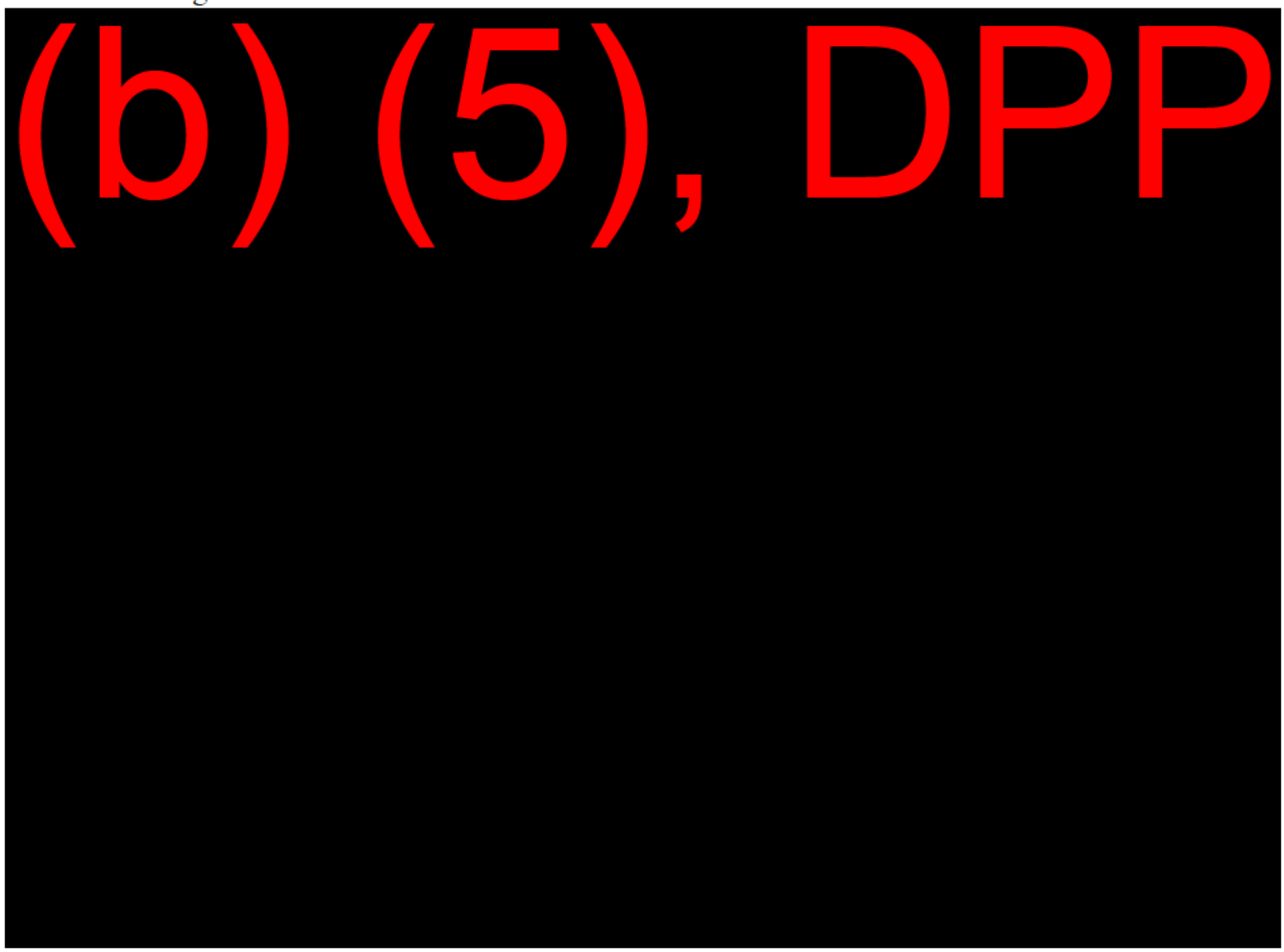
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Danny K. Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:



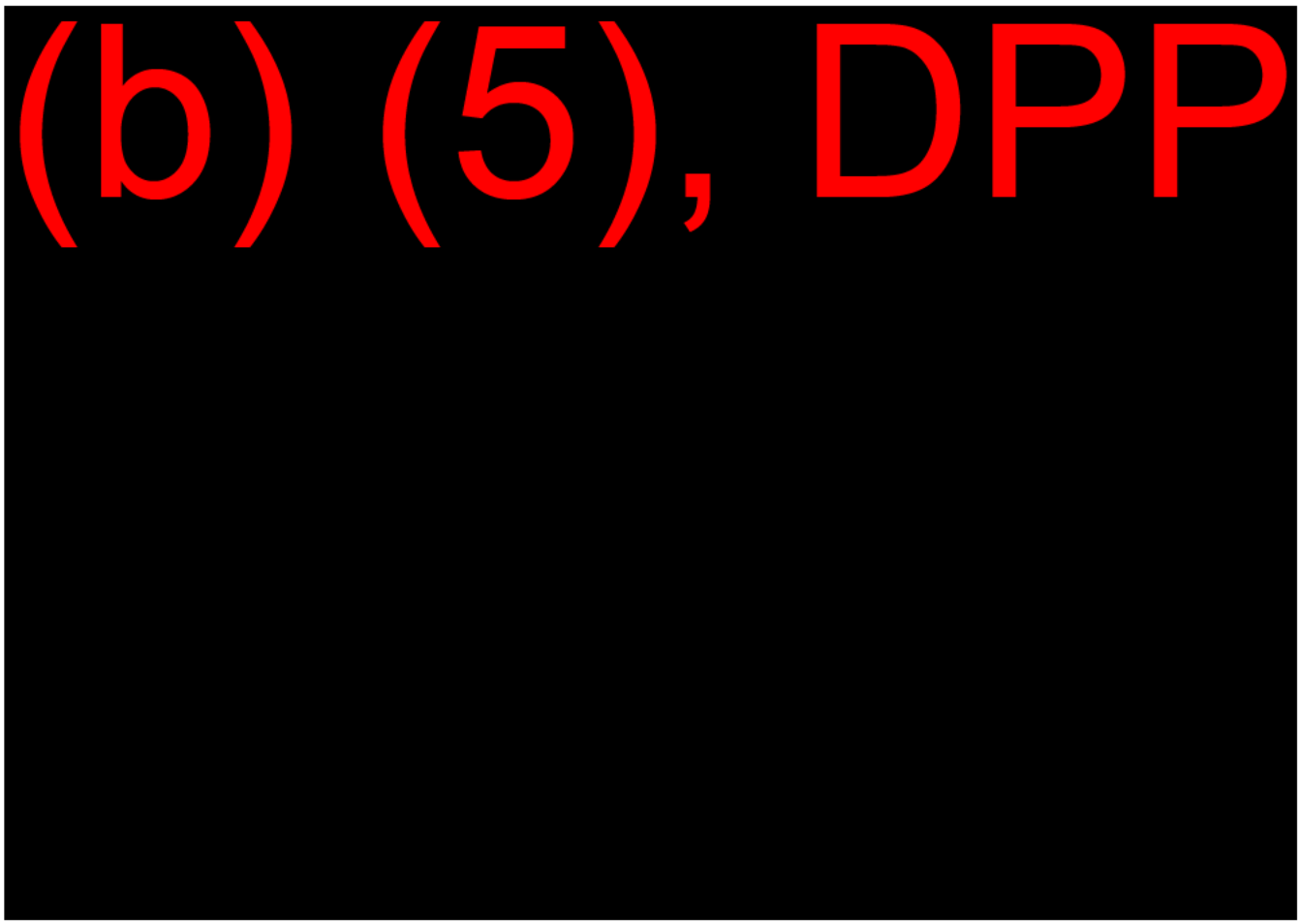
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Darren Soto
U.S. House of Representatives
1507 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Soto:



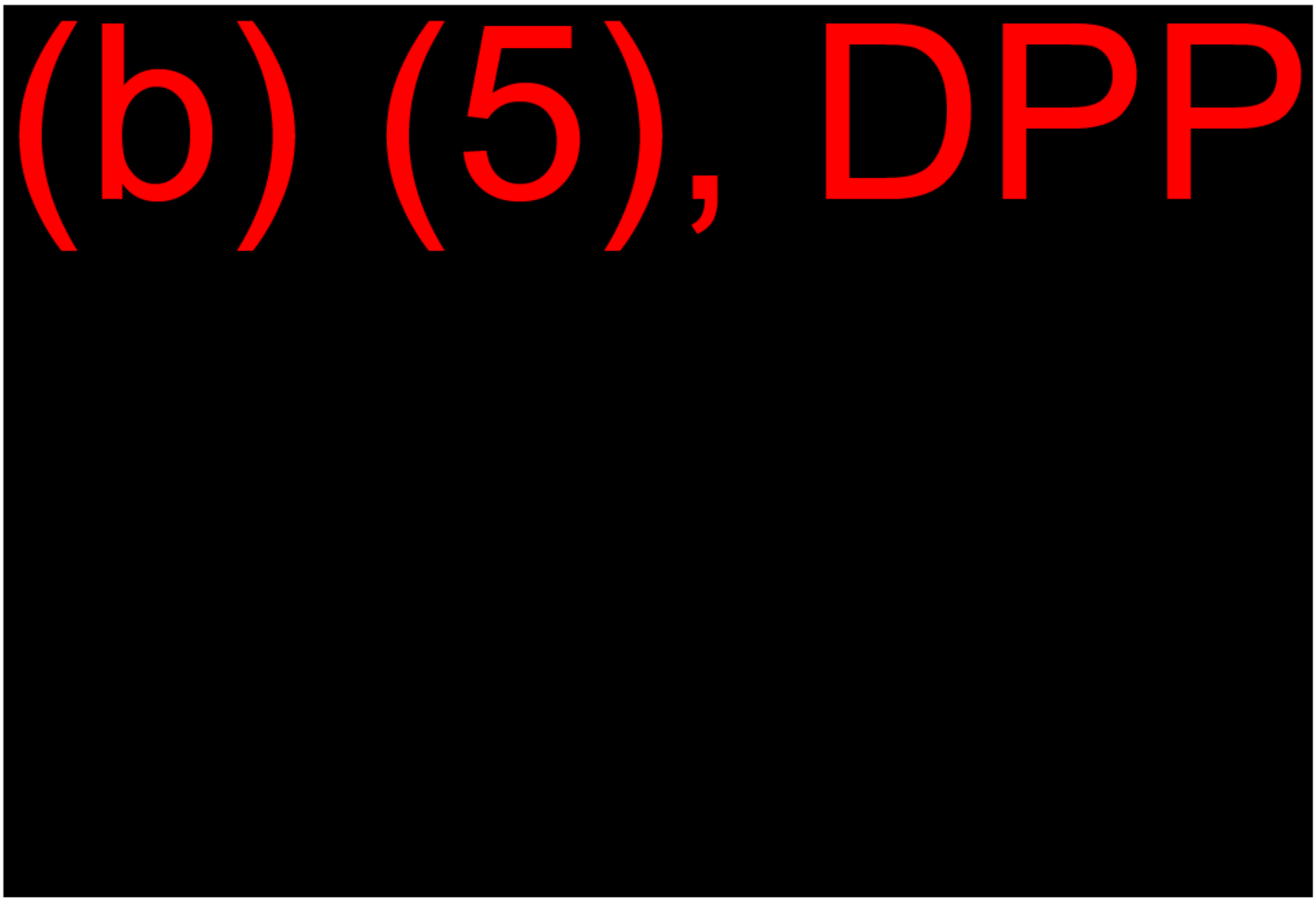
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable David N. Cicilline
U.S. House of Representatives
2233 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cicilline:



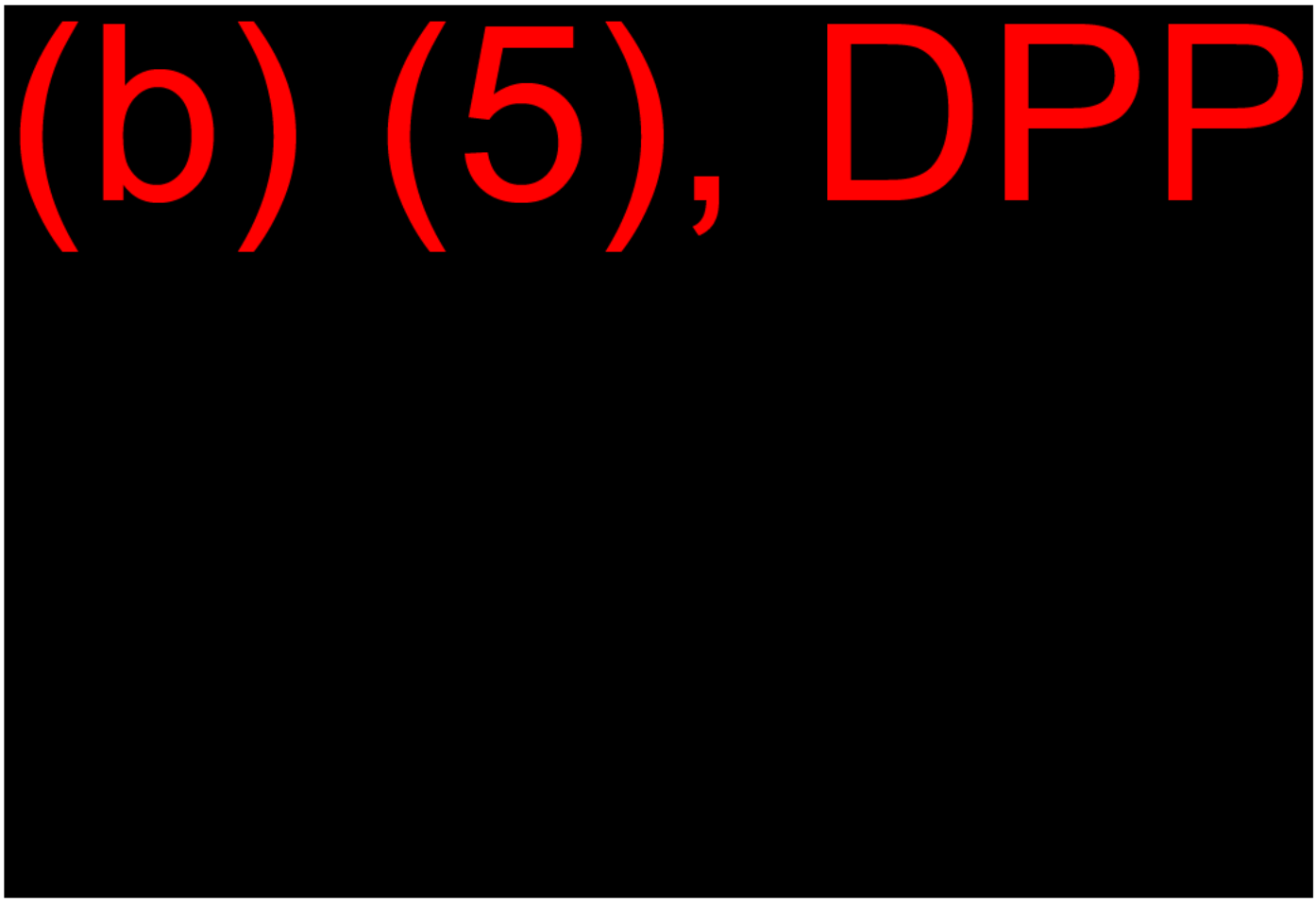
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable David Price
U.S. House of Representatives
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Price:



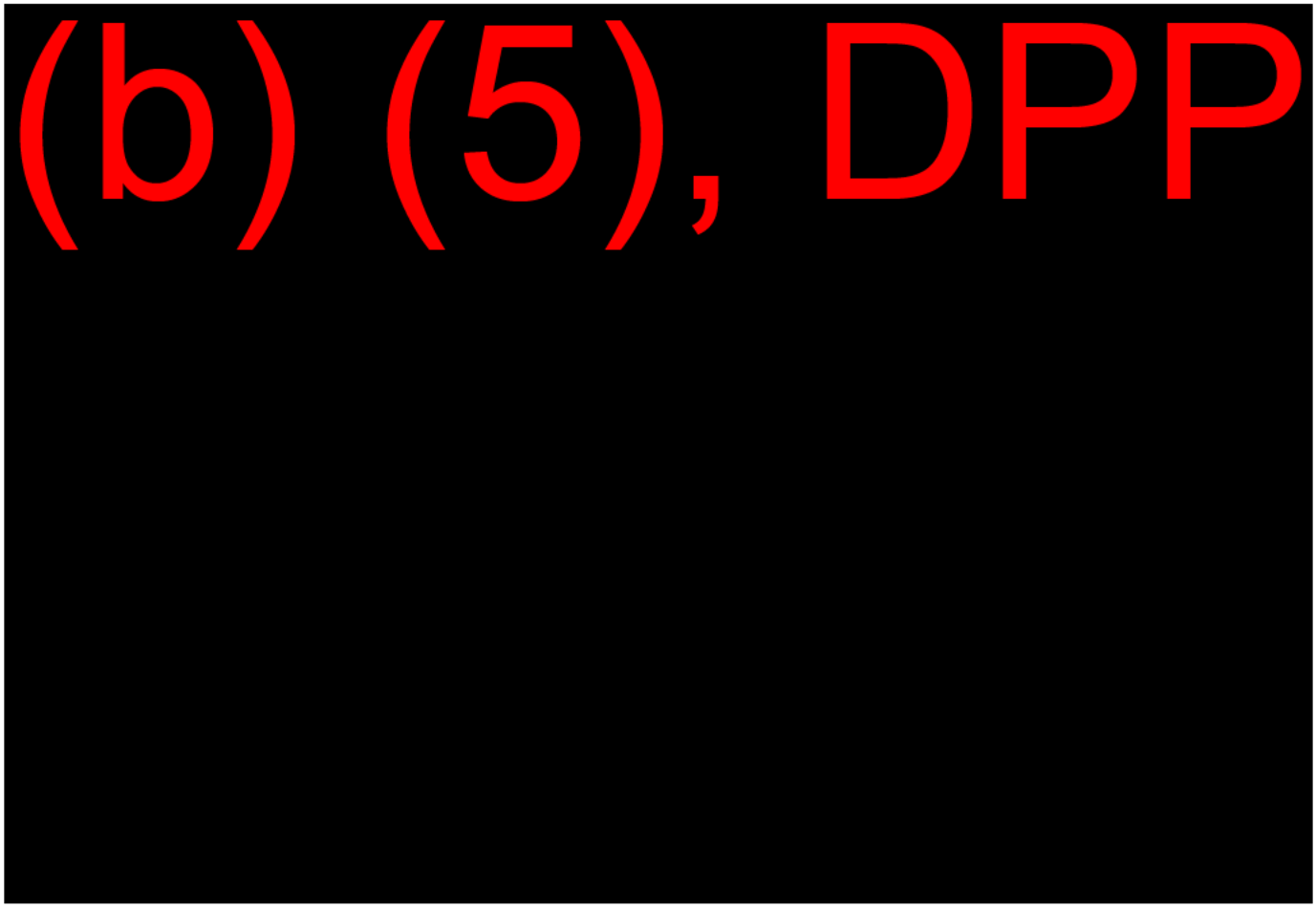
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable David Scott
U.S. House of Representatives
225 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Scott:



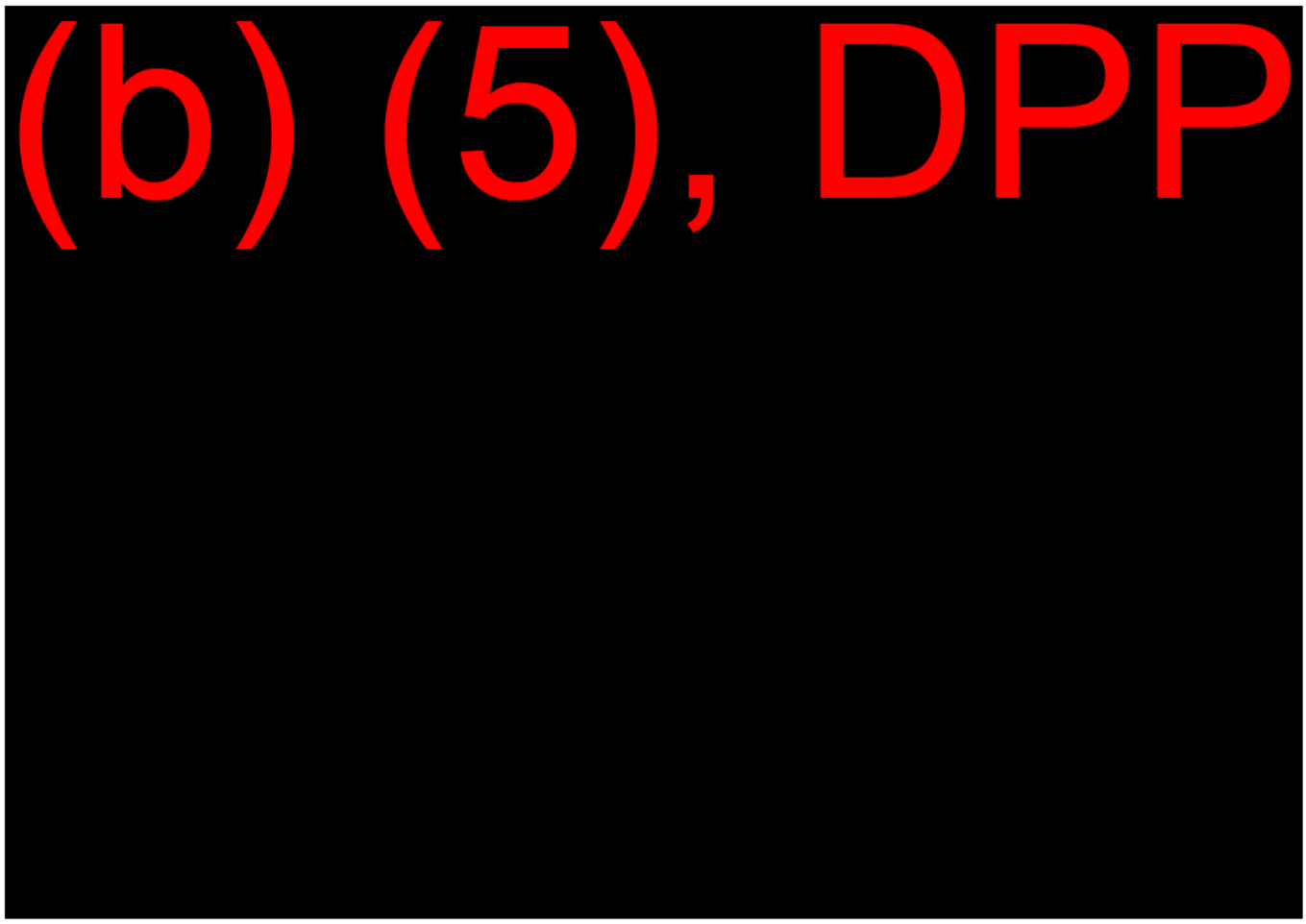
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable David Trone
U.S. House of Representatives
1213 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Trone:



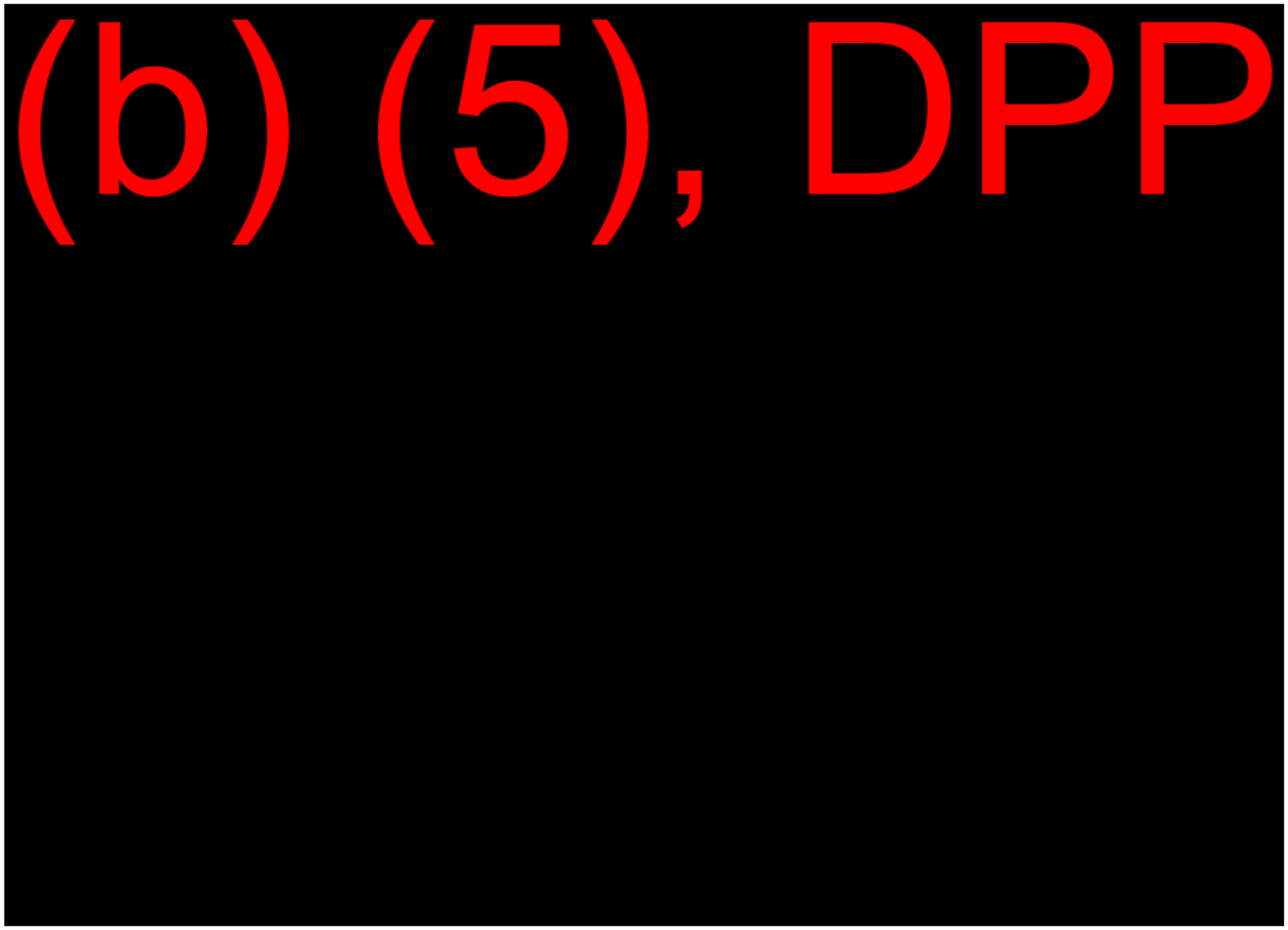
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Deb Haaland
U.S. House of Representatives
1237 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Haaland:



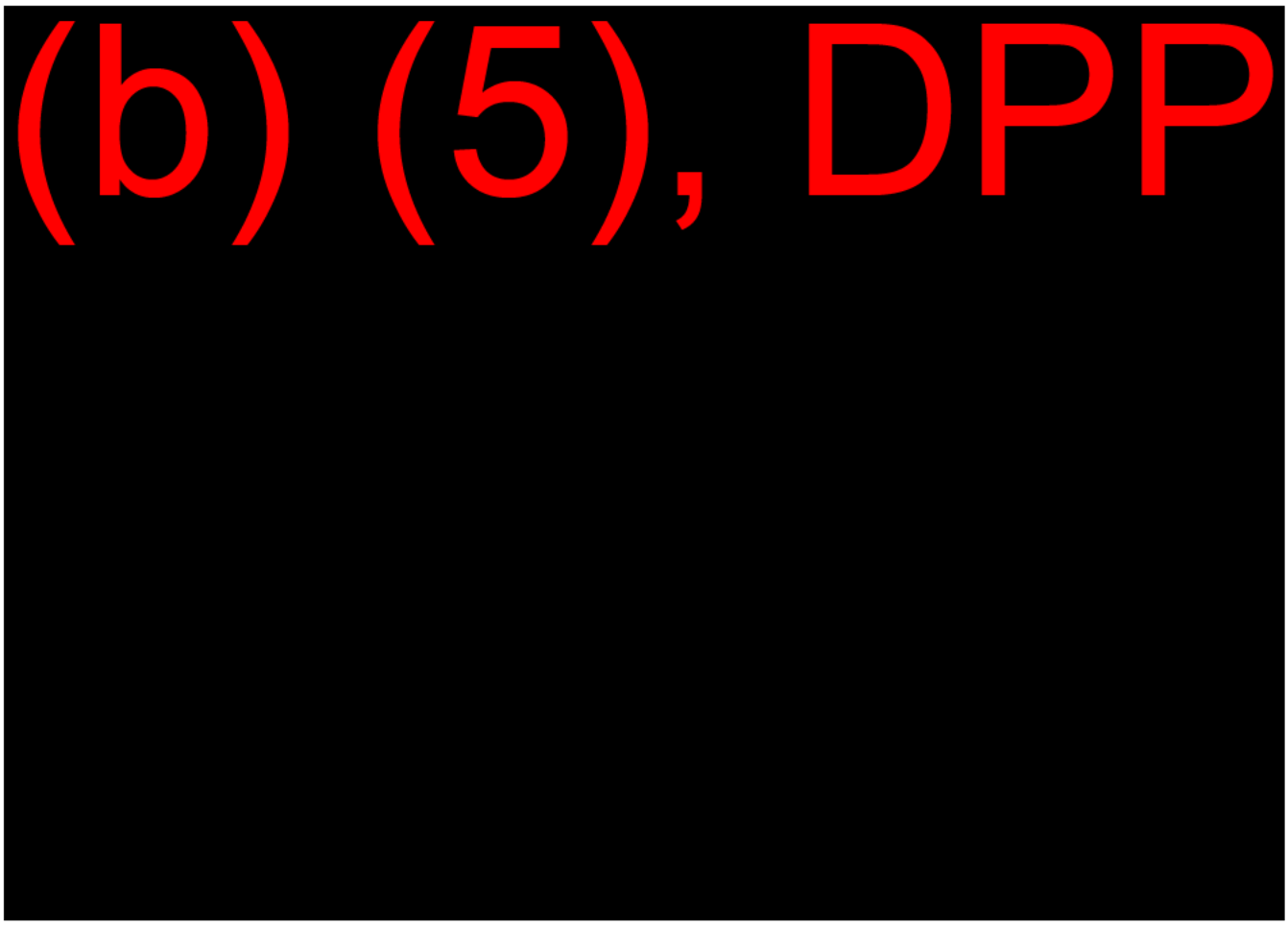
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Dingell:



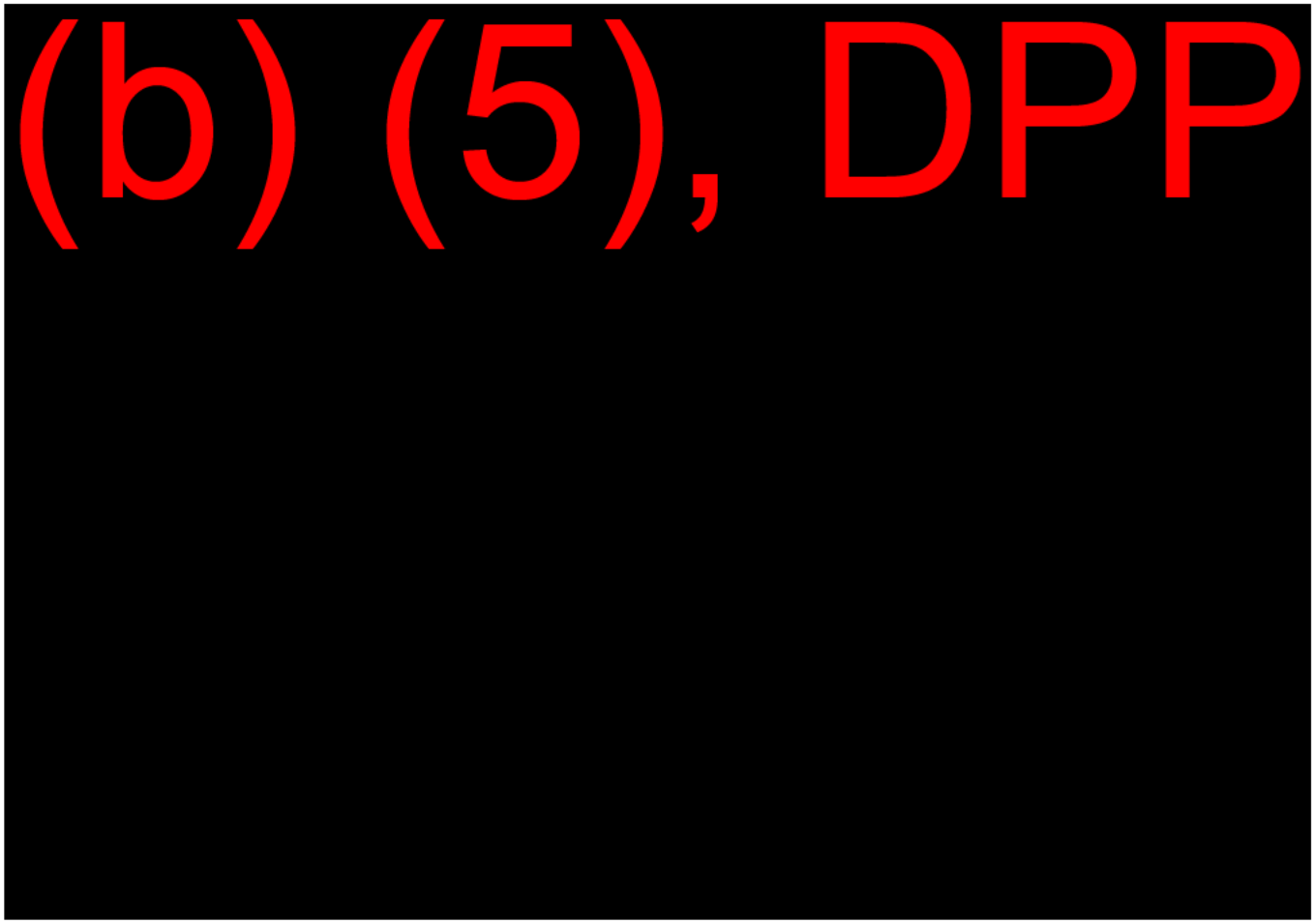
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter
U.S. House of Representatives
1226 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Perlmutter:



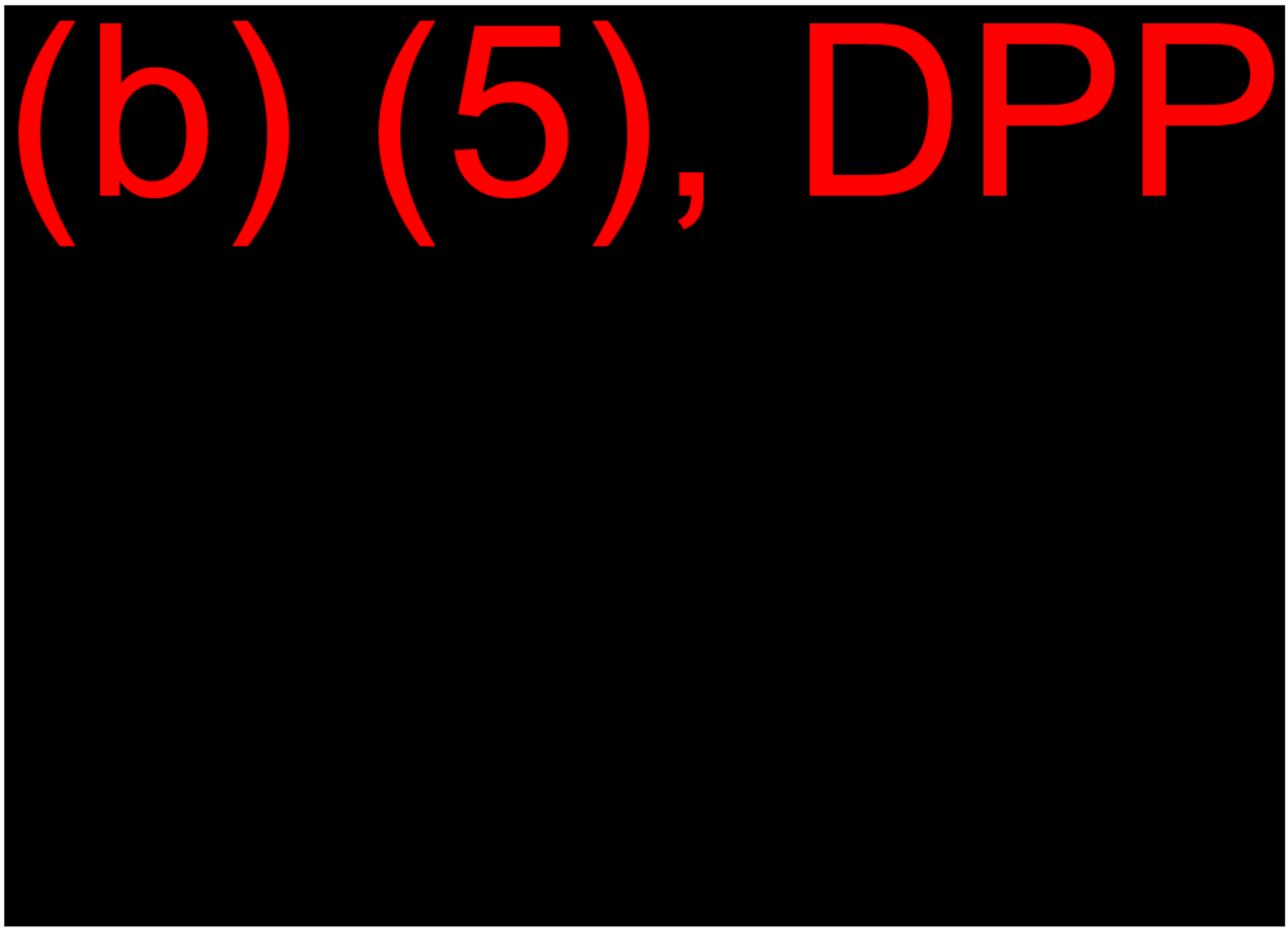
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Johnson:



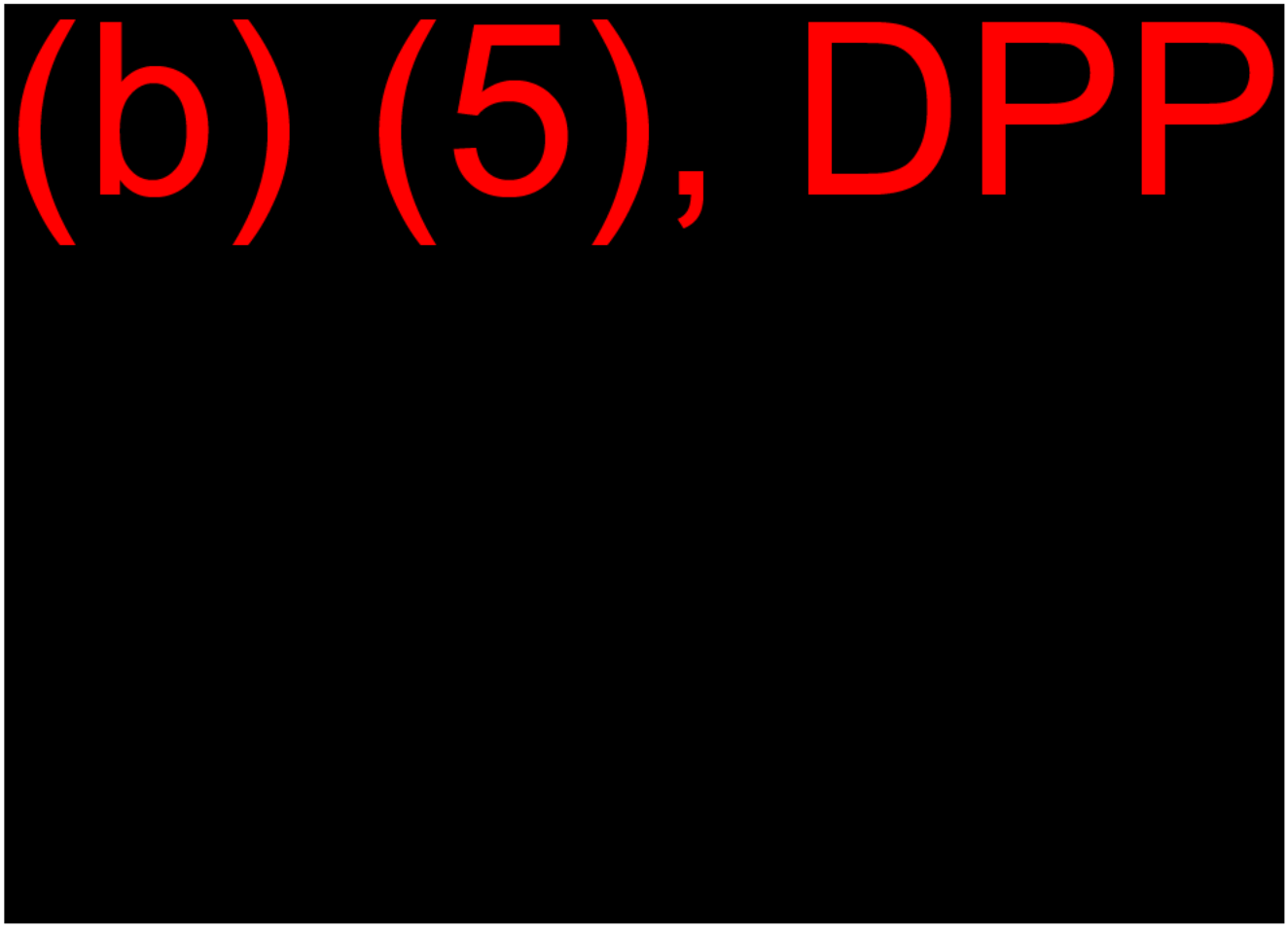
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
U.S. House of Representatives
2136 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Holmes Norton:



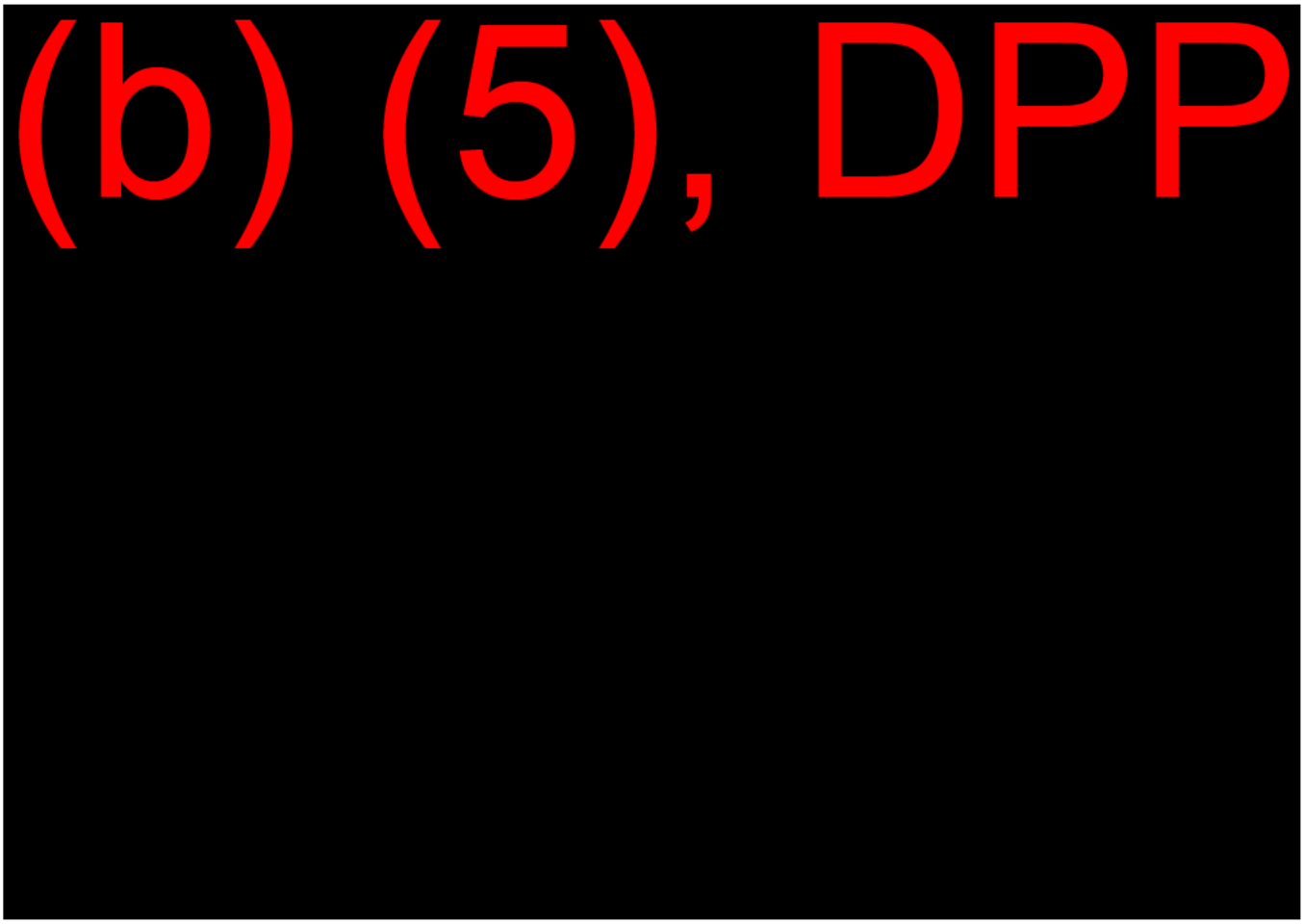
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:



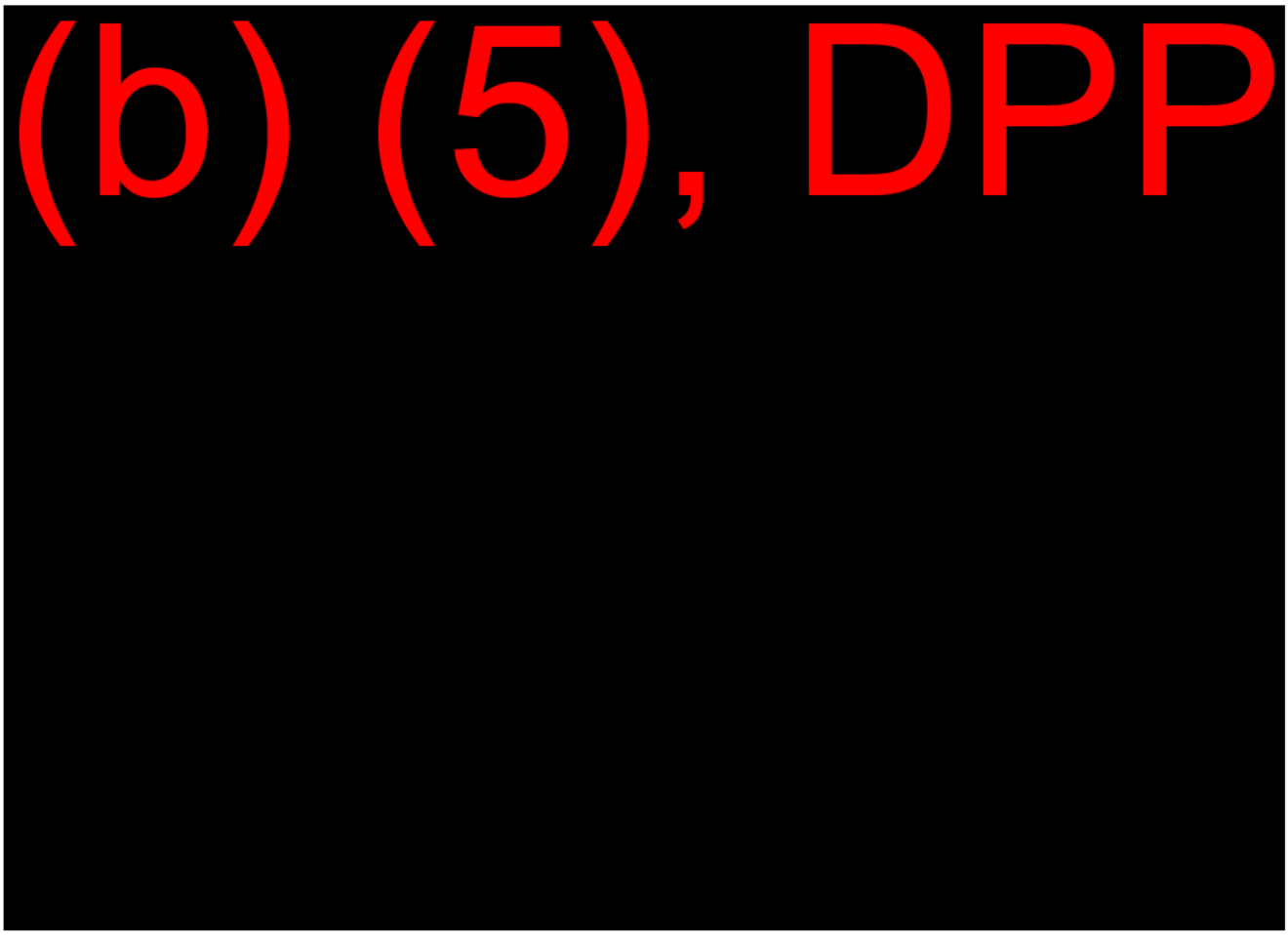
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
U.S. House of Representatives
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wilson:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable G. K. Butterfield
U.S. House of Representatives
2080 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:



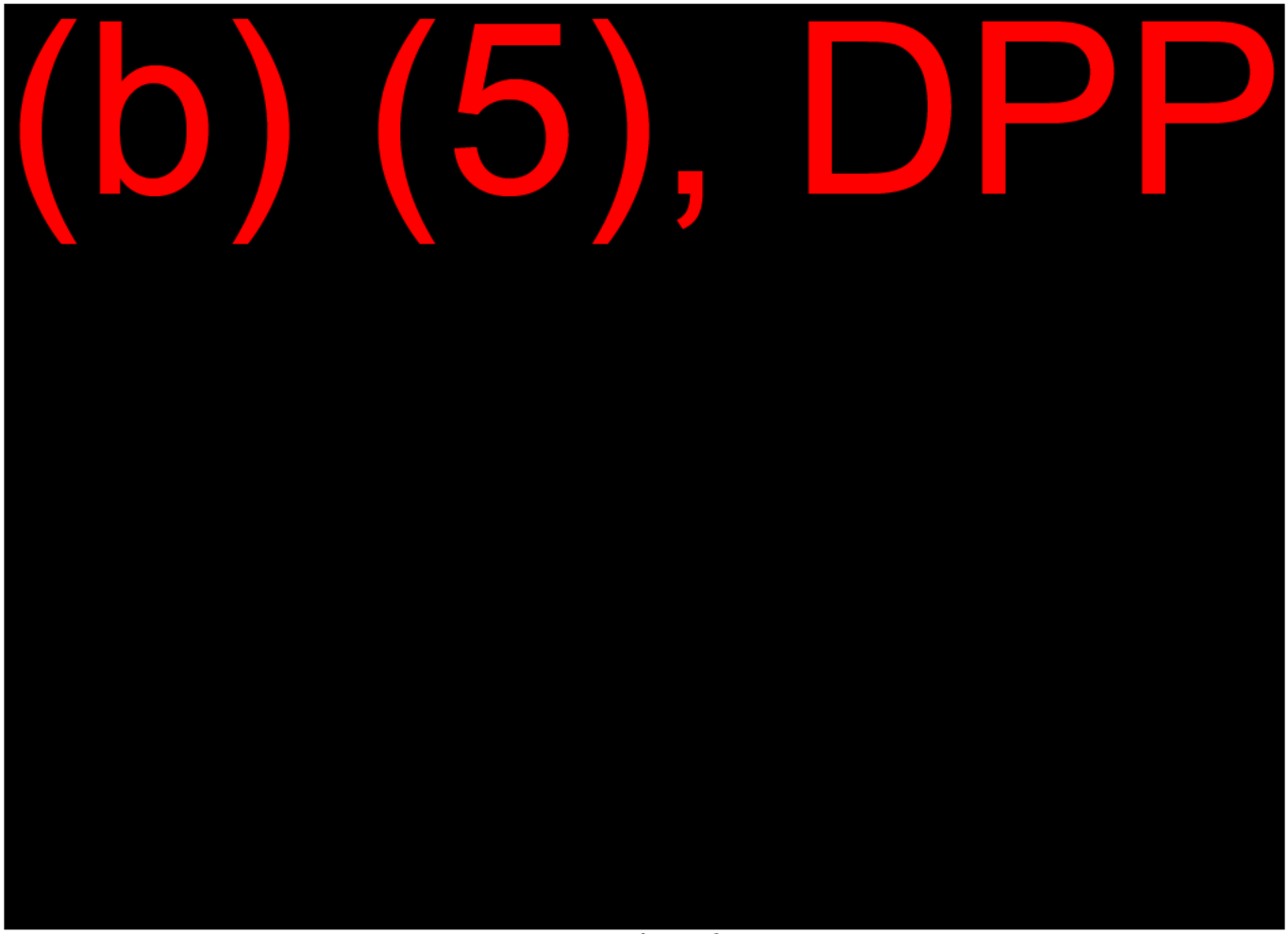
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano
U.S. House of Representatives
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:



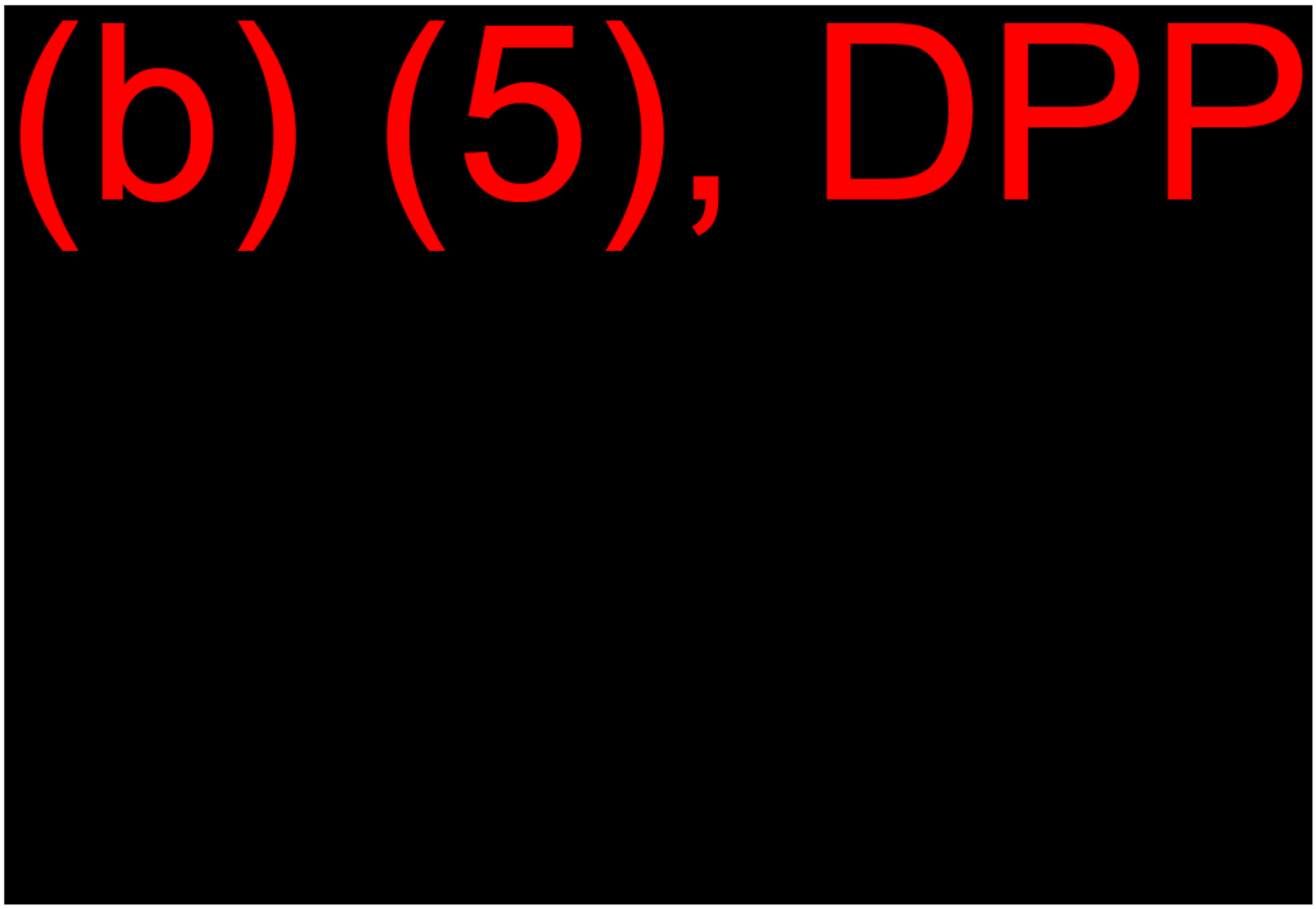
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Grace Meng
U.S. House of Representatives
2209 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Meng:



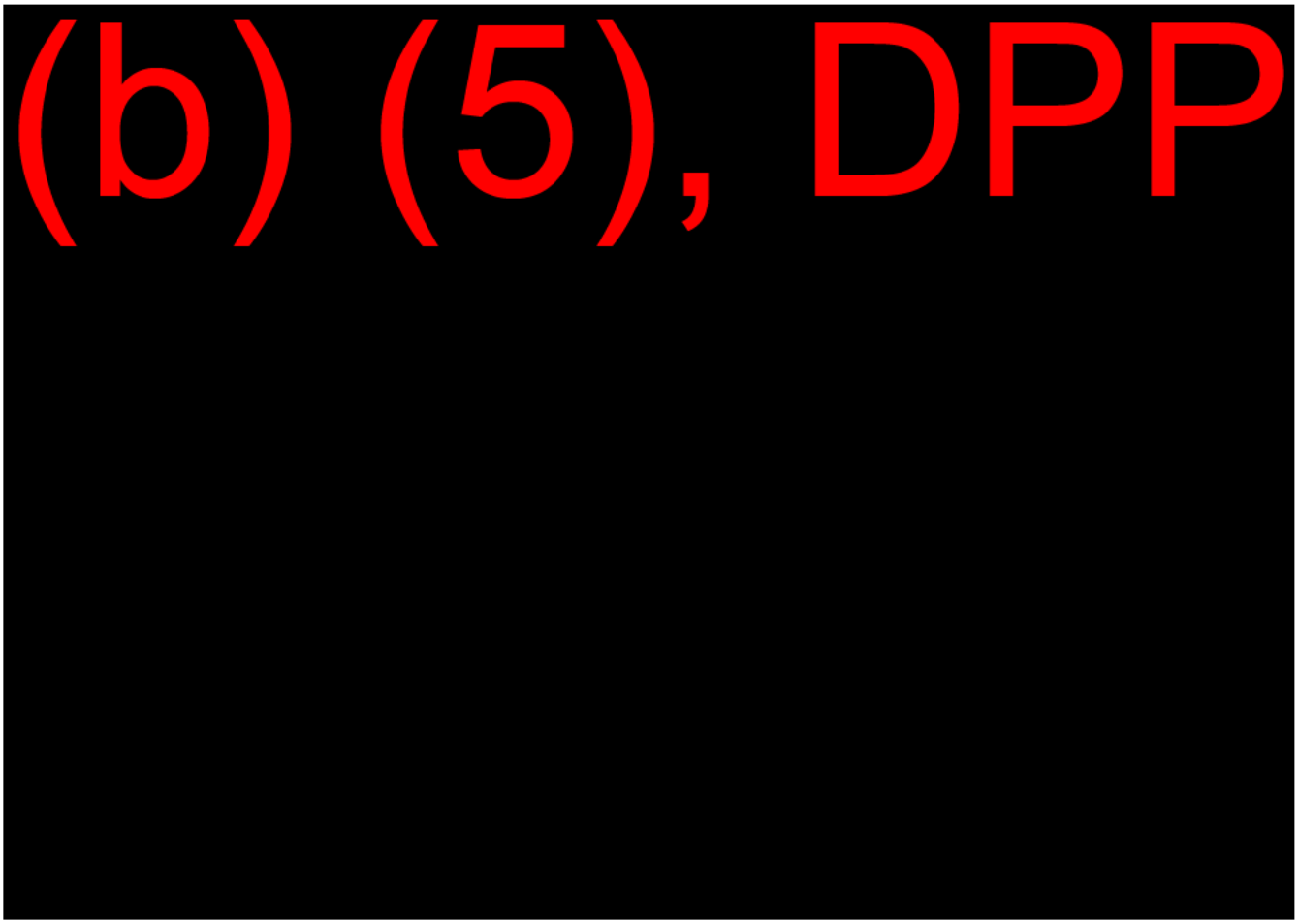
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Gwen Moore
U.S. House of Representatives
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Moore:



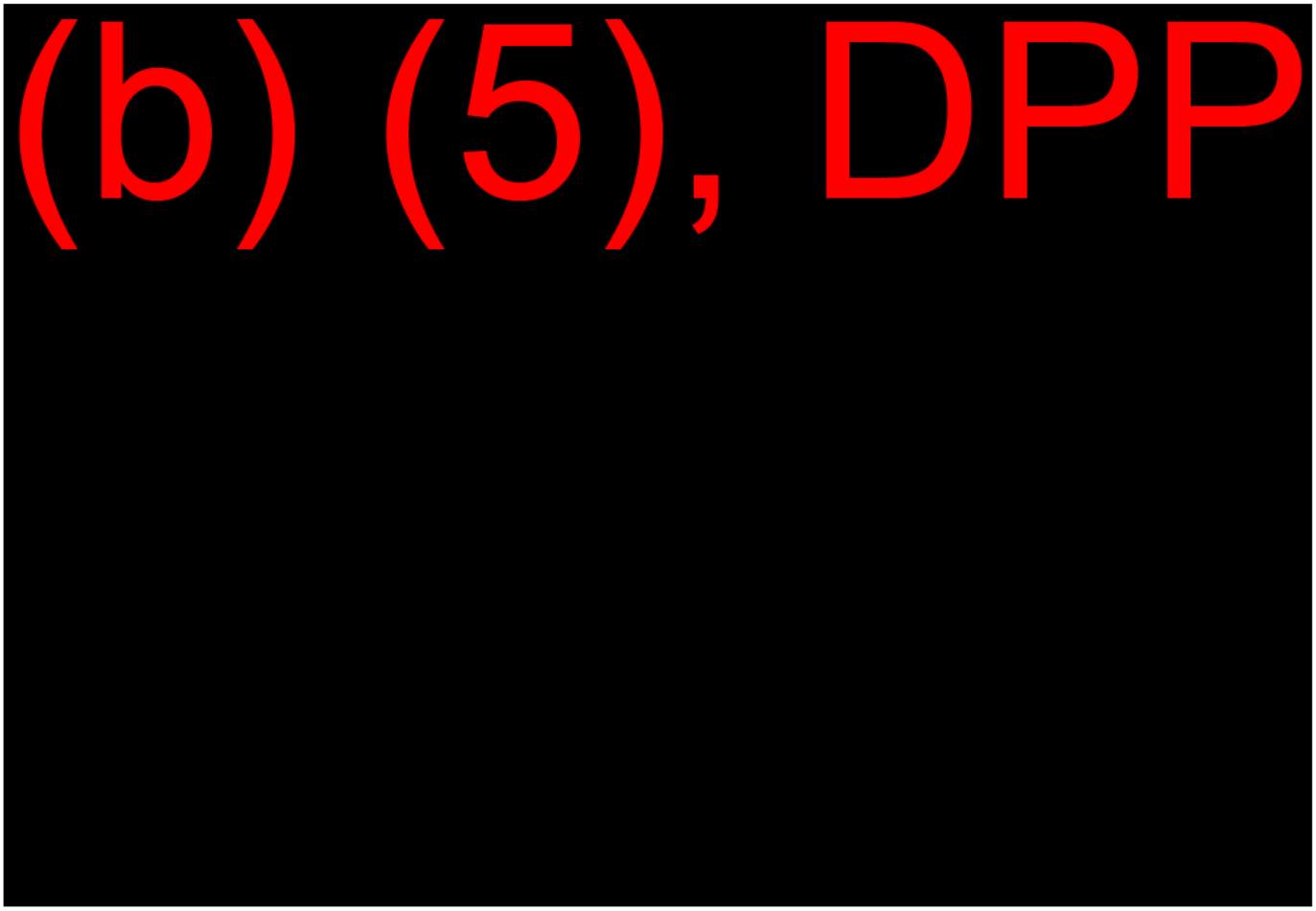
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Jackie Speier
U.S. House of Representatives
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Speier:



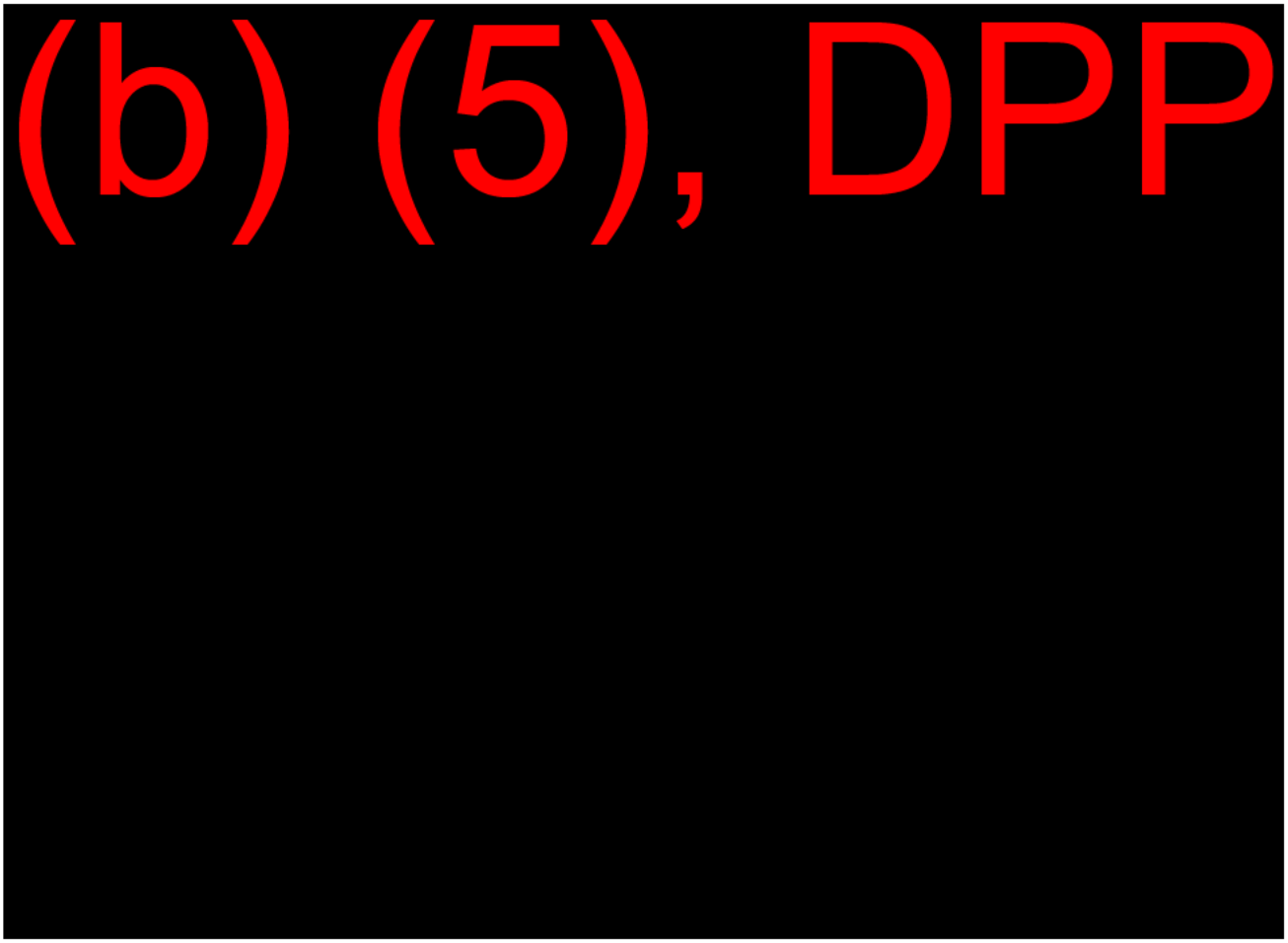
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Jahana Hayes
U.S. House of Representatives
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Hayes:



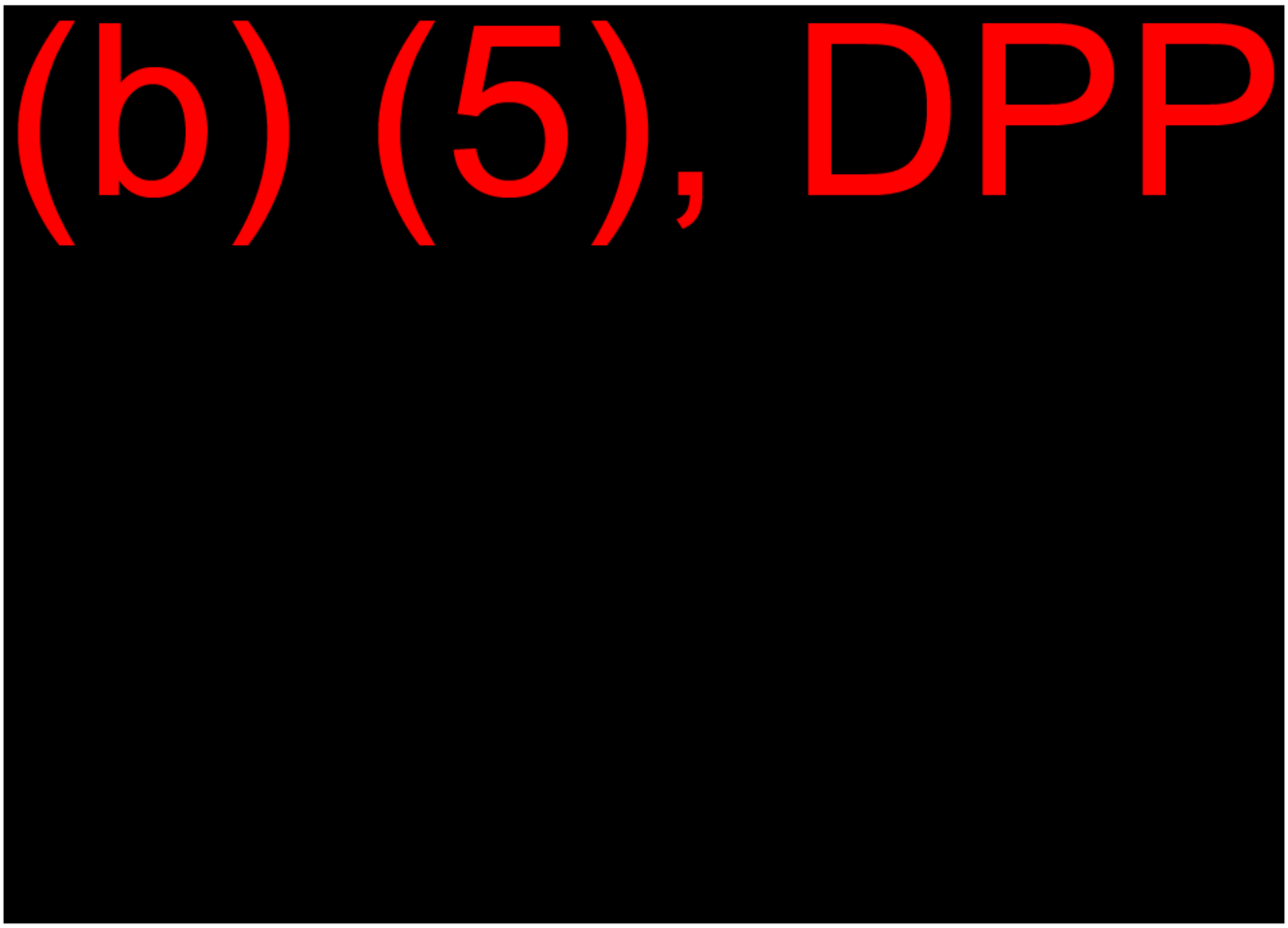
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable James P. McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:



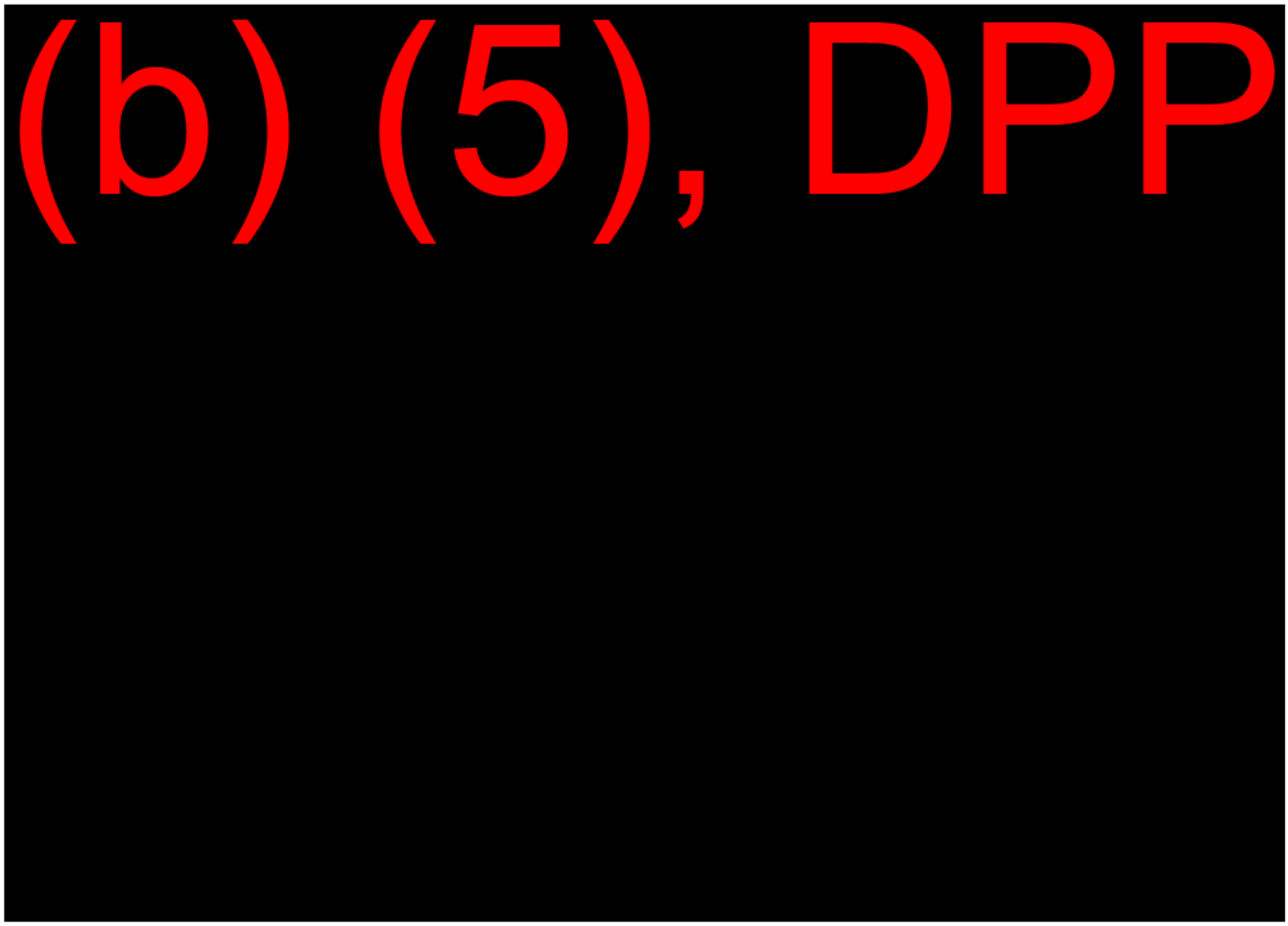
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable James R. Langevin
U.S. House of Representatives
2077 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Langevin:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:



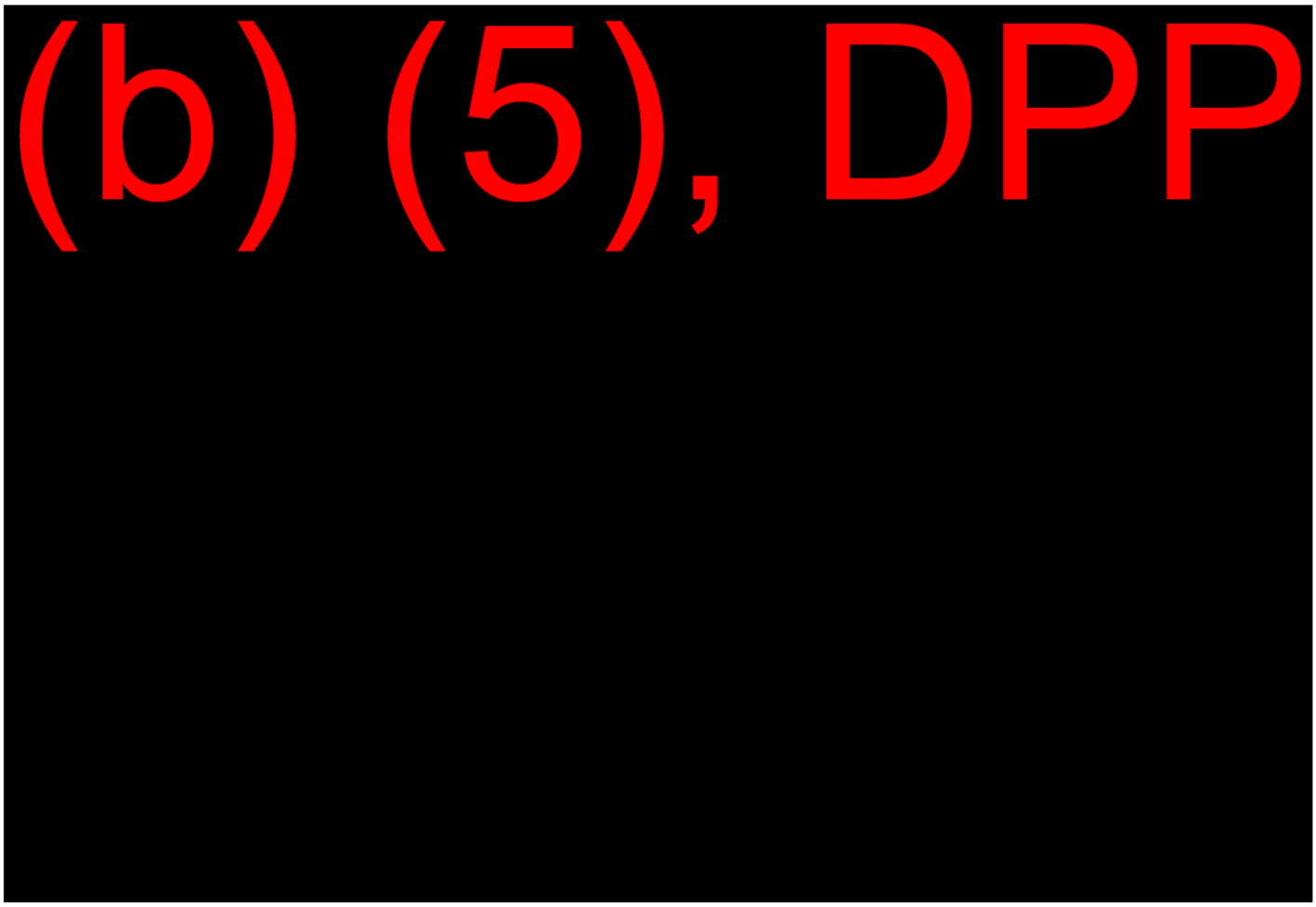
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
U.S. House of Representatives
2265 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:



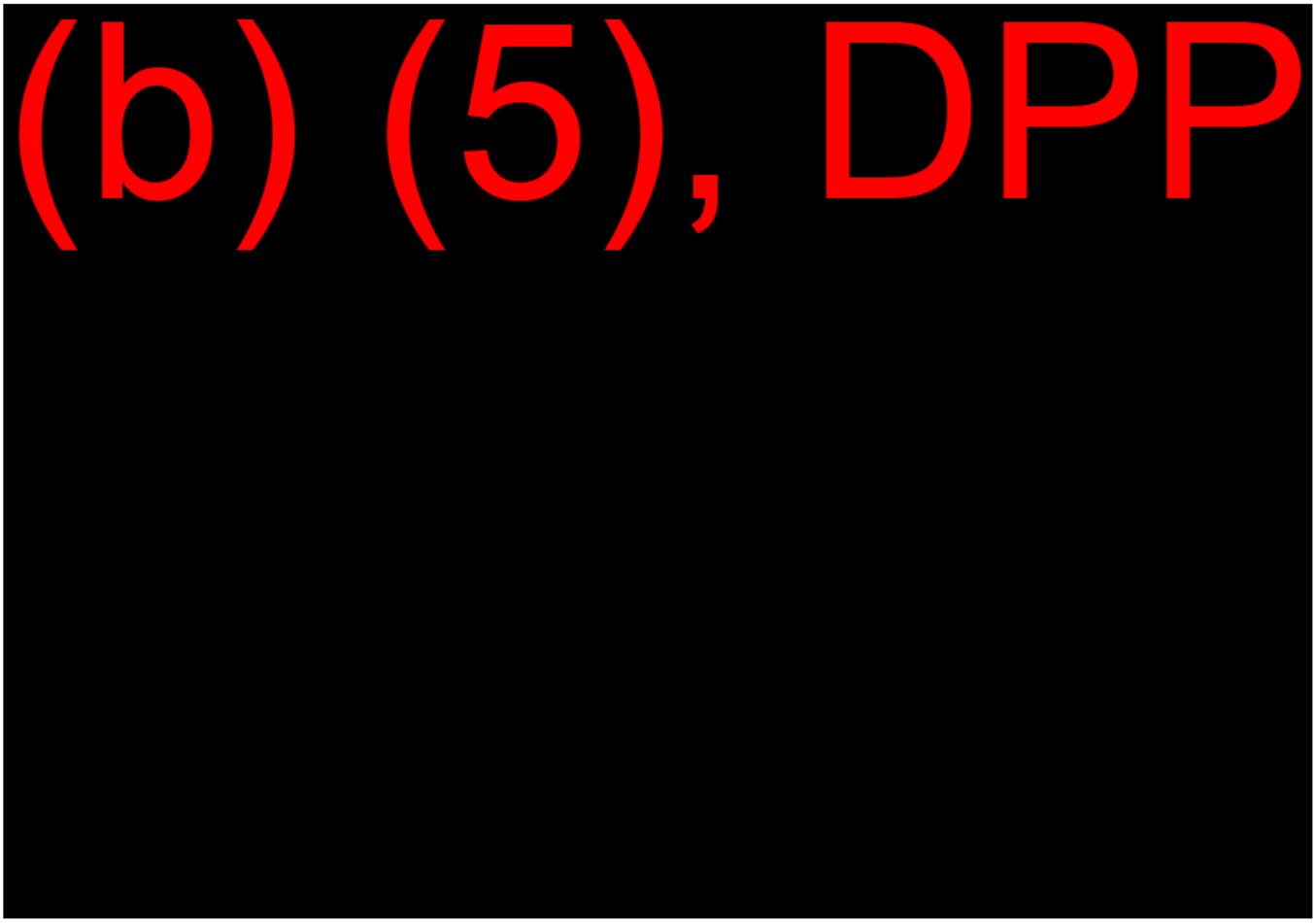
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Jesús G. "Chuy" García
U.S. House of Representatives
530 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman García:



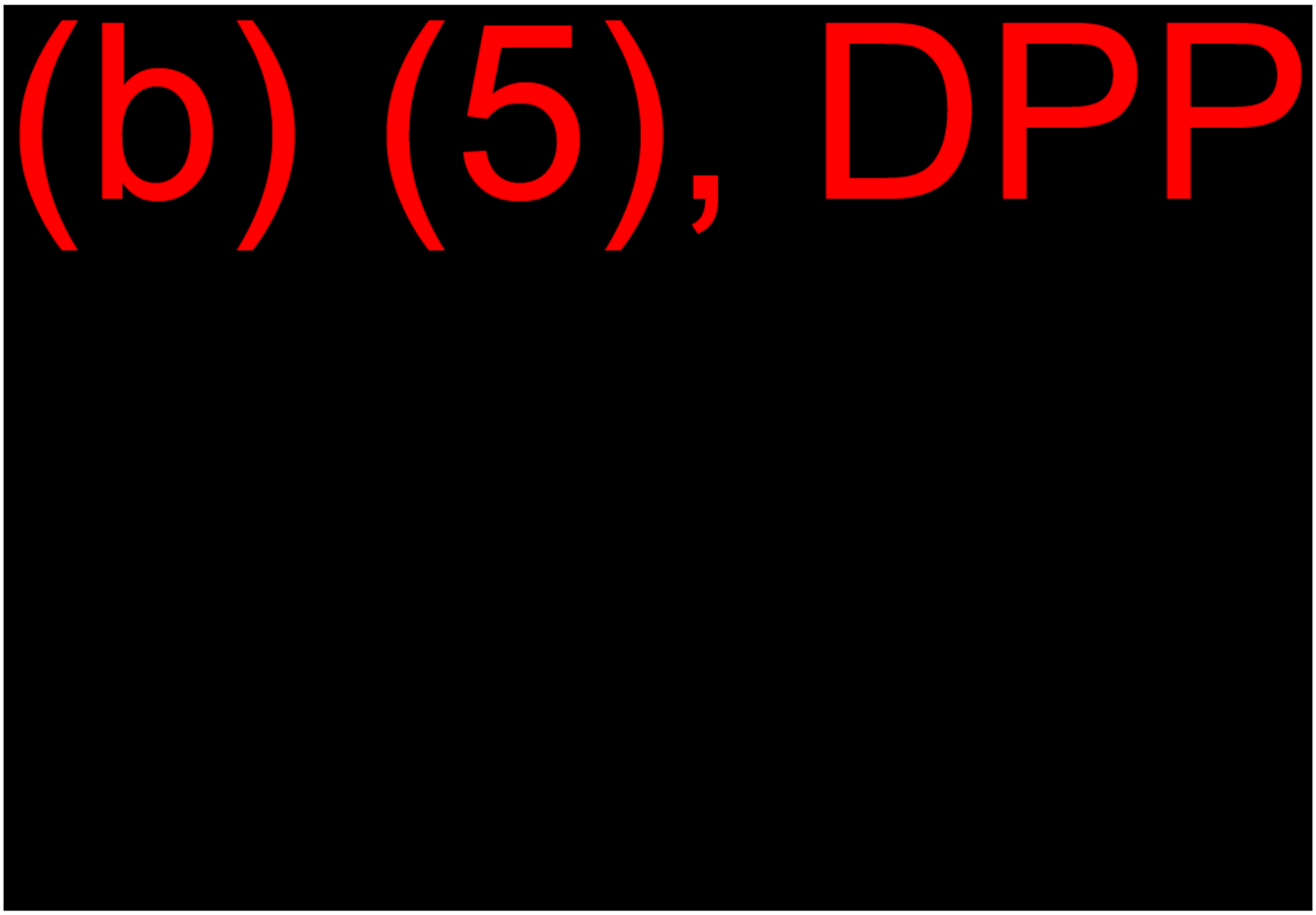
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
U.S. House of Representatives
212 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Panetta:



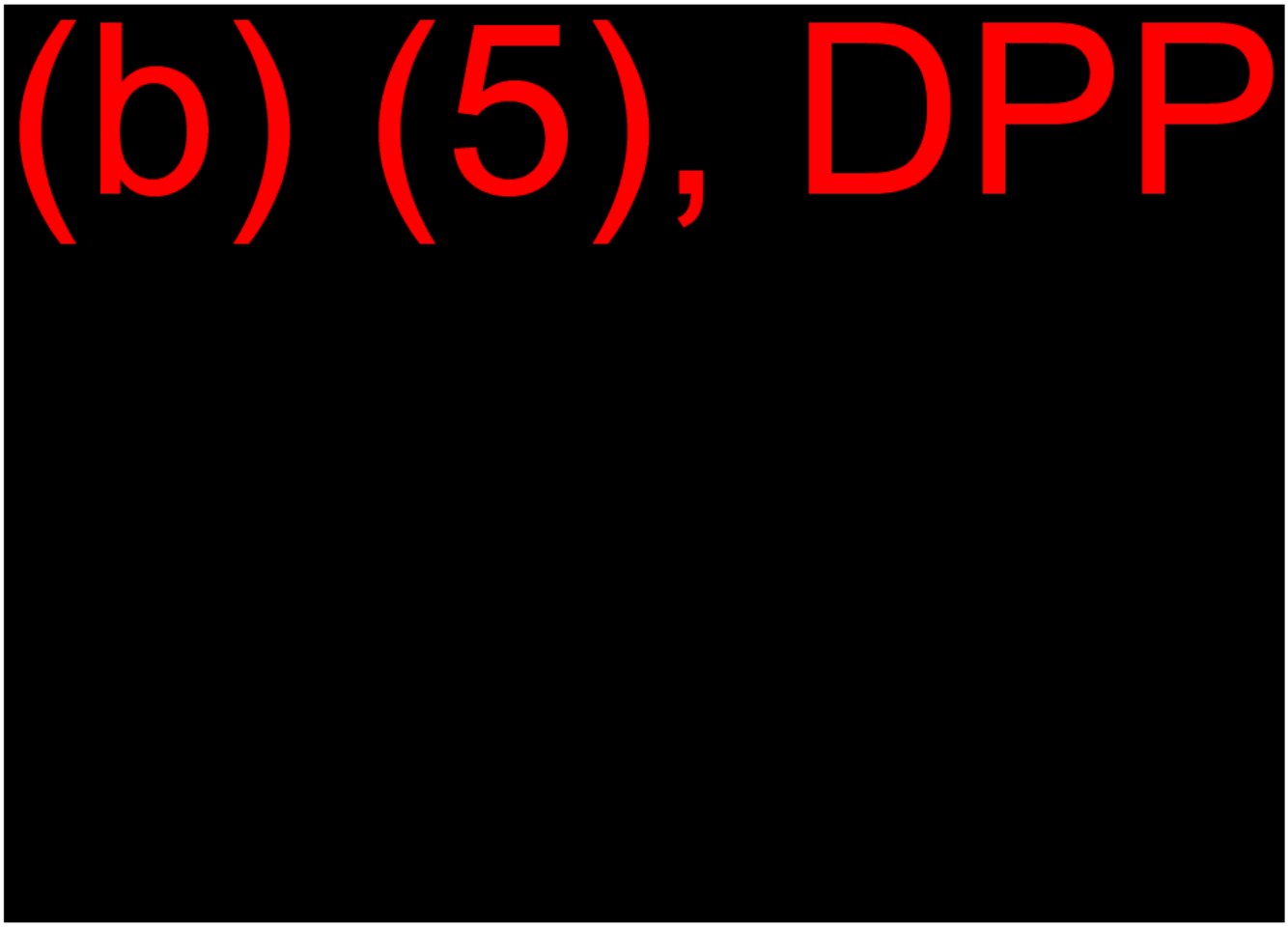
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy III
U.S. House of Representatives
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kennedy:



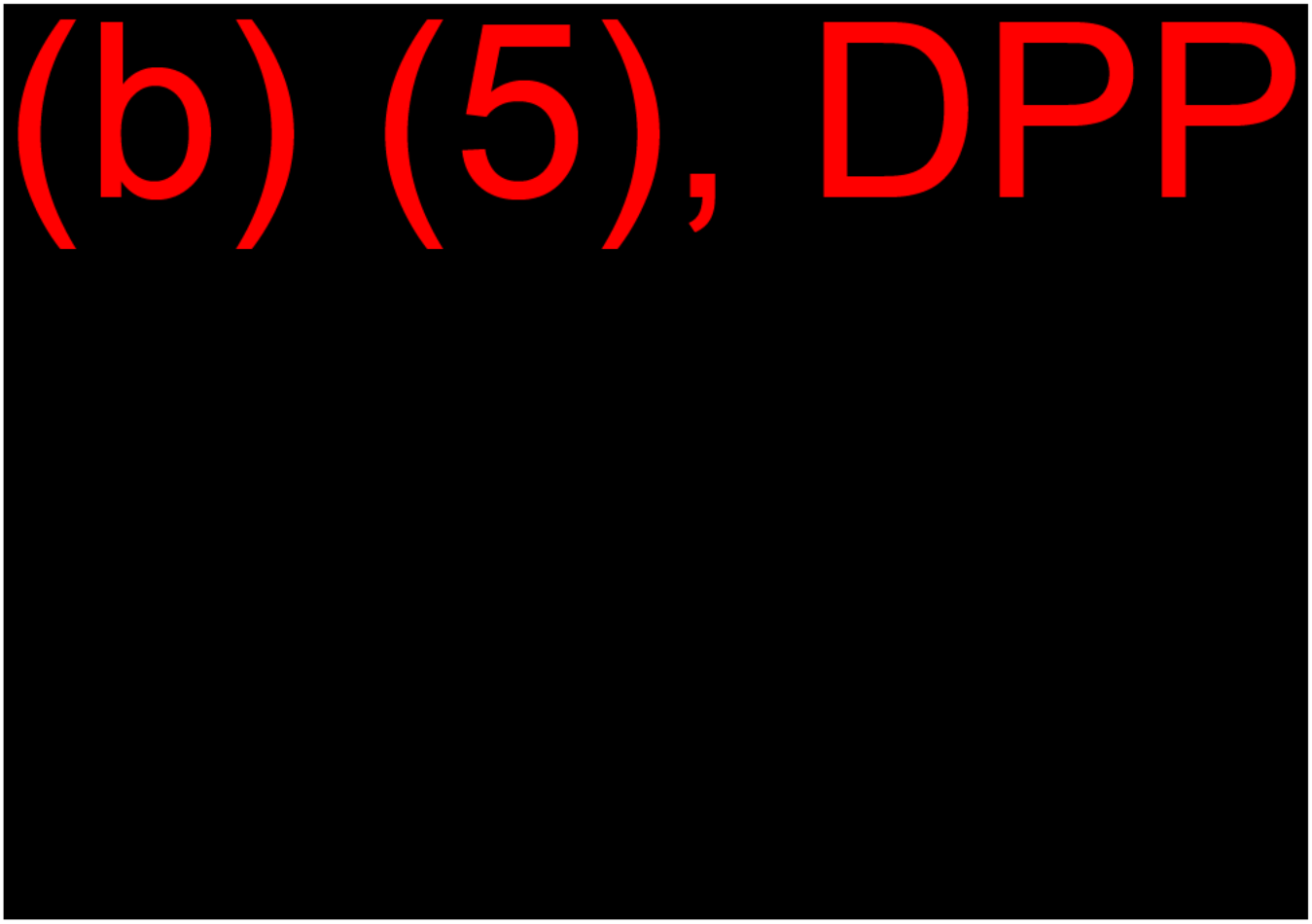
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Joyce Beatty
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Beatty:



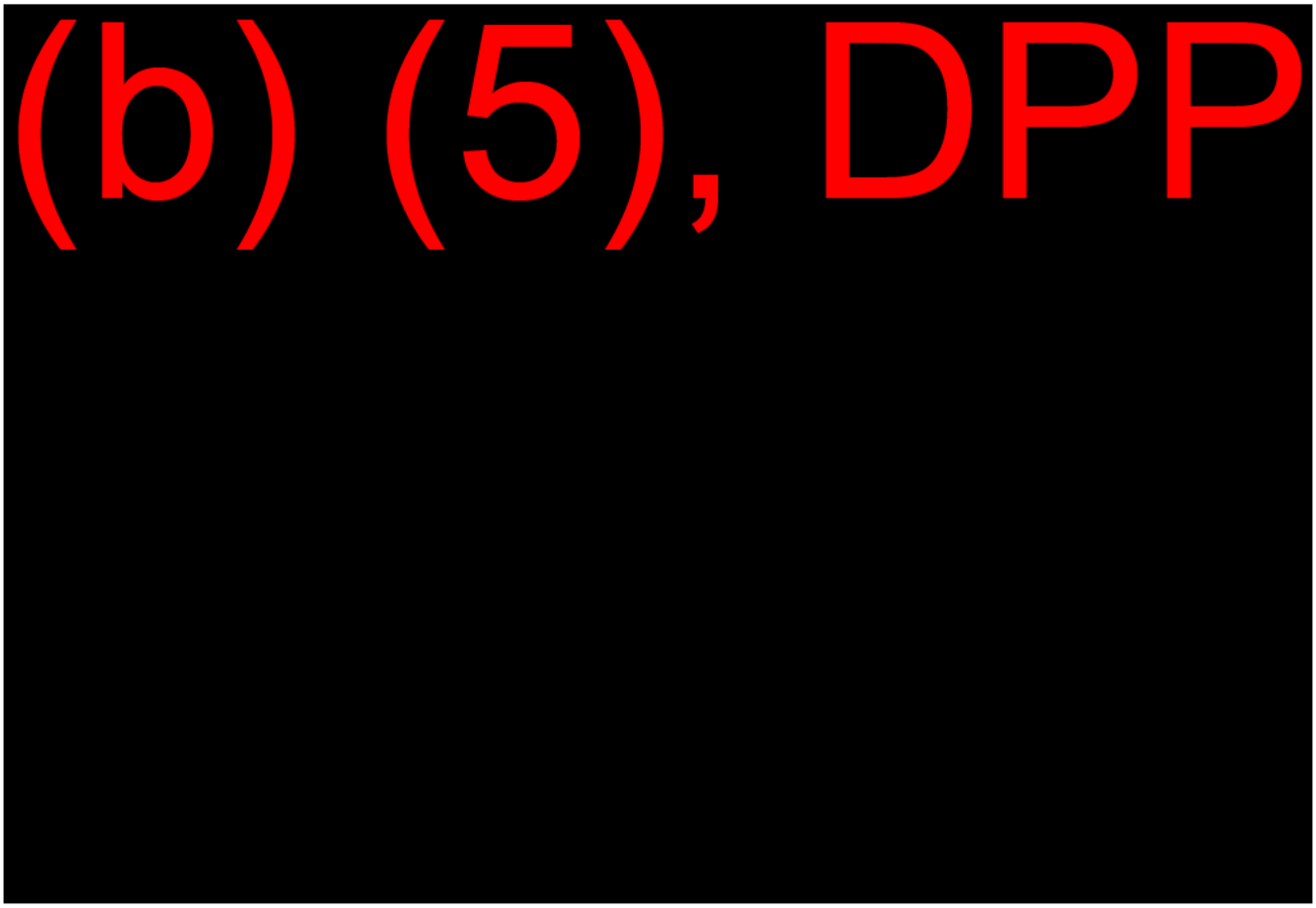
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Juan Vargas
U.S. House of Representatives
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Vargas:



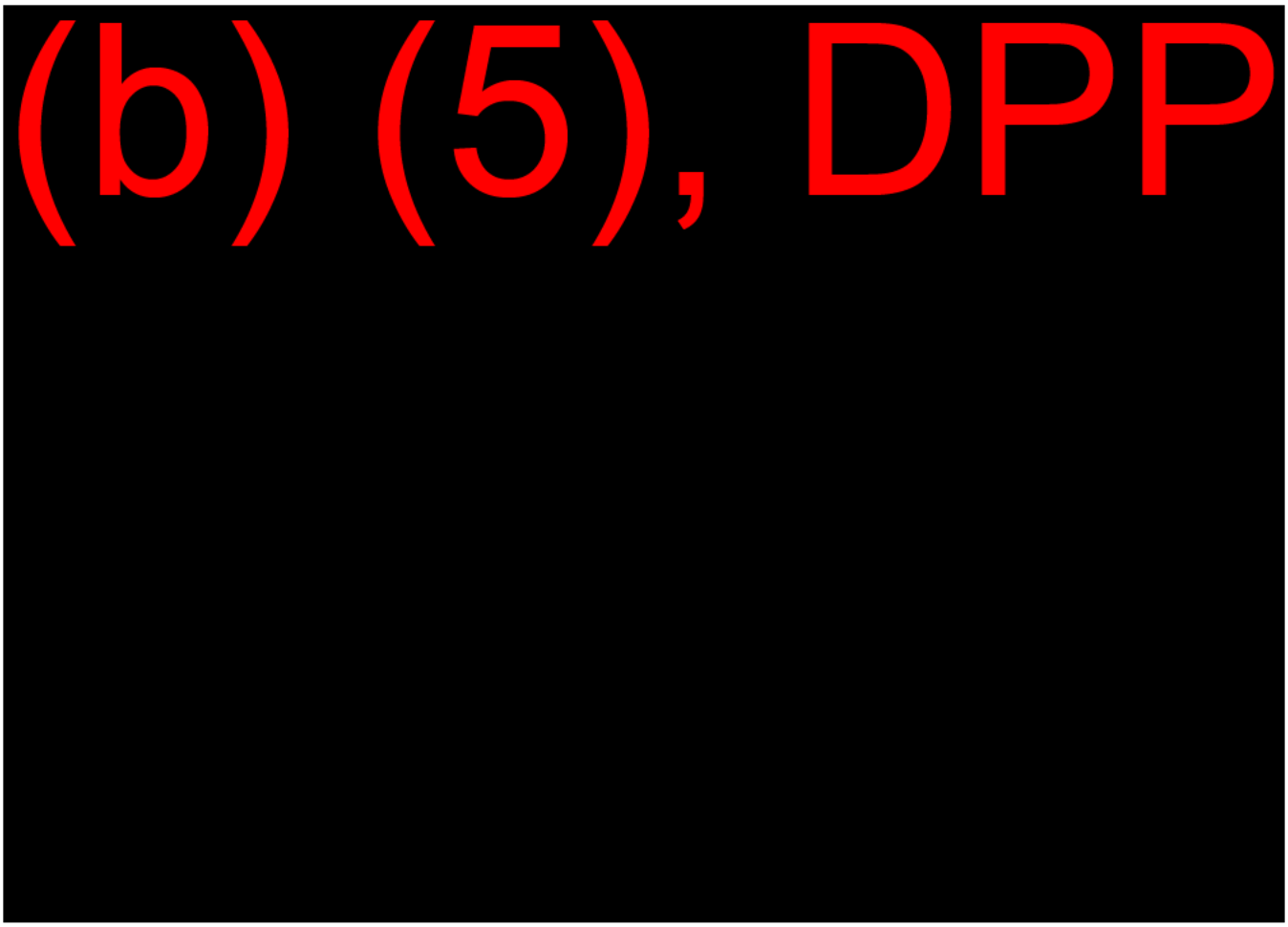
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Kim Schrier, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
1123 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schrier:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Linda T. Sánchez
U.S. House of Representatives
2329 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sánchez:



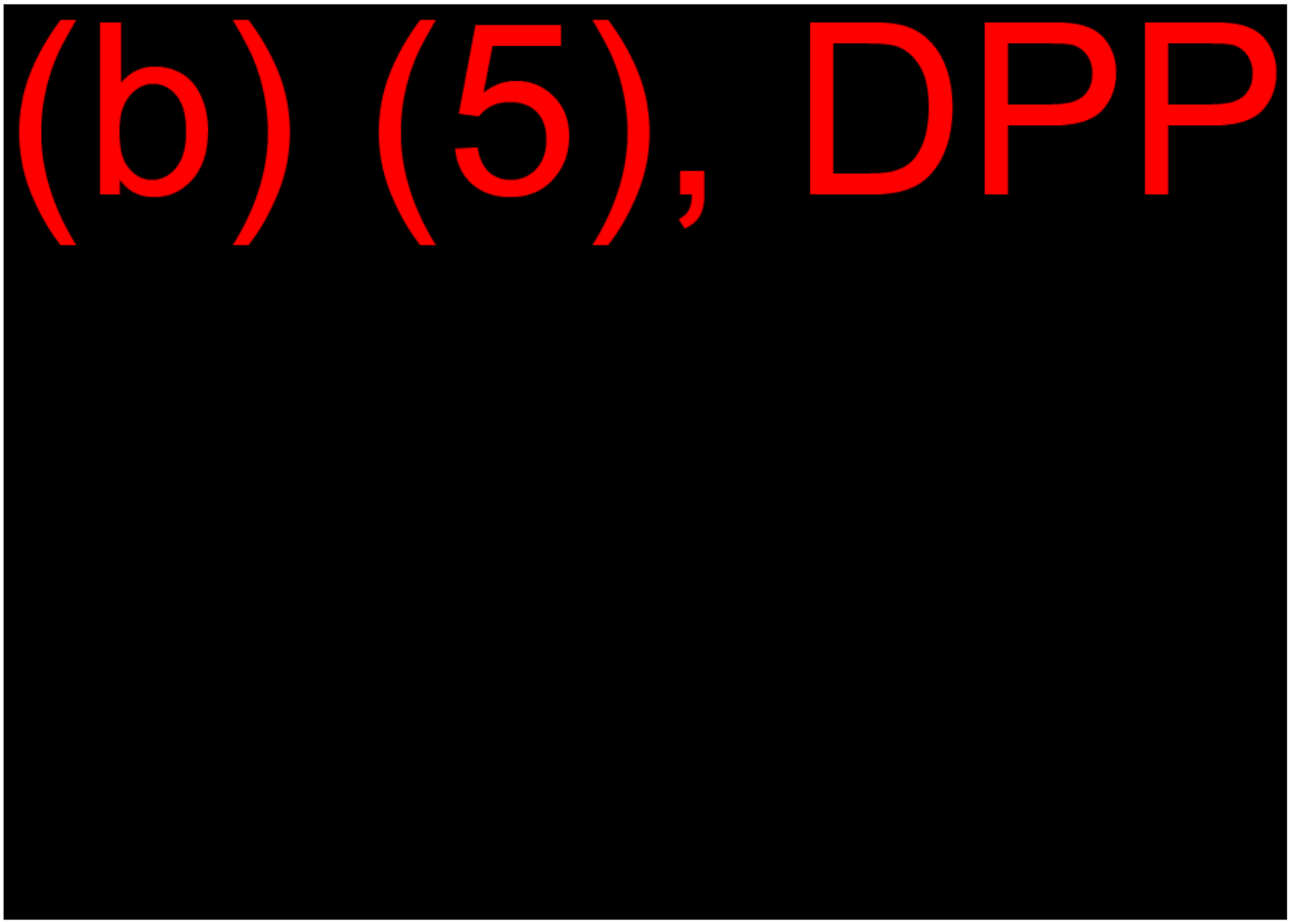
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
U.S. House of Representatives
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Roybal-Allard:



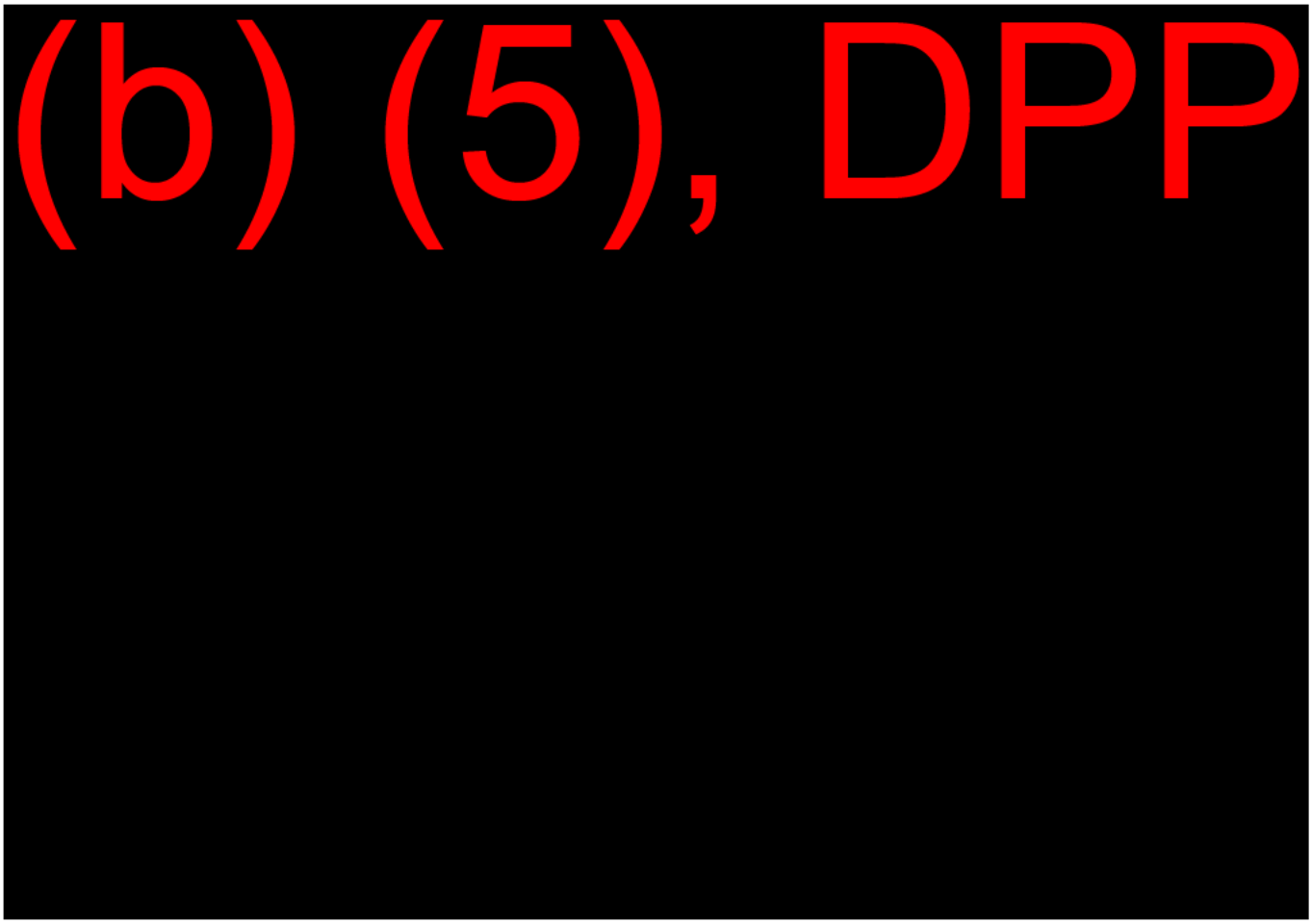
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
U.S. House of Representatives
2344 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Fudge:



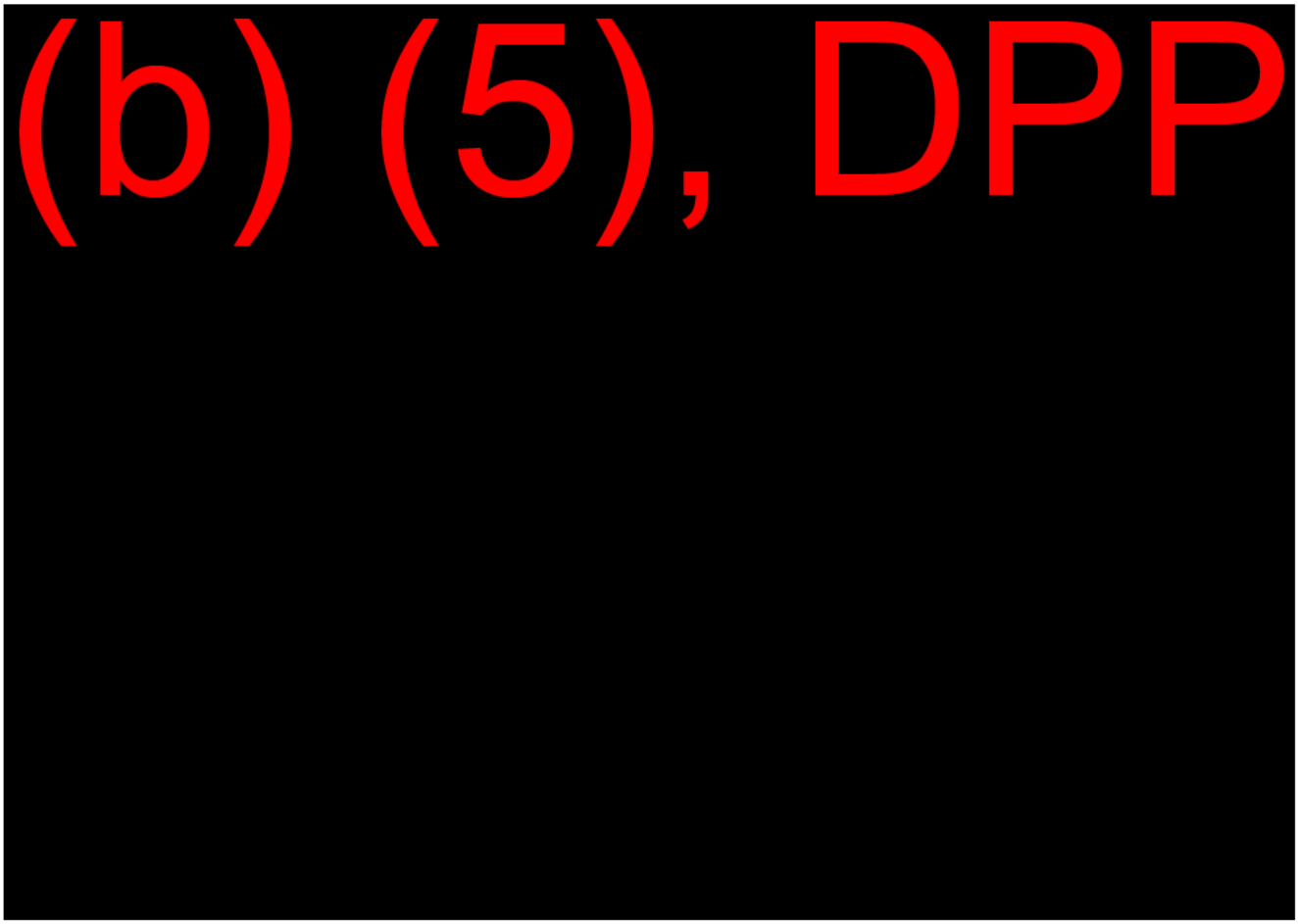
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
U.S. House of Representatives
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kaptur:



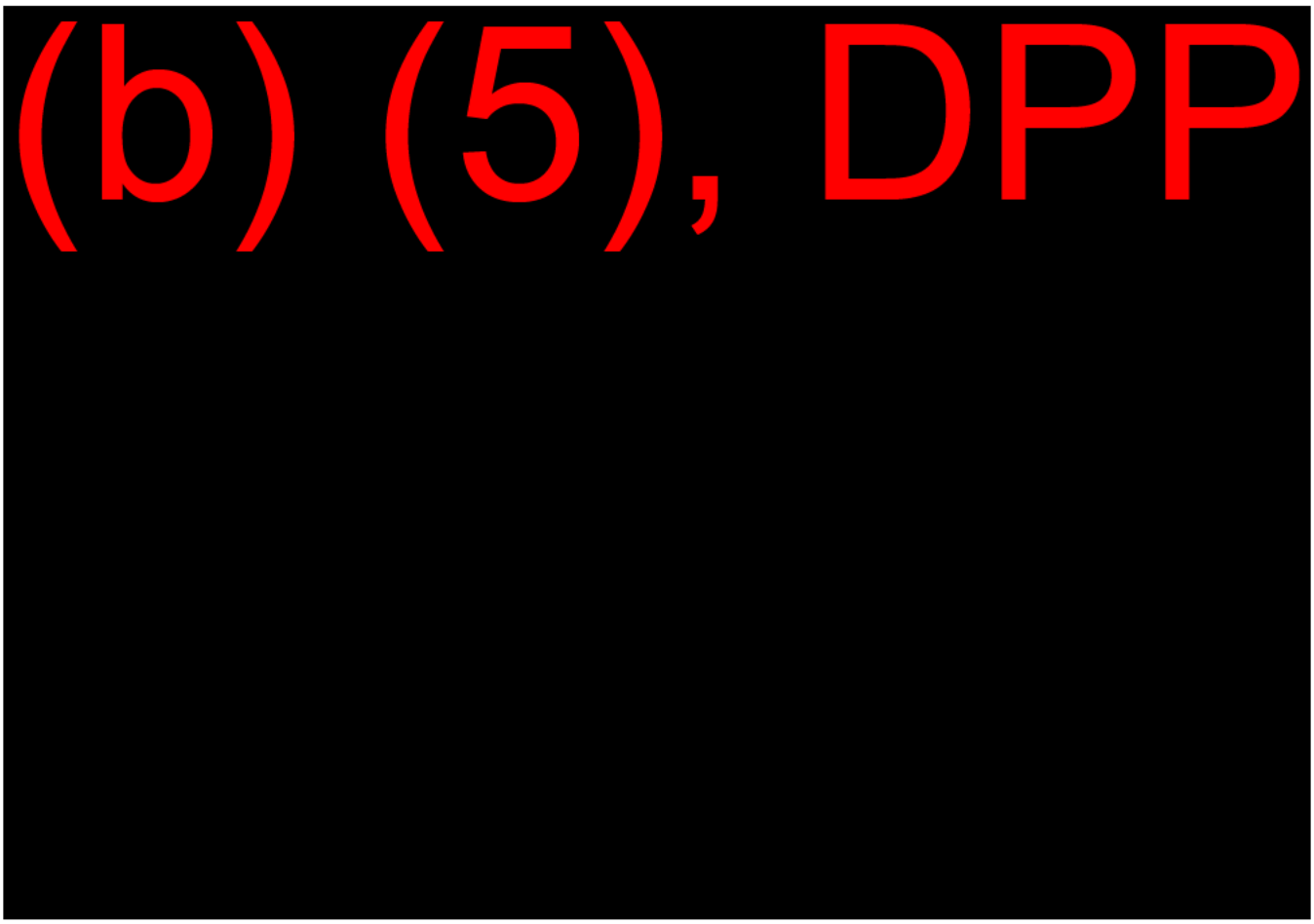
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon
U.S. House of Representatives
1535 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Scanlon:



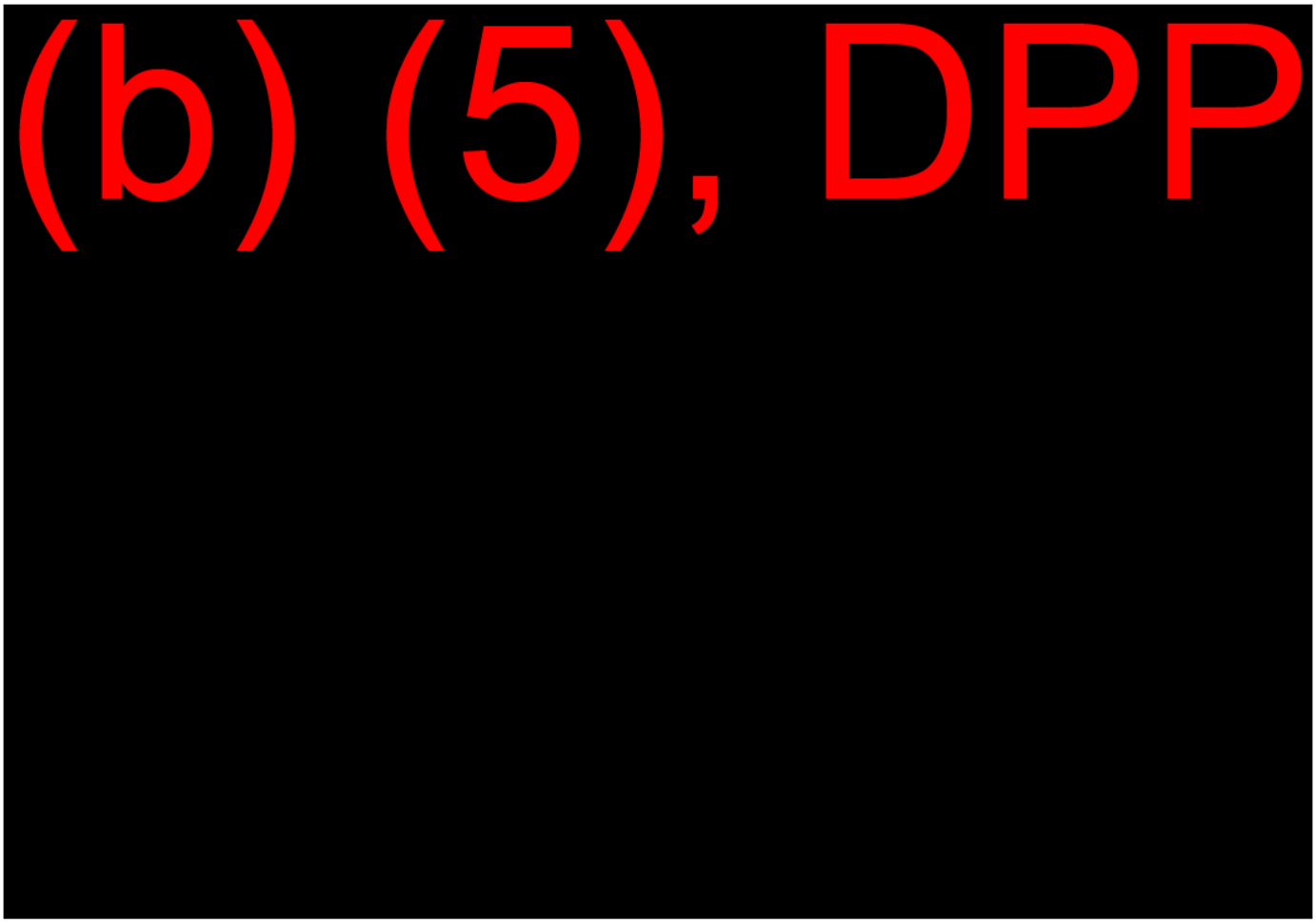
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán
U.S. House of Representatives
1030 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Barragán:



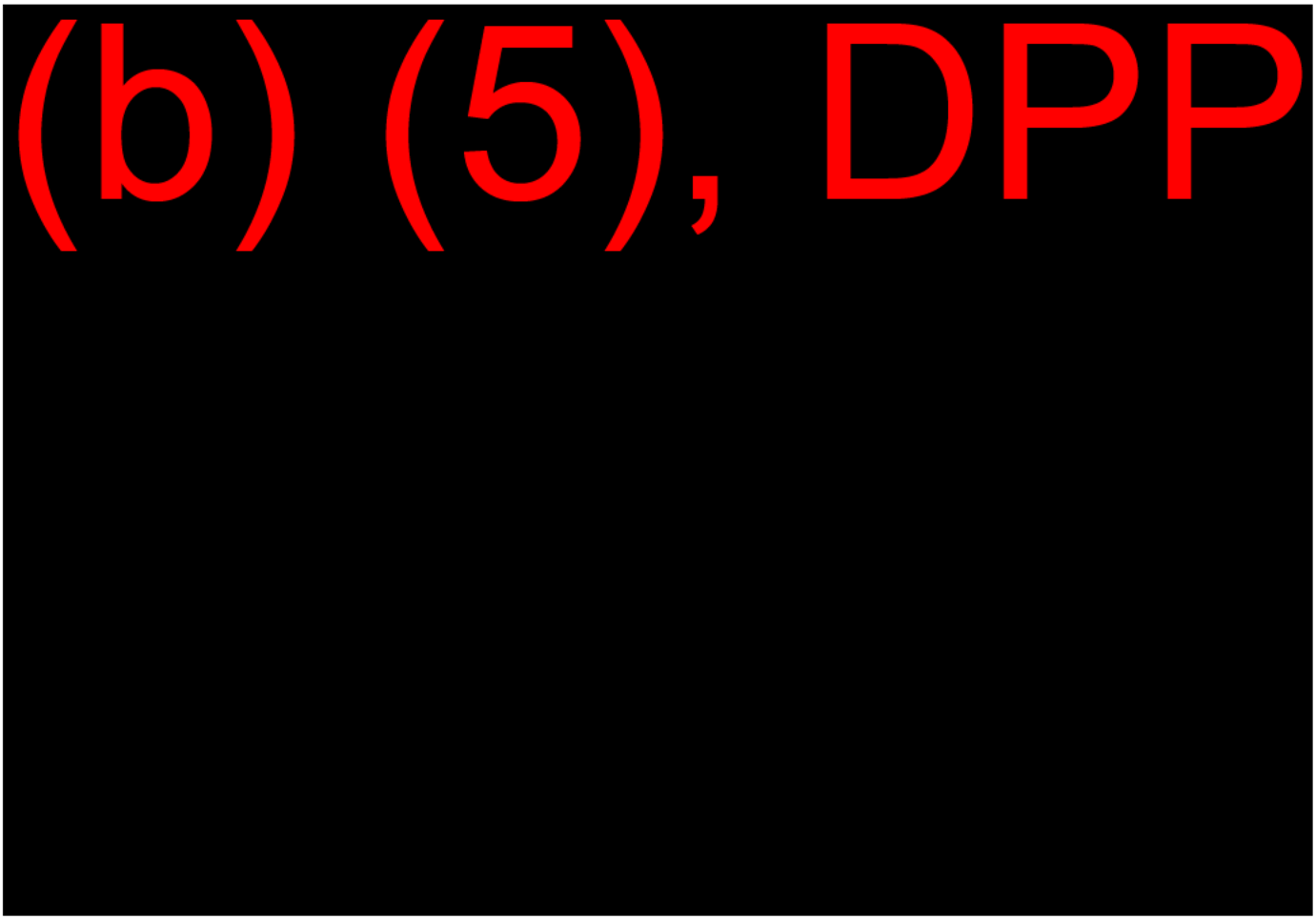
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez
U.S. House of Representatives
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velázquez:



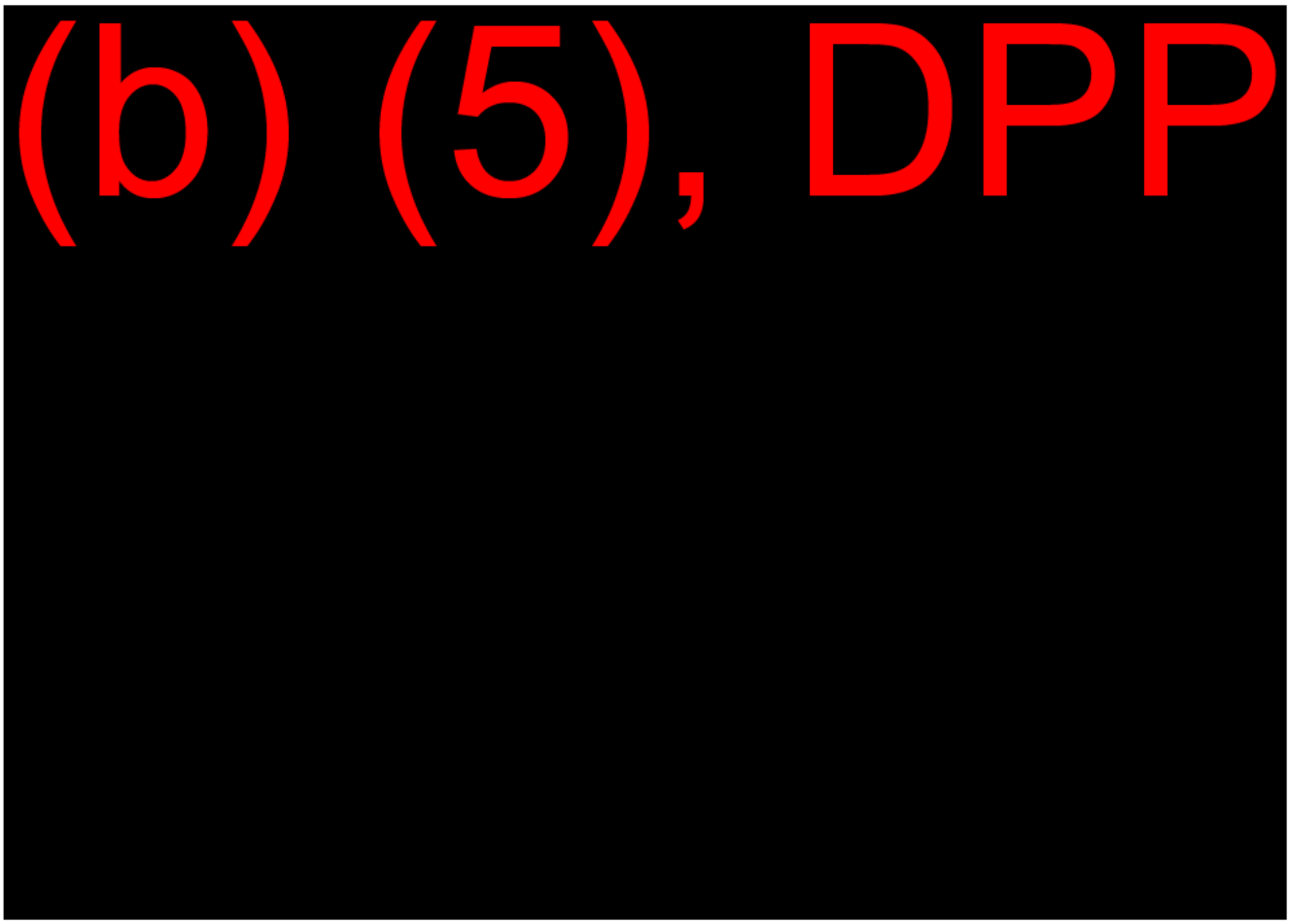
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
U.S. House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:



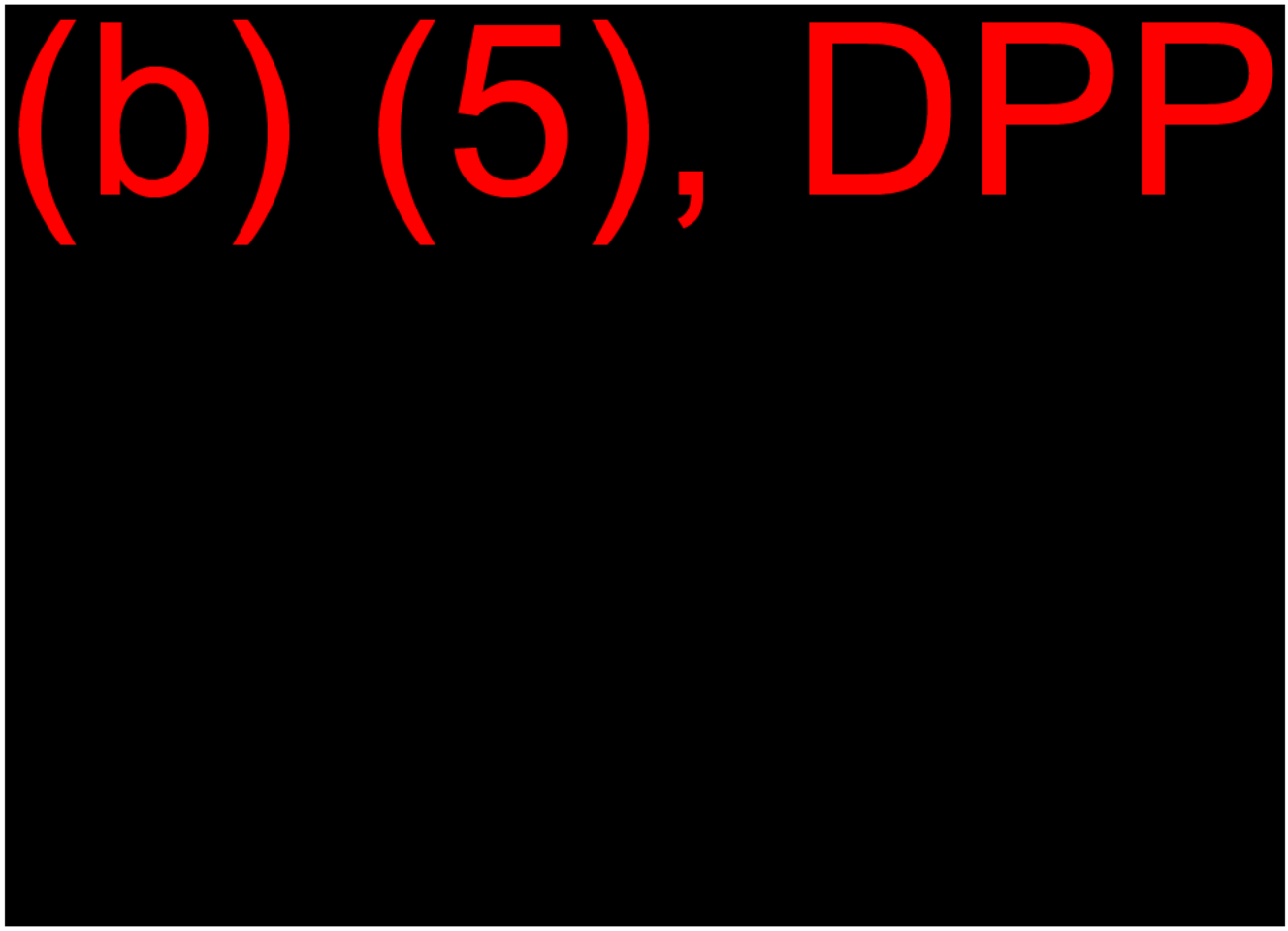
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
2187 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:



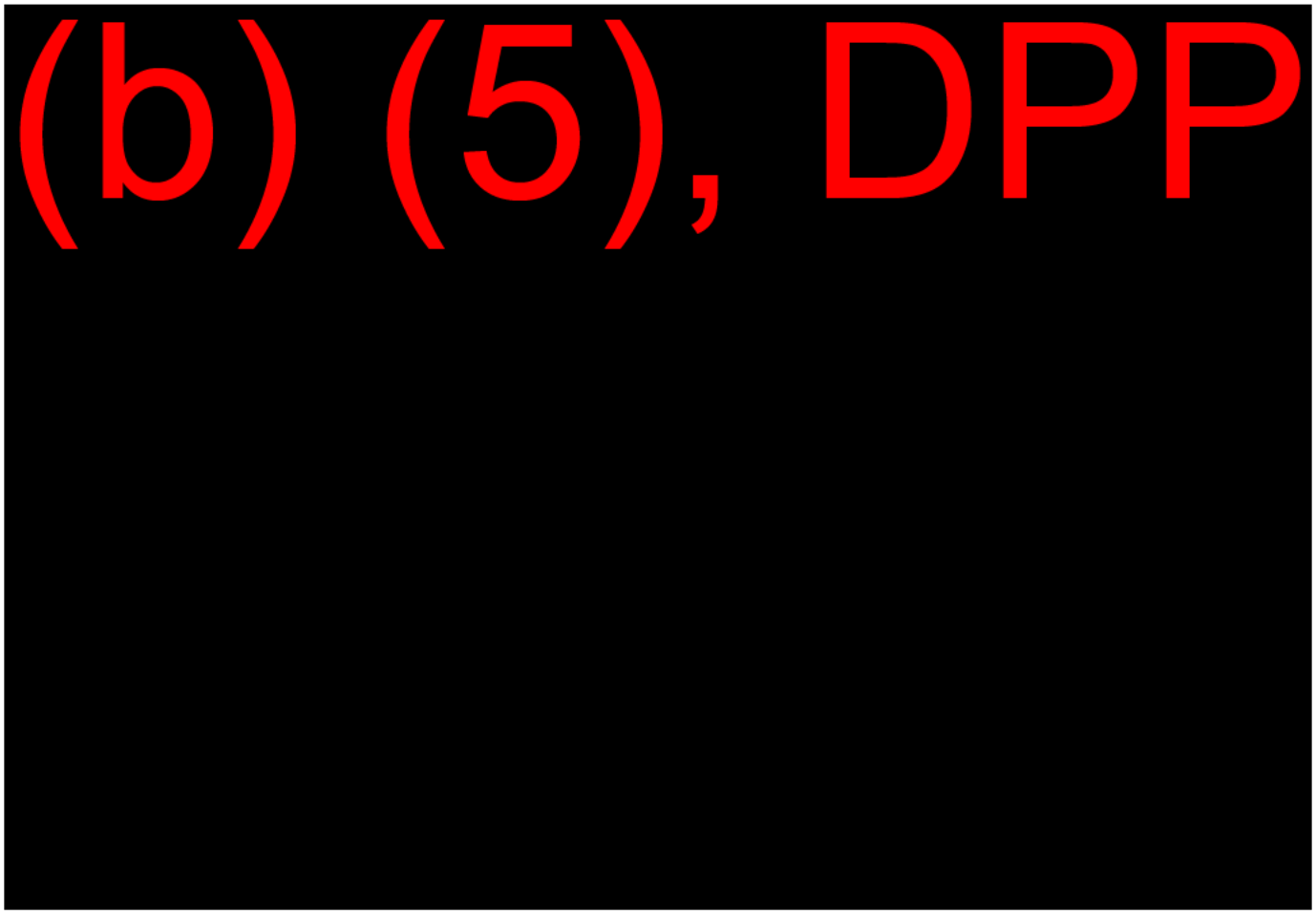
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal
U.S. House of Representatives
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Jayapal:



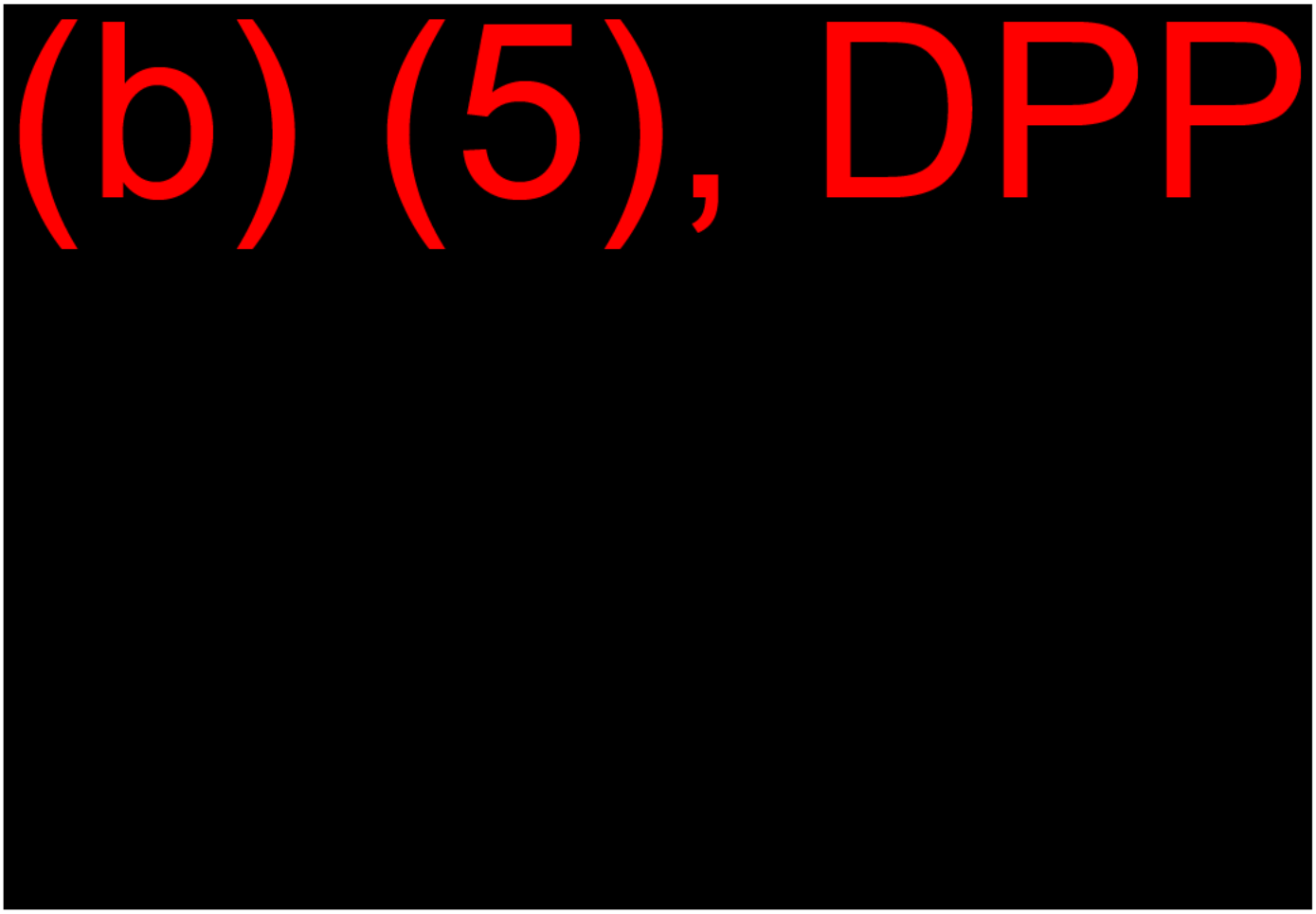
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Rashida Tlaib
U.S. House of Representatives
1628 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Tlaib:



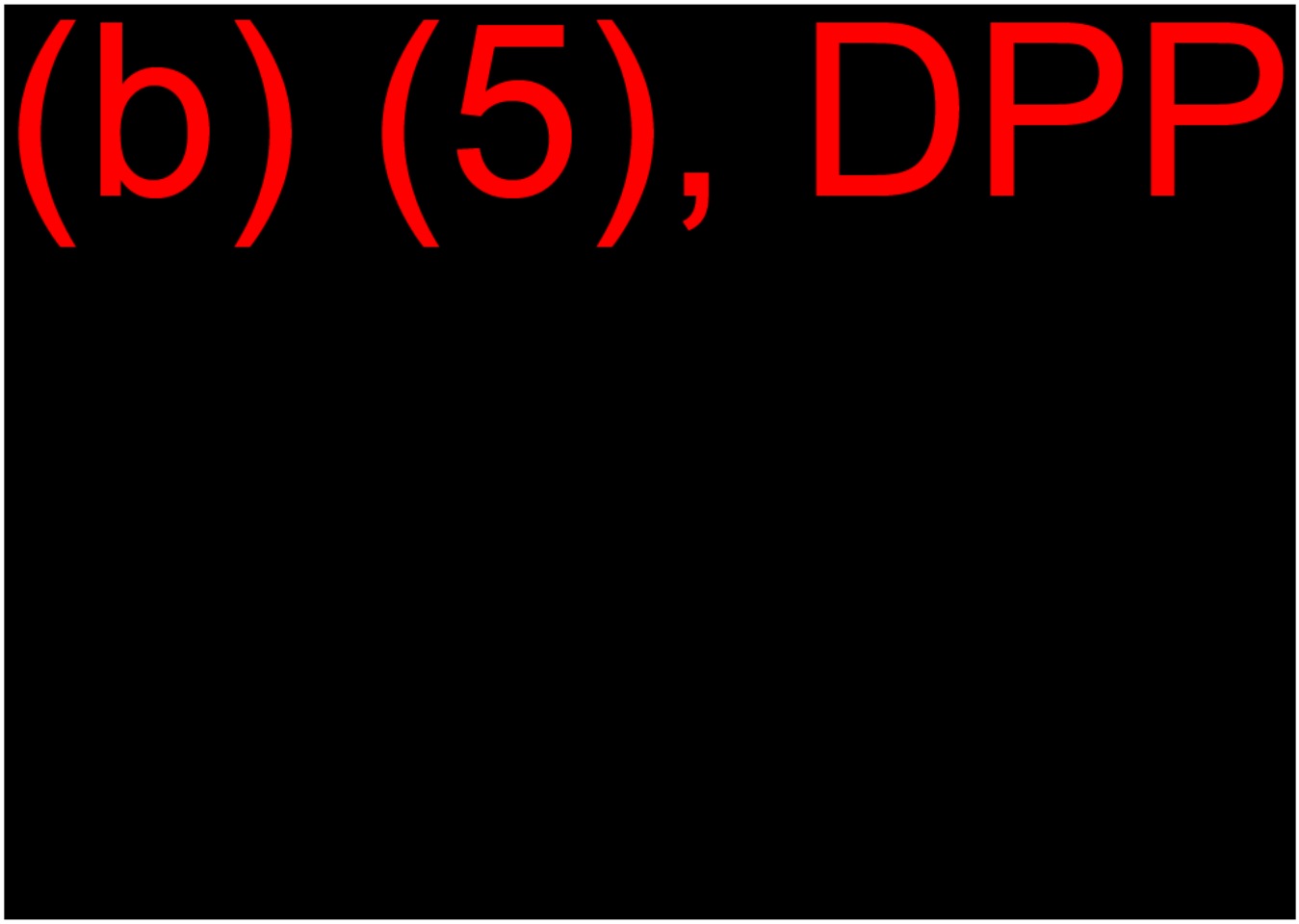
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Salud O. Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:



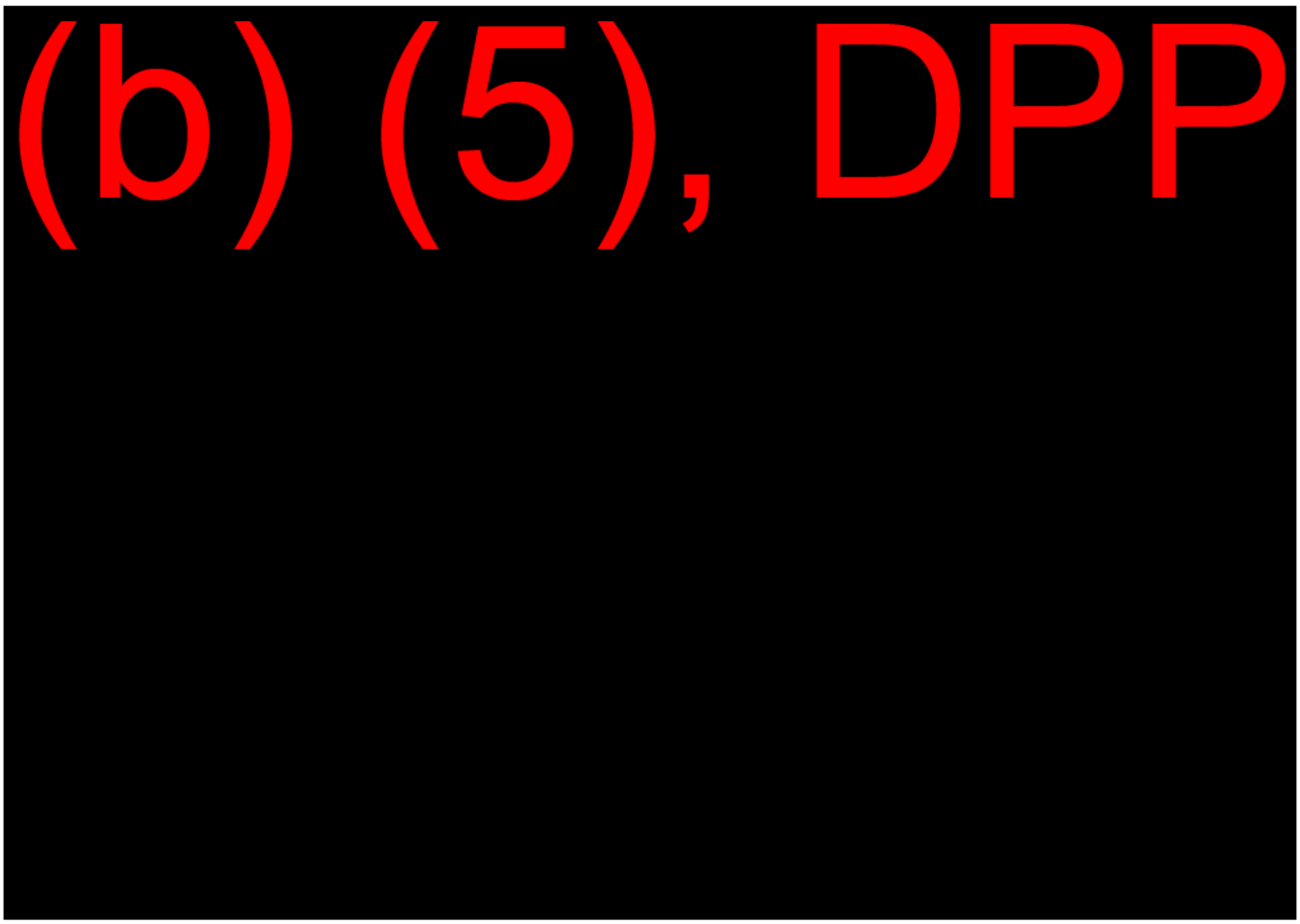
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
2331 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Maloney:



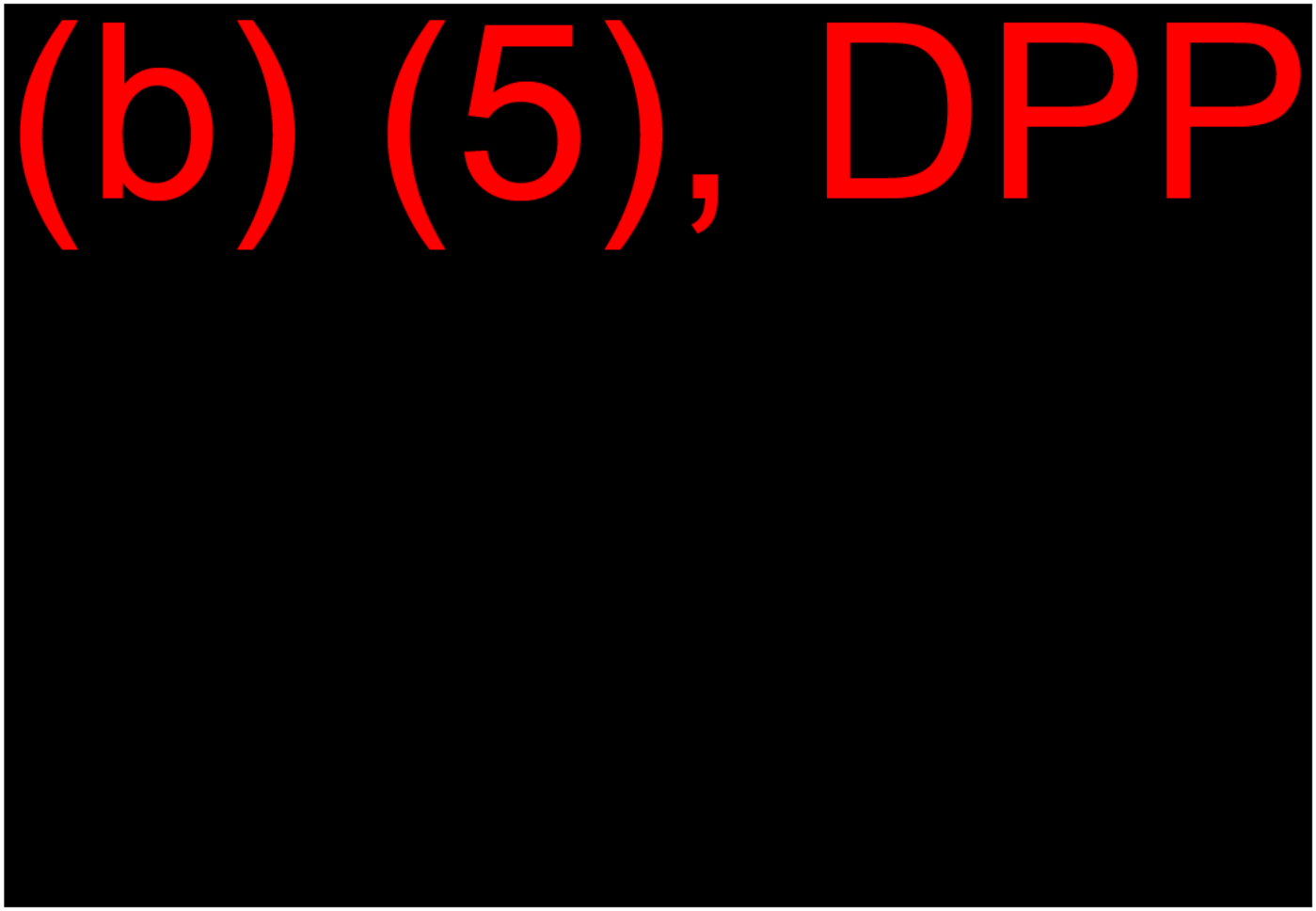
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Seth Moulton
U.S. House of Representatives
1127 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Moulton:



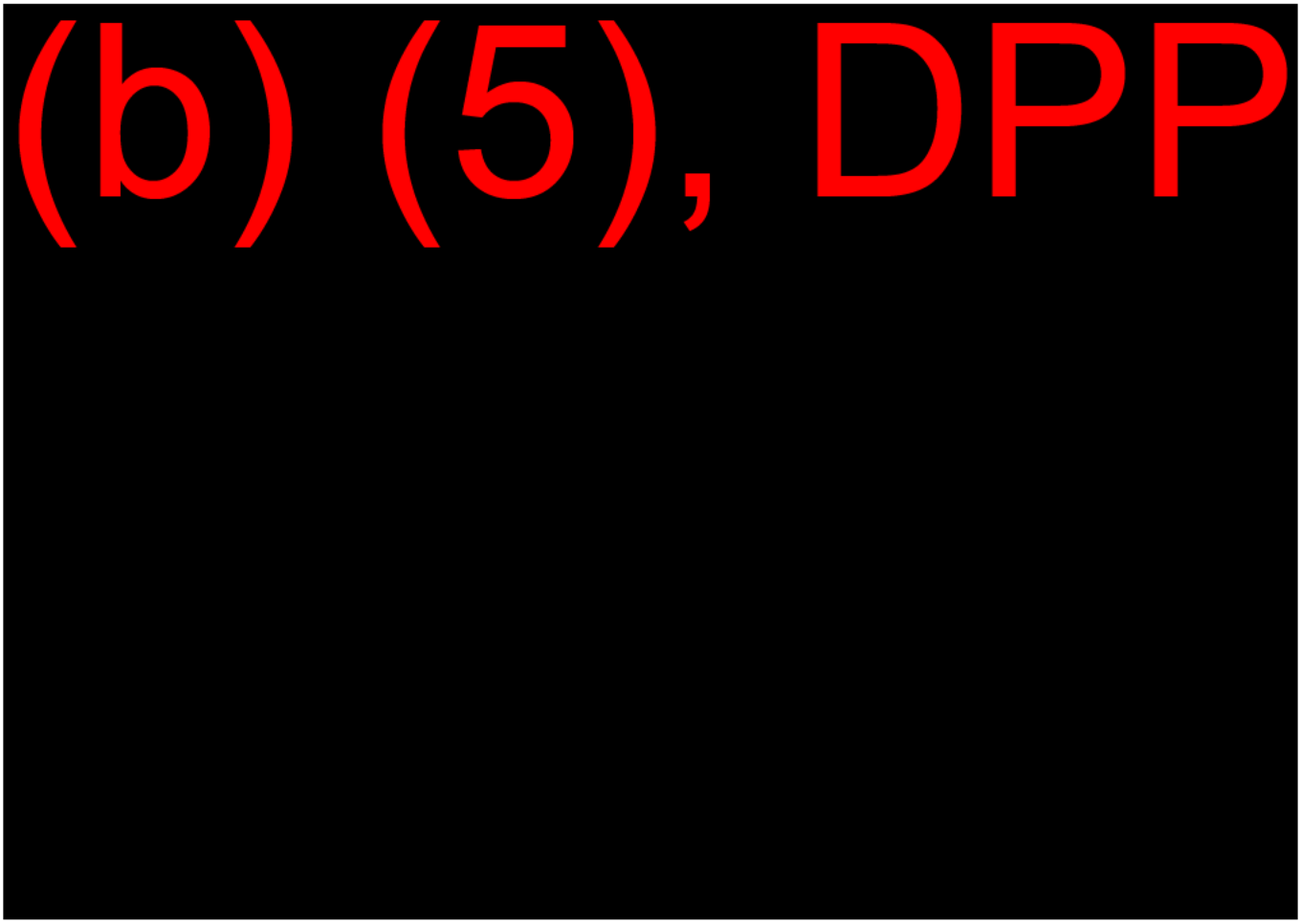
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
2079 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lee:



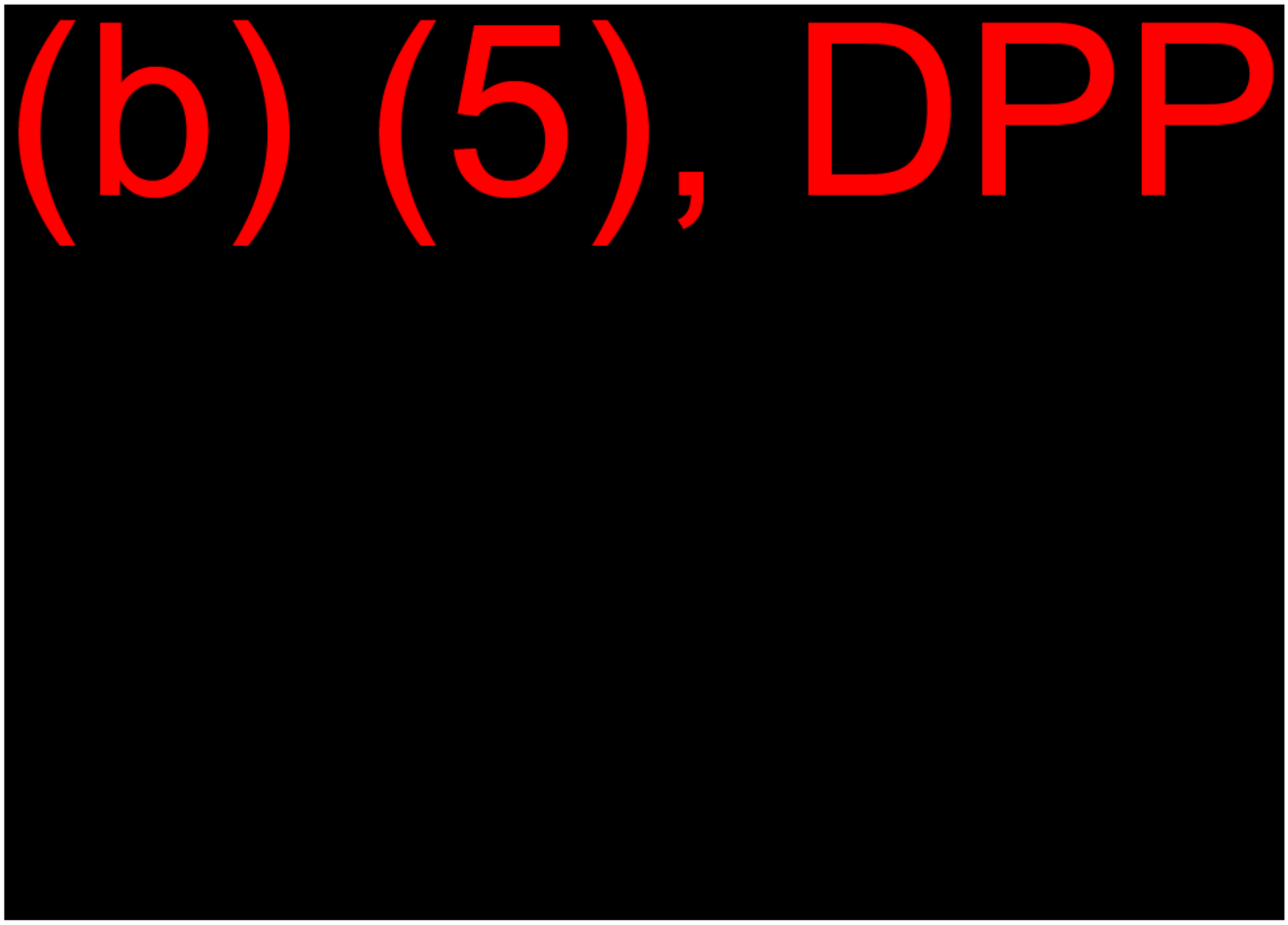
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lynch:



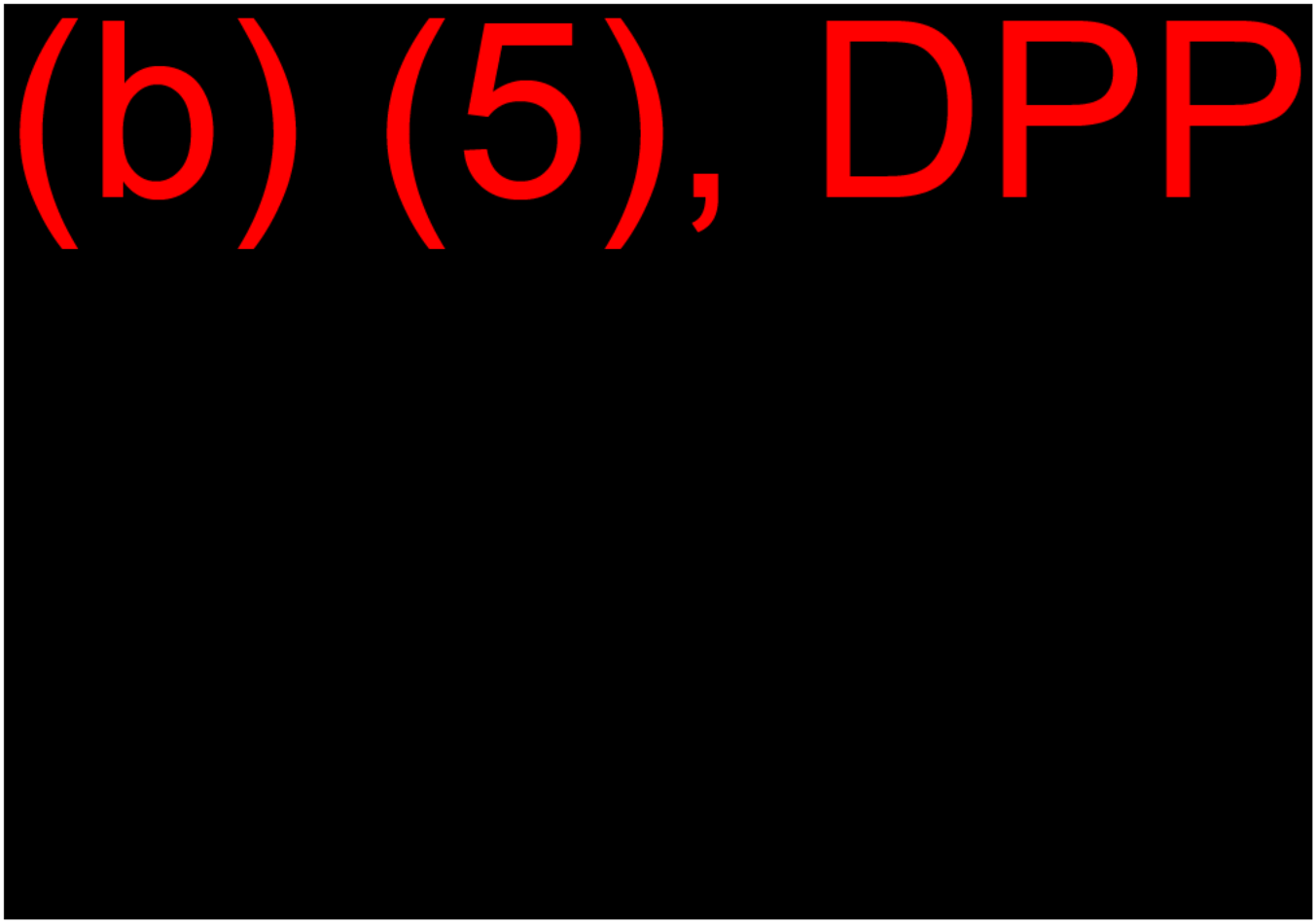
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Steve Cohen
U.S. House of Representatives
2104 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cohen:



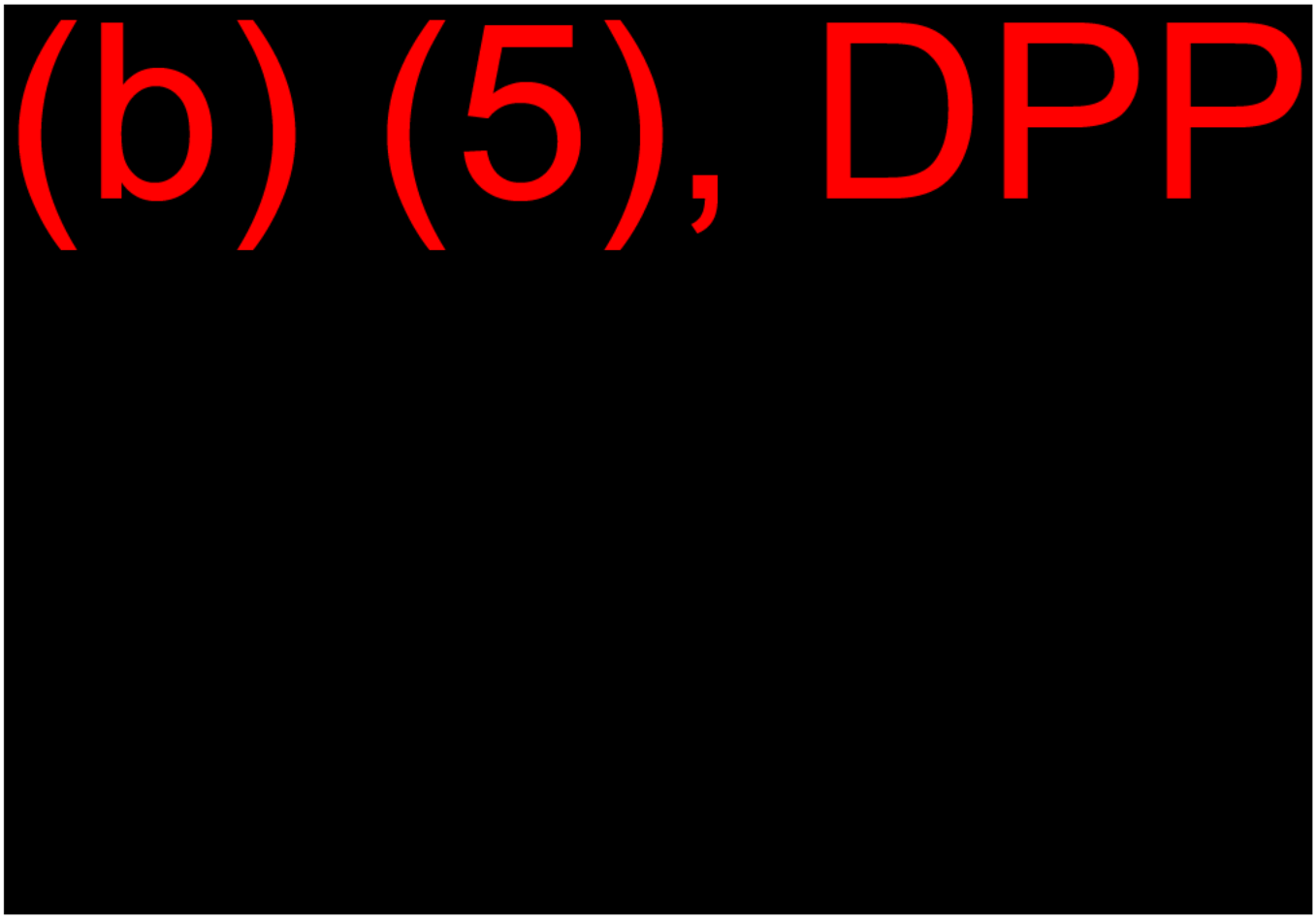
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bonamici:



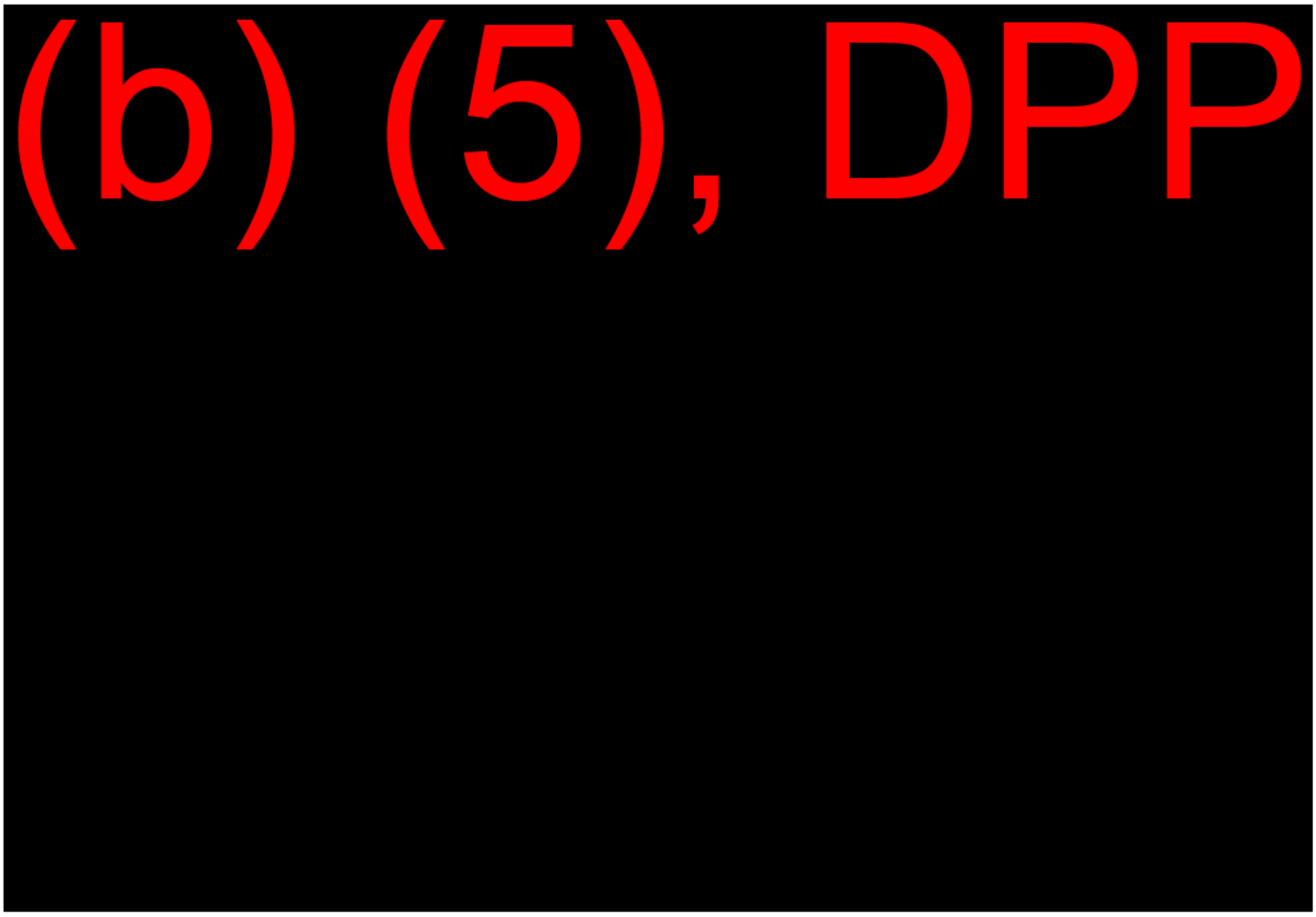
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Sylvia R. Garcia
U.S. House of Representatives
1620 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Garcia:



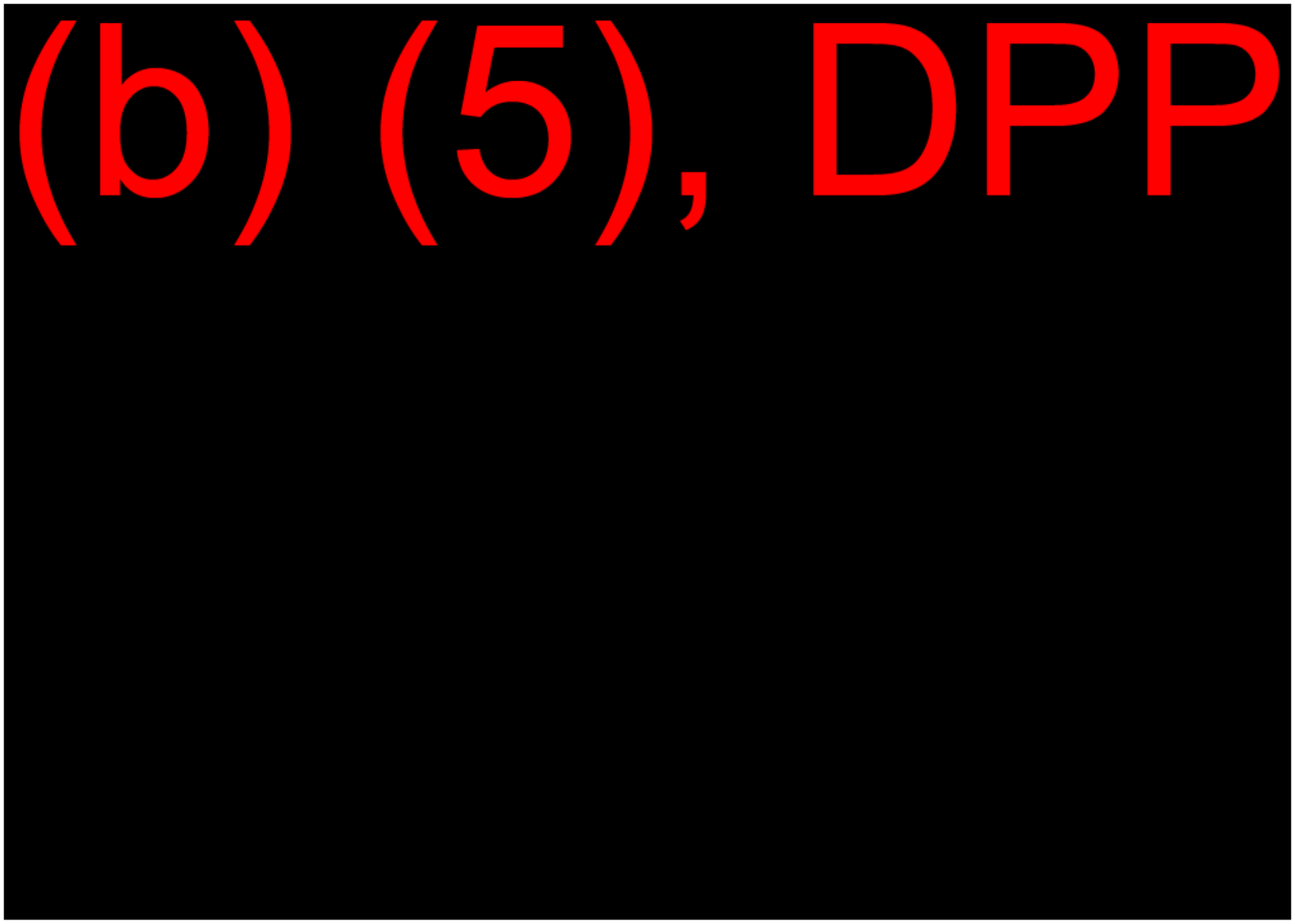
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Ted W. Lieu
U.S. House of Representatives
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lieu:



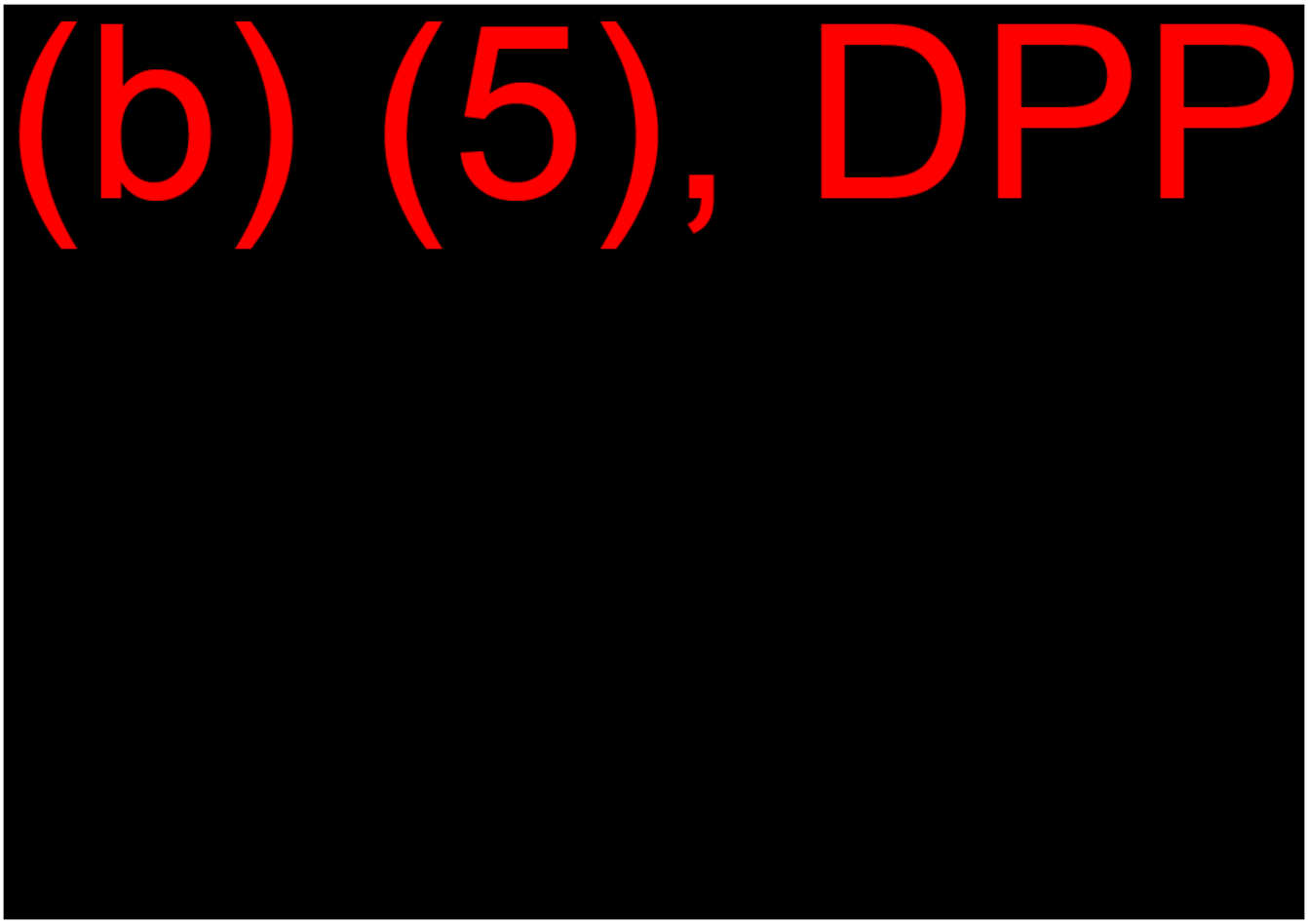
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
U.S. House of Representatives
1433 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Gabbard:



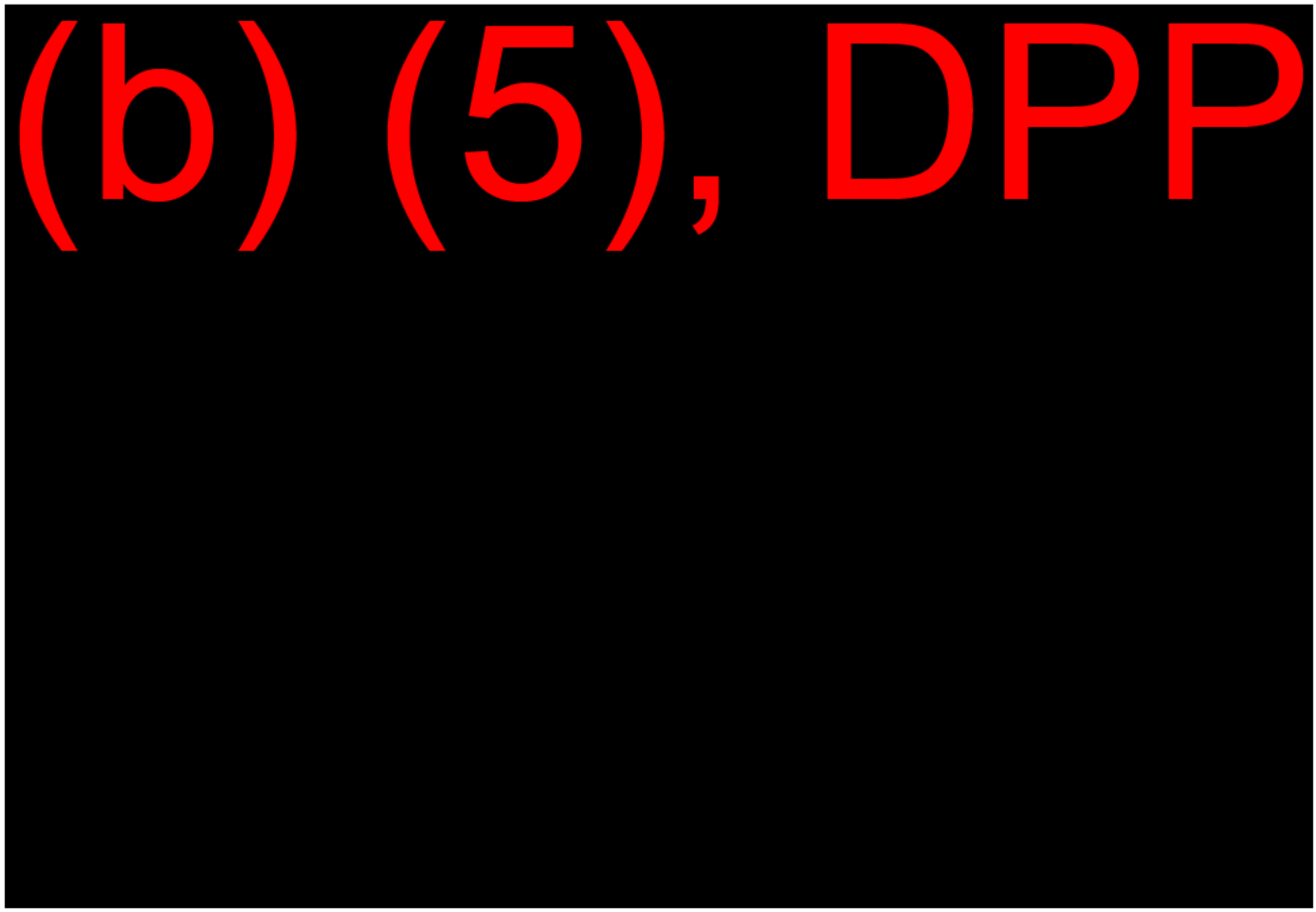
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable William R. Keating
U.S. House of Representatives
2351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Keating:



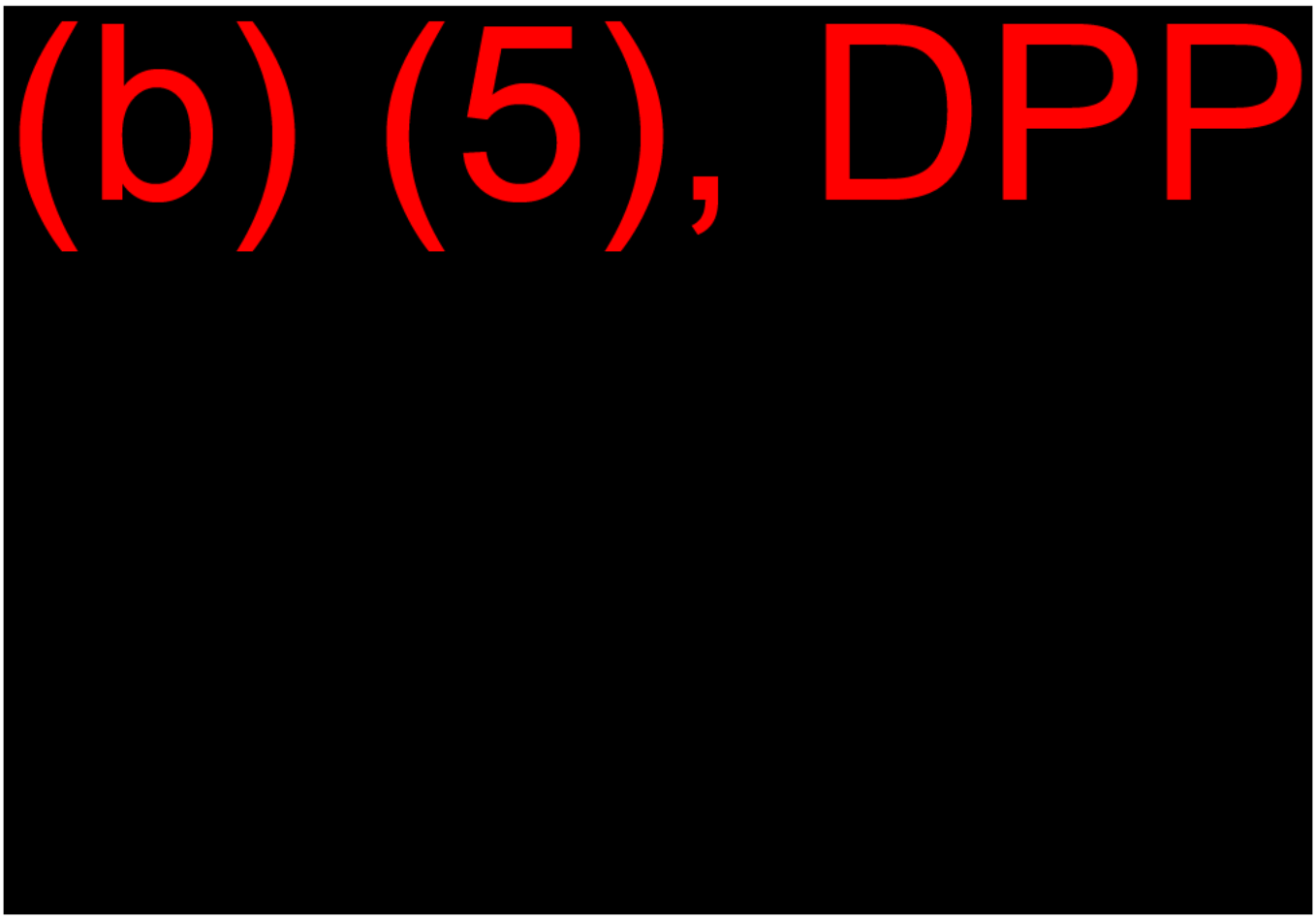
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
2058 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:



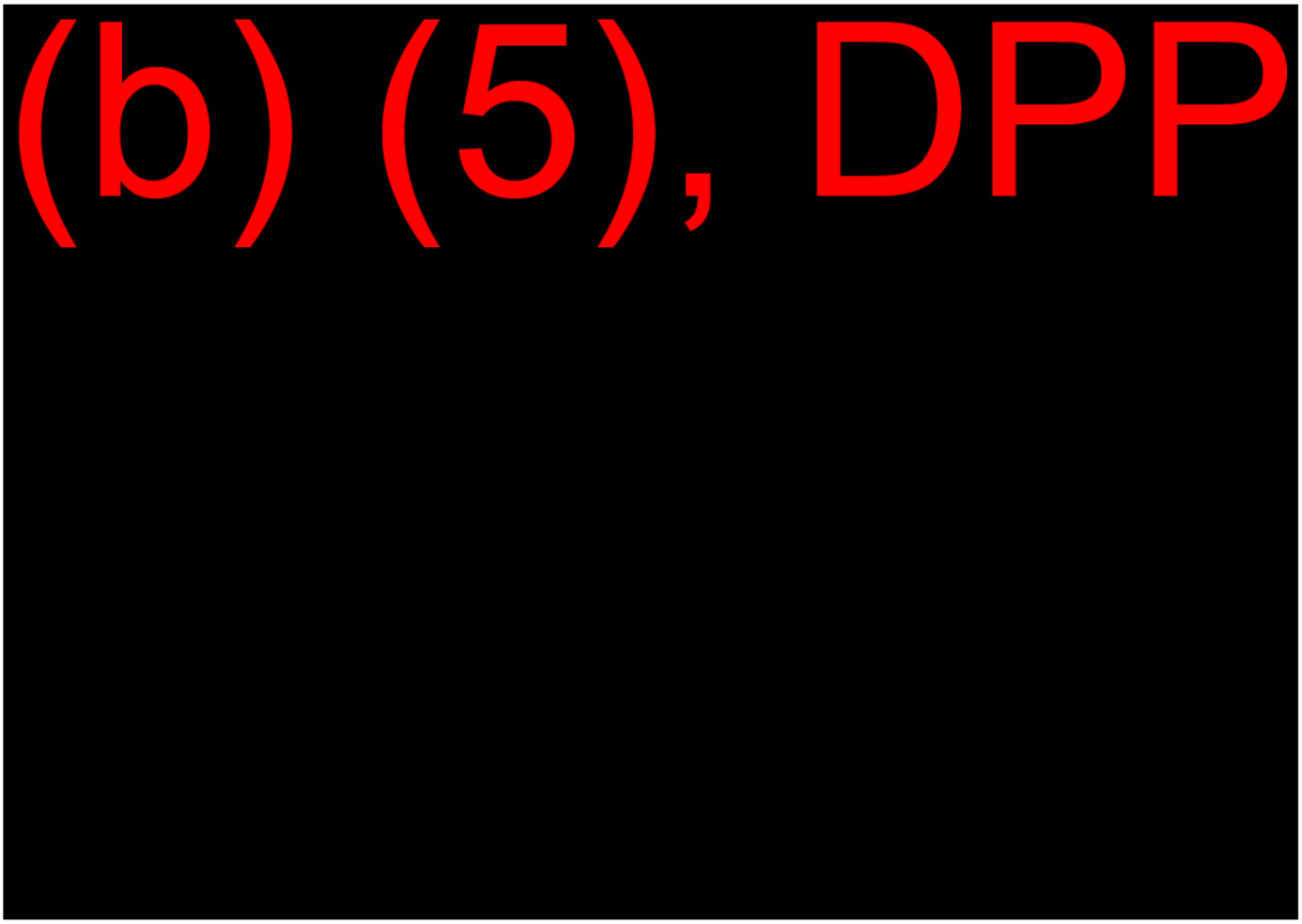
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:



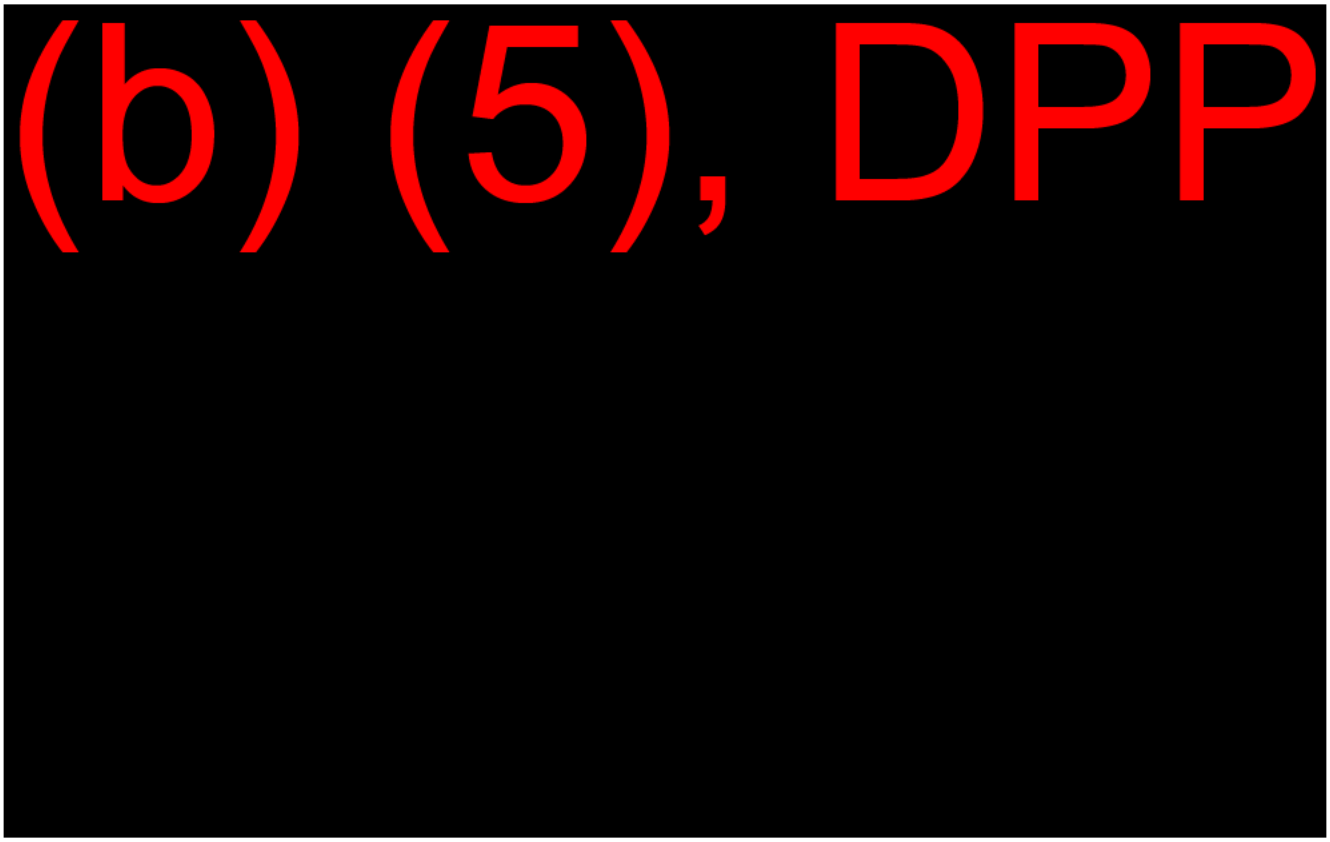
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: RAPID RESPONSE: 8635937 Clay
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 4:07:00 PM
Attachments: FNCS 8635937 Clay AD vw edits.04.29.20.docx

My edits attached. I notices you (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 1:00 PM
To: ONeill, Stephen - OBPA, Washington, DC <Stephen.ONeill@usda.gov>; Norman, Jackie - OBPA, Washington, DC <jackie.norman@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RAPID RESPONSE: 8635937 Clay

Attached is a letter that is ready for you review ad clearance. Please use track changes to make any edits that you may have. Let me know if you have any questions and please try and clear within 24 hours of this email.

Best,
Zach

Zach Jacobs

Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Wm. Lacy Clay
U.S. House of Representatives
2428 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Clay:

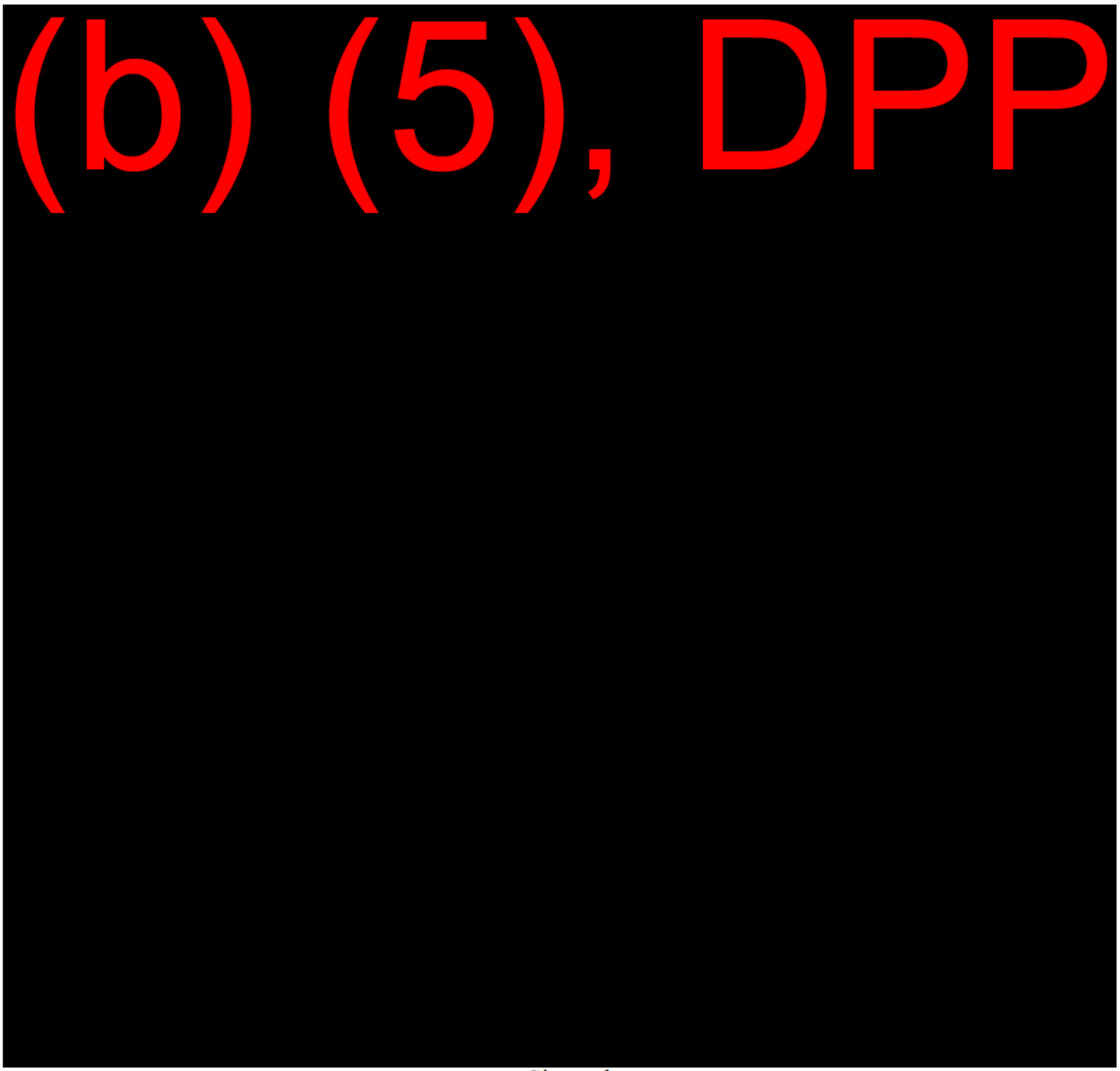


Sincerely,
Sonny Perdue

SecretaryThe Honorable Emanuel Cleaver, II
U.S. House of Representatives
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Dear Representative Cleaver:



Sincerely,
Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Rapid Response: ABAWD 8625683; 8626264; 8626523 - ABAWD
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 8:37:00 AM
Attachments: FNCS 8627327 Blumenthal, Murphy vw edit.03.30.20.docx

---

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 8:36 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Rapid Response: ABAWD 8625683; 8626264; 8626523 - ABAWD

Thank you, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Zach Jacobs
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
<Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:13 PM
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Rapid Response: ABAWD 8625683; 8626264; 8626523 - ABAWD

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted] Thanks.

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 5:38 PM
To: Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; ONeill, Stephen - OBPA, Washington, DC <Stephen.ONeill@usda.gov>
Cc: Norman, Jackie - OBPA, Washington, DC <jackie.norman@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Lester, Susan - OSEC, Washington, DC <Susan.Lester@usda.gov>; Tucker, William - OBPA, Washington, DC <william.tucker@usda.gov>
Subject: Rapid Response: ABAWD 8625683; 8626264; 8626523

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

LETTERS HAVE AN APRIL 1st DEADLINE, SO PLEASE CLEAR TONIGHT OR BY NOON TOMORROW MARCH 31st, thank you!

All— Please clear these 3 congressional and stakeholder letters (b) (5), DPP . We are sending in one email to cut down on all the email traffic. Clear by responding over email.

In an attempt to turn these letters around quickly, please respond to this email **by noon, Tuesday March 31, 2020.**

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Best,
Zach

Zach Jacobs

Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6)

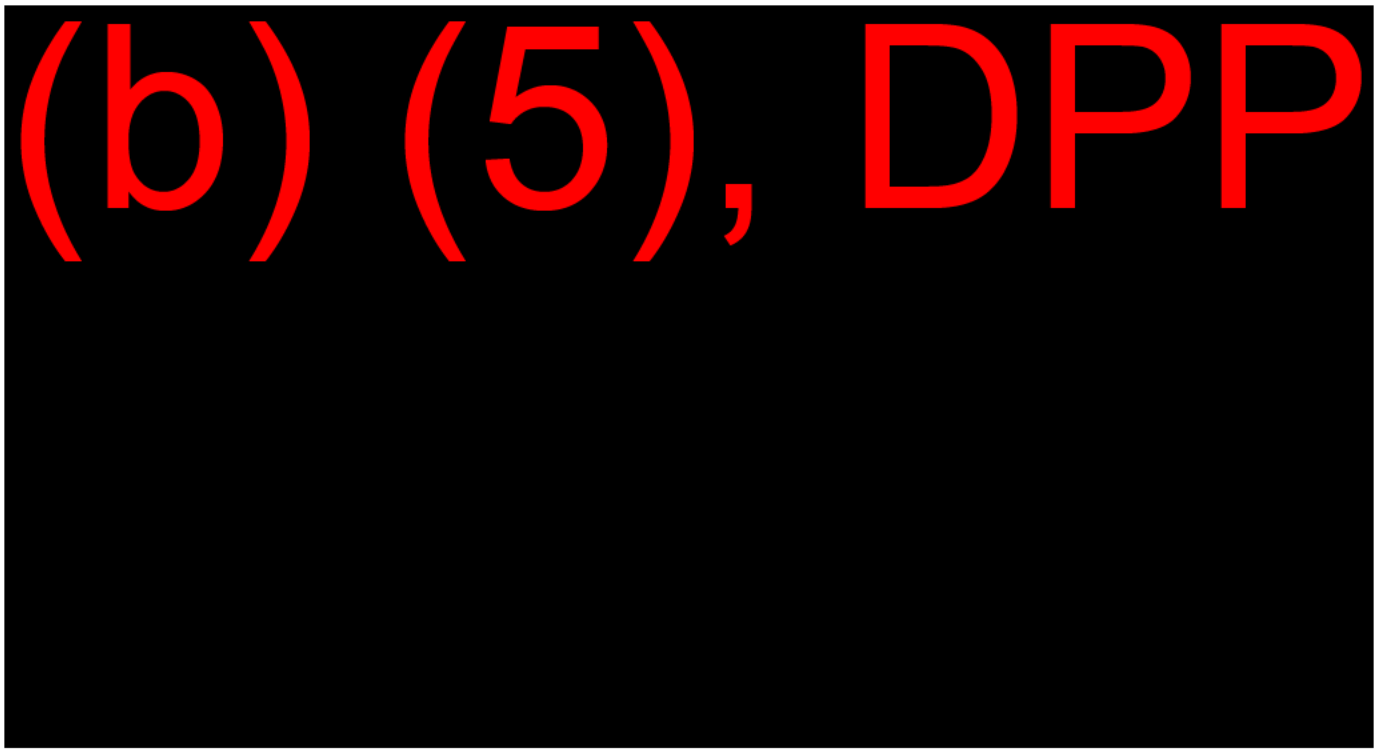
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate

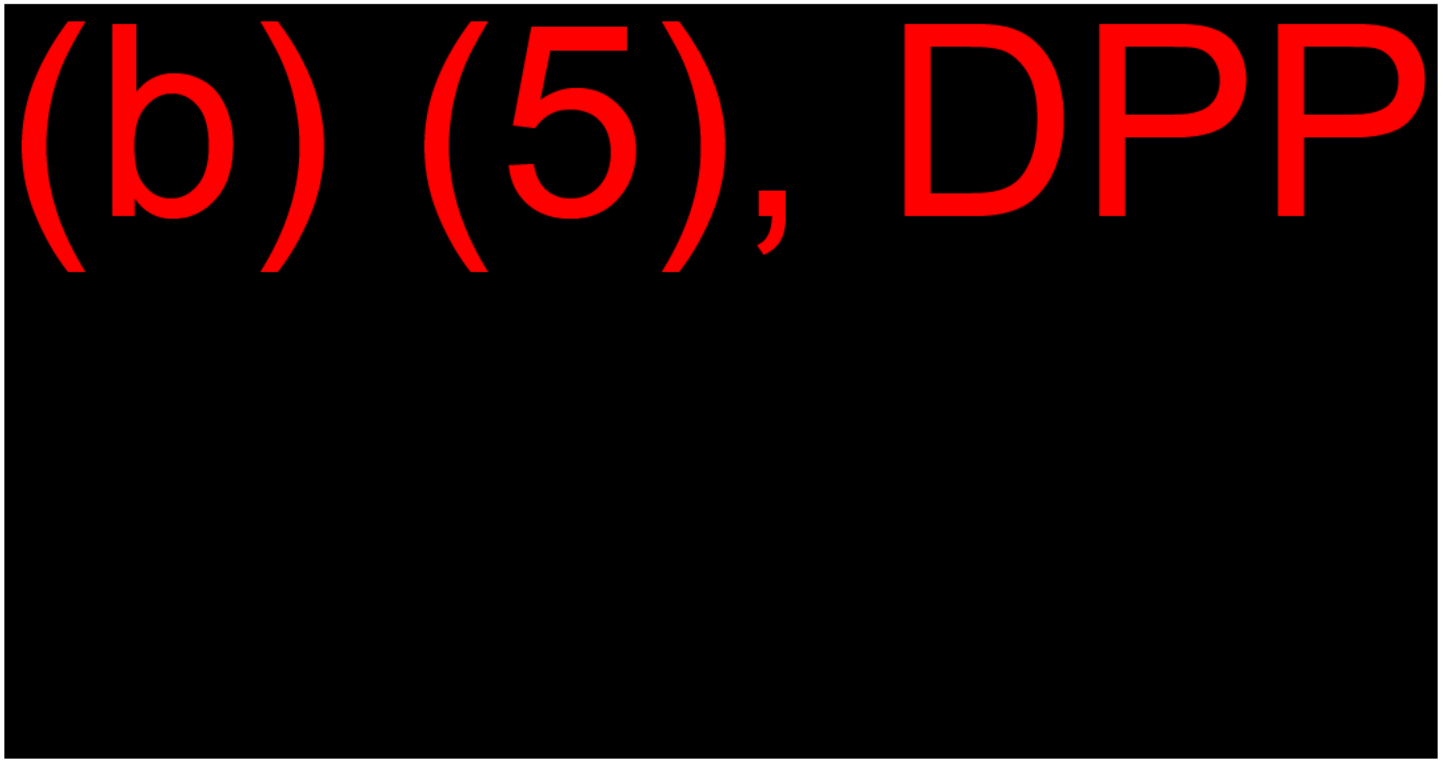
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Noah Jackson (Noah.Jackson@usda.gov)
Subject: RE: Rapid Response: FNCS 8629849; 8629856; 8629873; 8629943
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:06:00 PM
Attachments: FNCS 8629856 Conaway snap online vw edits.03.31.20.docx
FNCS 8629849 Reschenthaler +15 vw edits.03.31.20.docx

I have (b) (5), DPP .

1. **Conaway and Bertram letters** – (b) (5), DPP
2. **Reschenthaler and Cartwright** – (b) (5), DPP

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>; ONeill, Stephen - OBPA, Washington, DC <Stephen.ONeill@usda.gov>; Norman, Jackie - OBPA, Washington, DC <jackie.norman@usda.gov>; Tucker, William - OBPA, Washington, DC <william.tucker@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Lester, Susan - OSEC, Washington, DC <Susan.Lester@usda.gov>
Subject: Rapid Response: FNCS 8629849; 8629856; 8629873; 8629943

Good afternoon,

Attached is a zip file that includes FOUR letters two of which are (b) (5), DPP Please review and clear with edits, if any, using track changes and respond within 24 hours of receipt please!

Thank you,
Zach

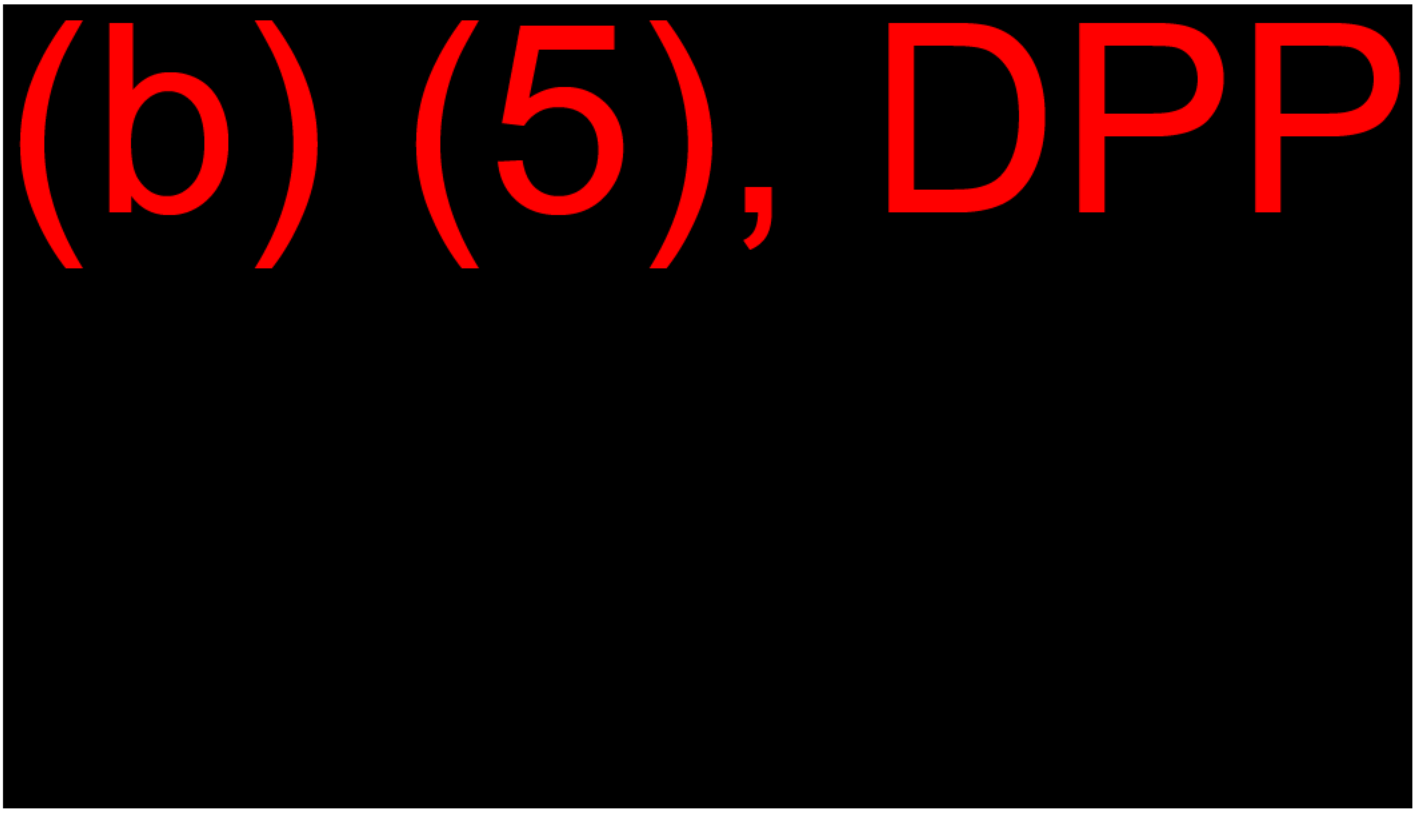
Zach Jacobs
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 1 of 1
USDA-20-1045-A-001993

The Honorable Guy Reschenthaler
U.S. House of Representatives
531 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Reschenthaler:



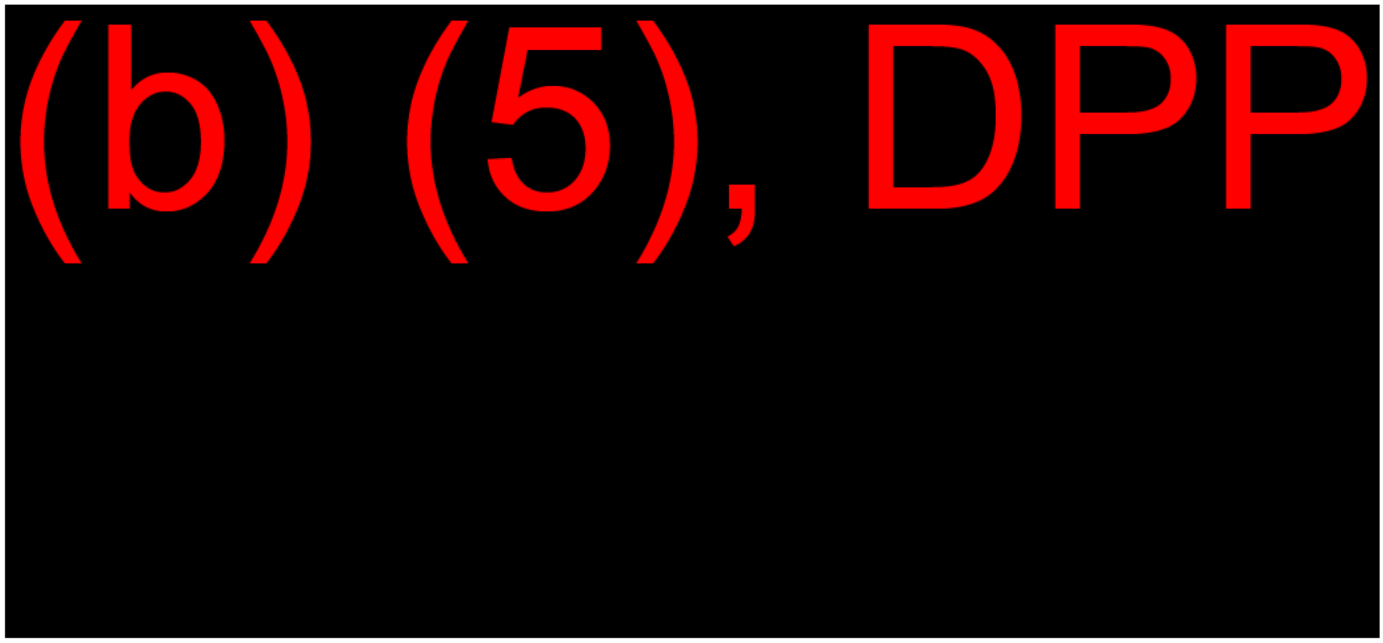
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Dwight Evans
U.S. House of Representatives
1105 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Evans:



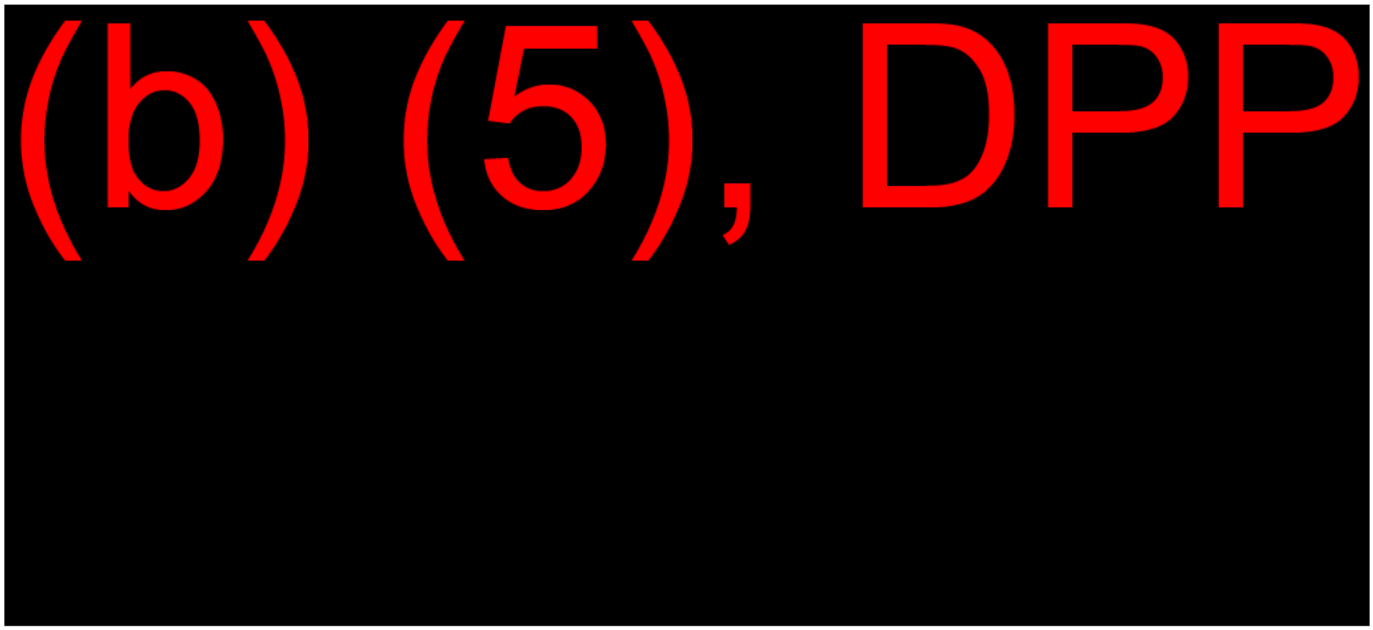
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
1722 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Fitzpatrick:



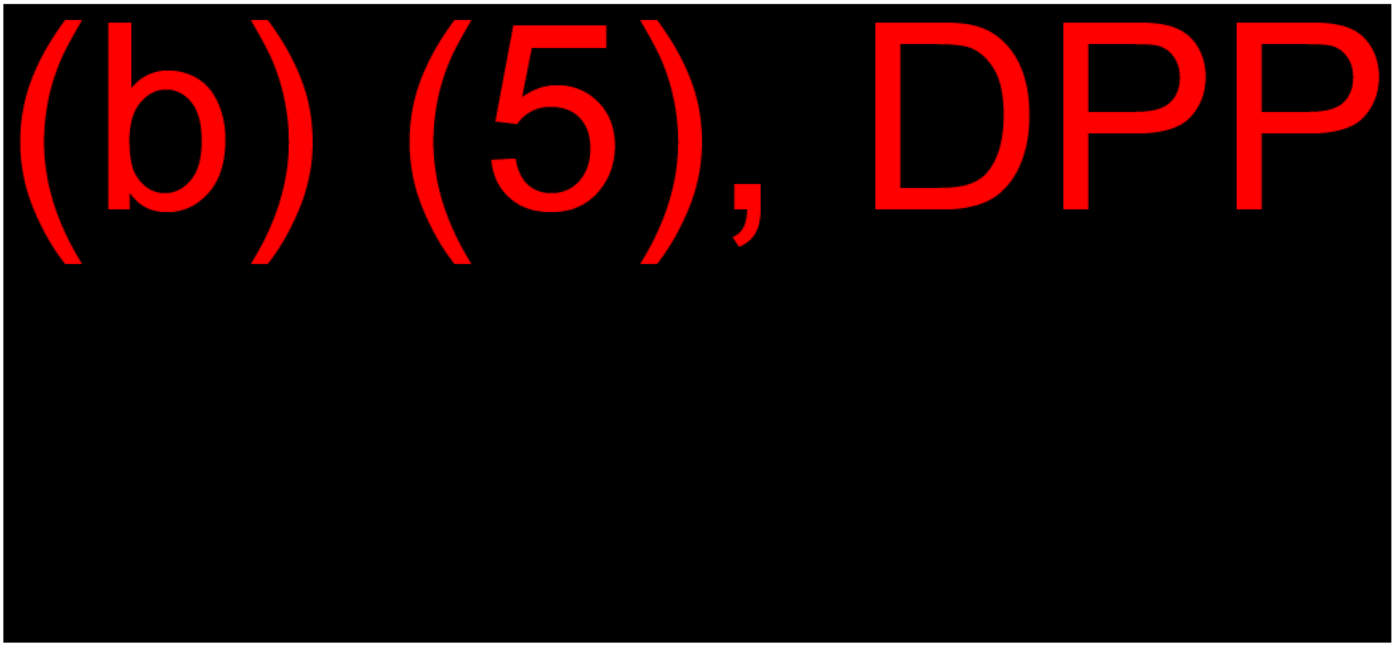
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Brendan F. Boyle
U.S. House of Representatives
1133 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Boyle:



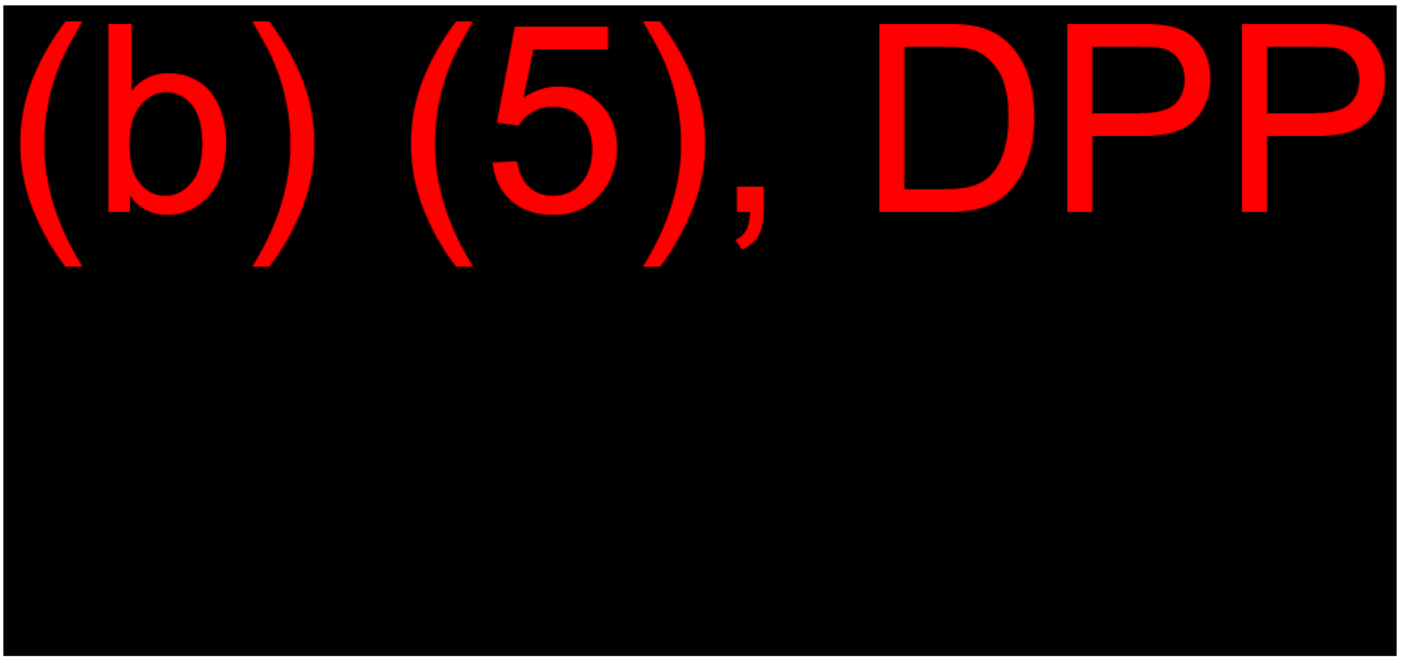
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Madeline Dean
U.S. House of Representatives
129 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dean:



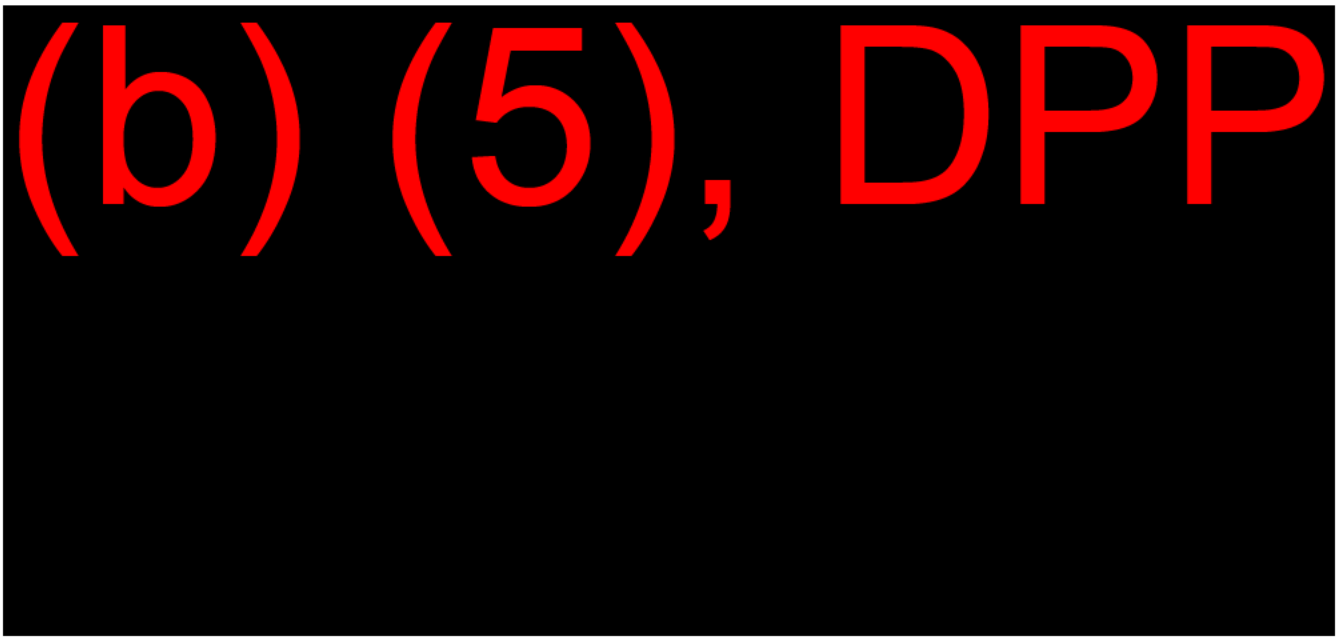
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon
U.S. House of Representatives
1535 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Scanlon:



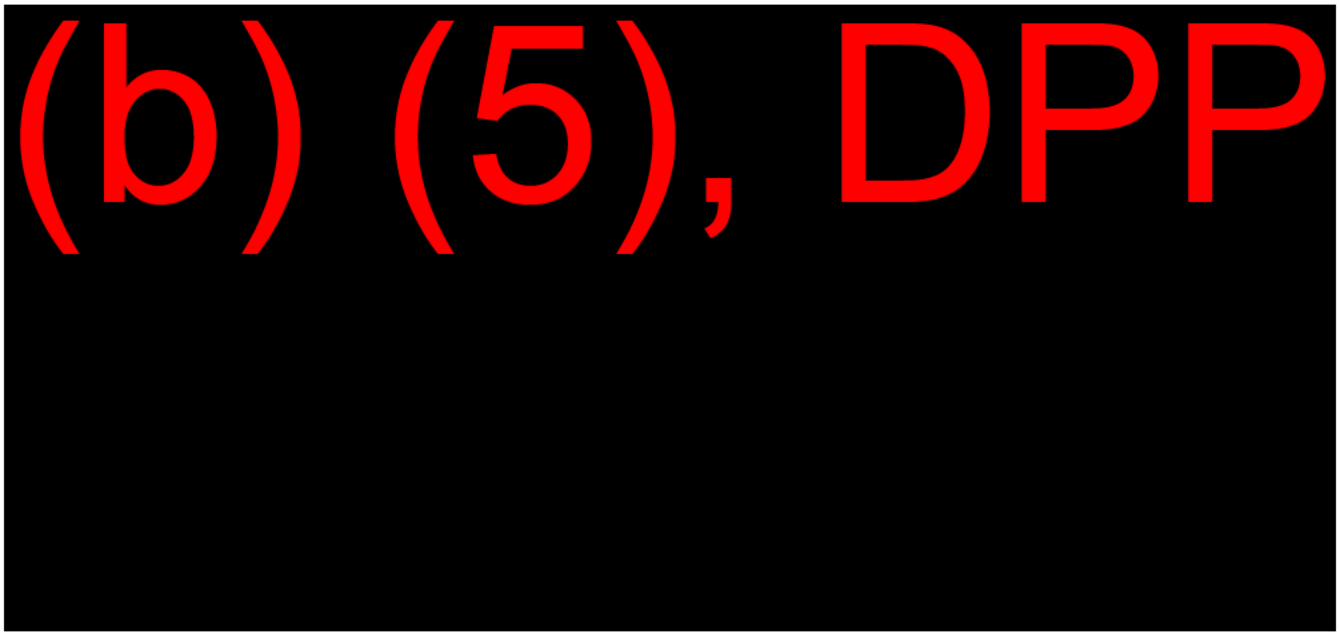
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Chrissy Houlahan
U.S. House of Representatives
1218 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Houlahan:



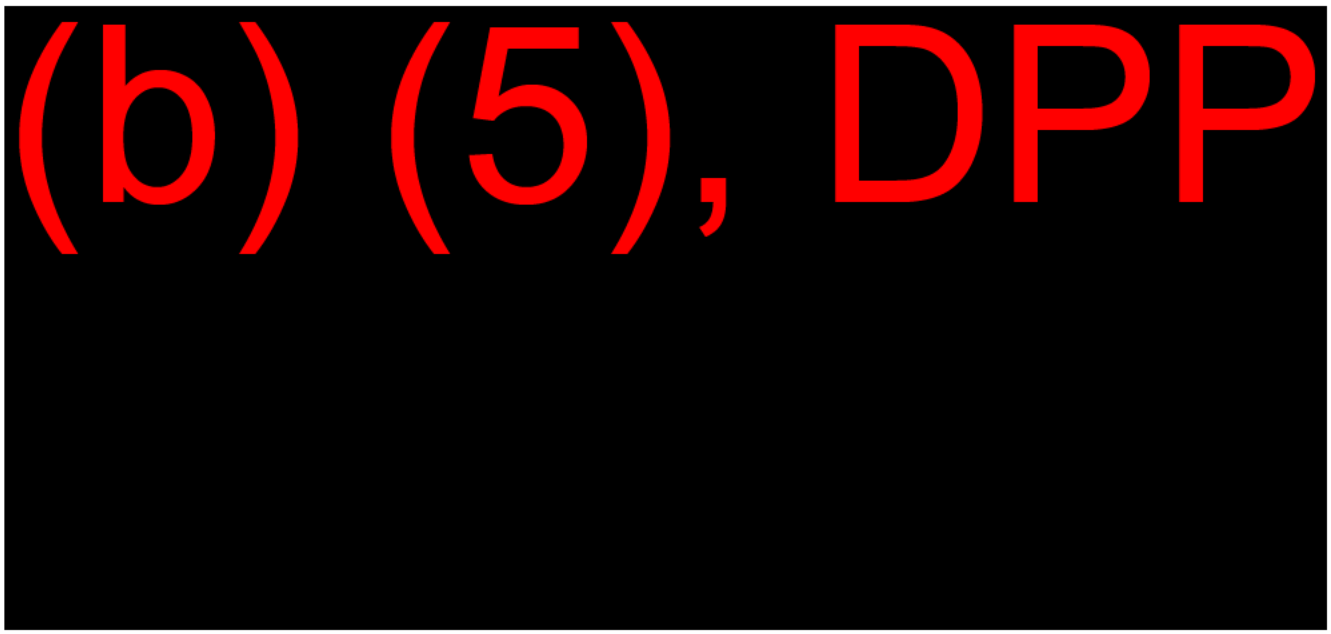
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Dan Meuser
U.S. House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Meuser:



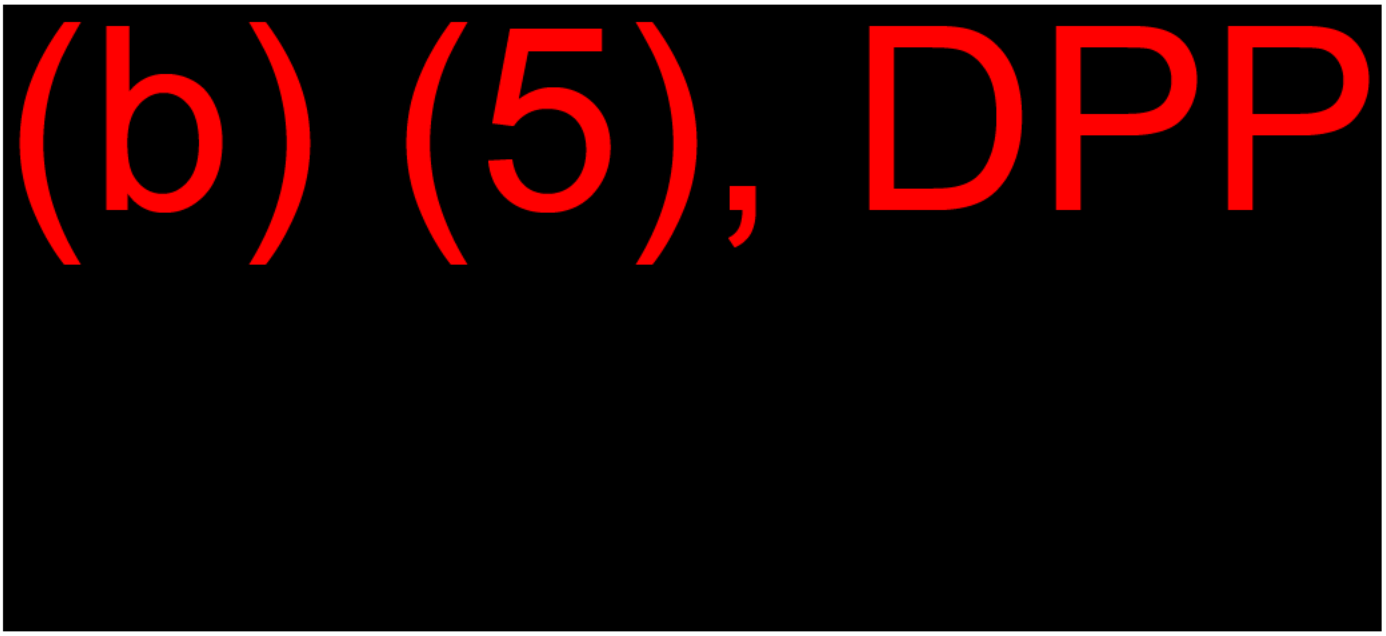
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Scott Perry
U.S. House of Representatives
1207 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Perry:



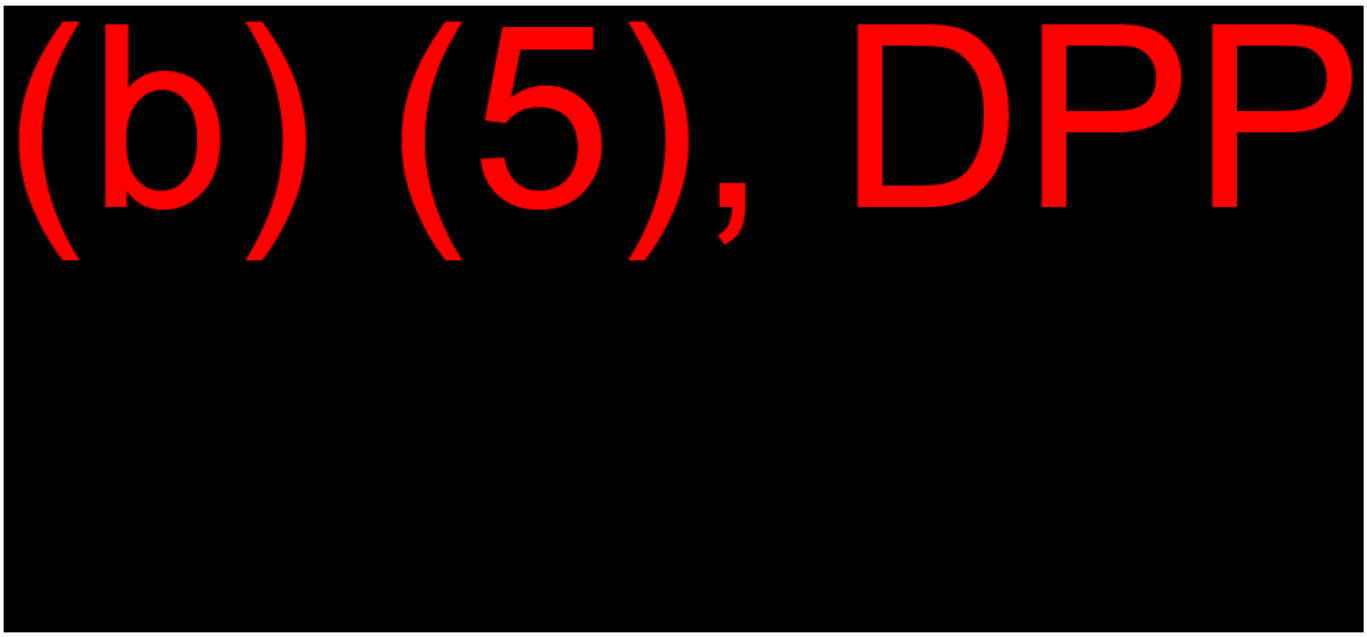
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Lloyd Smucker
U.S. House of Representatives
127 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smucker:



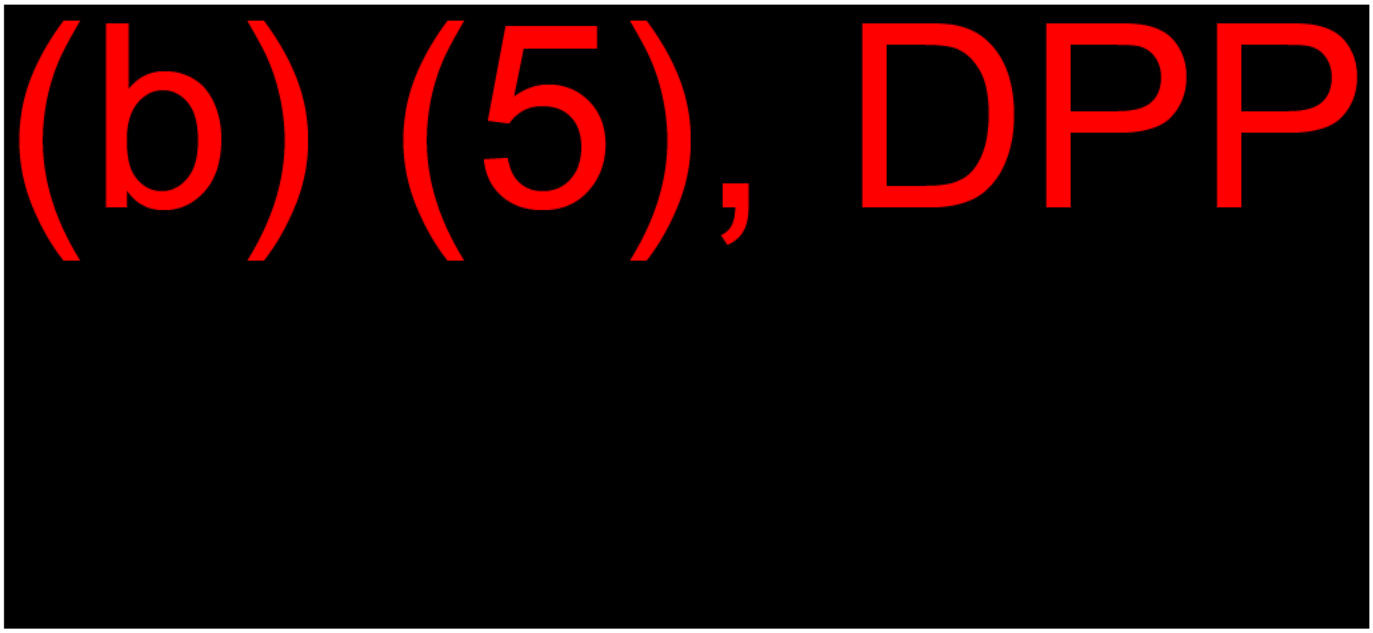
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Fred Keller
U.S. House of Representatives
1717 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Keller:



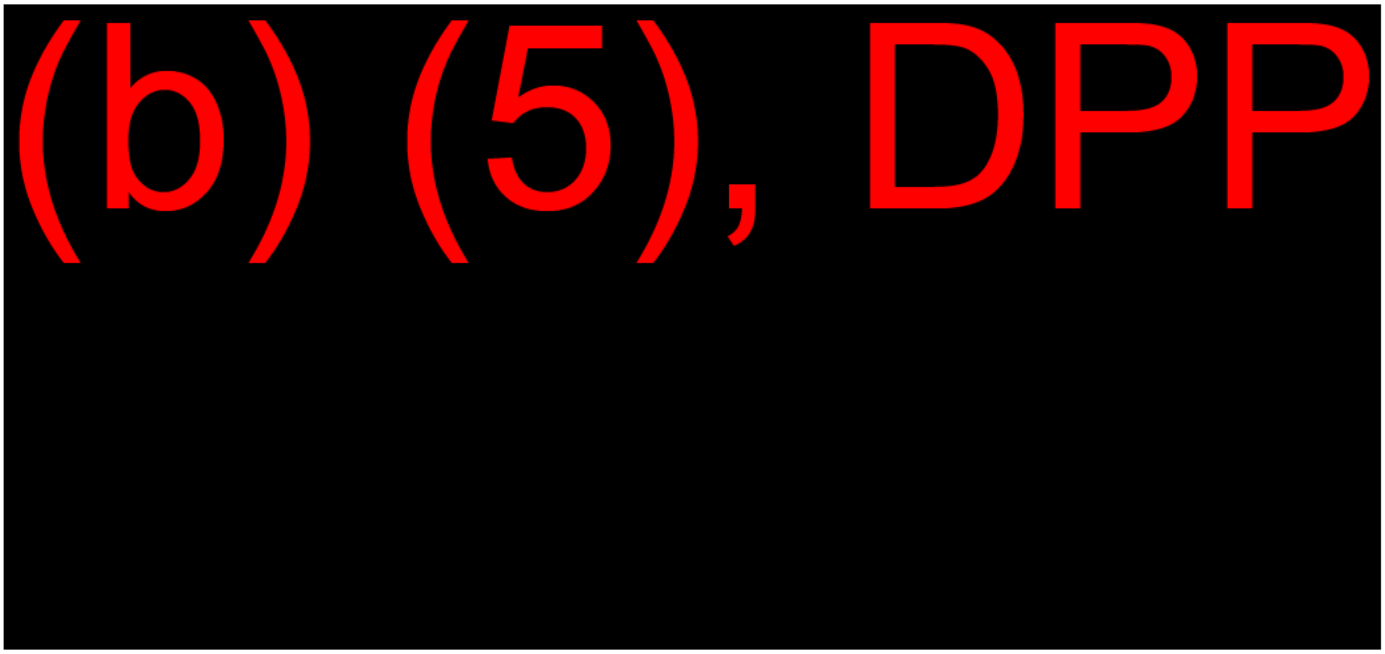
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable John Joyce, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
1337 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Joyce:



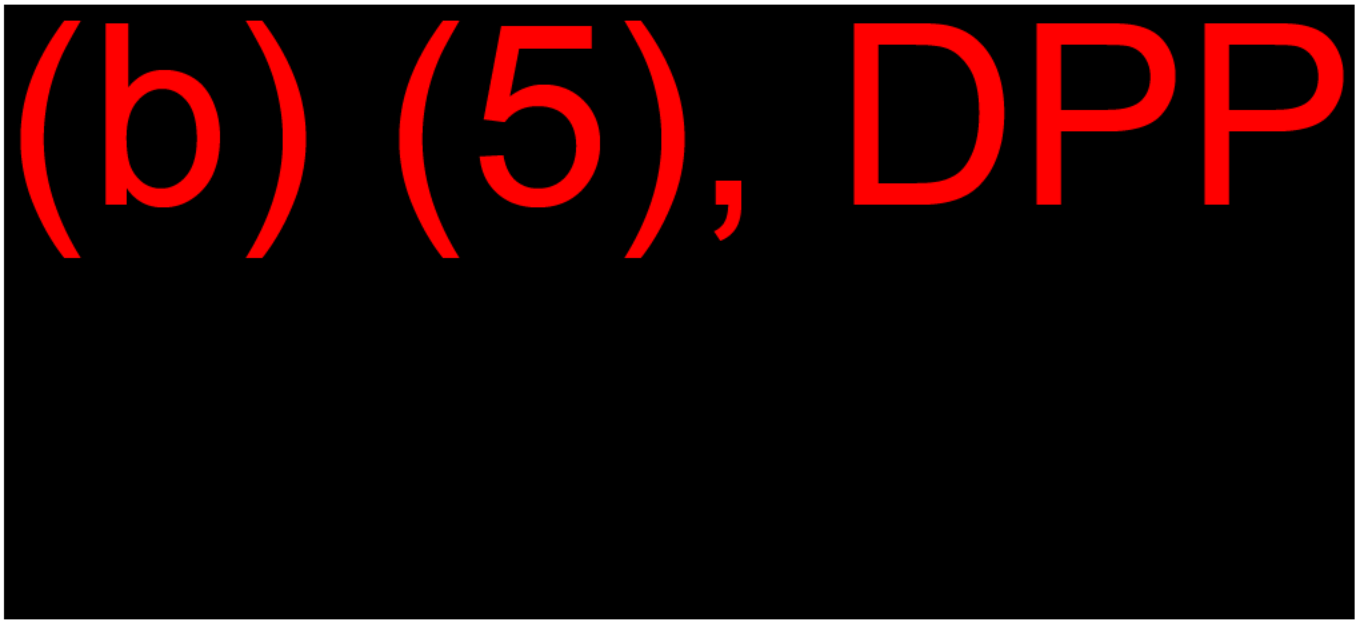
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Mike Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kelly:



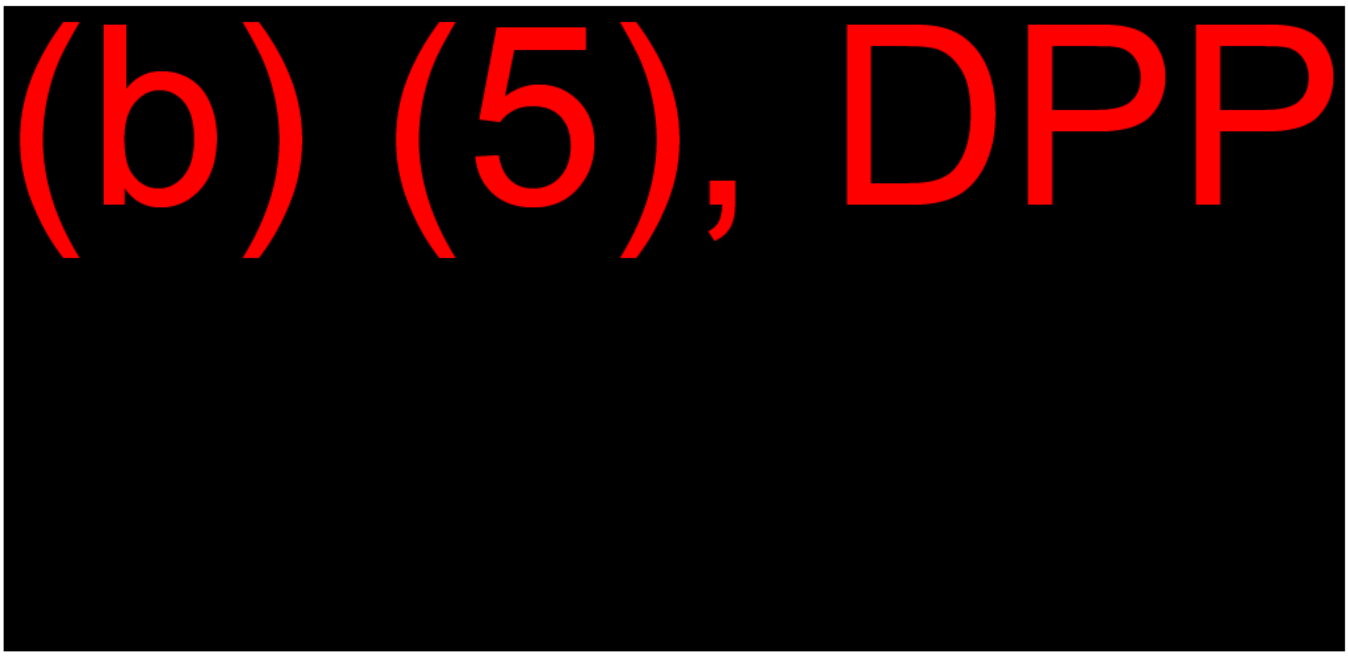
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Connor Lamb
U.S. House of Representatives
1224 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lamb:



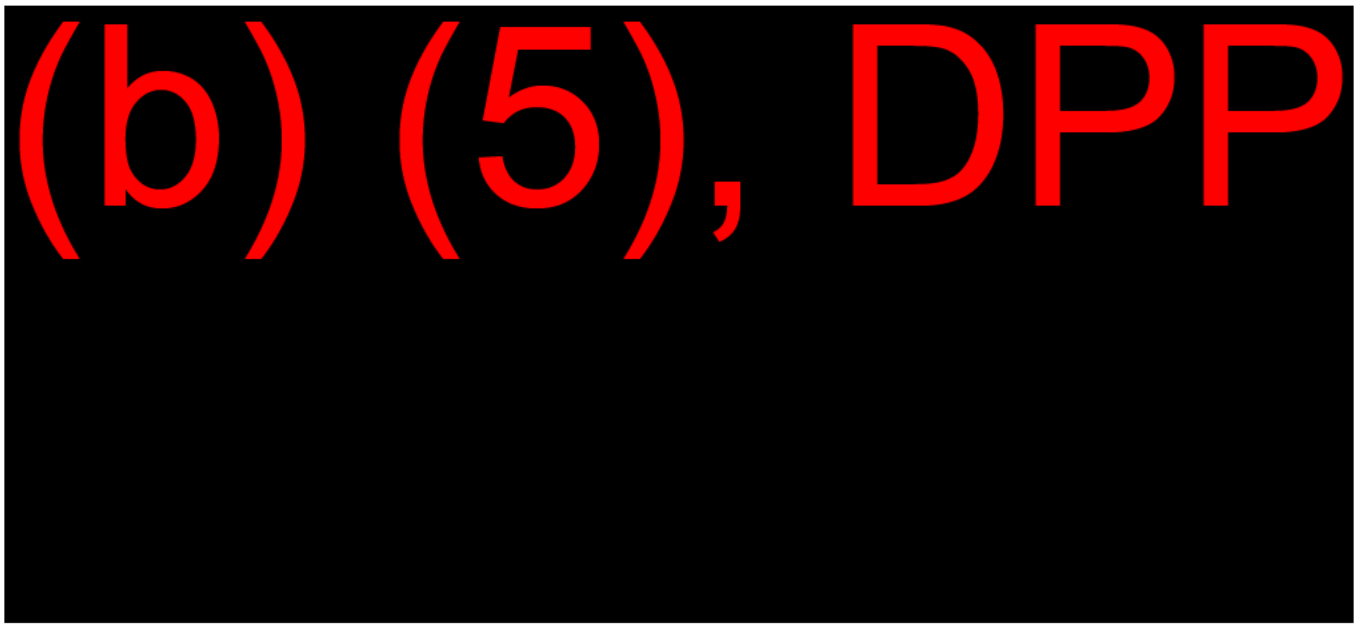
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Mike Doyle
U.S. House of Representatives
306 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Doyle:



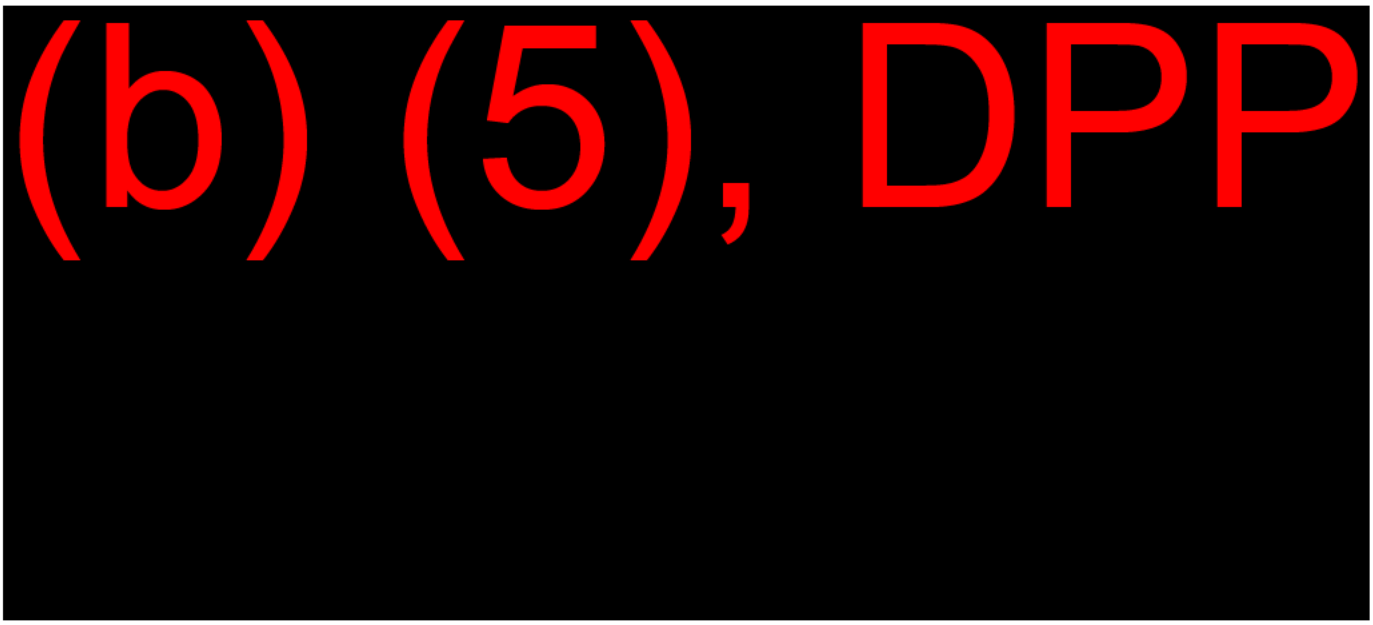
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Glenn "G.T." Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
400 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Thompson:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

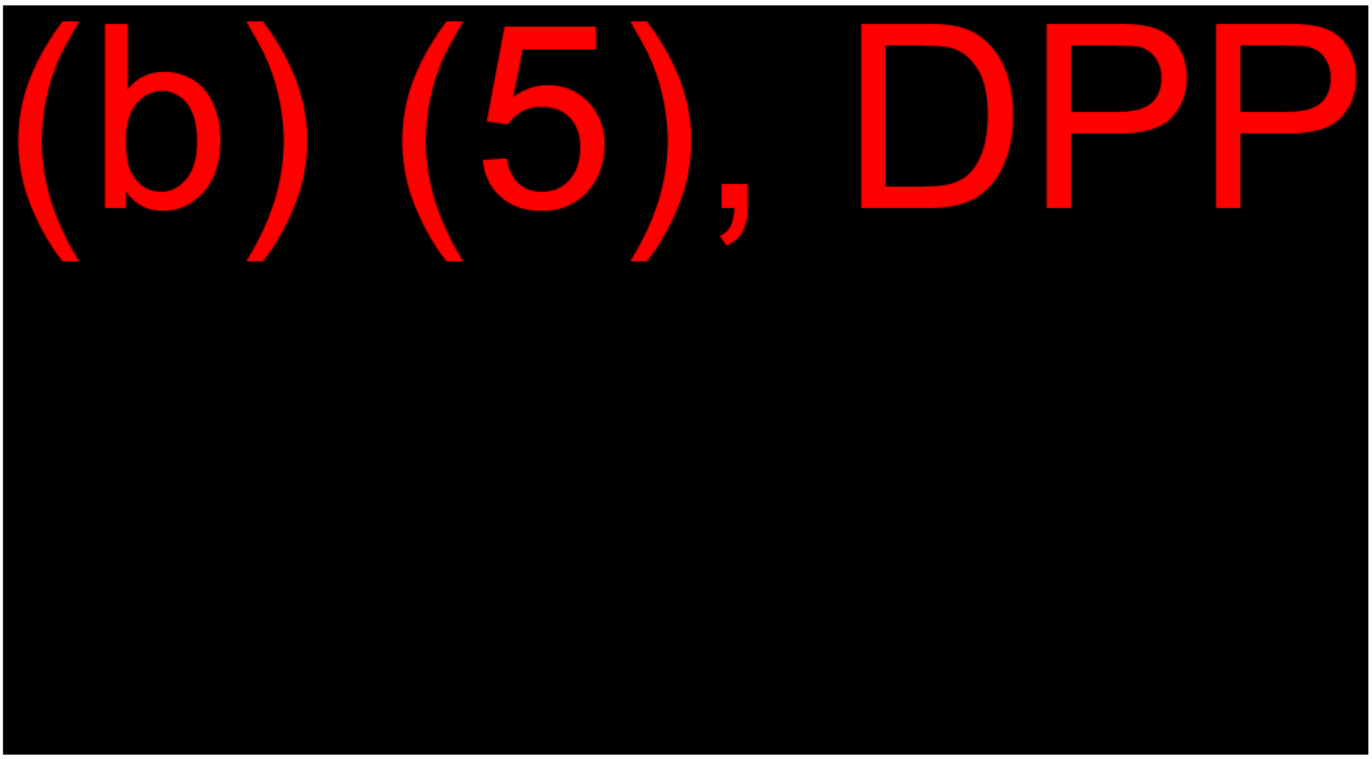
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate

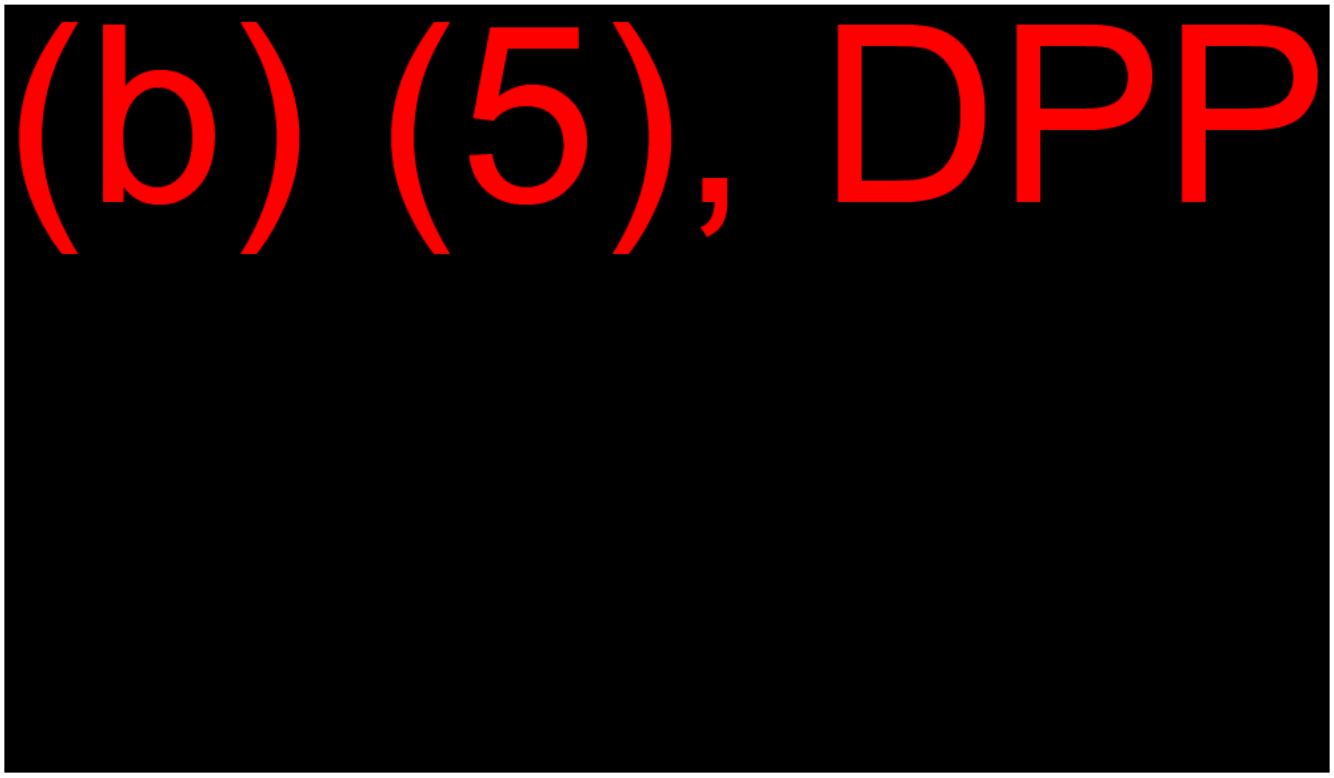
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: RAPID RESPONSE: FNCS 8637448
Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 4:17:00 PM
Attachments: FNCS 8637448 Hirono AD vw edits.05.06.20.docx

My edits attached. Thanks.

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 2:22 PM
To: Pick, Rachel - OGC, Washington, DC <rachel.pick@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>; ONeill, Stephen - OBPA, Washington, DC <Stephen.ONeill@usda.gov>; Norman, Jackie - OBPA, Washington, DC <jackie.norman@usda.gov>; Tucker, William - OBPA, Washington, DC <william.tucker@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RAPID RESPONSE: FNCS 8637448

Hi all,

Please review and clear the following RAPID RESPONSE letter within 24 hours!

Thanks,
Chris

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 3:18 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: RAPID RESPONSE: FNCS 8637448

Attached.

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 2:54 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RAPID RESPONSE: FNCS 8637448

Hi guys,

Please review and clear this rapid response letter within 24 hours!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Let me know if you have any questions,
Chris

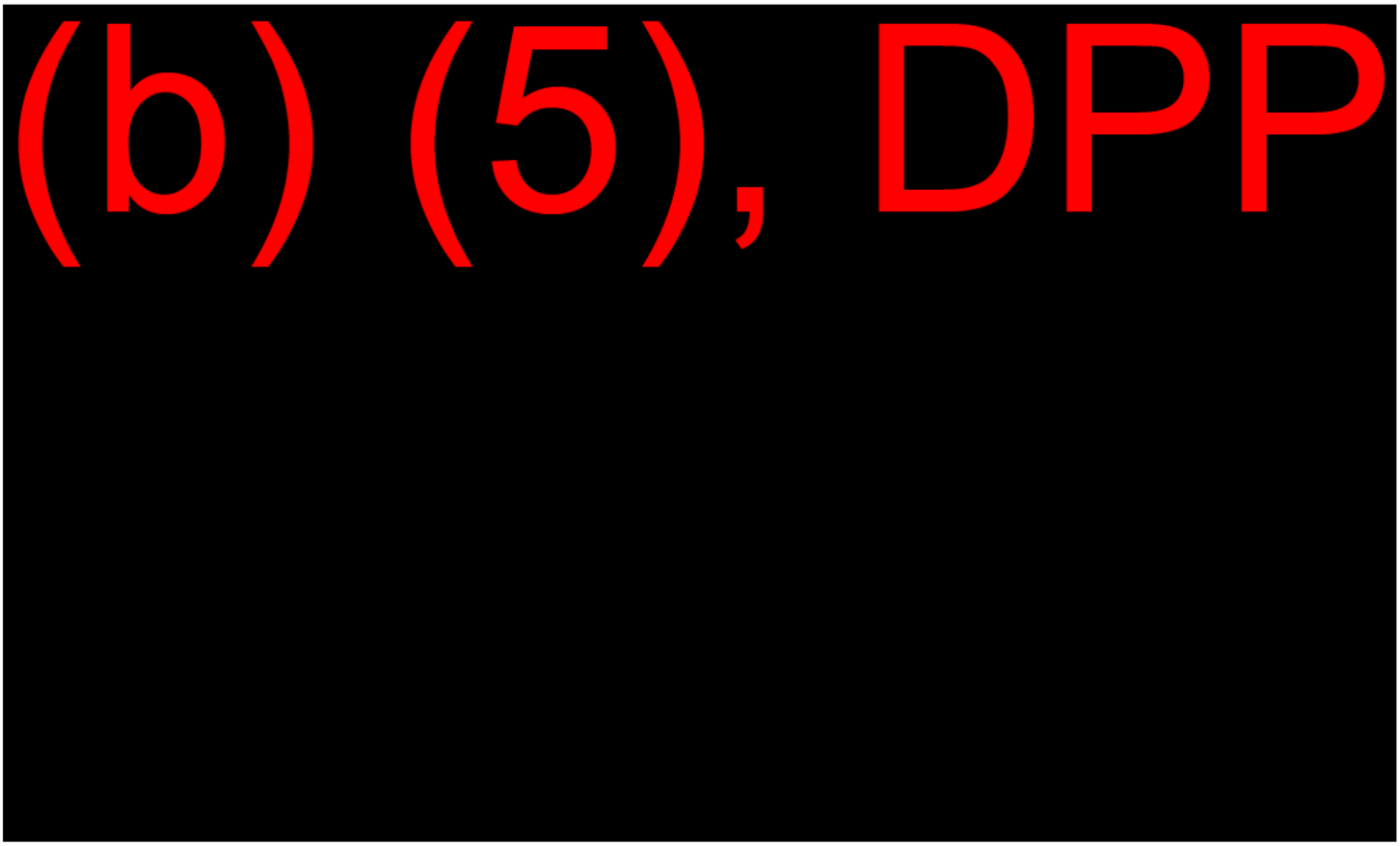
Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Macy Hirono
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hirono:



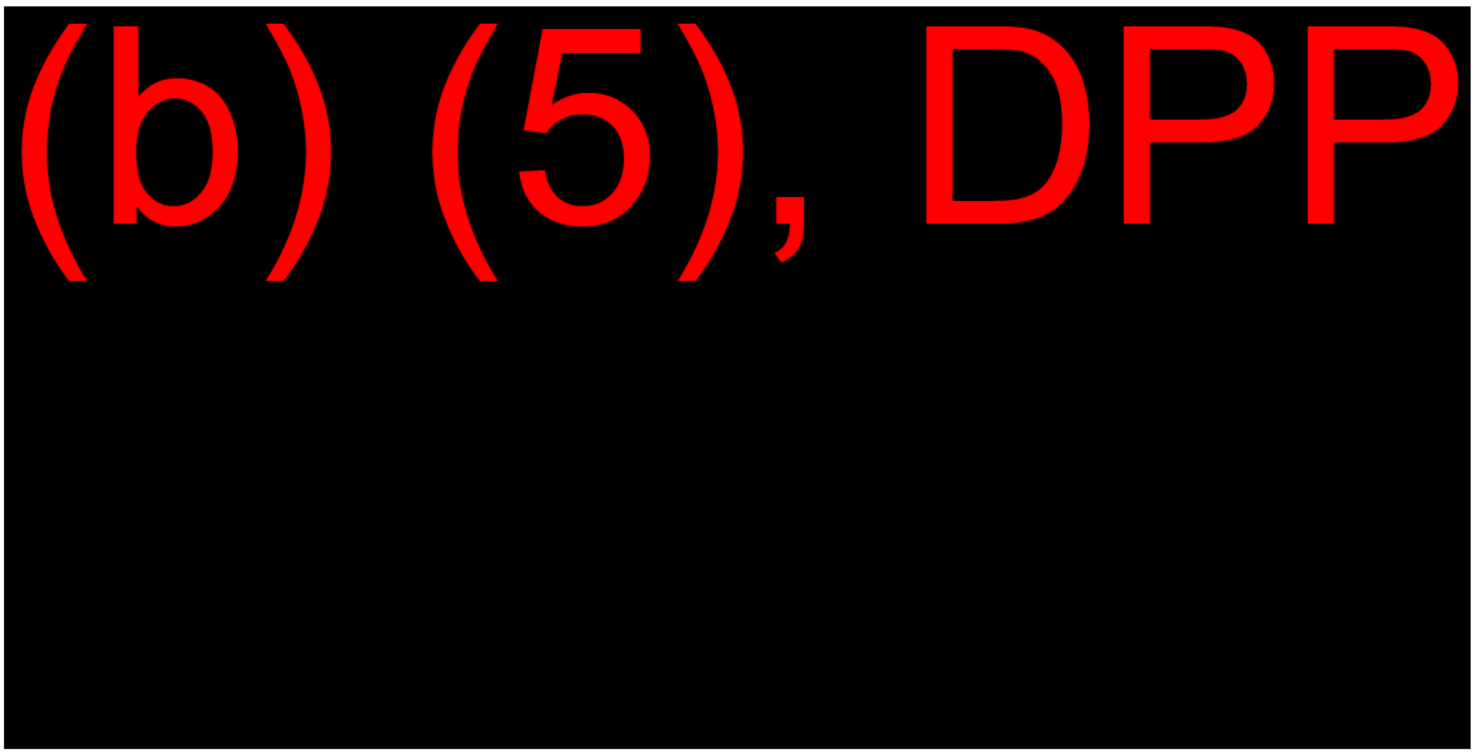
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harris:



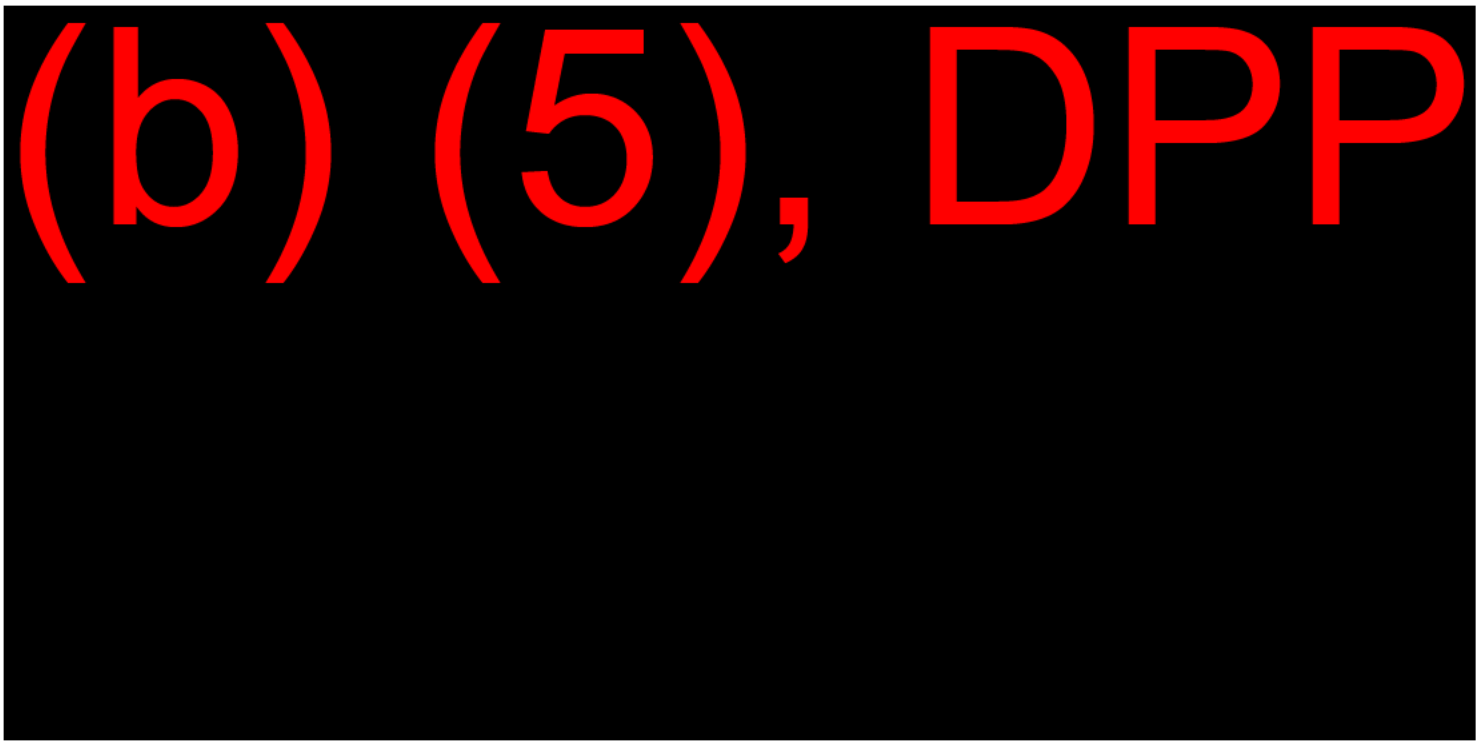
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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

Dear Senator Murphy:



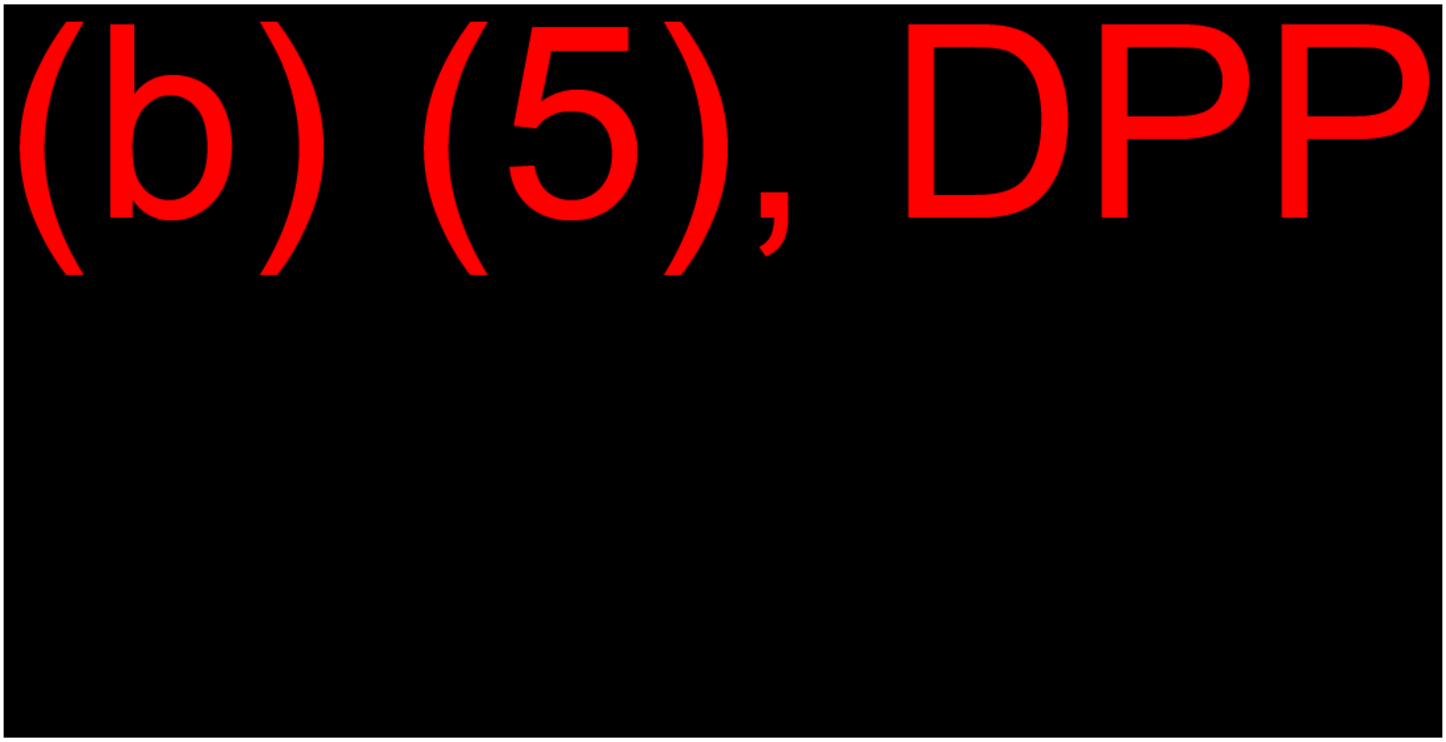
Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:



Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rickhoff, Hans
Subject: Re: RE:
Date: Friday, May 1, 2020 9:50:26 PM

Hi Hans -

We have not had any communication from the Governor's Office on this issue. The request came from staff at DHHS to staff at our regional office. I know they have communicated back to the point of contact at DHHS.

Thanks,
Brandon

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Rickhoff, Hans (b) (6) @akingump.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 9:42:46 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: RE:

Brandon, again great to connect. My cell is (b) (6) (b) (6)

Thanks also for your insight. Quick question-have those constraints been conveyed to the Governor's office? Thanks again!

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 8:24 PM
To: Rickhoff, Hans (b) (6) @akingump.com>
Subject: Re:

EXTERNAL Email

Hi Hans -

Thanks for reaching out. I find that most Texans are just visiting, but many never find the right sale on return tickets. I am on my second visit - 4 years the first round and working on 3 this round. I attended a Tech Law alumni event when we lived here last time and met a handful of folks, but haven't connected with any since we moved back. I look forward to meeting you and hope we can connect in-person soon.

The restaurant meals program in SNAP is statutorily authorized only for seniors, disabled and homeless recipients and we were not provided discretion to expand that in either of the COVID bills. Under those constraints, it is difficult to administer and only 3 states have chosen to do so.

Thanks again for reaching out. My cell is (b) (6)

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Brandon

Brandon Lipps
Deputy Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
United States Department of Agriculture

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From: Rickhoff, Hans (b) (6) @akingump.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:39:59 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject:

Hi Brandon, I wanted to send you an email with my contact information as there are not many other TTU Law alumni here in DC and your name came across my LinkedIn feed. My contact information is below. I have been visiting DC for almost 17 years and eventually will make it back to Texas. Once this is all over I would welcome the opportunity to connect in -person. There are a couple of TTU law alumni here in DC and we get together every once and awhile. I only know of one other working in Agriculture here in DC.

I also wanted to see if you might have any insight into a Texas specific issue understanding it may not be in your issue portfolio. We represent RBI (Burger King, Popeyes, others) and just want to see where USDA is still contemplating the waiver request from Texas to move forward to allow Texas Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program recipients to use their benefits at take out and drive thru restaurants.
https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-sends-letter-seeking-permission-for-snap-recipients-to-use-their-benefits-at-take-out-and-drive-thru-restaurants

Again, glad we are connected now and hope you are well! Thanks, Hans

Hans Christopher Rickhoff
AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP
2001 K Street N.W. | Washington, DC 20006 | USA | Direct: +1 (b) (6) | Internal: (b) (6)
Fax: +1 202.887.4288 | (b) (6) @akingump.com | akingump.com | Bio

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This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal

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penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.
The information contained in this e-mail message is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the recipient(s) named above. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail, and delete the original message.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: Re: Request to (b) (5), DPP
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 5:08:33 PM

(b) (5), DPP

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From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 5:04:52 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Request to (b) (5), DPP .

(b) (5), DPP
? Thanks

From: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:15 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Cc: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>
Subject: Request to (b) (5), DPP .

Pam,

As we discussed, SNAP would like (b) (5), DPP

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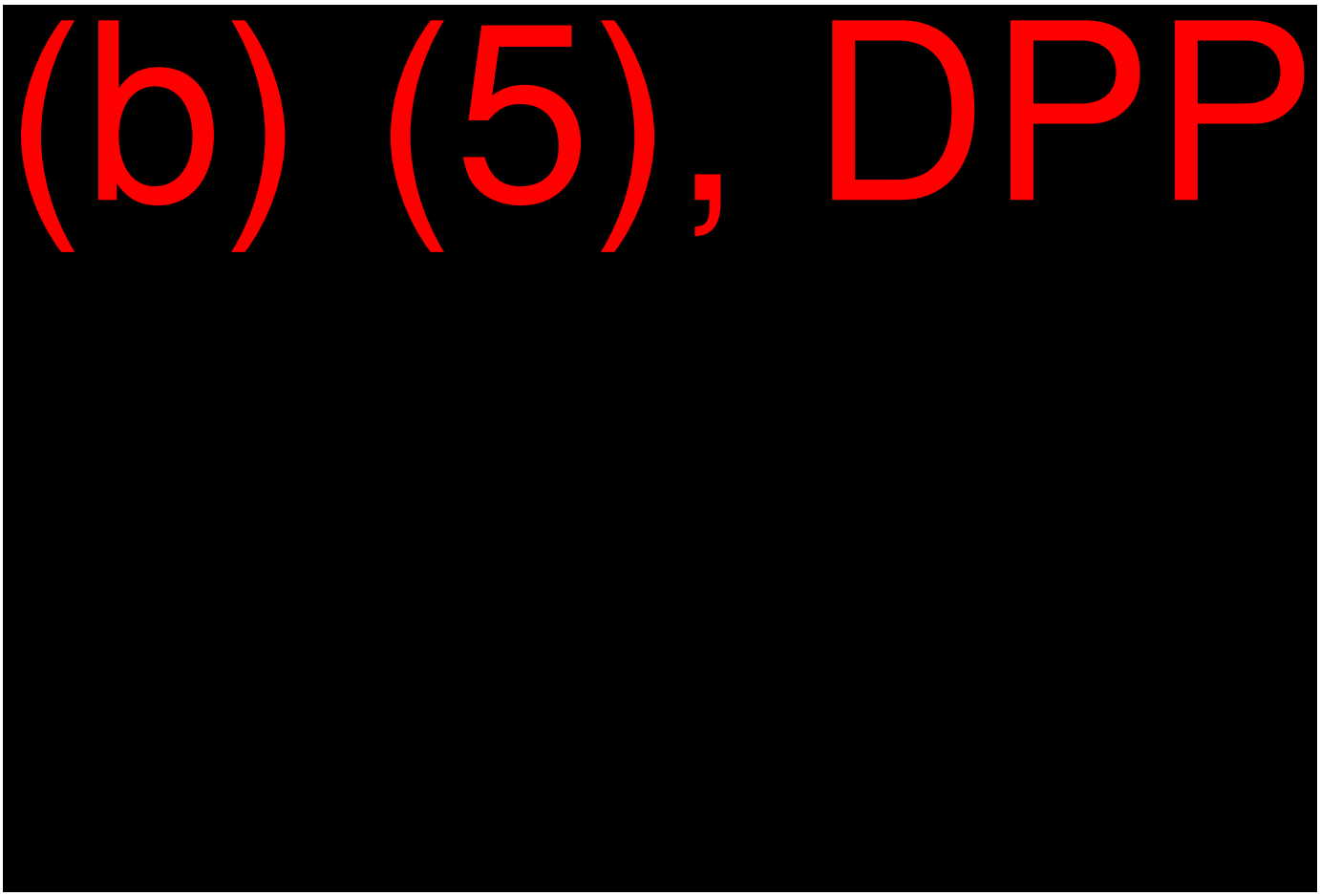
(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Thanks,

Jessica

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Corley, Shiela - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS
Subject: Re: RESPONSE NEEDED ASAP: (b) (5), DPP
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:53:02 PM
Attachments: image001.png

(b) (5), DPP

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From: Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:51:28 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Subject: RESPONSE NEEDED ASAP: (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

Shiela Corley
Chief of Staff

Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 703-305-2478
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Secretary Perdue alias email address

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Rhode Island P-EBT Approval
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 11:00:07 AM

Ok

-SP

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 9:09:45 AM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Rhode Island P-EBT Approval

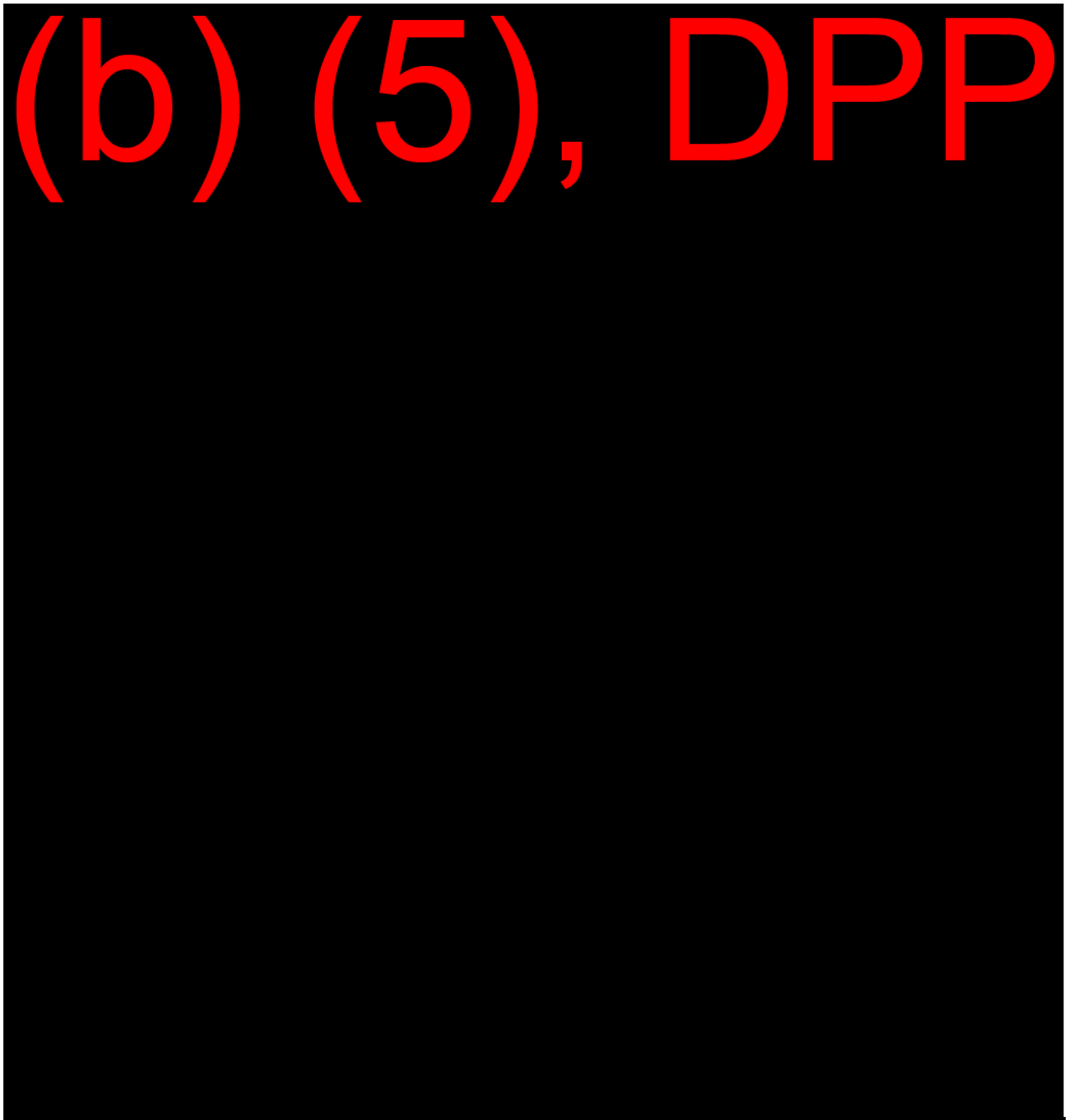
Sir –

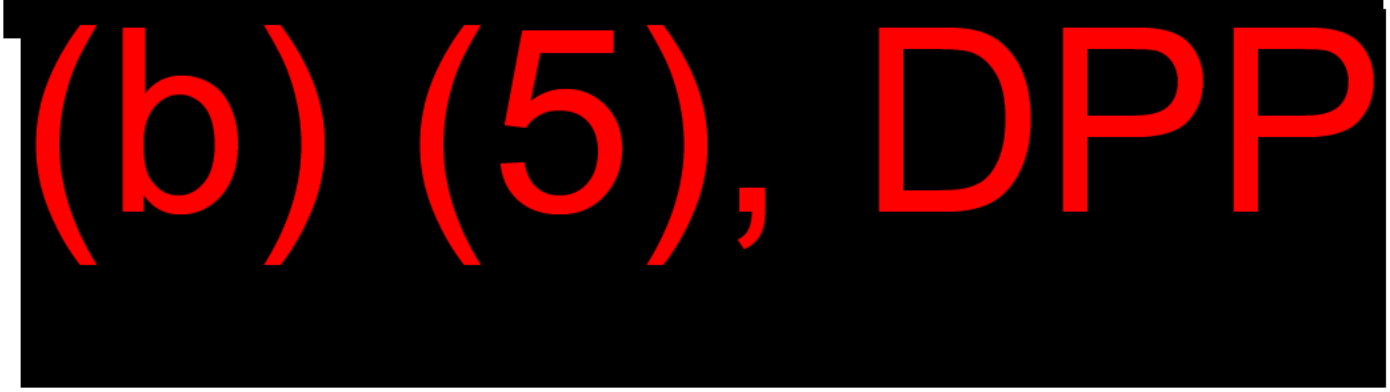
Below is the press release we'd like to send out at some point today. Please let me know if you have any issues with it or if it is good to go.

Thanks,
Meghan

(b) (5), DPP

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

#

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 8:47 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Rhode Island P-EBT Approval

Ok

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 8:40:56 AM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: Rhode Island P-EBT Approval

Sir,

FNS received an approvable plan from Rhode Island to operate Pandemic EBT (P-EBT). This will be the second approval after Michigan's last week. As a brief reminder, through P-EBT, a state can load money onto an EBT card for children who would normally receive free or reduced school meals.

OC will be sending you a press release for your approval shortly.

Thank you,
Campbell

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Rural Health Remarks
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 5:31:00 PM
Attachments: DepSec Rural Health Remarks 5.12.20, slc edits.docx

Email address withheld pursuant to (b) (6) is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

A few suggested changes in track changes

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6)
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

From: Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 1:05 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Subject: Rural Health Remarks

Hey Sir,

Attached are your remarks and the agenda for the rural health webinar tomorrow afternoon. Just FYI both Kyle and Campbell cleared these.

Please let me know if you need anything else!
Kiki

Kiki Adams
Office of the Deputy Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Deputy Secretary Censky Remarks – Rural Health Webinar
Virtual Event: May 12, 2020; 4:00pm ET

Theme:	Rural Health and COVID-19
Audience:	100-150 Health Care Community actors and USDA Stakeholders
About:	You will deliver 5-10 minutes of opening remarks following HHS Deputy Secretary Hargan.

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: RUSH - FNS Release - CA COVID-19 & Schools
Date: Saturday, March 7, 2020 10:57:32 AM

(b) (5), DPP

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 10:40:58 AM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: RUSH - FNS Release - CA COVID-19 & Schools

Good morning, Rebekah and Michawn,

Below is a new FNS release for CA. I for one prefer (b) (5), DPP

Thanks,
Dirk

From: "DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Date: Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 10:29:59 AM
To: "Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC" <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>, "Hardison, Brooke - FNS" <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>, "Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC" <michawn.rich@usda.gov>, "Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC" <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: "Miller, Pam - FNS" <pam.miller@usda.gov>, "Corley, Shiela - FNS" <shiela.corley@usda.gov>, "Datlow, Lindsay - FNS" <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>, "Lucas, Richard - FNS" <richard.lucas@usda.gov>, "Kimosh, Janna - FNS" <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: RUSH - FNS Release - CA COVID-19 & Schools

Yes, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA

From: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 10:28:37 AM
To: Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: RUSH - FNS Release - CA COVID-19 & Schools

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] Thanks!

From: "Hardison, Brooke - FNS" <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Date: Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 10:23:13 AM
To: "Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC" <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>, "Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC" <michawn.rich@usda.gov>, "DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>, "Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC" <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: "Miller, Pam - FNS" <pam.miller@usda.gov>, "Corley, Shiela - FNS" <shiela.corley@usda.gov>, "Datlow, Lindsay - FNS" <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>, "Lucas, Richard - FNS" <richard.lucas@usda.gov>, "Kimosh, Janna - FNS" <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>
Subject: RUSH - FNS Release - CA COVID-19 & Schools

Please see attached, and below, for a press release on FNS waivers for schools in CA dealing with COVID-19. We are requesting concurrent OC/FNCS clearance. The state is being notified now.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

46890CC6

Brooke Hardison
Communications Director
Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 703.605.0229
Cell: (b) (6)
Email: Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov

USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children in California Amid Coronavirus Outbreak

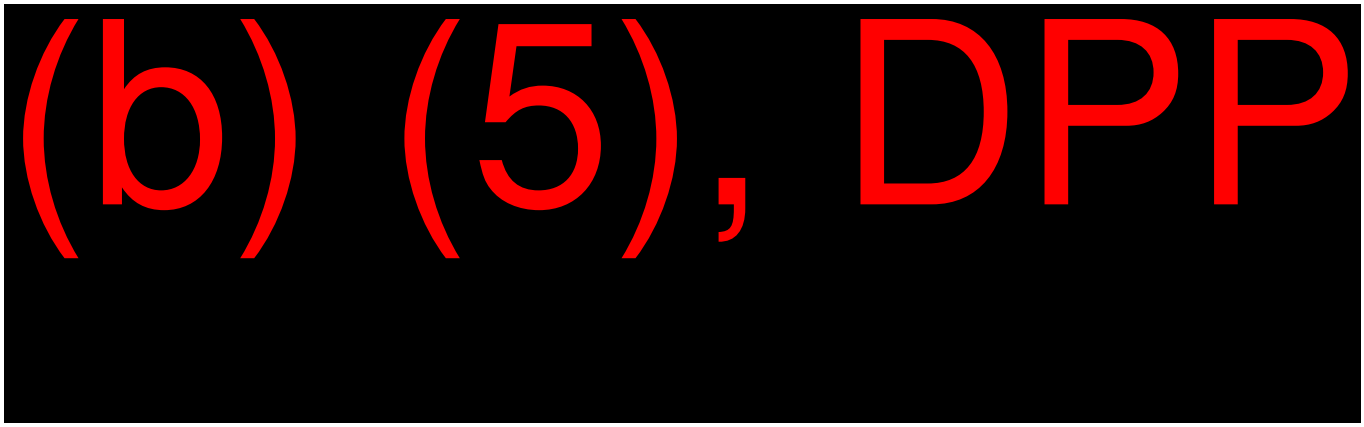
Release & Contact Info

Press Release
Release No. 0xxx.20

Contact: USDA Press
Email: press@oc.usda.gov

WASHINGTON, March X, 2020 -- (b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



#

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS; Kriviski, Diane - FNS; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: (b) (5), DPP, ACP
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 8:28:26 PM
Attachments: image001.png

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

[redacted]

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From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 8:17:22 PM
To: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

From: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 7:57 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

[redacted]

Thanks,

Jessica

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Shahin, Jessica - FNS
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 7:48 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

Pam,

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

Jessica

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 7:35 PM
To: Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

Hi all
(b) (5), DPP, ACP
Thanks

From: Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 7:25 PM
To: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

Pam – (b) (5), DPP, ACP [redacted]

From: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 7:19 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP [redacted]

Thanks,

Jessica

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 6:23 PM
To: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: Re (b) (5), DPP, ACP

All -
(b) (5), DPP, ACP [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C.; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS; Kriviski, Diane - FNS; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 6:05 PM
To: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

Jessica et al-
(b) (5), DPP, ACP Thanks!

From: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 6:02 PM
To: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C.; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS; Kriviski, Diane - FNS; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

Thanks,

Jessica

From: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 6:01 PM
To: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

[redacted]

Ralph Linden
Acting Deputy General Counsel
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Room 102W
Washington DC 20250
202-720-3351

From: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 5:57:27 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Hyatt, Kristen - FNS <kristen.hyatt@usda.gov>; Applebaum, Margaret - FNS <margaret.applebaum@usda.gov>; Kriviski, Diane - FNS <diane.kriviski@usda.gov>; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS <latisha.savoy@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks,

Jessica

From: LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C. <ralph.linden@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 5:44 PM
To: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: (b) (5), DPP, ACP

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

Ralph Linden
Acting Deputy General Counsel
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Room 102W
Washington DC 20250



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: James Kelly
Subject: RE: SNAP - Holy Week
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 1:24:00 PM

Thanks, Jim. Exciting news on the foundations! I look forward to visiting further soon!

From: James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: James Kelly <JKelly@covenanthouse.org>
Subject: Re: SNAP - Holy Week

Brandon,
I hope you and your family had a blessed Easter. Your kids are at such a great age.
This Easter season is a daily reminder that we are a resurrection people. The next couple of months are so critically important to the rebirth of our world, our nation, and our local communities. I am confident that God will guide and direct us.
I agree with you 100% that SNAP E&T can play a major role in the recovery, retraining, and rebuilding of our workforce. For example, although jobs in the hospitality industry are projected to shrink, employment in healthcare and hospitals should grow significantly. You spoke of thinking outside the box and possible new partnerships. I happen to mention to the Kellogg Foundation our work together. They were thrilled to hear. They have been assisting other non-profits in Mississippi who are SNAP E&T recipients. On a totally different front, the United Health Foundation just committed to giving away $50 million dollars, their ears perked up when I mentioned our partnership. They would be interested in learning more...
I am very excited about rolling out SNAP E&T to all our Covenant Houses once we restart our economy. In person or virtual, whatever works best for you and your people.
Lastly, I would like to give your two questions some more thought, prayer, and discernment.
Please take care of yourself, your family and your team. We are just at the beginning of this journey.
My continued prayers,
Peace,
Jim

--
James R. Kelly
Executive Director
Covenant House New Orleans
611 N. Rampart St. NOLA 70112
Office: 504-584-1102 | Cell: (b) (6)

Covenant House is on the front lines of the pandemic 24/7, serving as the last line of defense for our community's most vulnerable youth. For updates: **covenanthousenola.org/covid19**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On Sat, Apr 11, 2020 at 10:59 AM James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org> wrote:

> FYI - confidential
>
> **From:** "Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC" <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
> **Date:** April 11, 2020 at 7:40:16 AM CDT
> **To:** James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>
> **Cc:** James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>
> **Subject: [External Mail] Re: Holy Week**
>
> Jim -
>
> Thank you for the kind note. I apologize for the delayed reply. Life has been pretty crazy as you might imagine. Our 4 kids are ready to go somewhere! And work has continued to bring both new and increased workload. Thankfully, as you know, we have an amazing, dedicated team at FNS.
>
> I hope you are staying well. As your email notes, I can only imagine the difficulties that many young people will struggle with during this time and the increase you will likely see at Covenant House. I am thankful for what you and your team do, and the faith that you show to these young people. I am prayerful they many will come to recognize the source of true hope during this difficult time.
>
> In the back of my mind through all of this continues to be employment and training. As the media talks about the number of new snap applications and unemployment applications, I want to know how we can help these folks return to employment and the many benefits it brings. When you have time, I would like to request your thoughts on 2 things, regarding capacity in serving our larger SNAP population with E&T:
>
> (1) If you were not currently an E&T provider, what would most incentivize you to join us in this great work?
>
> (2) As a current E&T provider, what could most help you serve more individuals?
>
> I want our services always to be quality over quantity, and if you feel like you have found that spot, I do not suggest you should expand. The questions are more theoretical as I think broadly about expanding capacity. And feel free to think outside the box about both things the federal government could provide and things others could provide. I expect that many of the new snap recipients are on furlough and will be able to return quickly to their prior jobs. But, I also expect that many sectors of our economy are changing and the reality is skills that were in demand yesterday won't be tomorrow, or at least they may be in demand by a new employer. E&T can help in either case.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Our Covenant House expansion is still top of my list! We should even consider whether we should
host the conference virtually when things calm down a bit, or wait until interstate travel is comes back.

Thanks for your work.

Regards,
Brandon

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From: James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:52:43 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: James Kelly <JKelly@covenanthouse.org>
Subject: Holy Week

Brandon,
Praying you, your family, and your team are all well
Thanks for everything you are doing to feed the poor and vulnerable of our nation. I cannot imagine what life is like for you.
Due to the aberrant behavior that accompanies a crisis like COVID-19, we expect to be caring for 33% - 50% more youth. As you mentioned last month, the SNAP E & T program will become even more critical in the months and years ahead. We have long been dependent on the hospitality industry to hire our young people. Experts are now predicting that the industry -- travel, hotels, restaurants -- will be one of the last to come back.
Thinking and praying for you this holiest of weeks.
Peace,
Jim

.

Confidentiality Notice: This electronic mail transmission (and any attachments there to) is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain privileged and/OR confidential information belonging to the sender that is protected. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distr bution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail and delete the original message.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: SM.OSEC.OCR
Subject: RE: SNAP Benefit Recipients Need Ability to Buy Groceries Online with EBT Cards During COVID!
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 10:33:00 AM

This is not a congressional request so I suggesting sending to lilly and ashely

---

From: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 8:44 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: SNAP Benefit Recipients Need Ability to Buy Groceries Online with EBT Cards During COVID!
Importance: High

Veronica,

Would this be something we would usually respond to?

-Chris

From: A.Earp (b) (6) @gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 5, 2020 2:16 PM
To: SM.OSEC.OCR <ocr@usda.gov>
Subject: SNAP Benefit Recipients Need Ability to Buy Groceries Online with EBT Cards During COVID!
Importance: High

Dear Sir or Madam,

There is a huge problem for a particular population during COVID. SNAP recipients have no ability to shop using EBT Cards without going into stores ourselves to gather all items and check out at the register! We are ALL unable to have food delivered, or even have it available for curbside pickup (because sites are allowed to accept EBT cards for checkout). For those of us who are high-risk such as myself (who have underlying health issues and/or are older) this means that we must put our lives at risk just to get essential foods!

For example, personally I have been unable to go to any grocery store in over one month due to COVID. I have relied on eating very little food and only what I had previously stored in the pantry. It has created weight continual weight loss (over 10 lbs so far) as well as an imbalance in nutrition.

This needs to be addressed STAT! Please help take care of your citizens who uses EBT cards for necessary foods...we DESERVE THE SAME CONVENIENCES as everyone else WITH ACCESS TO FOOD

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

DELIVERY AND/OR CURB PICKUP.

Thank you very much for your serious consideration. Hopefully you can create an initiative for website administrators to design checkout systems which will process current EBT cards. If not, perhaps the EBT cards can be redesigned as pre-paid Debit Cards which can be run through online systems. It is a dire situation!

Much Appreciation,

A. Earp

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: SNAP Flexibility on QC Interview Requirements Granted
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 1:44:08 PM

Thanks!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 1:43:14 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: SNAP Flexibility on QC Interview Requirements Granted

States already have the option to use telephonic for cert/recert, therefore no additional flexibility is needed. QC regulations require in-person interviews so the Secretary has provided this flexibility.

Our regional offices stand ready to support any state with technical assistance in telephonic interviews for cert, recert or QC.

Thanks,

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 1:23 PM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: SNAP Flexibility on QC Interview Requirements Granted

Joe, do you know the answer to Jacqlyn's question?

Thanks.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture) <Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture)
Subject: Re: SNAP Flexibility on QC Interview Requirements Granted

Hi Veronica,

Is this flexibility only for QC purposes or for certification/recertification as well?

> On Mar 13, 2020, at 4:45 PM, Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> Rob and Jacqlyn,
>
> This email is to inform you that to allow for greater social distancing to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Secretary is allowing States to conduct telephone interviews instead of face-to face-interviews for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC) purposes.
>
> States must notify FNS in advance if they choose to implement this flexibility and must follow all other requirements for the QC interview as specified in SNAP regulations. A notification may be done through email, letter, or oral affirmation that they plan to use this flexibility.
>
> This flexibility applies to any QC case reviews conducted in March, April and May 2020.
>
> Regional FNS offices are informing states of this flexibility now.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Veronica Smith Wong
> Office of Congressional Relations
> United States Department of Agriculture
> Washington, DC
> Office: (b) (6)
> veronica.wong@usda.gov

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture)
Cc: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture)
Subject: Re: SNAP Flexibility on QC Interview Requirements Granted
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 1:45:26 PM

Jacqlyn,

States already have the option to use telephonic for cert/recert, therefore no additional flexibility is needed. QC regulations require in-person interviews so the Secretary provided this flexibility.

Veronica

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture) <Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 12:57:48 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: SNAP Flexibility on QC Interview Requirements Granted

Hi Veronica,

Is this flexibility only for QC purposes or for certification/recertification as well?

> On Mar 13, 2020, at 4:45 PM, Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov> wrote:
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> Rob and Jacqlyn,
>
> This email is to inform you that to allow for greater social distancing to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Secretary is allowing States to conduct telephone interviews instead of face-to face-interviews for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC) purposes.
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> States must notify FNS in advance if they choose to implement this flexibility and must follow all other requirements for the QC interview as specified in SNAP regulations. A notification may be done through email, letter, or oral affirmation that they plan to use this flexibility.
>
> This flexibility applies to any QC case reviews conducted in March, April and May 2020.
>
> Regional FNS offices are informing states of this flexibility now.
>
> Thank you,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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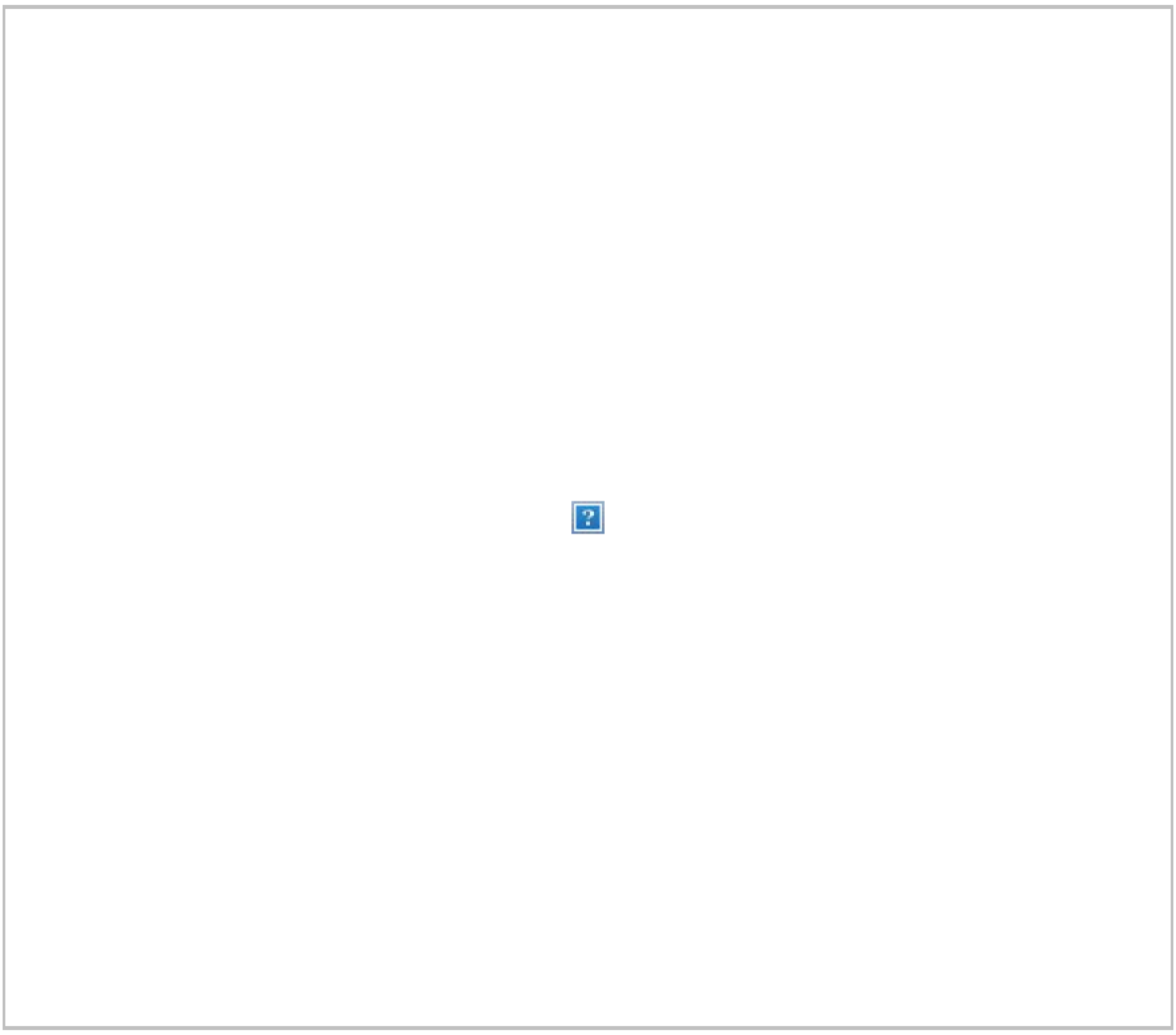
From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 3:06:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Thank you. So (b) (5), DPP ?

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 3:05 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP

Veronica, below is (b) (5), DPP

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For more information, please visit: USDA Pandemic-SNAP - https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 12:51 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5), DPP

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Adding Joe who can work on it.

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 12:51 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Wesley - OSEC Washington DC Gwinn (wesley.gwinn@usda.gov) <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (5), DPP

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is
Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: SNAP Online Pilot
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:17:18 PM

Go for it, as well as national waivers on "Mealstoyou". If we can deliver fragile and perishable flowers, why not something you can eat. Flowers will be in Phase IV!

-SP

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:04:21 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: SNAP Online Pilot

Mr. Secretary:

(b) (5), DPP

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Please let us know if you want additional information on the above.

Regards,
Brandon

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Withheld info is Secretary Perdue alias email address

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: SNAP Online Pilot--2014 Farm Bill
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:42:30 PM

Thanks.

-SP

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:11:41 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: SNAP Online Pilot--2014 Farm Bill

Sir, [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Campbell

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld info is Secretary Perdue alias email address

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: SNAP Press release for your approval
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:44:00 AM

OK

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 8:04 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Taylor.Crowe@usda.gov>
Subject: SNAP Press release for your approval

Sir –

(b) (5), DPP

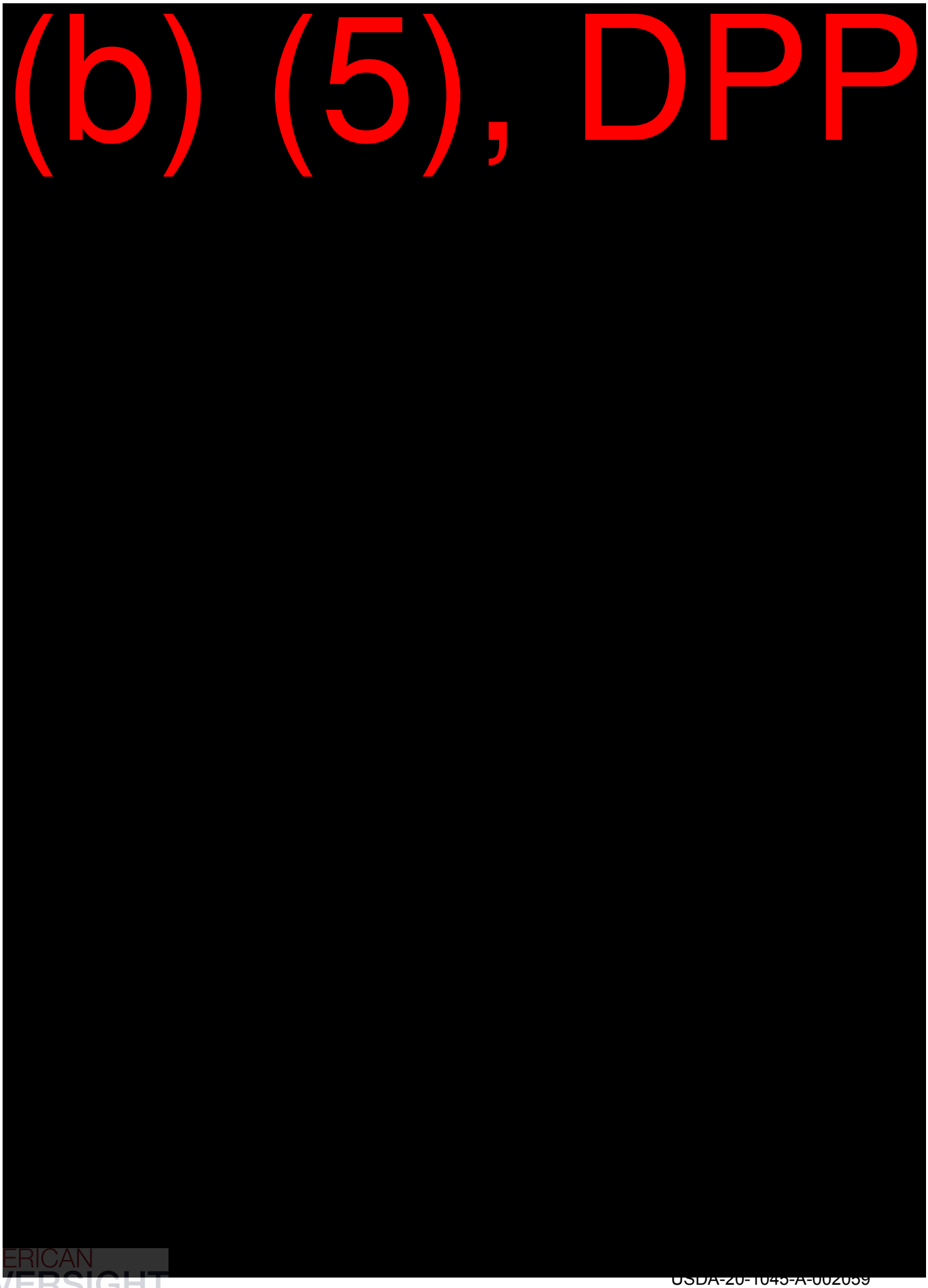
Thank you,
Meghan

USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

Emergency Benefits Prompted by COVID-19

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

##

Meghan Rodgers
Acting Communications Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-5555
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS
Cc:	Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Re: SNAP Waiver Approvals Update #1 - Recert/Periodic Reporting Extensions
Date:	Saturday, March 21, 2020 7:46:36 AM

Muy Excellente.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:22:50 PM

To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Cc: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>

Subject: SNAP Waiver Approvals Update #1 - Recert/Periodic Reporting Extensions

This is all 21 waivers we received including the 2 that came in after 6 PM. These were all sent to the states between 9:31-10:17 PM on Friday, March 20, 2020. The Hill has been notified on all. Comms has been notified to put on the website.

1) CT
2) DC
3) DE
4) Guam
5) HI
6) ID
7) IL
8) LA
9) MA
10) MD
11) ME
12) MO
13) NJ
14) NM
15) NV
16) OH
17) OR

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18) PA
19) VA
20) VI
21) WI

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:00 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update - State Waivers approvals SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, attached are 14 state/district/territory waivers under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.**

USDA has granted **Guam, DC, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virgin Island, Wisconsin a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020 through the authority granted to the Secretary. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with

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the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	fnsgovaffairs
Subject:	RE: Staged for TOMORROW (TUESDAY 5/12) - Hill Notification -- Online Purchasing Pilot State Go-Lives this week: DC, MO, TX
Date:	Monday, May 11, 2020 10:58:00 AM

Thank you

From: fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 10:44 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Staged for TOMORROW (TUESDAY 5/12) - Hill Notification -- Online Purchasing Pilot State Go-Lives this week: DC, MO, TX

Hi Veronica,

Sending your way for hill notice today on tomorrow's (3) go lives.

Best,

Anthony Wilson II
Governmental Affairs
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: (703) 305-2279
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]
anthony.wilson@usda.gov



From: Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>; fnsgovaffairs <SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov>; Kimosh, Janna - FNS <Janna.Kimosh@usda.gov>; Muns, Tamieka - FNS <tamieka.muns@usda.gov>
Cc: FNS-OPS-COVID <FNS-OPS-COVID@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Griffin, Laura - FNS <laura.griffin@usda.gov>; Pierce, Shelly - FNS <shelly.pierce@usda.gov>; Gifaldi, Lisa - FNS <lisa.gifaldi@usda.gov>; Gold, Andrea - FNS <andrea.gold@usda.gov>; Temple, Eden - FNS <eden.temple@usda.gov>
Subject: Staged for TOMORROW (TUESDAY 5/12) - Hill Notification -- Online Purchasing Pilot State Go-Lives this week: DC, MO, TX

This message has been staged for tomorrow's (Tuesday, 5/12) OPP go live in 3 States.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

******

Draft Hill Notification:

(b) (5), DPP

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov)
Subject: RE: State Call on HR 6201
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 3:27:00 PM

Great, thanks

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: State Call on HR 6201

Looks good. Sorry for the delay in responding. One small tweak (b) (5), DPP

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 3:21 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: State Call on HR 6201

Here is my draft suggestion to the 4 corners + leaders for your edits:

(b) (5), DPP

Regards,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:59 PM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: State Call on HR 6201

Joe, please (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: State Call on HR 6201
Importance: High

Lillie, below is the dial-in information for the state call for tomorrow and the official invite we sent out to our state partners, APHSA, and EBT processors. Let me know if you need any background prior to the call.

Thanks,

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

Dear States,

SNAP would like to consult with States on proposed legislation responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We need your input on how some of the provisions could be operationalized, timeframes, etc. FNS would like to consult with States on the provisions in the proposed legislation responding to the COVID-19 pandemic that relate to SNAP. We need input on how states would potentially operationalize various provisions in the bill and the expected interest and timeframes for implementation of these potential provisions. Specifically, we would like to discuss H.R. 6201, SEC.

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1101 *P-EBT* and SEC. 2302 – *Additional SNAP Flexibilities* of the proposed legislation.

We would appreciate participation by State SNAP Directors and State EBT Coordinators; others may participate as determined by your individual State. We are also inviting APHSA and State EBT vendors.

Please join us for this discussion on **Thursday, March 19 at 2 PM EST**. The conference call in information is:

Dial In:
Access Code: (b) (6)

P-EBT Section

Overview - The proposed legislation provides States the option to provide supplemental allotments to households on SNAP with school-aged children and issuances to households not already receiving benefits in order to serve children who are not receiving free or reduced priced lunches due to school closures of more than 5 days, aka Pandemic EBT or P-EBT. The estimates for P-EBT assume that each eligible child receives an amount equivalent to one free NSLP lunch, one free SBP breakfast, and one free NSLP snack. This is about $6.64 per child per day for the two meals and snack (or $133/month assuming 20 school days per child).

Questions for States and EBT Processors

- What are the operational challenges states anticipate with implementing with this provision?
- Are States existing eligibility system designed to handle these novel types of benefits?
  - For example: Can state eligibility systems issue a varied benefit that is based on the number of children in each household?
  - Can states target the issuance of these benefits to limited geographic areas and if so, what's the smallest target area (school district, county)?
- Would additional programming be necessary to meet the requirements in this provision?
- If adjustments to the State system would be needed to operationalize, do states have the resources available to make those changes? How long would it take to operationalize?
- How would States handle services to children not currently on SNAP?
- Does the State have a mechanism for sharing information with non-SNAP households on where and how to use a SNAP benefit?
- Would EBT processors be able to send a separate issuance file to AMA for benefits issued due to the provision?
- Do EBT processors have sufficient card stock to manage the non-SNAP households in the States?
- Can EBT processors increase their IVR and CSR capacity to manage the additional caseload?

Additional SNAP Flexibilities

Overview - The proposed legislation provides several flexibilities to SNAP due to COVID-19 including maximum allotments for states with an emergency/disaster declaration, allowing States to increase

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each household's SNAP benefit to the maximum monthly benefit allotment for that household size, regardless of income, during an HHS Emergency Designation. In addition, this section gives the Secretary discretion to provide waivers/adjustments to "issuance methods and application and reporting requirements" during an HHS Emergency Designation for COVID-19.

Questions for states and EBT Processors

- Have States issued an emergency or disaster declaration in all or parts of the State? Would the State provide the maximum allotment to the entire State or just those areas under emergency declaration if this legislation passes in its current form?
- How quickly would States be able to implement the maximum monthly allotment provision? Would it be possible to stagger these issuances (not all at once, which would overwhelm retailers already struggling with stocking shelves)?
- Will States be able to issue maximum allotments automatically or will they need manual entry?
- What kinds of waivers would be most useful to addressing the operational challenges you are currently facing?

I hope to hear your voice on the call—it is important as we work to quickly implement any legislation to respond to the needs of the people we serve through SNAP. We want to be as prepared as possible once this language has passed and the bill has been signed by the President. We will also allow for Q&A as a part of the call.

Thanks,

Jessica

Jessica Shahin
Associate Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: RE: State Call on HR 6201
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 4:04:00 PM

Can the hill listen into the call?

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: State Call on HR 6201

Looks good. Sorry for the delay in responding. One small tweak below to flesh out all the folks invited.

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 3:21 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: State Call on HR 6201

Here is my draft suggestion to the 4 corners + leaders for your edits:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Regards,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:59 PM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: State Call on HR 6201

Joe, please (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: State Call on HR 6201
Importance: High

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Thanks,

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

Dear States,

SNAP would like to consult with States on proposed legislation responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We need your input on how some of the provisions could be operationalized, timeframes, etc. FNS would like to consult with States on the provisions in the proposed legislation responding to the COVID-19 pandemic that relate to SNAP. We need input on how states would potentially operationalize various provisions in the bill and the expected interest and timeframes for implementation of these potential provisions. Specifically, we would like to discuss H.R. 6201, SEC.

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1101 *P-EBT* and SEC. 2302 – *Additional SNAP Flexibilities* of the proposed legislation.

We would appreciate participation by State SNAP Directors and State EBT Coordinators; others may participate as determined by your individual State. We are also inviting APHSA and State EBT vendors.

Please join us for this discussion on **Thursday, March 19 at 2 PM EST**. The conference call in information is:

Dial In:
Access Code: (b) (6)

P-EBT Section

Overview - The proposed legislation provides States the option to provide supplemental allotments to households on SNAP with school-aged children and issuances to households not already receiving benefits in order to serve children who are not receiving free or reduced priced lunches due to school closures of more than 5 days, aka Pandemic EBT or P-EBT. The estimates for P-EBT assume that each eligible child receives an amount equivalent to one free NSLP lunch, one free SBP breakfast, and one free NSLP snack. This is about $6.64 per child per day for the two meals and snack (or $133/month assuming 20 school days per child).

Questions for States and EBT Processors

- What are the operational challenges states anticipate with implementing with this provision?
- Are States existing eligibility system designed to handle these novel types of benefits?
  - For example: Can state eligibility systems issue a varied benefit that is based on the number of children in each household?
  - Can states target the issuance of these benefits to limited geographic areas and if so, what's the smallest target area (school district, county)?
- Would additional programming be necessary to meet the requirements in this provision?
- If adjustments to the State system would be needed to operationalize, do states have the resources available to make those changes? How long would it take to operationalize?
- How would States handle services to children not currently on SNAP?
- Does the State have a mechanism for sharing information with non-SNAP households on where and how to use a SNAP benefit?
- Would EBT processors be able to send a separate issuance file to AMA for benefits issued due to the provision?
- Do EBT processors have sufficient card stock to manage the non-SNAP households in the States?
- Can EBT processors increase their IVR and CSR capacity to manage the additional caseload?

Additional SNAP Flexibilities

Overview - The proposed legislation provides several flexibilities to SNAP due to COVID-19 including maximum allotments for states with an emergency/disaster declaration, allowing States to increase

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each household's SNAP benefit to the maximum monthly benefit allotment for that household size, regardless of income, during an HHS Emergency Designation. In addition, this section gives the Secretary discretion to provide waivers/adjustments to "issuance methods and application and reporting requirements" during an HHS Emergency Designation for COVID-19.

Questions for states and EBT Processors

- Have States issued an emergency or disaster declaration in all or parts of the State? Would the State provide the maximum allotment to the entire State or just those areas under emergency declaration if this legislation passes in its current form?
- How quickly would States be able to implement the maximum monthly allotment provision? Would it be possible to stagger these issuances (not all at once, which would overwhelm retailers already struggling with stocking shelves)?
- Will States be able to issue maximum allotments automatically or will they need manual entry?
- What kinds of waivers would be most useful to addressing the operational challenges you are currently facing?

I hope to hear your voice on the call—it is important as we work to quickly implement any legislation to respond to the needs of the people we serve through SNAP. We want to be as prepared as possible once this language has passed and the bill has been signed by the President. We will also allow for Q&A as a part of the call.

Thanks,

Jessica

Jessica Shahin
Associate Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Statement
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 9:31:37 PM

Okay

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

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From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 8:57:59 PM

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>

Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Subject: Statement

Sir — do you have any thought/edits to this? (b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

###

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

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From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:41:20 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Pelosi strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package

Okay. Just forward a summary whenever we can create one. Brandon, I'm open to whatever communique you think we need to send out in clarification.

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From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:05 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Pelosi strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package

(b) (5), DPP

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 6:24:18 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Pelosi strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package

FYI-(b) (5), DPP

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)

From: POLITICO Pro <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 6:14:59 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Pelosi strikes deal with Mnuchin on coronavirus package

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Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that she has clinched a deal with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on a large-scale coronavirus response package meant to provide paid leave for workers, expand food aid and support widespread testing for the illness at no cost to patients.

The development sent a wave of relief across Capitol Hill, which had been nervously awaiting the results of two days of backroom negotiations. The House is expected to pass the legislation quickly, with the Senate likely to follow suit as early as Monday.

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 2 of 7

USDA-20-1045-A-002077

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Carter, Scott - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS
Cc: Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov)
Subject: RE: States Asking about COVID 19 Guidance
Date: Friday, March 6, 2020 10:59:00 AM

Scott,

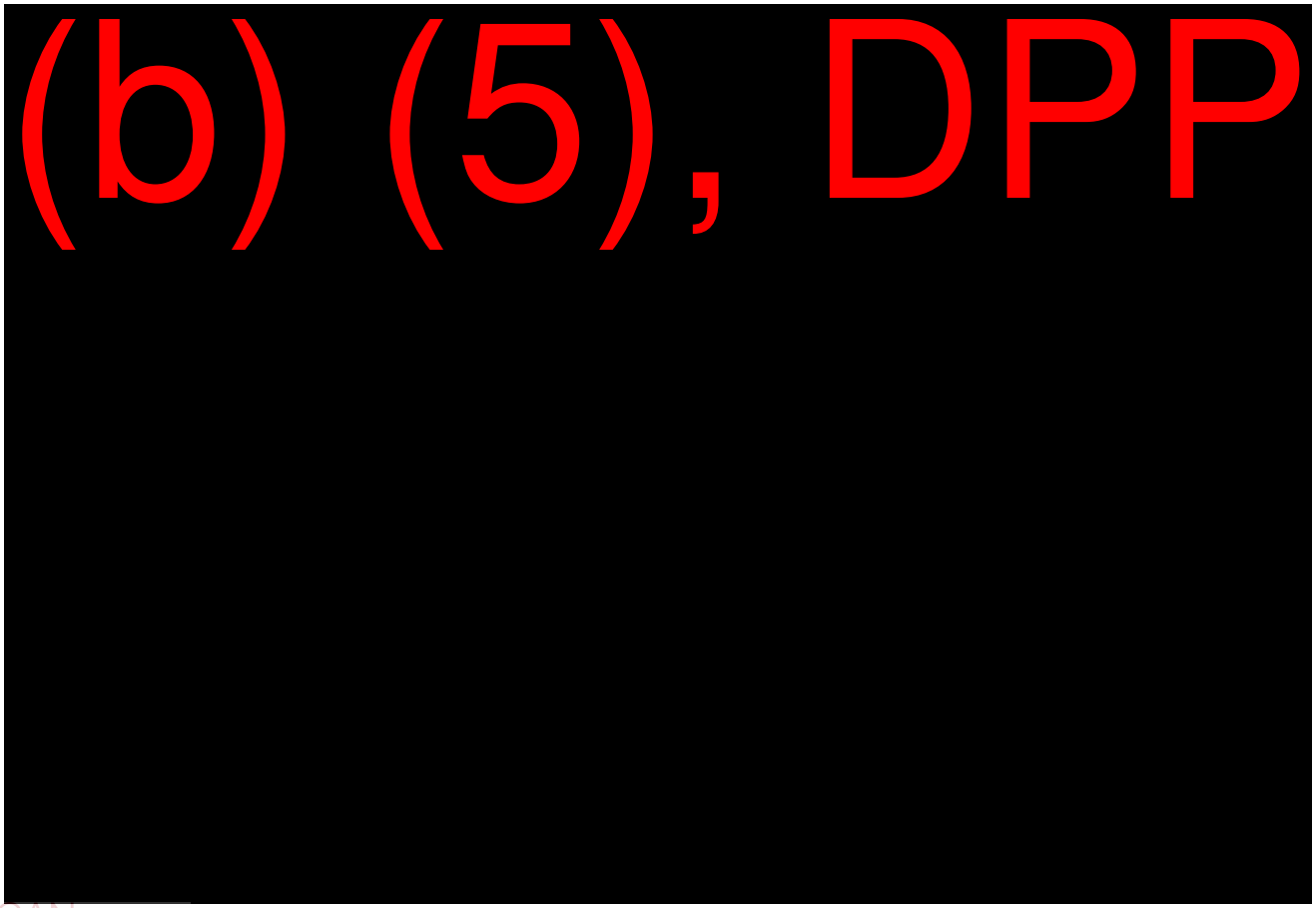
This is extremely helpful. Can you send this to myself and Anne several times a day or as warranted by changes?

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Carter, Scott - FNS <scott.carter@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 8:58 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Subject: States Asking about COVID 19 Guidance

Team,

Here are States that have inquired about guidance for COVID 19. New items (as of 3/5/2019) are highlighted.



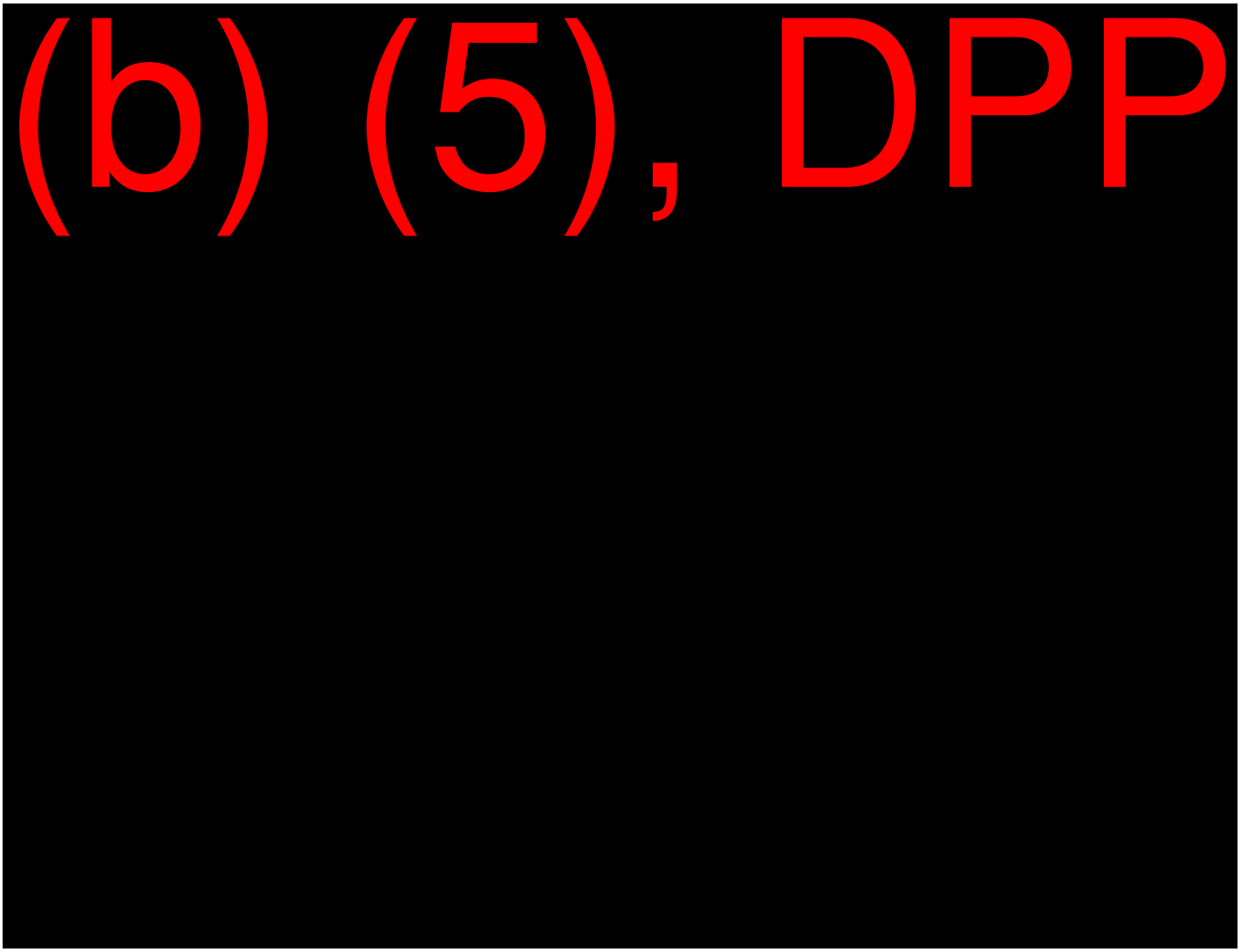
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(b) (5), DPP

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Scott Carter
Acting Disaster Response Coordinator
FNS Office of Emergency Management
703-305-2527
(b) (6) (Mobile)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Carter, Scott - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS
Subject: RE: States Asking about COVID 19 Guidance
Date: Friday, March 6, 2020 1:13:00 PM

---

thanks

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 1:10 PM
To: Carter, Scott - FNS <scott.carter@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: States Asking about COVID 19 Guidance

No ...

Our current waiver guidance, which includes the State Waiver Request Template, is available at: https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP15_CACFP12_SFSP05-2018os.pdf.

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From: Carter, Scott - FNS <scott.carter@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 1:08:56 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: States Asking about COVID 19 Guidance

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

Scott Carter
Acting Disaster Response Coordinator
FNS Office of Emergency Management
703-305-2527
(b) (6) [redacted] (Mobile)

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 1:07 PM
To: Carter, Scott - FNS <scott.carter@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: States Asking about COVID 19 Guidance

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

Thanks.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Carter, Scott - FNS <scott.carter@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 8:58 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>
Subject: States Asking about COVID 19 Guidance

Team,

Here are States that have inquired about guidance for COVID 19. New items (as of 3/5/2019) are highlighted.



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(b) (5), DPP

Scott Carter
Acting Disaster Response Coordinator
FNS Office of Emergency Management
703-305-2527
(b) (6) (Mobile)



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Summary of Democrat Phase 4 bill
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 6:11:53 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Maybe (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: "Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC" <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 6:10 PM
To: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Summary of Democrat Phase 4 bill

Probably (b) (5), DPP [redacted]
--
Evan B. Lee
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
c: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:59 PM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Subject: Summary of Democrat Phase 4 bill

What else would you (b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

Sir,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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[redacted]

Ken Barbic
Assistant Secretary – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile: (b) (6)
Office: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 10:53:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP ?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 4:30 PM
To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag

(b) (5), DPP ? Thanks.

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag

Veronica – (b) (5), DPP

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag

(b) (5), DPP

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:34 AM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag

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(b) (5), DPP

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: TA for House Ag

Veronica,

Below and attached are 5 responses to TA requests from House Ag. Thanks.

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Laura Stagno
Confidential Assistant
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Office: 703-305-7464
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:26:00 PM

Thank you

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag

(b) (5), DPP

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:34 AM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag

(b) (5), DPP

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: TA for House Ag

Veronica,

Below and attached are 5 responses to TA requests from House Ag. Thanks.

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

Laura Stagno
Confidential Assistant
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Office: 703-305-7464
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:39:00 AM

Thank you.

The 4 have been provided to Majority and the 1 has been provided to Minority.

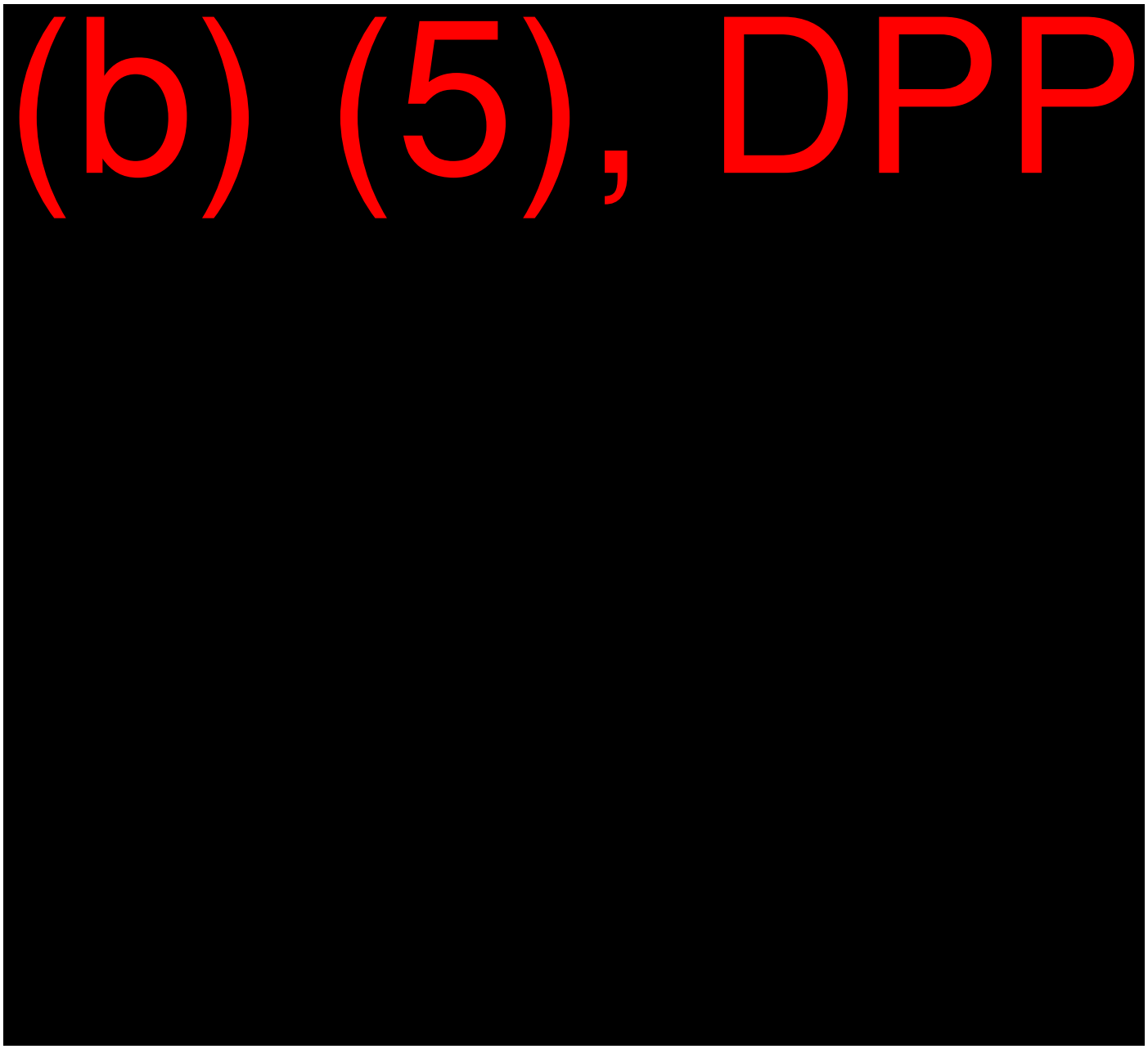
From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: TA for House Ag

Veronica,

Below and attached are 5 responses to TA requests from House Ag. Thanks.



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Laura Stagno
Confidential Assistant
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Office: 703-305-7464
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS
Cc:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS
Subject:	RE: TA for House Ag
Date:	Wednesday, April 29, 2020 8:39:00 PM

Provided to the hill, thanks.

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag

Veronica – Please find attached the TEFAP TA cleared though OGC. Please let me know if you have questions. Thank you.

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 10:54 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 4:30 PM
To: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag

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(b) (5), DPP ? Thanks.

From: Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag

Veronica – (b) (5), DPP

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag

(b) (5), DPP

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:34 AM
To: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: TA for House Ag

(b) (5), DPP

From: Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Subject: TA for House Ag

Veronica,

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Below and attached are 5 responses to TA requests from House Ag. Thanks.



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Laura Stagno
Confidential Assistant
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Office: 703-305-7464
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Miller, Pam - FNS
Cc:	Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	Re: TA on language
Date:	Saturday, March 21, 2020 3:49:18 PM

Sent to hill thanks

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From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 3:46:34 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: TA on language

(b) (5), DPP .
Thanks

From: Castro, Laura - FNS <laura.castro@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 3:40 PM
To: Marshall, Andrea - OGC, Washington, DC; Kriviski, Diane - FNS
Cc: Miller, Pam - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Larson, Kiley - FNS; Savoy, LaTisha - FNS; Burr, David - FNS; LINDEN, RALPH - OGC, Washington D.C.; Kochan, Gena - OGC, Washington, DC; Kim, Mina - OGC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: TA on language

Yes, thank you, Andrea. (b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

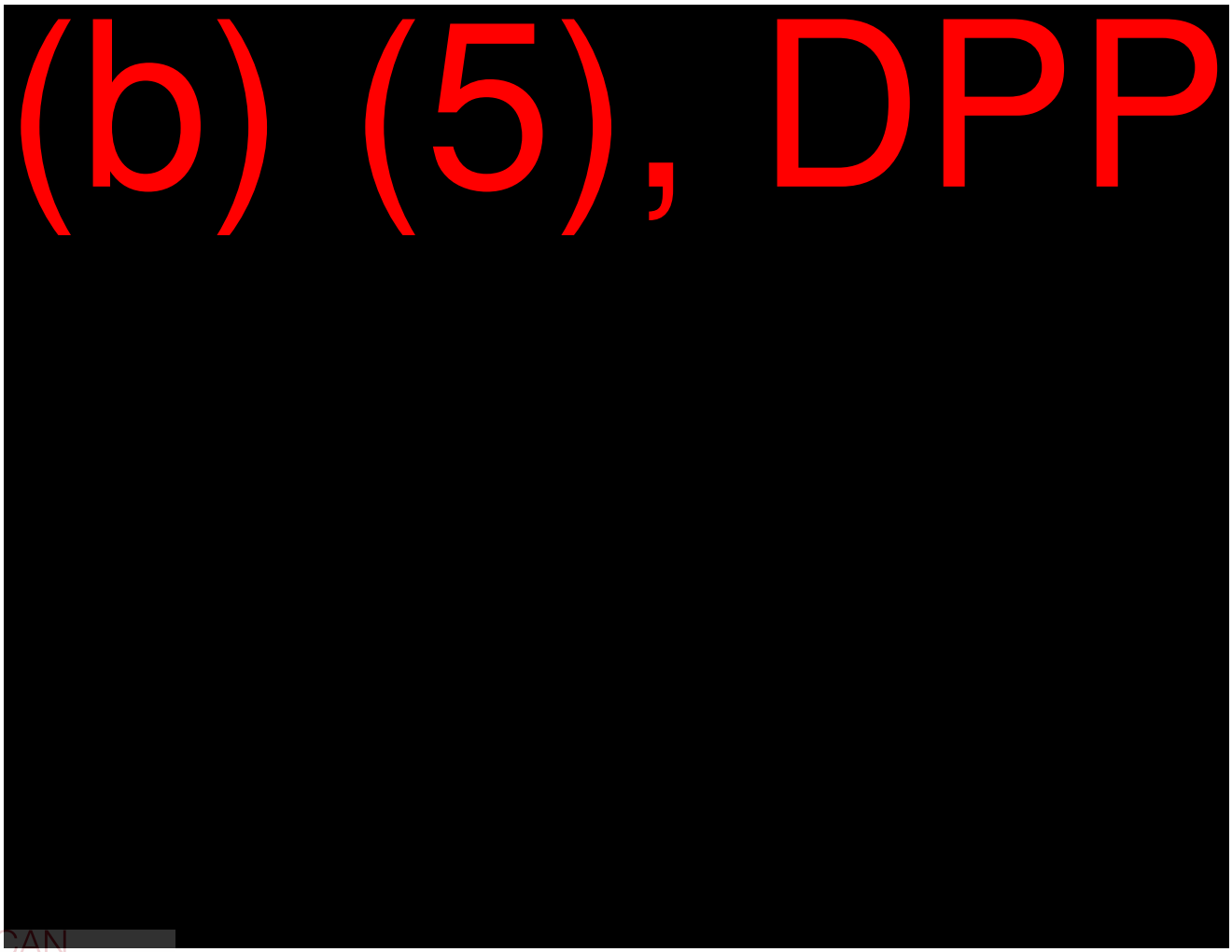
From:	Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: Talking Points for SP Nutrition Stakeholder Call Monday
Date:	Sunday, March 22, 2020 6:27:00 PM
Attachments:	Secretary Perdue Talking Points for Nutrition Stakeholder Call.docx image001.png

Thanks, Campbell

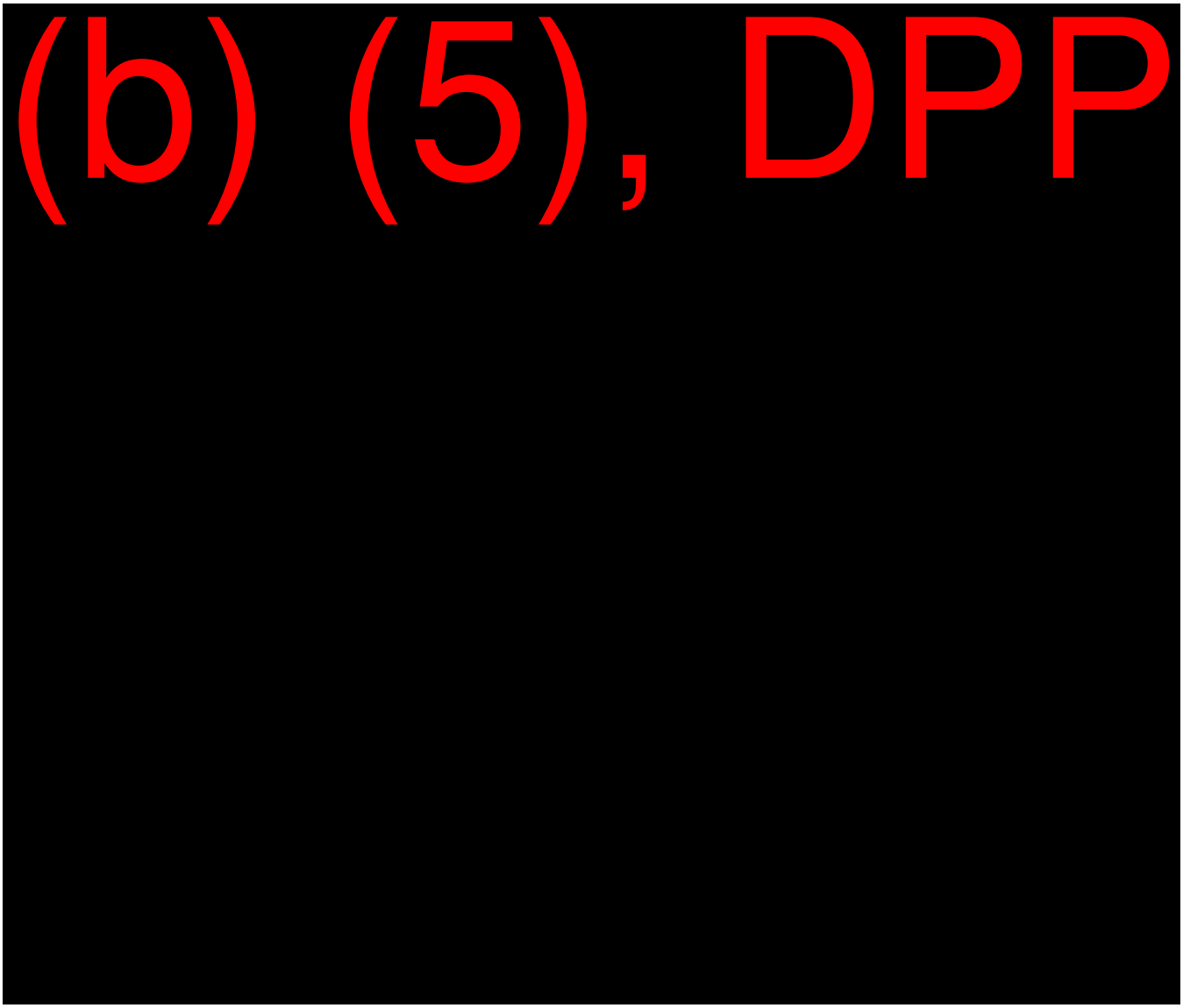
Taylor, can you print for the boss? Thanks

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Taylor.Crowe@usda.gov>
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Talking Points for SP Nutrition Stakeholder Call Monday

Revised remarks are attached and pasted below as well for ease.



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Talking Points for SP Nutrition Stakeholder Call Monday

Thanks, Campbell

If (b) (5), DPP .

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 8:02 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Subject: Talking Points for SP Nutrition Stakeholder Call Monday

I may have additional edits, but wanted to go ahead and send what I have over.



Campbell Shuford

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-2868
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

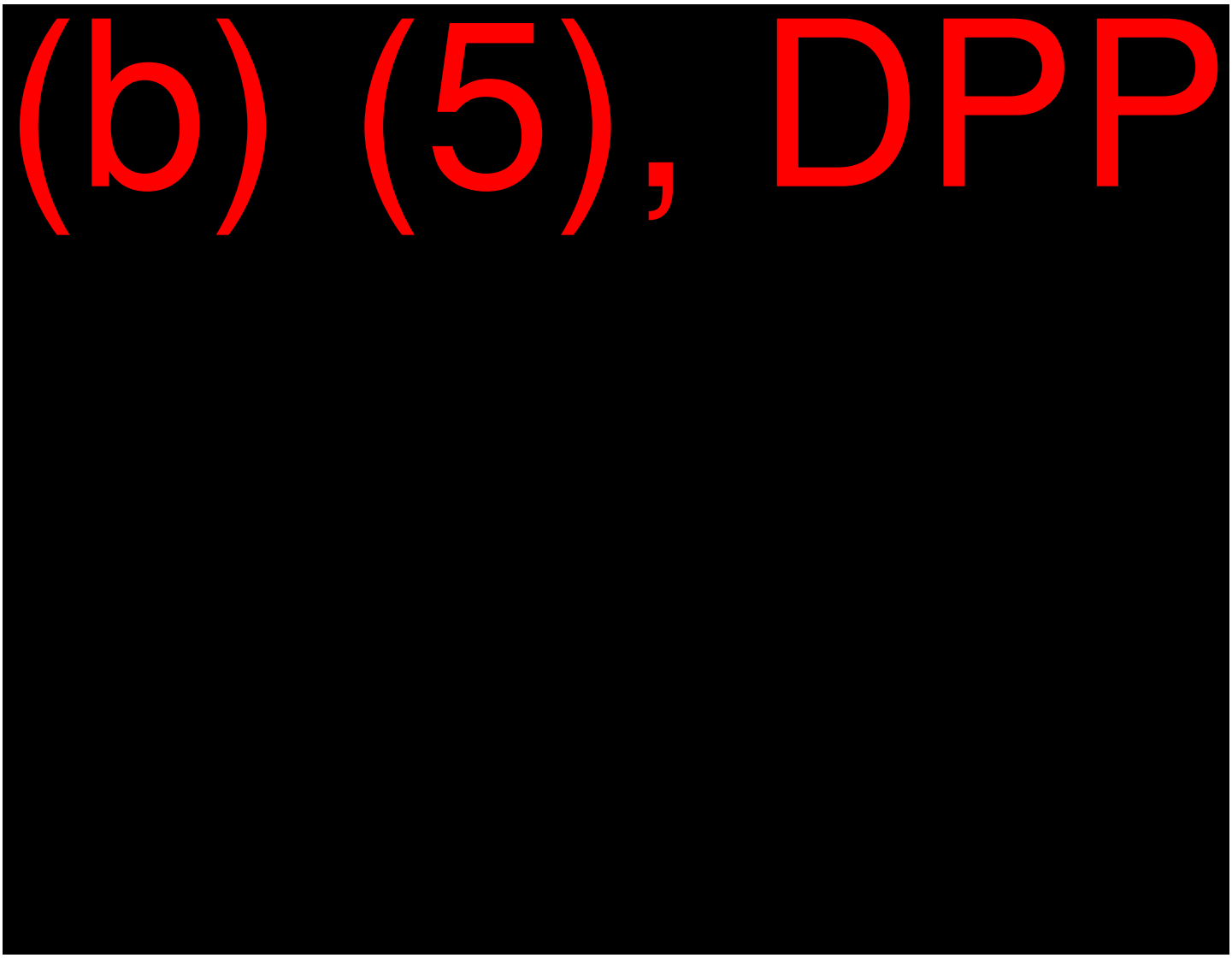
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Secretary Perdue Talking Points for Nutrition Stakeholder Call

March 23, 2020

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Tester and WIC Letters
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 12:04:00 PM

Noah,

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks.

Dear Sen Tester,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Regards,

From: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 10:52 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: Tester and WIC Letters

Veronica— Attached are the two letters you requested on the phone call today.
(b) (5), DPP

Sincerely,

Noah Jackson

Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (b) (6)
Cell: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Thank You!
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2020 10:15:56 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Nice email. Thanks for sending.

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From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2020 9:55:50 PM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Striker, Leon – OSEC, Washington, DC <Leon.Striker@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Ness, Torie - OSEC, Washington, DC <Torie.Ness@usda.gov>; Duvall, Zellie - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zellie.Duvall@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Taylor.Crowe@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; Crandall, Doug - <doug.crandall3@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Crosswhite, Caleb - APHIS <Caleb.Crosswhite@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>; Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC <leslie.barrack@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Lindsay, Sally - OSEC Washington, DC <Sally.Lindsay@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: Thank You!

Dear USDA Hearing Prep team,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I apologize if I missed anyone on this email in your various offices, but I just wanted to say thank you to everyone for the effort and hours you put in over the past weeks to prepare for Secretary Perdue's 3 hearings. From letter responses getting out, to background papers, to pulling statistics and data, to helping frame issues properly for anticipated questions. I know there were times when all the effort and preparation may have felt like a burden, but as one of our colleagues remarked to me this week "we sweat in practice so that we don't bleed in battle."

Further, there is another layer of preparation that sets us up for success in these hearings, and that is the everyday work each of you and the mission areas do to have timely responses and effective customer service to Congress and their constituents. The Secretary gets high marks from Members in these hearings, but it isn't only because of his outstanding preparation for and performance in these hearings, but also because of the work each of you does day in and day out to maintain open, constructive, and responsive relationships with the Hill and our stakeholders.

All the work you all put in can't be adequately acknowledged in one email, but thank you especially to the SNAP/FNS team (Veronica, Campbell, Brandon, Anne, and Pam) who were doing hearing prep and extensive TA on coronavirus legislation at the same time. Thank you to Erica and her team for all the detailed budget documents. Thank you to Rob J for the charts and maps. Thank you to all the senior advisors and chiefs for the well-executed briefs. Thank you to Blake, Lauren, and Hailey for managing all the schedule changes. And thank you to the OCR team for many late nights and pulling everything together, with a particular thank you to Evan who worked more hours than any of us to manage all the pieces of the puzzle…and for his reward he found out on Wednesday that his long-anticipated vacation to Europe in April would be cancelled.

Lastly, we can prepare and plan all we want, and sometimes events overtake those plans. I had hoped to host a little "hearing debrief" time in our office on Friday with some snacks and refreshments, but with the added activities surrounding COVID-19 planning and response that wasn't possible. Will hope to do that at some future date.

Thanks again it is such a privilege to work with all of you,
Ken

P.S. Thank you in advance for all the hearing follow-up and QFR responses that we will be doing in the weeks ahead!

Ken Barbic
Assistant Secretary – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Thank You!
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 2:53:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

This was an incredibly kind email. Thank you!

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2020 9:56 PM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Striker, Leon – OSEC, Washington, DC <Leon.Striker@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Ness, Torie - OSEC, Washington, DC <Torie.Ness@usda.gov>; Duvall, Zellie - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zellie.Duvall@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; DuRant, Ryann - OC, Washington, DC <Ryann.DuRant@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Taylor.Crowe@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; Crandall, Doug - <doug.crandall3@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Crosswhite, Caleb - APHIS <Caleb.Crosswhite@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>; Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC <leslie.barrack@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC <robert.johansson@usda.gov>; Lindsay, Sally - OSEC Washington, DC <Sally.Lindsay@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: Thank You!

Dear USDA Hearing Prep team,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Thanks again it is such a privilege to work with all of you,
Ken

P.S. Thank you in advance for all the hearing follow-up and QFR responses that we will be doing in the weeks ahead!

Ken Barbic
Assistant Secretary – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Bart Fischer
Subject: Re: The Hagstrom Report | Monday 03.23.2020
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:28:02 PM

We are happy to market the concept under a new name, “Trump meal kits”

From: Bart Fischer (b) (6) @tamu.edu>
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 2:10 AM
To: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: The Hagstrom Report | Monday 03.23.2020

How I imagine the convo between Perdue and Casey:

“What was that Sen. Casey? You want nationwide SNAP delivery? Oh, you mean like the harvest box? Ah, yes. We can do something like that. Great idea.”

Bart L. Fischer, Ph.D.
Co-Director & Research Assistant Professor
Agricultural & Food Policy Center
Department of Agricultural Economics
Texas A&M University
351 AGLS | 2124 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2124
Offic
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 979-845-3140
(b) (6) @tamu.edu

Begin forwarded message:

From: The Hagstrom Report <info@hagstromreport.com>
Date: March 22, 2020 at 11:25:28 PM CDT
Subject: The Hagstrom Report | Monday 03.23.2020

Web Version

Image removed by sender. TheHagstromReport

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



The Hagstrom Report

Monday, March 23, 2020 | Volume 10 Number 70

- Senate cloture vote fails, Stabenow, Biden defend stance
- National Milk prepares coronavirus requests
- Casey calls on USDA to allow nationwide delivery of SNAP groceries
- National Milk official: Plenty of food, but there are challenges
- Law firm publishes summary, links to FDA call
- Trump-voting areas have limited ICU
- Media begins to notice potential food supply chain problems
- WTD: Japan wants to expand TPP
- Advocates consider ban on imports from cocoa countries
- Park Service, Andrés: Look at cherry blossoms online
- 33 coronavirus cases in Indian country
- Beans popular amid coronavirus outbreak



Senate cloture vote fails, Stabenow, Biden defend stance

The Senate motion to bring the third coronavirus bill to vote failed 47 to 47, far short of the 60 votes needed.

"Lawmakers had hoped to pass a massive $1.8 trillion bill by Monday but Sunday night they were scrambling to revive talks, with the stock market poised for another sharp drop and households and businesses fretting about an uncertain future," *The Washington Post* said.

"A major sticking point is a $500 billion pool of money for loans and loan guarantees that Republicans want to create, which some Democrats are labeling a 'slush fund' because the Treasury Department would have broad discretion over who receives the money. There is little precedent for a program with a similar size and scope," the *Post* added.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., announced that unless an agreement is reached, the Senate will vote again today at 9:45 a.m. on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 748 (Legislative Vehicle for the CARES Act — Coronavirus Phase III).

"Further complicating matters, there are now five GOP senators in self-quarantine or isolation — Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, who has tested positive for coronavirus, as well as Sens. Mike Lee and Mitt Romney of Utah, Cory Gardner of Colorado, and Rick Scott of Florida," *CNN* reported.

"That means that the 53-47 GOP majority is now reduced to 48-47," *CNN* continued.

"A stimulus bill will need 60 votes to pass in the Senate, meaning it will have to have substantial bipartisan support to get to 60, but the diminishing vote strength

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of the majority is on the minds of Republicans negotiating with Democrats to approve this must-pass bill."

Democrats and Republicans were at odds over what should happen.

Senate Agriculture Committee ranking member Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., and chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee, said late Sunday, "We are working night and day to come to an agreement on the most effective way to address the overwhelming and immediate needs in this crisis."



Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich.

"While the need is urgent, we have to get this right because too much is at stake," Stabenow said. "We can't lose sight of the fact that this is a public health crisis first. Our most urgent priority must be to address the need for an immediate infusion of resources to fully support our hospitals and brave health care providers.

"In addition, any economic package must put the needs of Michigan families, our workers, and small businesses first. I intend to stand strong in these negotiations on their behalf."

Former Vice President Joe Biden, the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination for president, said in a news release, "It's simple: President Trump and Mitch McConnell are trying to put corporate bailouts ahead of families. And it's simply wrong."



Joe Biden

"Here's what's happening," Biden said. "The White House and the Senate Republicans have proposed a $500 billion slush fund for corporations, with almost no conditions. Donald Trump's Treasury Secretary [Steve Mnuchin] would decide which big businesses get how much, and he can give out billions with virtually no strings attached.

"The Trump administration could even allow companies to use taxpayers' money for stock buybacks and executive pay packages, and they don't have to tell Americans where the money is going for months.

"This is par for the course for this president. We have just watched too many CEOs spend the last few years squandering the massive Trump corporate tax cuts on buying back their own stock and increasing their own compensation, rather than investing in their workers or making their businesses more sustainable. No more blank checks to corporations. Any lifelines to big companies should ensure the aid lifts up workers, instead of enriching CEOs or shareholders. If these companies are taking money from taxpayers, they must make an enforceable commitment that they will keep workers on payroll.

"We can't let Donald Trump and Mitch McConnell hold small businesses, workers, and communities hostage until they get their no-strings corporate bailout," Biden said.

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 2101-2264
USDA-20-1045-A-002116

"McConnell should immediately allow a bipartisan vote on aggressive measures to help small businesses, workers, and communities first, so the relief they need can get moving."

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who is also a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, said, "After days of bipartisan around-the-clock negotiations to deliver immediate financial aid to Americans, businesses and health care professionals, the Senate Democrats walked away."



Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa

"They walked away from direct recovery payments for American families struggling to make ends meet," Grassley said. "They walked away from beefed up unemployment insurance to supplement lost incomes for workers. They walked away from billions to strained health care industry and increased liquidity to help businesses stay afloat. All this, despite productive bipartisan discussions.

"We don't have time for politics and posturing. The unemployment rolls are growing along with anxiety across the country. The Democrats' filibuster today delays critical relief that we all agree is needed. This bill won't be the last action we take to battle coronavirus. For the good of our nation, we need to move forward. Delay is not an option."

As noted in a *Hagstrom Report* alert late Sunday, Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman John Hoeven, R-N.D., announced that he had secured provisions in the bill to:

- Replenish $30 billion in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funding authority for the Agriculture Department
- Increase the CCC borrowing authority an additional $20 billion for USDA to respond to COVID-19
- Enable USDA to utilize CCC funding to assist livestock producers.

But there were broader concerns about the bill's assistance for local governments, including rural counties.

The National Association of Counties said late Sunday, "Among the major sticking points is the issue of potential general financial support for states and local governments, including those impacted by both increased costs for public health, public safety and overall safety net response efforts as well as those facing significant declines in revenue."

"While preliminary summaries released by Senate Republicans outlined important, substantial appropriations for many tailored federal programs that are either managed by or assist state and local governments (including counties), the 'leaked' versions of the Senate GOP package appear silent on the issue of broader financial support and paid/sick leave provisions for local governments.

"While individual counties may opt against pursuing any additional federal aid for COVID-19, the National Association of Counties is fighting to ensure that America's county governments, parishes and boroughs are eligible for federal COVID-19 emergency aid in the third supplemental package."

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The White House announced late Sunday that the Coronavirus Task Force briefing Monday will not take place until 5:30 p.m.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the House Democrats may introduce their own bill.

- *The Washington Post* — Senate falls far short of votes needed to advance coronavirus bill as clash between Republicans and Democrats intensifies
- *CNN* — Senate GOP ramps up pressure on Democrats with Monday morning vote

National Milk prepares coronavirus requests



Jim Mulhern

The National Milk Producers Federation is preparing a letter to go to the Agriculture Department to ask for assistance, NMPF President CEO Jim Mulhern has told stakeholders.

In a document posted by the Milk Producers Council, a California group, Mulhern said: "We are preparing a dairy-specific letter to USDA to ask for certain types of assistance, either directly from USDA or as the result of combined action between USDA and Congress."

"At this point, among the possible inclusions are:

- "Dairy Margin Coverage Reopening. Asking USDA to re-open the 2020 DMC program sign-up, as based on current DMC decision-tool calculations, payments are now expected for the majority of the rest of the year. This is an existing risk management tool that has the potential to deliver known benefits to producers.
- "Product Purchases. We are exploring a range of possibilities on this front. USDA has authority to make purchases under Section 32, but it's unclear how much funding CCC still has available at the moment. Congress would need to replenish that fund as it did last fall should money be needed, possibly as part of the next economic stimulus package.
- "Milk Disposal Compensation. Given the potential for supply chain disruptions during spring flush or the summer school hiatus, we are reviewing whether other programs that have been created to compensate producers for milk dumping could be adopted for this situation. It's possible that elements of existing programs could provide the basis for a similar setup to compensate farmers or processors depending on where dumping occurs, potentially with an incentive to donate milk."

- National Milk Producers Federation — President's Update
- — Coronavirus Resources

Casey calls on USDA to allow nationwide delivery of SNAP groceries

Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., has called on the Agriculture

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Department and grocery and retail association leaders to immediately work to ensure Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants can receive home food delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In letters to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and to grocery and retail associations, Casey said that USDA's SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot makes it possible for SNAP participants to purchase grocery deliveries, but its availability is limited to only a few states.



Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa.

Casey acknowledged that this streamlined option cannot be immediately made available to all states, but urged USDA and retailers to take advantage of regulations that allow online ordering to be done by processing the EBT card either at the time of pickup from the store, or when the groceries are delivered to the SNAP participant with a mobile device.

Casey said he was inspired to write the letter when his office received a phone call from a constituent who cannot safely leave home to travel to the grocery store, yet was denied home delivery as a SNAP recipient.

In the letters, Casey wrote, "Traveling to a grocery store during this crisis is simply not possible for many SNAP participants, including seniors, immunocompromised individuals, families who lack reliable transportation and individuals with disabilities."

"We must do everything we can to address these barriers by leveraging existing flexibilities and partnering with the retailers who have the ability to provide much needed grocery delivery services to all who need it."

The letter to grocery and retail association leaders was sent to the Pennsylvania Food Manufacturers Association, National Grocers Association, National Association of Convenience Stores, Food Industry Association and Grocery Manufacturers Association.

- Casey letter to Secretary Perdue
- Casey letter to Grovery and Retail Associations



National Milk official: Plenty of food, but there are challenges

Clay Detlefsen, senior vice president of regulatory and environmental affairs for the National Milk Producers Federation and the private-sector chair of the Food and Agricultural Sector Coordinating Council, said in a podcast on the NMPF site that there is plenty of food in the country, but that the food industry does face challenges such as workers and truckers being stopped amid stay-at-home orders.



"There is plenty of food in this country. There is no food shortage," said Detlefsen in an NMPF podcast. "We have a bit of a distribution problem caused largely by consumers, in

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Clay Detlefsen

essence, over-consuming."

The good news, Detlefsen said, is that private-sector and government coordination is "light-years" better than in past crises such as Hurricane Katrina.

The Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council, set up after the September 11, 2001 terror attacks to share information between government agencies and private businesses, now has years of experience dealing with food-chain crises and has been dealing with coronavirus concerns for weeks, he noted.

▪ National Milk Producers Federation — Podcast



Law firm publishes summary, links to FDA call

Morgan Lewis, a law firm, on Sunday published a summary of a call from the Food and Drug Administration last week to the food industry on its approach to the coronavirus.

FDA has also released a transcript and recording of the call.

▪ Morgan Lewis — FDA Announces Path Forward to Protect Food Supply During the COVID-19 Period
▪ Food & Drug Administration — Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
▪ — FDA Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Briefing for Foods Stakeholders— Transcript
▪ — Audio



Trump-voting areas have limited ICU

Many Americans who voted for Donald Trump for president live in areas where intensive care services are limited or nonexistent, *The Washington Post* reported.

▪ *The Washington Post* — 1 in 8 Trump voters lives in a county with no ICU beds



Media begins to notice potential food supply chain problems

The United States is not running out of food, but there may be problems ahead in the food supply chain, *Axios AM* said today.

The edition also includes an *Associated Press* photo of the "Fearless Girl" statue on Wall Street wearing a mask. Commodity Futures Trading Commission Commissioner Dawn Stump had her swearing in ceremony next to it.

▪ *Axios AM* — The workers feeding America

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 2 2020-12-21
USDA-20-1045-A-002420

WTD: Japan wants to expand TPP

Japan will make a fresh attempt to expand the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact to include more Asian economies, such as Thailand, Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines, after the new coronavirus exposed the risks of supply chains overly dependent on China, Nikkei reported, *Washington Trade Daily* said.

"First up will be Thailand, a key production hub for many Japanese automakers," *WTD* said.

"The country is expected to announce as early as April its intent to join the TPP. Negotiations will officially begin in August, when the 11 existing members — Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam — hold a ministerial meeting in Mexico."

Advocates consider ban on imports from cocoa countries

Human rights actifists and lawyess are considering use of a U.S. trade law that forbids importing items produced with forced labor to try to curb child labor abuse in the Ivory Coast, the website *Africa is a Country* reported.

- *Africa is a Country* — Can we end the chocolate industry's labor abuses?

Image removed by sender. 2020 0323-DC-BloomCam

Cherry blossom fans can view the show safely by going to the live "BloomCam" on the Trust for the National Mall website. Click on photo to view.

Park Service, Andrés: Look at cherry blossoms online

The National Park Service and chef José Andrés today urged people to look at the cherry blossoms online *(see link below)* rather than going down to the Tidal Basin in

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Washington.

Andres said on Twitter: “If we go down in visits today in a big way, next year we will cook a huge Paella for thousands of Washingtonians to celebrate life, and our beautiful @washingtondc.”

“You got my word!” Andrés added.

The Washington Post noted that the National Park Service retweeted his promise, adding, “If not for the health and safety of yourself and others, DO IT FOR THE PAELLA, PEOPLE!!”

▪ Trust for the National Mall & National Cherry Blossom Festival — BloomCam



33 coronavirus cases in Indian country

There are 33 cases of coronavirus in Indian country, according to *Indian Country Today* on its “COVID-19 Tracker in the United States” website that is tracking the outbreak.

▪ *Indian Country Today* — Indian Country’s COVID-19 syllabus



Beans popular amid coronavirus outbreak

Beans are suddenly a hot food, even at farmers markets, *The New York Times* reports.

▪ *The New York Times* — A Boom Time for the Bean Industry



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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 2020-12-22

USDA-20-1045-A-002122

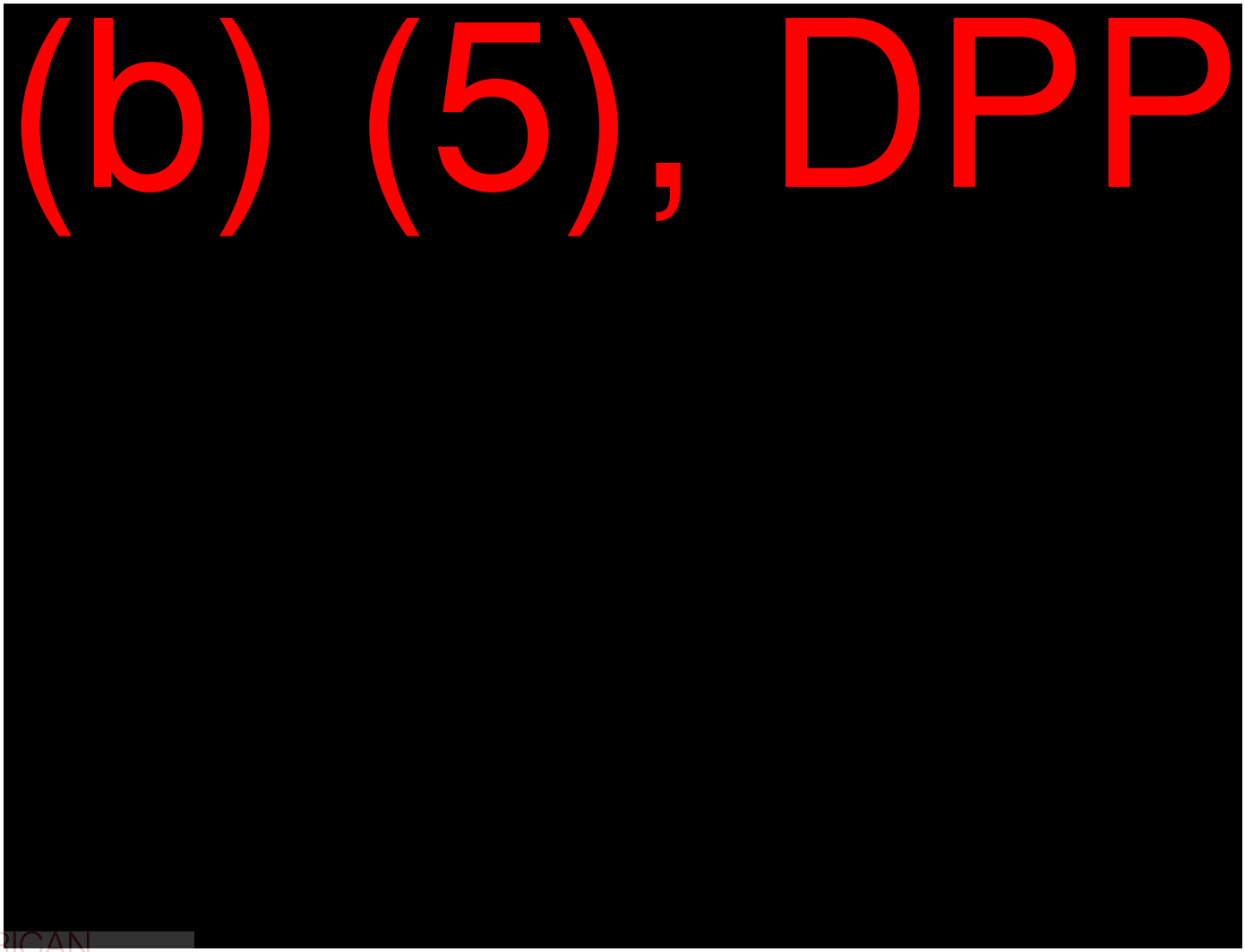
From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: This ok?
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 7:01:33 PM

Some suggested edits below.

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 6:33 PM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: This ok?

Ken – how is this?



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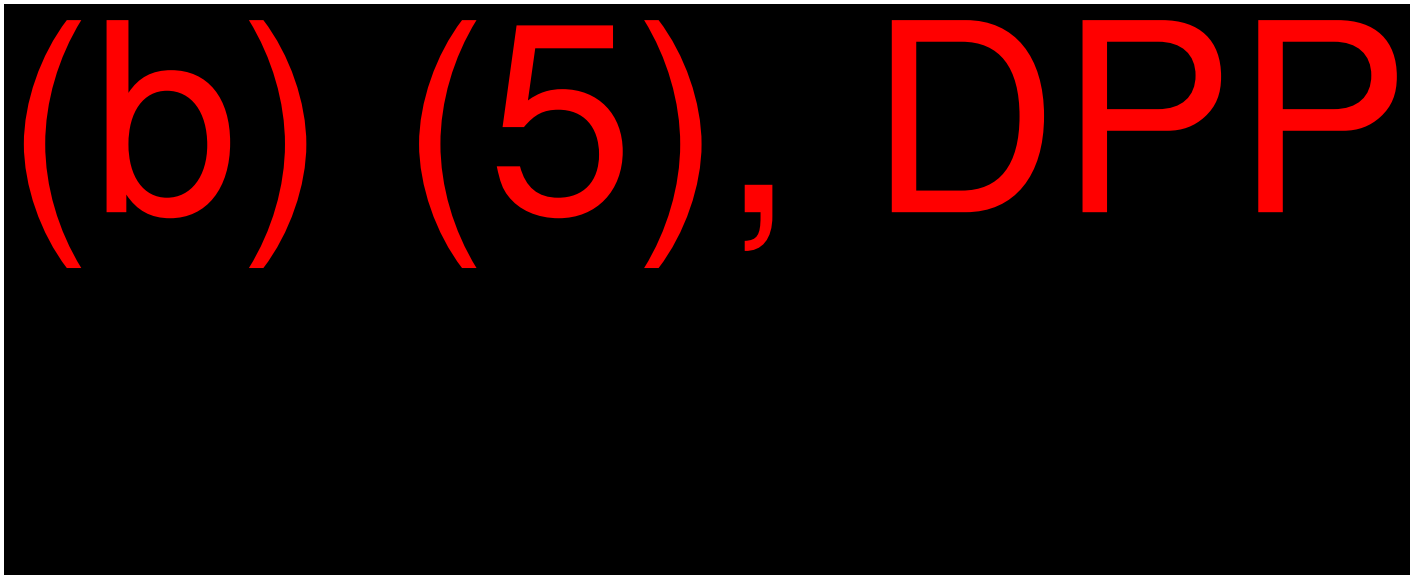
From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: thoughts on TPs for tomorrow
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 6:51:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

(b) (5), DPP

Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 6:46 PM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: thoughts on TPs for tomorrow

(b) (5), DPP .



From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 6:17 PM
To: Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC,

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Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <lauren.sullivan@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: thoughts on TPs for tomorrow

Below are my draft talking points – please feel free to edit (choose a color) and send back to me. Need to send to Joby/Blake/SP by tonight.

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

###

From: Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 5:25 PM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: thoughts on TPs for tomorrow

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:36 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>

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Subject: RE: thoughts on TPs for tomorrow

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:36 PM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: thoughts on TPs for tomorrow

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:33:05 PM
To: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: thoughts on TPs for tomorrow

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:23:57 PM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: thoughts on TPs for tomorrow

Pre-decisional/deliberative

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(b) (5), DPP

Mary Dee Beal
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.0907
Cell: (b) (6)

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Email address withheld is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

From: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Topline Numbers
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:08:50 AM

Excellent. Thank you

Best regards,

Steve

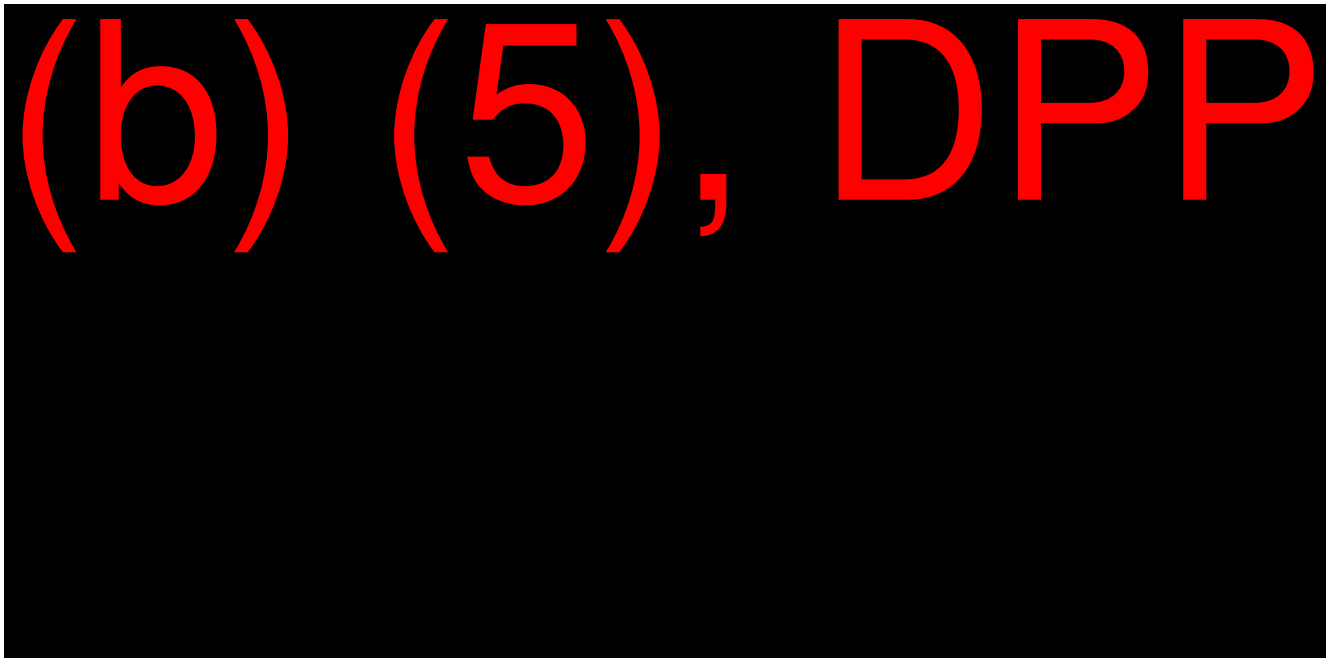
Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6)
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:51 AM
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Topline Numbers

See the below list we have been working off of. Let us know if you need any additional information or explanation.

(b) (5), DPP

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From: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: Topline Numbers

Email address withheld is Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

Brandon and Anne,

I have a WH IGA call with 3500 local officials, mayors, etc. today at 11:30 a.m. Can you shoot me the (b) (5), DPP

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6)
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: TX and NJ PEBT and WI Online Pilot
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:12:00 AM

Thank you

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:31 AM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC <jordan.bonfitto@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: TX and NJ PEBT and WI Online Pilot

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: TX and NJ PEBT and WI Online Pilot

Sir,
FNS has received approvable plans for Texas and New Jersey on P-EBT. They have also received an approvable plan from Wisconsin to operate the SNAP online pilot.

Previously announced P-EBT states, Michigan, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Arizona, Illinois, Alabama, Wisconsin, California, Connecticut, Kansas, Virginia, Maryland, New Mexico, Delaware, Oregon, North Dakota, West Virginia, Vermont, Maine, New York and Pennsylvania.

Previously announced online pilot states include: Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, North Carolina, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, Vermont, Minnesota, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, and Rhode Island covering more than half of all SNAP recipients.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

The states have been notified. Online Pilot release attached, P-EBT below.

USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in Texas and New Jersey

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Pandemic EBT to Feed Children during COVID-19 National Emergency

Release & Contact Info

Press Release
Release No. 0224.20

Contact: USDA Press
Email: press@oc.usda.gov

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(b) (5), DPP

#

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Unique Correspondence - 8627539 Fudge (P-EBT)
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 6:09:00 PM
Attachments: image004.png

(b) (5), DPP

From: Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 6:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; ONeill, Stephen - OBPA, Washington, DC <Stephen.ONeill@usda.gov>; Esparza, Christopher, OGC, Washington, DC <Christopher.Esparza@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>; Lester, Susan - OSEC, Washington, DC <Susan.Lester@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Unique Correspondence - 8627539 Fudge (P-EBT)

(b) (5), DPP . Please let me know if you have any questions!'

Have a great weekend, stay safe!
Zach

Zach Jacobs
Legislative Analyst – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 260-8024
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 5:11 PM
To: Jackson, Noah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Noah.Jackson@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Zach - OSEC, Washington, DC <Zach.Jacobs@usda.gov>; Young, Chatavia - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chatavia.Young@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Unique Correspondence - 8627539 Fudge (P-EBT)

(b) (5), DPP

Thank you!

Wes

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 5:01 PM
To: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Young, Chatavia - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chatavia.Young@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Unique Correspondence - 8627539 Fudge (P-EBT)

(b) (5), DPP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 3:12 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Young, Chatavia - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chatavia.Young@usda.gov>
Subject: Unique Correspondence - 8627539 Fudge (P-EBT)

Good Afternoon Anne,

(b) (5), DPP

Wes

Wesley A. Gwinn
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Joel Berg
Cc:	Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Tamara Mizhquiri; Perkins, Celeste - FNS; Fink, Katherine - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee)
Subject:	RE: Update on COVID-19 and Hunger
Date:	Tuesday, March 17, 2020 11:13:00 AM
Attachments:	image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.png

Joel –

Thanks for your email. We are focused on an all-in approach at this time, trying to coordinate folks in a common direction as they reach out. This will take more effort if Congress passes the bill the President has encouraged them to pass. As you know, we have a wonderful team committed to make all of this happen.

Thanks for what you do.

Regards,
Brandon

From: Joel Berg (b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 5:32 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Tamara Mizhquiri (b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org>; Perkins, Celeste - FNS <celeste.perkins@usda.gov>; Fink, Katherine - FNS <Katherine.Fink@fns.usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>
Subject: Update on COVID-19 and Hunger

Mr. Lipps:

I just got this report from our hunger hotline director.

> "We started getting phone calls from people concerned about their SNAP benefits and meals for kids. Regarding SNAP, callers requested an advance on their benefits because they're concerned about grocery stores not having food left when their benefits are deposited. And as you predicted, families are also looking for meal sites for their kids since they can no longer get meals at school. We're referring these callers to pantries for now and are keeping up-to-date with latest SNAP developments."

Now that the President has declared a national emergency, we do hope FNS authorizes disaster SNAP.

More broadly, please see the attached memo detailing our thoughts on why the crises will increase hunger and what specific steps we believe government, companies, and philanthropies should do

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about it.

If you are anyone on your team would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me through this email or at 718-362-0471



JOEL BERG
CEO
212-825-0028 EXT(b) (6)
HUNGERFREEAMERICA.ORG



ENDING HUNGER LIFTS US ALL

From: Joel Berg
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 11:13 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Tamara Mizhquiri <(b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org>; Perkins, Celeste - FNS <celeste.perkins@usda.gov>; Fink, Katherine - FNS <Katherine.Fink@fns.usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID-19 and School Shut-Downs

Brandon:

Thank you for your response.

As for food delivery, we are in conversations with the federal Corporation for National Service about re-funding our national VISTA AmeriCorps Team, which now exists in New York and California but could be easily expanded back to the rest of the nation. If it is, we can use team members to aid food delivery.

In addition to the problem of kids not getting meals in schools, as you know, there is now the added problem that large numbers of arena, restaurant, and entertainment workers just became unemployed virtually overnight. I assume there will be mass layoffs at airports and other workplaces soon. Many of these workers were likely paid so little they were eligible for SNAP and/or WIC before the latest crises, and many more are certainly eligible now.

Coincidentally, just this morning, I asked our Clearinghouse contract contacts if FNS would potentially approve Hunger Free America issuing a press release aimed at letting newly unemployed

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workers know how they can get food help with the Hotline/Clearinghouse? Of course, we would ask FNS to approve the release before sending it out, but before we do the work to write a draft, I wanted to know if that was something that FNS would potentially approve.

Please advise.

I will also shortly send you a detailed memo -- that we are sharing with government leaders, corporate funders, and philanthropies -- about what we believe should be the coordinated food/hunger response to this joint health/economic crises.

Sincerely,



JOEL BERG
CEO
212-825-0028 EXT (b) (6)
HUNGERFREEAMERICA.ORG



ENDING HUNGER LIFTS US ALL

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:brandon.lipps@usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Joel Berg (b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org>
Cc: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Tamara Mizhquiri (b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org>; Perkins, Celeste - FNS <celeste.perkins@usda.gov>; Fink, Katherine - FNS <Katherine.Fink@fns.usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID-19 and School Shut-Downs

Thanks, Joel. As you know the team is working hard, both to provide TA to congress and to ensure that our partners have the tools they need to get food to low-income children. There has certainly been much interest in delivery of food to households and we will continue to explore options on that front. Thankfully, we have had some success on that front just this past summer in SFSP, but it would take a while to build capacity. And thankfully, in at least a few states including yours, SNAP has private online delivery up and running.

Please feel free to share as you have ideas or concerns.

Regards,
Brandon

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Joel Berg <(b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 10:09 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Tamara Mizhquiri (b) (6) @hungerfreeamerica.org>; Perkins, Celeste - FNS <celeste.perkins@usda.gov>; Fink, Katherine - FNS <Katherine.Fink@fns.usda.gov>
Subject: COVID-19 and School Shut-Downs

Mr. Lipps:

I hope you are well. We certainly all hope that COVID-19 doesn't spread so much that schools are shut down for long periods of time. But if that does occur, as you well know, tens of millions of low-income children would be deprived of school breakfasts, lunches, and after school snacks/suppers.

You may have already thought of this already, but if such shut-downs do occur, I hope you consider doing what you did during the last government shut-down; allowing states to advance the next month's SNAP and WIC payments to households.

As you are aware, one common way of FNS responding to natural disasters is providing commodities to congregate distribution sites. But if schools are closed specifically to prevent kids from congregating, then obviously congregate feeding sites would be a bad idea. So here is one alternative idea: what if you gave meals on wheels program nationwide some extra commodities and distribution funds to deliver food to shut-in low-income families? I realize that meals on wheels programs are funded by HHS, not USDA, but perhaps you could collaborate with them on this. Also, you may suggest to the federal Corporation for National and Community Service that AmeriCorps members be used to deliver meals to shut-in families.

Of course, we will be glad to use the National Funded Clearinghouse newsletter that we produce on behalf of FNS to communicate any appropriate COVID-19 messaging that FNS would like us to communicate. We would even produce a special newsletter on just this topic quite easily.

If we can be helpful in any or all of such efforts, you and/or your team please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

We are also making these suggestion to other relevant appointed and elected officials.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

JOEL BERG
CEO
212-825-0028 EXT (b) (6)
HUNGERFREEAMERICA.ORG

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Update on online pilot expansion announcement
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 11:18:00 AM

I texted him, as well. Not sure what his schedule is like this morning.

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 11:13 AM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Update on online pilot expansion announcement

If (b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:26 AM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Subject: Update on online pilot expansion announcement

Info withheld pursuant to (b)(6) is Perdue alias email address

Sir –

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks,

Brandon

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Withheld email address is Perdue alias email address

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Update on online pilot expansion announcement
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 12:06:54 PM

Yes but I'll just add them verbally. No need for another script

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:25 AM

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC

Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC

Subject: Update on online pilot expansion announcement

Sir –

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Thanks,

Brandon

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: O"Brien, Tom
Cc: Foley, Martha; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: update on SFSP/SSO congregate state waivers
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 2:52:00 PM

Tom,

Communities are choosing different methods of food distribution:

Kentucky – drive through site pickup - https://www.lanereport.com/122886/2020/03/ag-commissioner-ryan-quarles-summarizes-department-actions-on-coronavirus/

Michigan - variety of techniques and locations- https://www.abc12.com/content/news/LIST-Meals-offered-to-help-families-feed-children-during-the-COVID-19-school-shutdown-568777991.html

Georgia - variety of techniques and locations- https://www.11alive.com/mobile/article/news/health/coronavirus/school-lunch-availability-during-coronavirus-closures-atlanta/85-7196b4a2-9727-4d0f-bd53-5eae68f57832

I can't find the news story, but in South Dakota, local officials were doing door delivery. Some communities have discussed using the bus route to do drop offs, although I haven't seen a news story of that technique yet.

Veronica

From: O'Brien, Tom <Tom.O'Brien@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Foley, Martha <Martha.Foley@mail.house.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: update on SFSP/SSO congregate state waivers

Thanks for the update, Veronica. That was a quick turnaround to get all 50 states, PR and DC approved. Do we assume that local school districts will use the two major options of meal access: (1) grab and go meals at a handful of local sites (which I assume is the SFSP), and (2) the addition of free meal values to EBT Cards (which I assume is the SSO)? Are there any other options now for those school districts closing their K-12 schools?

Thanks, Tom

Tom O'Brien
Republican Staff
House Committee on Appropriations - Agriculture
1001 Longworth House Office Building | Washington, DC 20515

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On Mar 15, 2020, at 2:20 PM, Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov> wrote:

Martha and Tom,

This email is to update you on USDA approved Food and Nutrition state waivers.

Child Nutrition - Congregate Feeding

All 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico now have approved Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and/or Seamless Summer Options (SSO) congregate feeding waivers. In total USDA issued 58 waivers, with 6 states needing two waivers because of unique configurations within these states like their SFSP program is run out of one Department and their SSO program run out of another. The six states are Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas.

SNAP – Quality Control

USDA is allowing States to conduct telephone interviews instead of face-to face-interviews for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC) purposes. States must notify FNS in advance if they choose to implement this flexibility and must follow all other requirements for the QC interview as specified in SNAP regulations. A notification may be done through email, letter, or oral affirmation that they plan to use this flexibility.

This flexibility applies to any QC case reviews conducted in March, April and May 2020. States already have the option to use telephonic for certification/recertification purposes.

16 states are now using this QC flexibility: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Wyoming.

This website link with this state waiver information will be updated as needed: https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)

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veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Updated template release: KS feeding flexibilities
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:13:55 AM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:12:45 AM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated template release: KS feeding flexibilities

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

Thanks,
Dirk

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Updated template release: KS feeding flexibilities

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:09:18 AM
To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated template release: KS feeding flexibilities

Reb – (b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

From: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>

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Subject: RE: Updated template release: KS feeding flexibilities

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks,
Dirk

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Updated template release: KS feeding flexibilities

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

From: Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:49 AM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Subject: Updated template release: KS feeding flexibilities

Good morning, Rebeckah and Michawn,

Below is (b) (5), DPP [redacted] Please review and let me know if you have any changes. I'll then send up to the next group. Thanks!

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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#

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee); DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lucas, Richard - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hardison, Brooke - FNS; FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov)
Cc:	Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS; Shahin, Jessica - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Ward, Ronald - FNS
Subject:	RE: UPDATED: #35 - SNAP Flexibilities - Nation-Wide Claims Suspension
Date:	Monday, April 13, 2020 2:53:00 PM

The hill has been notified on this.

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 2:33 PM
To: Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lucas, Richard - FNS <richard.lucas@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Hardison, Brooke - FNS <Brooke.Hardison@usda.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Silbermann, Lizbeth - FNS <lizbeth.silbermann@usda.gov>; Shahin, Jessica - FNS <jessica.shahin@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Ward, Ronald - FNS <ronald.ward@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: UPDATED: #35 - SNAP Flexibilities - Nation-Wide Claims Suspension

See updated Hill notice below.

SNAP, this batch of flexibility approvals are approved to be sent.

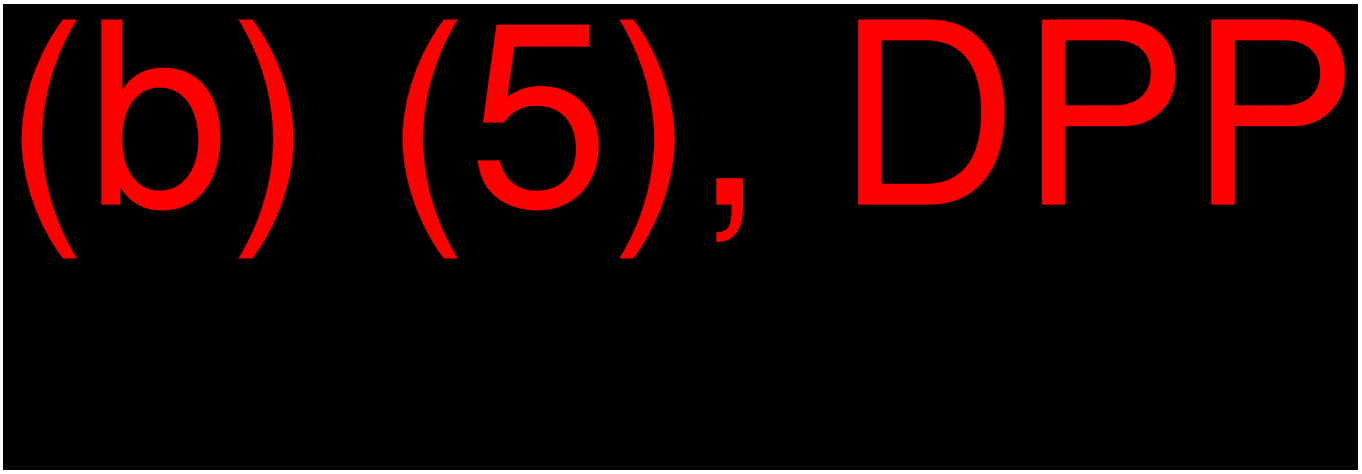
Veronica/Karla, the draft notification is below (this is using our normal SNAP flexibility authority, not 6201 – we will treat this like all other COVID-19 requests, but the authority piece is different).

Anne, please share with your contacts.

Draft Hill Notification for Claims Suspension:



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Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Updates on DeLauro/Bishop Letter/Press Release
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:36:13 AM

Thanks!

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From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:25:25 AM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Updates on DeLauro/Bishop Letter/Press Release

Yes, my apologies, I should have cc'd you all too!

Ken Barbic
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6) (cell)

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 6:08:09 AM
To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Updates on DeLauro/Bishop Letter/Press Release

Good morning -

Can you please cc FNCS when you email related info to SP so we can ensure he has what he needs timely?

I hope all goes well today.

Thanks!
Brandon
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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 10:38 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee -

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Email addresses withheld are Secretary Perdue and Deputy Secretary Censky's email addresses.

OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS

Subject: Updates on DeLauro/Bishop Letter/Press Release

Sir –

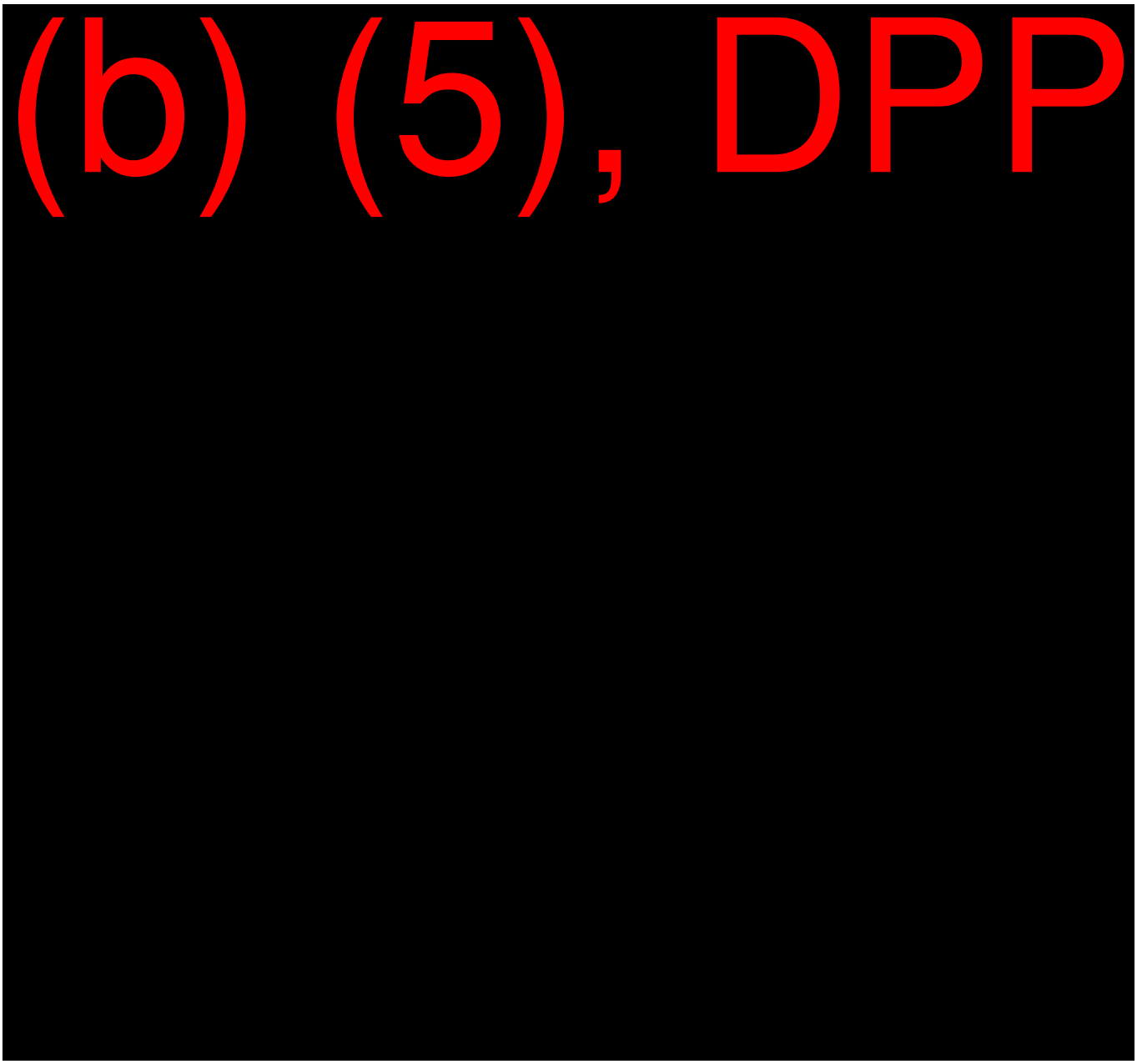
(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Regards,
Brandon



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From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA COVID-19 Update
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 9:37:00 PM

Thanks, LB!

From: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 9:28 PM
To: Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO <Douglas.L.Hoelscher@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>; Crozer, William F. EOP/WHO <William.F.Crozer@who.eop.gov>; Bedan, Morgan E. EOP/WHO <Morgan.E.Bedan@who.eop.gov>; Imhoff, Olivia P. EOP/WHO <Olivia.P.Imhoff2@who.eop.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA COVID-19 Update

Hi, everyone.

Here are some updates from USDA today:

Issues we are tracking:

- (b) (5), DPP
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

Calls:

- (b) (5), DPP
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks!

--
Lillie Brady
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 9:32 PM
To: Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO <Douglas.L.Hoelscher@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <Nicholas.D.Pottebaum@who.eop.gov>; Crozer, William F. EOP/WHO <William.F.Crozer@who.eop.gov>; Bedan, Morgan E. EOP/WHO <Morgan.E.Bedan@who.eop.gov>; Imhoff, Olivia P. EOP/WHO <Olivia.P.Imhoff2@who.eop.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA COVID-19 Update

Good evening –

Please see the attached document for USDA's latest actions regarding CONVID-19. At the end of the document is also a top line overview of what each of our mission areas are doing. Ashley has been a huge help in all of these efforts. We will continue to update.

Best,
Lillie

--
Lillie Brady
Cell: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA Feeds Kids, Helps Families During COVID-19 Emergency
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:28:00 AM

You have (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:19 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: USDA Feeds Kids, Helps Families During COVID-19 Emergency

Got clearance on this release. Going to hit send at 8:30AM.

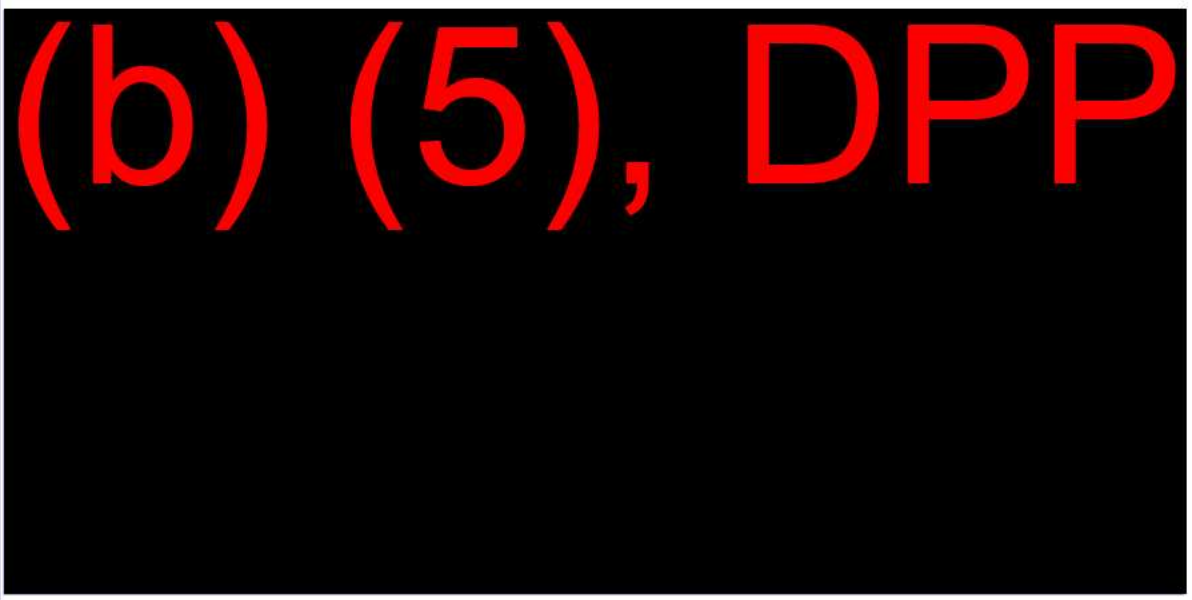
Alec Varsamis
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-731-7638

From: USDA Office of Communications <feedback@oc.usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:18 AM
To: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA Feeds Kids, Helps Families During COVID-19 Emergency

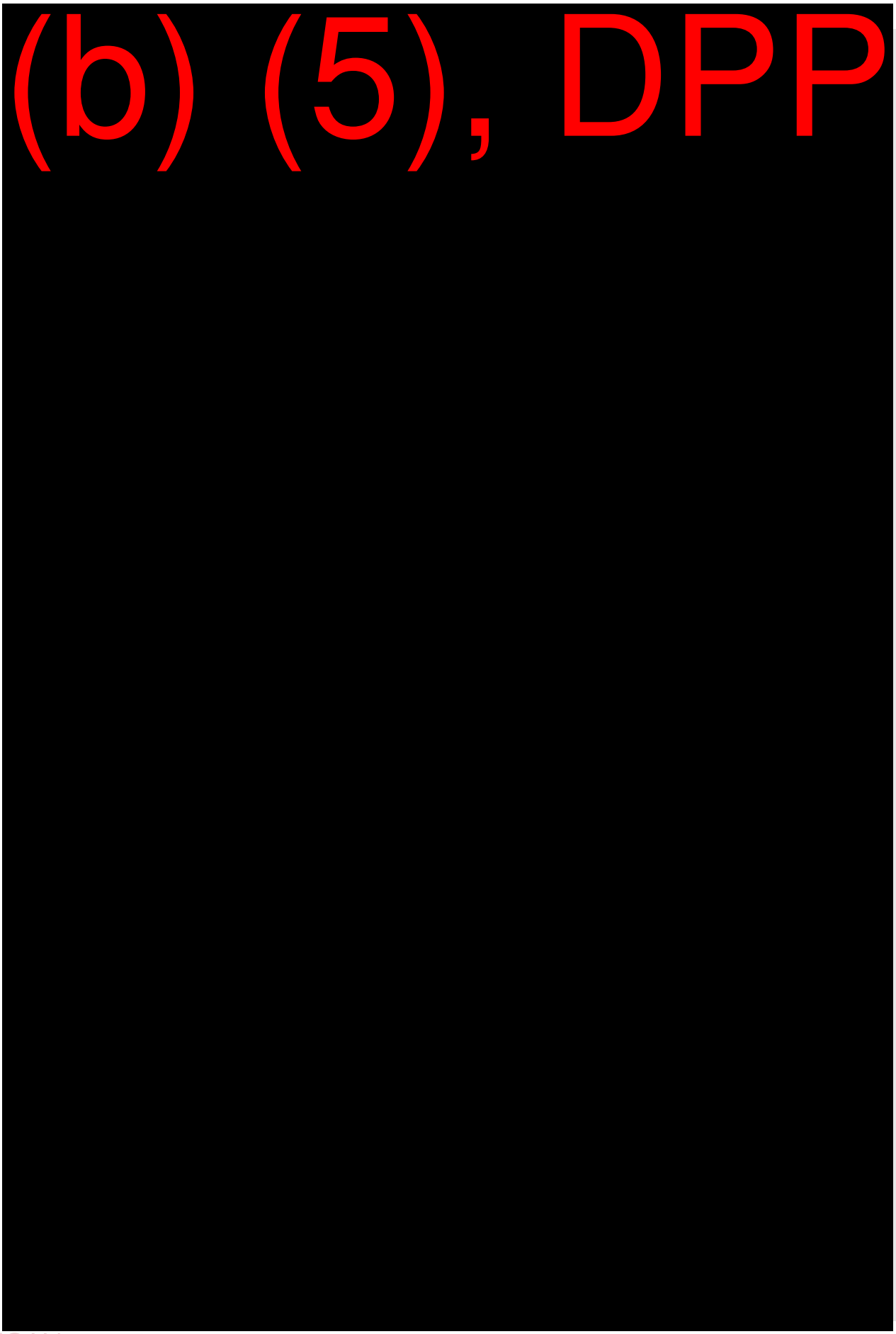
TEST TEST TEST



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(b) (5), DPP

###

Department of Agriculture |1400 Independence Ave., S.W.,Washington, DC 20250

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USDA-20-1045-A-002162

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 7:58:00 PM

Thanks!

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 5:54 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19

It's on the webstie on the Michigan page: https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/michigan#snap

This link has all the details: Emergency Allotments to Current SNAP Households (Received: 3/23/2020

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Date	Request	Status
3/14/2020	SNAP Flexibility for Quality Control Interviews	State Selected Option
3/24/2020	Emergency Allotments to Current SNAP Households (Received: 3/23/2020)	Approved

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19

Can I have a copy of the Michigan emergency allotment?

From: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture) <Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Do you have a copy of the MI plan you could share?

On Mar 24, 2020, at 2:53 PM, Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov> wrote:

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving two month SNAP Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**

March and April Approvals: Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina

April and May Approvals: Tennessee

Guidance and templates for states to use in their requests were provided on Friday, March 20.

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shelton, Lisa
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:31:00 PM

Request received, thank you.

From: Shelton, Lisa <Lisa.Shelton@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 5:11 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19

Thank you.
Could please provide the guidance sent to states?
Appreciate it

> On Mar 24, 2020, at 2:52 PM, Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> All,
>
> This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
>
> FNS is approving two month SNAP Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**
>
> **March and April Approvals:** Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina
>
> **April and May Approvals:** Tennessee
>
> Guidance and templates for states to use in their requests were provided on Friday, March 20.
>
> State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.
>
> State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.
>
> Regards,
>
> Veronica Smith Wong

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Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture)
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 7:58:00 PM

Sure. It's on the public website: https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/michigan#snap

From: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture) <Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

Do you have a copy of the MI plan you could share?

> On Mar 24, 2020, at 2:53 PM, Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> All,
>
> This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
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> FNS is approving two month SNAP Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**
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> **March and April Approvals:** Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina
>
> **April and May Approvals:** Tennessee
>
> Guidance and templates for states to use in their requests were provided on Friday, March 20.
>
> State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.
>
> State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

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Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Gristina, Alexander
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:06:00 PM

Alex,

May I call you now?

Veronica

From: Gristina, Alexander <Alexander.Gristina@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19

Hey Veronica,

Thank you so much, I'm sure you're really busy! My phone number is (b) (6) . When are you free?

Best,
Alex

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Gristina, Alexander <Alexander.Gristina@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19

Alex,

What number can I reach you at?

Veronica

From: Gristina, Alexander <Alexander.Gristina@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 1:38 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19

Hey Chris,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I got this information. I had another question about TEFAP, do you have time to talk?

Best,
Alex

From: Gristina, Alexander
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 12:01 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19

Hey Chris,

Do you have anything yet?

Best,
Alex

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:09 PM
To: Gristina, Alexander <Alexander.Gristina@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19

I am still waiting to hear back from the program staff! I will let you know as soon as I get a response.

Thanks,
Chris

From: Gristina, Alexander <Alexander.Gristina@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 5:08 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19

Hey Chris,

Any update?

Best,
Alex

From: Gristina, Alexander
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 12:37 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19

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Hey Chris,

Thank you!

Best,
Alex

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 10:57 AM
To: Gristina, Alexander <Alexander.Gristina@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19

Alex,

Looking into this now!

-Chris

From: Gristina, Alexander <Alexander.Gristina@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19

Hey Chris,

Thanks for the email! Do you know how much NJ will be given?

Best,
Alex

Alexander Gristina
Legislative Aide/Scheduler
Office of Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06)
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
202-225-4671 – Office
202-225-9665 – Fax

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:55 AM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19

All,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**

March and April Approvals: Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island

April and May Approvals: Iowa

This is in addition to the 7 states noticed yesterday.

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Garrison, Eyang
Subject: Re: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments and Extended Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 8:11:36 AM
Attachments: image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png

Eyang,

Good morning and sure. It's online on our website linked here, https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/media/file/OH-SNAP-COV-EmergencyAllotments-Approval.pdf

Veronica

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Garrison, Eyang <Eyang.Garrison@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 5, 2020 7:11:41 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments and Extended Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

Thanks again for sharing these approvals with me. Do you have a copy of Ohio's Emergency Allotment approval that you can share with me. Apologies if you've already sent it to me. I searched my emails and was unable to find it.

Eyang

Eyang Garrison | Deputy Chief of Staff & Legislative Director
Representative Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11)
2344 Rayburn House Office Building
Main Office: 202.225.7032



Sign up for Rep. Fudge's e-newsletter by clicking here.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments and Extended Recertification and Periodic

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Reporting - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Recertification
Attached is **one additional state** SNAP flexibility Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201. This is in addition to the 3 states notified earlier today for a total of 41 already granted.**

USDA has granted **Vermont** a waiver through May 31, 2020 through the authority granted to the Secretary. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Emergency Allotment

FNS is approving Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**

March and April Approvals: Delaware, Ohio

This is in addition to the 11 states noticed yesterday.

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP flexibilities telephonic signature - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 7:08:00 PM

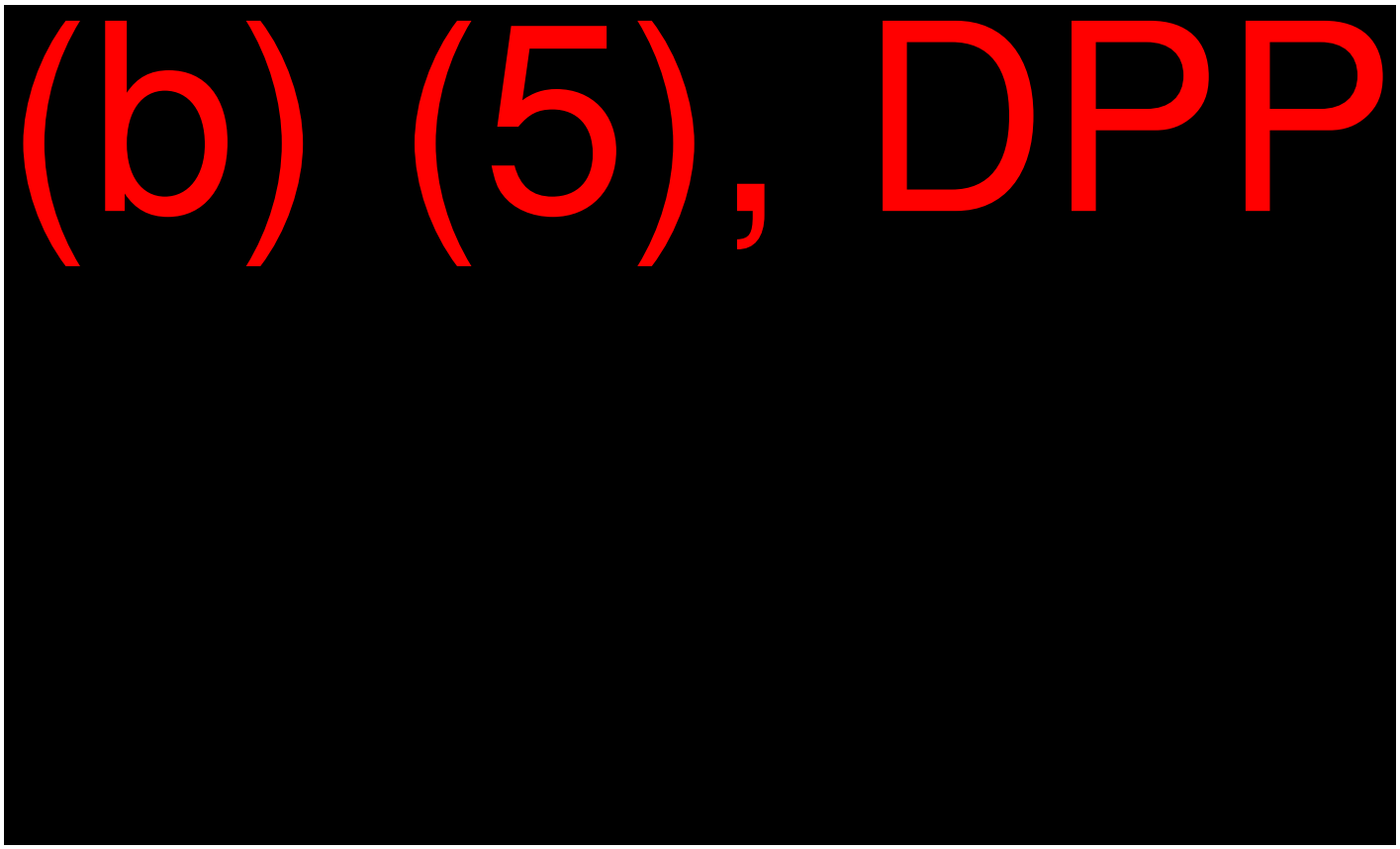
Thanks. you'll see I (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 7:06 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP flexibilities telephonic signature - COVID-19

I can (b) (5), DPP

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 6:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP flexibilities telephonic signature - COVID-19

All,



Regards,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wilcoxson, Samuel
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP Nationwide Flexibilities Claims Suspension and Fair Hearings - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:42:00 PM

Yes, I will call you then. Thank you.

From: Wilcoxson, Samuel <Samuel.Wilcoxson@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP Nationwide Flexibilities Claims Suspension and Fair Hearings - COVID-19

Absolutely. Can we shoot for 4:30 ET? My number is (b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 14, 2020, at 3:31 PM, Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov> wrote:

> Samuel,
>
> Do you have time for a phone call?
>
> Regards,
>
> Veronica
>
> Veronica Smith Wong
> Office of Congressional Relations
> United States Department of Agriculture
> Washington, DC
> Office: (b) (6)
> veronica.wong@usda.gov

> **From:** Wilcoxson, Samuel <Samuel.Wilcoxson@mail.house.gov>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:26 PM
> **To:** Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP Nationwide Flexibilities Claims Suspension and Fair Hearings - COVID-19
>
> Hello,
>
> I'm reaching out because I was hoping to connect with an agency point of contact to

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

learn more about TEFAP and the commodity acquisition process prior to distributing to states.

Thanks,
Samuel Wilcoxson

Legislative Assistant
Congressman Rick Larsen
Washington Second District

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 5:25 PM
Subject: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP Nationwide Flexibilities Claims Suspension and Fair Hearings - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of blanket waiver request as a result of a State's response to COVID-19.

Under the authority of 7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i), FNS may authorize temporary waivers to deviate from specific regulatory provisions when they cannot be implemented due to extraordinary temporary situations. FNS has received multiple requests from State agencies for these flexibilities and has determined that approval is appropriate due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

SNAP Nationwide Claims Suspension
FNS will allow states to adjust through May 31, 2020:

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(d) by allowing flexibility in the time frame for establishing or disposing of new claims.

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(e)(1) and (e)(5) by not requiring collection of active recoupment of SNAP overpayments, delaying collection on newly established overpayments, and not considering any payments delayed due to this suspension to be delinquent.

Households remain liable for their outstanding SNAP debts and the State agency will restart collection activity and delinquency determinations at the end of the waiver period.

SNAP Nationwide Fair Hearings
FNS will allow states to adjust:

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- As needed, State agencies may extend the fair hearings process up to 120 days from receipt of the request for fair hearings that were already in process or for which requests are received from March 1 through May 31, 2020.

- The time frame for sending notices confirming oral withdrawal requests may be extended up to 30 days from receipt of the request for such requests received during this same time period

FNS encourages States to use existing flexibility to conduct hearings by alternate means, such as telephone or video conference, when possible, to meet the standard required time frames. Fair hearings can be requested by SNAP participants, for example, if they disagree with the circumstances regarding their case, such as a reduction in their monthly household allotment. This is not related to cases of fraud.

If the State agency elects to implement either of the above SNAP nationwide flexibilities, it must notify its respective FNS Regional Office.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris



Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Howard, Rebecca (Jones)
Cc: Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov)
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 11:51:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image005.png

Rebecca,

Are you looking for the state's application or the approval letter?

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Howard, Rebecca (Jones) <Rebecca_Howard@jones.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Chris and Veronica,

Excited about this news. Is there any way you can share their application? It would be greatly appreciated.

Best,

Rebecca Howard
Legislative Assistant
Office of U.S. Senator Doug Jones
(202) 228-3737



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 5:33 PM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Alabama has received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval.

The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AZ and IL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 8:30:00 AM

My apologies, (b) (5), DPP

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 8:29 AM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - AZ and IL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Just flagging this (b) (5), DPP .

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 8:18 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - AZ and IL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Copeland, Mark (Duckworth)
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AZ and IL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 11:32:00 AM

Thanks for the note Mark. Glad it got worked out.

From: Copeland, Mark (Duckworth) <Mark_Copeland@duckworth.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kanner, Max (Durbin) <Max_Kanner@durbin.senate.gov>; Hayes, Virginia (Duckworth) <Virginia_Hayes@duckworth.senate.gov>; Camozzi, Gabie (Durbin) <Gabie_Camozzi@durbin.senate.gov>; Atkinson, Todd (Durbin) <Todd_Atkinson@durbin.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AZ and IL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

EL/VW – We wanted to reaffirm our profound thanks for your team's rapid response and assistance with Illinois's P-EBT efforts over the weekend. FNS's diligence in working with IDHS to approve their application in time to make the needed runs over the weekend is a great example of successful federal/state collaborations. In particular, I want to give high-5s to Veronica for her commitment to keeping the Duckworth/Durbin offices in the loop and informed on a step-by-step basis. It was greatly appreciated and very helpful for our bosses.

Thanks again! MC

Mark A. Copeland | Senior Policy Advisor | Office of Senator Tammy Duckworth | (202) 224-2854 | Hart 524
Work Cell (primary during telework schedule): (b) (6)

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 11:02 AM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - AZ and IL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Arizona and Illinois have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

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The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval.

The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Christopher.Harvey@mail.house.gov
Subject: Re: USDA FNS - SNAP Emergency Allotments - COVID-19
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:29:42 PM

Christopher,

Thank you for the email.

The FEMA disaster declaration limited Individual Assistance (IA) to crisis counseling. This limited approval does not include the authority for USDA FNS to approve D-SNAP operations.

Here is the link to the disaster declaration:
https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/03/25/president-donald-j-trump-approve-major-disaster-declaration-texas

Texas has been approved to operate a Disaster Household food distribution program. And the Texas SNAP emergency allotments were authorized on April 6.

Regards,

Veronica Wong
USDA Office of Congressional Relations

From: Harvey, Christopher <Christopher.Harvey@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP Emergency Allotments - COVID-19

Chris,

Good afternoon. I hope this message finds you well. Has DSNAP been approved already for the state of Texas?

Christopher

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:11 AM
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Emergency Allotments - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) response to

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COVID-19 regarding the implementation of phase two**SNAP Emergency Allotments** to States and Territories across the US.

USDA is granting the following blanket approval for SNAP Emergency Allotments under authority granted in the**Families First Coronavirus Response Act**.

FNS will allow States to provide SNAP Emergency Allotments month-to-month.

To qualify one or more of the following conditions are also required:

- Residents of the State are confirmed to have contracted Covid-19
- Some or all areas of the State are containment or quarantinezones
- Businesses have closed or significantly reduced their hours
- The State's residents have experienced economic impacts due to job suspensions orlosses
- The State's residents have been directed to practice socialdistancing

And

- The State's emergency or disaster declaration remains active.

And

- The Federal Public Health Emergency Declaration remains active.

States must submit information regarding the Emergency Allotment issuance date(s) and the estimated number of impacted households and benefit amount each month. This information will be submitted to FNS on the 15th of each month for the subsequent month. States will await FNS acknowledgement before sending the Emergency Allotment issuance file(s) to their EBT processor.

State agencies should contact their respectiveFNS Regional Officeswith questions.

Information on previous SNAP emergency allotments can be foundhere.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tiller, Jennifer
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause Flex - COVID-19
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 2:01:00 PM

Got it, will check.

From: Tiller, Jennifer <Jennifer.Tiller@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause Flex - COVID-19

As a follow-up to my Friday inquiry, can you confirm that this ensures the SNAP applicant has indeed applied for a SSN, but due to COVID, is unable to follow-up because of the moratorium of face:face interviews?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause Flex - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a **Washington** waiver request to **increase the time allowed to provide the SSN for SNAP applicants** under Good Cause as a result of the State's response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following flexibilities under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations,** FNS's existing statutory authority.

FNS will allow the state to extend the timeframe for an individual to participate in SNAP after having established good cause for failure to provide a SSN for up to an additional three months. This will allow the State agency to grant good cause for a total of five months, the month of application plus one month as already provided for by 7 CFR 273.6(d), and an three additional months as provided for by this adjustment. This adjustment is approved through May 31, 2020.

The State has been provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Montan, Kaitlyn; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:38:00 PM

Kaitlyn,

We'll track down the approval doc for you.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Montan, Kaitlyn <Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 5:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Veronica and Chris,

The Ed&L Committee shared the news that Texas got approved for their application for P-EBT, but I saw that their application is not live yet on your website. Would you be able to share this with me?

Thanks,
Kaitlyn

Kaitlyn Montan
Legislative Assistant
Office of Congressman Joaquin Castro
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Office: (202)225-3236 | Cell: (b) (6)
Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov

From: "Hard, Alison" <Alison.Hard@mail.house.gov>
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 at 10:18 AM
To: "Montan, Kaitlyn" <Kaitlyn.Montan@mail.house.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Kaitlyn,

Hope this finds you well – sharing some good news that TX has been approved for P-EBT!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>

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Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:12 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Texas and New Jersey have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state(s) will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State(s) will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State(s) will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State(s) will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Cooper, Andrew (Cornyn); Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:54:00 PM

Andrew,

P-EBT was created in FFCRA Section 1101. This section specifies that the benefit is to occur when a school is closed for at least 5 days due to a public health emergency when it would have otherwise been in session.

This section of the bill is funded with "as much funds as needed" language, so it is additional funding and does not prevent a community from simultaneously offering free daily school meals like you are seeing in communities offering grab-n-go lunches, etc. A qualified family may also receive SNAP.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Cooper, Andrew (Cornyn) <Andrew_Cooper@cornyn.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:36 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Thank you all for approving this. We got the following ?s.

1. Is there an end date to this program? (ie is it tied to when schools re-open?)
2. Will this affect current school district lunch programs, as money is being redirected towards SNAP? Example given was FWISD has been doing meal delivery for students in need. Will that end because of EBT cards?

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 12:20 PM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Texas and New Jersey have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state(s) will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental

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Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State(s) will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State(s) will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State(s) will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - 3 SNAP Emergency allotments - COVID-19
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 9:02:00 PM

Please reply to hunter my standard response of thanks, received, get back soon

---

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 5:39 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA FNS Update - 3 SNAP Emergency allotments - COVID-19

From: Hobart, Hunter <Hunter.Hobart@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 5:37 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA FNS Update - 3 SNAP Emergency allotments - COVID-19

Chris,

Thanks for the heads up on this approval. Can you help me understand the impact of Section 2301 of the bill regarding the work requirements? I'm getting questions from constituents about eligibility. Is it possible for the federal work requirements to be suspended under the bill and the state to still impose work requirements?

Hunter

From: "Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 10:37 PM
Cc: "Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update - 3 SNAP Emergency allotments - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) response to COVID-19.

FNS is approving Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**

March and April Approvals: Alabama, Arkansas, Virginia

This is in addition to the 4 states noticed on early today.

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Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Vlasaty, Andrew (Blunt)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Graff, Sarah (Blunt)
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Missouri SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 5:15:00 PM

Andrew,

Sorry for the delay and thanks for checking back in. We are process hundreds of waivers and working as expeditiously as possible as we know how important they are to the states. I will let you know as soon as we have updated information on the Missouri waivers.

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Vlasaty, Andrew (Blunt) <Andrew_Vlasaty@blunt.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:05 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Graff, Sarah (Blunt) <Sarah_Graff@blunt.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA FNS Update - Missouri SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Hey Veronica and Chris,

Just wanted to check in on the waiver requests for in person interviews and adverse action notifications that MO (among others) are seeking. Are those working their way thru the process? Any insight you could share would be greatly appreciated.

Andrew

On Mar 21, 2020, at 9:46 AM, Vlasaty, Andrew (Blunt) <Andrew_Vlasaty@blunt.senate.gov> wrote:

> Thanks for passing this along. I know Missouri has also submitted some additional waivers thru FNS which are below. This announcement I believe is related to the last bullet. Does this announcement include the adverse action notices and in person interviews? Or should we be on the lookout for subsequent waiver decisions for those. Thanks for all you're doing and hang in there!

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o Waive all Food Stamp adverse action notices for 90 days

o Waive initial in-person Food Stamp interviews for 90 days

o Extend Food Stamp certification periods by 12 months

On Mar 20, 2020, at 10:29 PM, Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov> wrote:

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Missouri a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Missouri state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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<MO - SNAP - COV-011 - ExtendCertPeriods - Approval.pdf>

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Barczak, Elizabeth
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:10:00 PM

Elizabeth,

Once the request is ready for USDA in Washington DC, our goal is to turn it around in 2 business days. But, that requires the waiver first to go through the USDA regional office. Sometimes there is technical assistance that needs to occur between the state and regional office first.

Veronica

From: Barczak, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Barczak@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:06 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Got it that is helpful – thanks! Do you know about how long is the turnaround for USDA approving plan changes?

Elizabeth Barczak
Legislative Counsel
Congressman Anthony Gonzalez (OH-16)
1023 Longworth HOB | Washington, DC 20515
P: 202-494-2116

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 1:57 PM
To: Barczak, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Barczak@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Elizabeth,

That is correct. States have flexibility on certain administrative requirements and eligibility. States may need to adjust their "state plan" do so. USDA then reviews and signs off on changes to the state plan.

If the state is interested in making adjustments they may work with their regional FNS office on technical assistance and submissions.

Thanks,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Barczak, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Barczak@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Thanks, Veronica. We have been hearing from a few of our local foodbanks and constituents interested in whether there are plans to alter the eligibility criteria for TEFAP assistance with the onset of COVID-19. There has also been interest in waiving the current paperwork requirements due to the risk of the disease spreading to foodbank workers. Any guidance you could provide on this would be very helpful.

Specifically, it is my understanding that these guidelines are determined at the state level?

Elizabeth Barczak
Legislative Counsel
Congressman Anthony Gonzalez (OH-16)
1023 Longworth HOB | Washington, DC 20515
P: 202-494-2116

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 1:51 PM
To: Barczak, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Barczak@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Elizabeth,

I am your conduit for all program questions on Food and Nutrition Service.

Regards,
Veronica

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Barczak, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Barczak@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 1:37 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

Thanks for passing along this helpful information! I wanted to ask whether there was a contact at USDA that handles TEFAP, specifically eligibility requirements, that you can connect me with?

Thanks for any help you can provide,

Elizabeth Barczak
Legislative Counsel
Congressman Anthony Gonzalez (OH-16)
1023 Longworth HOB | Washington, DC 20515
P: 202-494-2116

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Ohio a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Ohio state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Hruska, Courtney
Cc: Perrino, Jenny; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19 - rep Kaptur
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 3:57:00 PM

Courtney,

Here is additional information on TEFAP food distribution: TEFAP foods are ordered and delivered throughout the year. Vendors work with States to set up delivery dates and times for foods ordered and purchased by the USDA in either the first half of the month or the second half month to locations determined by the State. Foodbanks should work with the State to determine if there is flexibility in the States delivery schedule. As you can imagine there was a large surge on demand at one time, so not all requests may be accommodated in one time frame.

The Ohio State TEFAP Agency contact is:
Stephon Ingram
614-644-1159
stephon.ingram@jfs.ohio.gov

Regards,
Veronica

From: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 3:18 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19 - rep Kaptur

Thank you so very much. Appreciate your help!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 3:09 PM
To: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19 - rep Kaptur

Courtney,

I will let our program staff know of the delay and if there is any way to mitigate this, will follow-up.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Regards,
Veronica

From: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Appears like they have requested assistance but were told it wont be released until March 31.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Courtney,

Have they already requested additional food from the regional distribution sites? And if so, were they told there were insufficient foods in certain categories?

Veronica

From: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Thank you Veronica,

We are hearing that some of our food banks are currently purchasing food and hoping they get provisions soon.

Some are also in fear of shutting down due to insufficient safety provisions. Any guidance is helpful.

-Courtney

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Courtney,

Thank you for the email. We will get back to you with more information as soon as possible.

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Hruska, Courtney <Courtney.Hruska@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:04 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Perrino, Jenny <Jenny.Perrino@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

Do we know the status of TEFAP provisions for food banks? Will they be dispersed soon? Is the National Guard assisting in this effort?

Thanks,

Courtney

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:07 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Ohio a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Ohio state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: USDA FNS Update - Puerto Rico NAP - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 2:01:31 PM

---

outstanding!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC <leslie.barrack@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 2:00 PM
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: FW: USDA FNS Update - Puerto Rico NAP - COVID-19

She found the answer that Veronica already sent last week.

Leslie Barrack
Deputy Director,
Office of Budget and Program Analysis
Room 126W Whitten Building
202-720-6112 (office)
(b) (6) (mobile)

From: Nellor, Dianne (Appropriations) <Dianne_Nellor@appro.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:41 PM
To: Barrack, Leslie - OBPA, Washington, DC <leslie.barrack@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA FNS Update - Puerto Rico NAP - COVID-19

Maybe I should just read my emails!!!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 7:19 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Puerto Rico NAP - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) response to COVID-19 for Puerto Rico.

Today, FNS **approved changes to Puerto Rico's Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP).** Puerto Rico runs a block grant version of SNAP, known as NAP. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) provided an increase to the block grant of $198 million and the Coronavirus Relief Act (CARES Act) provided an additional $99 million.

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The Amendment and Plan include the following activities approved by FNS:

- The June NAP Relief 2 benefit will be issued in May.
- The CARES and Family First Funding of $295 million will be distributed in June and July by issuing the maximum allotment to all households.
- All elderly households' benefits will increase by an additional amount of $16 in June and July.
- The three month certification period extension waiver will be extended by one month, until the end of July, to align with the funding.
- The Department of Family will hire 40 temporary in-takers to support technicians during the process of approval of all new NAP Covid-19 applications.

Puerto Rico has been informed of the approval, attached.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - State Waivers approvals SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:04:00 PM

No worries! Thanks for these!

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:04 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - State Waivers approvals SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Sorry Veronica, I was 2 minutes behind you!

Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:00 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update - State Waivers approvals SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, attached are 14 state/district/territory waivers under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.**

USDA has granted **Guam, DC, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virgin Island, Wisconsin a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020 through the authority granted to the Secretary. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Layman, Joseph
Subject:	RE: USDA FNS Update - State Waivers approvals SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 10:25:00 PM

sure

From: Layman, Joseph <Joseph.Layman@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:25 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - State Waivers approvals SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Hi Veronica, Martha just forward all these to me. Can you please add my to your distribution list

Thanks.

Joe Layman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building

From: Foley, Martha <Martha.Foley@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:19 PM
To: Layman, Joseph <Joseph.Layman@mail.house.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA FNS Update - State Waivers approvals SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:00 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update - State Waivers approvals SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, attached are 14 state/district/territory waivers under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

USDA has granted **Guam, DC, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virgin Island, Wisconsin a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020 through the authority granted to the Secretary. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Ladak, Nawaid
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Texas Waiver - Rep Bernice Johnson
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 9:13:00 PM

Nawaid,

Thank you for the email. We will get back to you on your question as soon as possible.

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Ladak, Nawaid <Nawaid.Ladak@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS Update - Texas Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19

Hi Veronica;

Do you happen to have the contact information for either Mr. Salter or anyone else who may be administering the SNAP program in Texas. We're trying to get in touch with someone oever there regarding a waiver request that the state government just filed.

Thank you,

-Nawaid Ladak
Legislative Assistant
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Texas Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting -

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of **Texas** has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Hard, Alison
Subject: RE: USDA FNS updates COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 6, 2020 6:27:00 PM

What guidance are you looking for?

From: Hard, Alison <Alison.Hard@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 6:24 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS updates COVID-19

Thank you, Veronica! Do you expect that additional guidance and materials will be released on Monday?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 6:20 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS updates COVID-19

All,

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has updated program information you or your stakeholders may find useful in consideration of COVID-19.

Recently updated FNS materials: https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic

All Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation.

Today's USDA press release: https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/03/06/usda-makes-it-easier-safer-feed-children-amid-washington-state

For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject:	RE: USDA Food and Nutrition - work requirement self-executing memo - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 2:56:00 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

thanks

From: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 2:52 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition - work requirement self-executing memo - COVID-19

(b) (5), DPP .



Joe Tvrdy
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Joe.Tvrdy@USDA.gov
703-402-7158

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 2:48 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition - work requirement self-executing memo - COVID-19

(b) (5), DPP

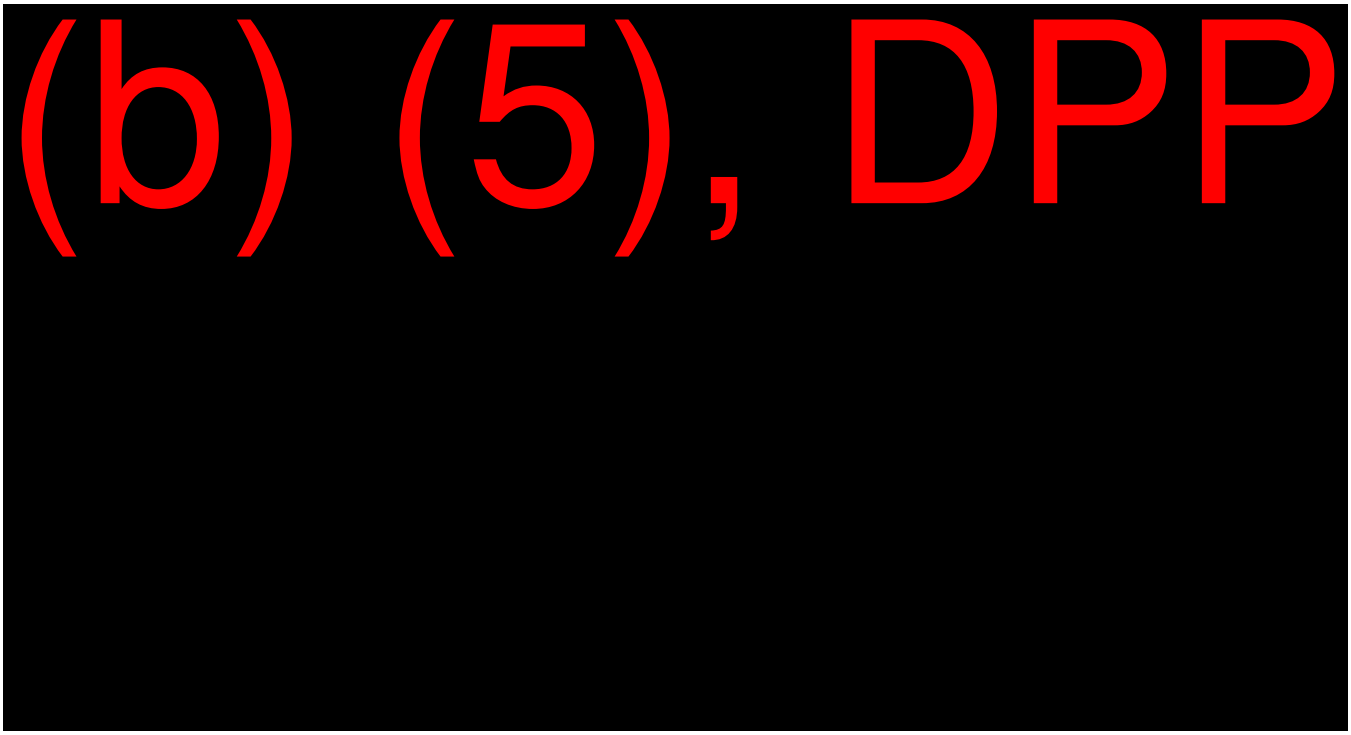
Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 2:43 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition - work requirement self-executing memo - COVID-19

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

This okay to send?

All,



Thank you,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Nguyen, Ngoc
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition California Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 2:12:00 PM

Absolutely.

From: Nguyen, Ngoc <Ngoc.Nguyen@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition California Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Thanks for the clarification!

NGOC NGUYEN | *Legislative Assistant*
Pronouns: she, her, hers
Office of Congressman Alan Lowenthal, CA-47
108 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
Office: (202) 225-7924

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 2:10 PM
To: Nguyen, Ngoc <Ngoc.Nguyen@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition California Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

When schools close, they can switch to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). They do not need a waiver for this. These programs have a congregate feeding requirement. The California state waiver granted removes the congregate feeding requirement during COVID-19.

From: Nguyen, Ngoc <Ngoc.Nguyen@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition California Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Ah, makes sense.

So currently, are states allowed to serve meals in a congregated group setting without waivers?

Sorry for the many questions. There are a few bills that were introduced on this issue and I want to get some clarification before briefing my boss on whether the current bills are necessary.

Thanks!

NGOC NGUYEN | *Legislative Assistant*

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Pronouns: she, her, hers
Office of Congressman Alan Lowenthal, CA-47
108 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
Office: (202) 225-7924

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 1:45 PM
To: Nguyen, Ngoc <Ngoc.Nguyen@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition California Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Ngoc,

States are not seeking USDA waivers to serve meals during school closures. The waiver request is only to the requirement that those meals be served in a congregate (group) setting. They want the option to serve in a non-group setting, like grab and go pickup.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Nguyen, Ngoc <Ngoc.Nguyen@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 1:14 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition California Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Hi Veronia,

Thanks for the quick reply.

I saw this memo from 2019 that is supposed to supersedes the 2018 one: https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/SP04_CACFP03_SFSP03-2020os.pdf

I'm a bit confused, because I was under the impression that the 2019 covers schools that were pre-approved by state agencies to continue to serve meals during closures, so they wouldn't need to apply for waivers. I thought that waivers are only needed by SFSP/NSLP districts that are not pre-approved by their state agencies to continue serving meals during closures.

Thanks,

NGOC NGUYEN | *Legislative Assistant*
Pronouns: she, her, hers
Office of Congressman Alan Lowenthal, CA-47
108 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
Office: (202) 225-7924

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 1:08 PM
To: Nguyen, Ngoc <Ngoc.Nguyen@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition California Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Ngoc,

Thank you for the email.

This memo from USDA gives guidance to state agencies and program providers on the process for seeking a waiver. https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP15_CACFP12_SFSP05-2018os.pdf Please note the template in the back that states may use to request a waiver.

To date, USDA has approved 7 state waiver requests to the school meals congregate feeding requirement. Yesterday, FNS received a large volume of new state requests. FNS is reviewing those requests today and is working hard to review and return responses quickly. I expect more state congregate feeding waivers to be approved by the end of the day.

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Nguyen, Ngoc <Ngoc.Nguyen@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 12:40 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition California Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

I am wondering what the process to approving these waivers are. Are there currently any state still awaiting approval, and how long do the approvals take?

Thanks,

NGOC NGUYEN | *Legislative Assistant*
Pronouns: she, her, hers

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Office of Congressman Alan Lowenthal, CA-47
108 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
Office: (202) 225-7924

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 8:00 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Dorner, Evan <Evan.Dorner@mail.house.gov>; Dernoga, Matt <Matt.Dernoga@mail.house.gov>; Kaiser, Khaula <Khaula.Kaiser@mail.house.gov>; Lum, Kelvin <Kelvin.Lum@mail.house.gov>; Schutt, David <David.Schutt@mail.house.gov>; O'Connell, Richie <Richie.O'Connell@mail.house.gov>; Sandlin, Erin <Erin.Sandlin@mail.house.gov>; Serrano, Jaqueline <Jaqueline.Serrano@mail.house.gov>; Silberberg, David <David.Silberberg@mail.house.gov>; Rivera, Thomas <Thomas.Rivera@mail.house.gov>; Rillo, Kayla <Kayla.Rillo@mail.house.gov>; Khan, Sheresh <Sheresh.Khan@mail.house.gov>; Goldeen, Ben <Ben.Goldeen@mail.house.gov>; Henderson, Jared <Jared.Henderson@mail.house.gov>; Perez, Michael <Michael.Perez@mail.house.gov>; Jackson, Sarah <Sarah.Jackson@mail.house.gov>; Henshall, Eric <Eric.Henshall@mail.house.gov>; joe_petrzelka@feinstein.senate.gov; Hart, Iain <Iain.Hart@mail.house.gov>; Agdaian, Tigran <Tigran.Agdaian@mail.house.gov>; Rios, Diana <Diana.Rios@mail.house.gov>; Ilaria, Jessica <Jessica.Ilaria@mail.house.gov>; Jonathan_Bertran-harris@harris.senate.gov; Steinberger, Ben <Ben.Steinberger@mail.house.gov>; Ferree, Logan <Logan.Ferree@mail.house.gov>; Hough, Holly <Holly.Hough@mail.house.gov>; Fox, Kevin <kevin.fox@mail.house.gov>; Devlin, Katie <Kathleen.Devlin@mail.house.gov>; Mehrabi, Emma <Emma.Mehrabi@mail.house.gov>; Gilbert, Jonathan <Jonathan.Gilbert@mail.house.gov>; Sham, Julian <Julian.Sham@mail.house.gov>; Kim, Priscilla <Priscilla.Kim@mail.house.gov>; Nguyen, Ngoc <Ngoc.Nguyen@mail.house.gov>; Richardson, Emily <Emily.Richardson@mail.house.gov>; Lombardi, Kyle <Kyle.Lombardi@mail.house.gov>; Keyes, Andrew <Andrew.Keyes@mail.house.gov>; Stoever, Mike <Mike.Stoever@mail.house.gov>; Leonard, Morgan <Morgan.Leonard@mail.house.gov>; Foley, Ian <Ian.Foley@mail.house.gov>; Mehta, Riya <Riya.Mehta@mail.house.gov>; anais.vorja@mail.house.gov; Seigel, Jessica <Jessica.Seigel@mail.house.gov>; Muhammad, Sabir <Sabir.Muhammad@mail.house.gov>; Jessup, Debbie <Debbie.Jessup@mail.house.gov>; Yager, Austin <Austin.Yager@mail.house.gov>; Willming, Cody <Cody.Willming@mail.house.gov>; Sorenson, Zach <Zach.Sorenson@mail.house.gov>; rob.robilliarb@mail.house.gov; Alptekin, Sera <Sera.Alptekin@mail.house.gov>; Motta, Art <Art.Motta@mail.house.gov>; Castro, Adrienne <Adrienne.Castro@mail.house.gov>; nate.denthan@mail.house.gov; Boggs, Clay <Clay.Boggs@mail.house.gov>; hannah.cejas@mail.house.gov; Sengstock, Kathleen <Kathleen.Sengstock@mail.house.gov>
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition California Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

All,

This email is to inform you today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the State of California to allow meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (also called non-congregate), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals while schools are temporarily closed.

The state waiver is effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020. Here is the link to the USDA press release on the California waiver.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Charney, Alyssa (Casey)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:03:00 PM

My answer here is based on the House bill passed Saturday morning. I have not looked to see what, if any related technical language has passed the House today. Having said that, the house bill from Saturday morning, Division B, Title I allows FNS to approve waivers that increase federal costs, but it does not provide extra funding for Child Nutrition to cover those costs.

From: Charney, Alyssa (Casey) <Alyssa_Charney@casey.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Thanks, Veronica.

One followup question on delivery – would the additional costs for delivery be covered if the cost neutral provision were waived in statute?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Charney, Alyssa (Casey) <Alyssa_Charney@casey.senate.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Alyssa,

Sorry for the delayed response.

Here is an online Q&A on meal delivery that your office may find helpful:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/covid-19-meal-delivery

In reference the 3rd question on student presence at pickup, FNS is still working on a response but will update as soon as we can.

Thank you,
Veronica

From: Charney, Alyssa (Casey) <Alyssa_Charney@casey.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 4:53 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

Following up with a few additional questions relevant to the waiver in Pennsylvania.

- Do states need an additional waiver to allow for the delivery of meals?
- Do states need an additional waiver to non-congregate feeding if classes are being held online, so technically the school is not closed?
- Do the students need to be present for picking up the meal, or is it possible for a parent to pick it up for them?
- And then again the same question of what options are available for free/reduced meal students who live outside of an area with 50% eligibility?

Thanks again,
Alyssa

From: Charney, Alyssa (Casey)
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 8:51 AM
To: 'Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC' <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Thanks, Veronica.

Just to clarify – does the PA waiver (to the requirement that meals be served in a congregate setting) apply to schools/areas where 50% of students qualify for free or reduced meals? Or to all schools in PA?

Thanks again,
Alyssa

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 8:39 AM
To: Charney, Alyssa (Casey) <Alyssa_Charney@casey.senate.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Alyssa,

In an event of school closures (any school), schools may switch to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and feeding sites can be run in areas that qualify. No waiver or approval is needed for this switch to SFSP or SSO.

USDA allows sites to serve free meals to children in any approved area where 50 percent or more of

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the students qualify for free or reduced price school meals. The definition of an approved area is not restricted to an entire school district – it can be as small as an individual school attendance area or as large as a Census tract or block group.

The waiver granted to PA is to the requirement that the meals be served in a congregate (or group setting). Approved school meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the feeding site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Charney, Alyssa (Casey) <Alyssa_Charney@casey.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 6:25 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Thanks, Veronica.

I just wanted to confirm whether this waiver applies for schools covered under CEP, or for all schools in PA?

Thank you,
Alyssa

Alyssa Charney
U.S. Senator Bob Casey
(d) (202) 224-8483
(m) (b) (6)

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:09 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

All,

This email is to inform you today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from **Pennsylvania** to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

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USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed.

The statewide waiver is to the congregate feeding requirement, effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Charney, Alyssa (Casey)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 8:38:00 AM

Alyssa,

In an event of school closures (any school), schools may switch to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and feeding sites can be run in areas that qualify. No waiver or approval is needed for this switch to SFSP or SSO.

USDA allows sites to serve free meals to children in any approved area where 50 percent or more of the students qualify for free or reduced price school meals. The definition of an approved area is not restricted to an entire school district – it can be as small as an individual school attendance area or as large as a Census tract or block group.

The waiver granted to PA is to the requirement that the meals be served in a congregate (or group setting). Approved school meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the feeding site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Charney, Alyssa (Casey) <Alyssa_Charney@casey.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 6:25 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Thanks, Veronica.

I just wanted to confirm whether this waiver applies for schools covered under CEP, or for all schools in PA?

Thank you,
Alyssa

Alyssa Charney
U.S. Senator Bob Casey
(d) (202) 224-8483
(m) (b) (6) [redacted]

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:09 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

All,

This email is to inform you today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from **Pennsylvania** to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed.

The statewide waiver is to the congregate feeding requirement, effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Charney, Alyssa (Casey)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:09:00 PM

All 50 states now have congregate feeding waivers under the summer foods programs. Question 1 of the Q&A addresses this:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/covid-19-meal-delivery

1. Can schools that have been approved for non-congregate feeding through SFSP or SSO deliver meals directly to students' homes?
Yes. If the School Food Authority (SFA) determines there is a need and it is logistically feasible to deliver meals directly to homes, it may do so with state agency approval, adherence to all federal confidentiality requirements, and with all necessary Federal waiver approvals (including an approval for non-congregate feeding).

From: Charney, Alyssa (Casey) <Alyssa_Charney@casey.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:09 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Ok thanks, but just to clarify – the delivery option does not require a separate waiver?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:03 PM
To: Charney, Alyssa (Casey) <Alyssa_Charney@casey.senate.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

My answer here is based on the House bill passed Saturday morning. I have not looked to see what, if any related technical language has passed the House today. Having said that, the house bill from Saturday morning, Division B, Title I allows FNS to approve waivers that increase federal costs, but it does not provide extra funding for Child Nutrition to cover those costs.

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To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Thanks, Veronica.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

One followup question on delivery – would the additional costs for delivery be covered if the cost neutral provision were waived in statute?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Charney, Alyssa (Casey) <Alyssa_Charney@casey.senate.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Alyssa,

Sorry for the delayed response.

Here is an online Q&A on meal delivery that your office may find helpful:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/covid-19-meal-delivery

In reference the 3rd question on student presence at pickup, FNS is still working on a response but will update as soon as we can.

Thank you,
Veronica

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Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

Following up with a few additional questions relevant to the waiver in Pennsylvania.

- Do states need an additional waiver to allow for the delivery of meals?
- Do states need an additional waiver to non-congregate feeding if classes are being held online, so technically the school is not closed?
- Do the students need to be present for picking up the meal, or is it possible for a parent to pick it up for them?
- And then again the same question of what options are available for free/reduced meal students who live outside of an area with 50% eligibility?

Thanks again,
Alyssa

From: Charney, Alyssa (Casey)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 8:51 AM
To: 'Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC' <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Thanks, Veronica.

Just to clarify – does the PA waiver (to the requirement that meals be served in a congregate setting) apply to schools/areas where 50% of students qualify for free or reduced meals? Or to all schools in PA?

Thanks again,
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Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

Alyssa,

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Thanks,
Veronica

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Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 6:25 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

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Thanks, Veronica.

I just wanted to confirm whether this waiver applies for schools covered under CEP, or for all schools in PA?

Thank you,
Alyssa

Alyssa Charney
U.S. Senator Bob Casey
(d) (202) 224-8483
(m) (b) (6) [redacted]

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:09 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition Pennsylvania Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19

All,

This email is to inform you today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from **Pennsylvania** to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed.

The statewide waiver is to the congregate feeding requirement, effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,

Veronica

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tertullien, Vernita
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Service UPDATE - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 12:21:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png

Great news. I will add you. Thanks.

From: Tertullien, Vernita <Vernita.Tertullien@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Food and Nutrition Service UPDATE - COVID-19

Thank you, Veronica, and apologies for the delay in responding. The organization was able to accommodate her students via the City of Bridgeport's Grab and Go program.

And thanks for the helpful update below. Would you mind adding my email to receive future updates? Thanks again.

Vernita Tertullien
Community Development Manager
Congressman Jim Himes, CT-04
211 State Street, 2nd floor
Bridgeport, CT 06604
P: (203) 333-6600
Vernita.Tertullien@mail.house.gov
JH New Website (002)

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 8:40 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition Service UPDATE - COVID-19

All,

My apologies if you receive this email twice.

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This email provides an update on USDA 's Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services (FNCS) efforts to assist communities in feeding children during COVID-19.

General

With the approval of the H.R. 6201 this week, USDA's FNCS is working swiftly. We understand your communities are eager to take advantage of the range of flexibilities and new support in the bill. To that end FNS has begun rolling out new information and will continue to do so in the coming days.

SNAP Emergency Allotments

Importantly, FNS is providing states templates to use in making requests to USDA to help ease the administrative burden and increase the speed at which waivers and polices can be approved for implementation.

Tonight, guidance was provided to states interested in implementing **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201**, which provides for the issuance of emergency **SNAP allotments (supplements)** based on a public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act related to an outbreak of COVID-19 when a State has also issued an emergency or disaster declaration.

The template states may use is attached. States agencies have been provided a copy of this document and they may contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

SNAP ABAWDs

USDA has provided state agencies information related to **Section 2301 of H.R. 6201**. This provision temporarily and partially suspends the time limit for **Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)** participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP).

States agencies have been provided a copy of this guidance document on this provision, linked here: https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/FFCRA-Impact-on-ABAWD-TimeLimit.pdf. State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

WIC Flexibilities

Tonight USDA provided the attached template for states to use for WIC flexibilities under **Section 2203 and Section 2204 of H.R. 6201.**

Section 2203 of H.R. 6201 allows states to waive the **physical presence requirements for WIC** during any portion of the emergency period through September 30, 2020. The approval to waive the physical presence requirement includes the ability to defer anthropomorphic and bloodwork requirements necessary to determine nutritional risk for the period the physical presence waiver is in effect per 42 U.S.C. 2203(a)(1)(B).

Sections 2204 of H.R. 6201 allows states to request to waive the **supplemental food substitutions** requirements set forth in 42 U.S.C. 1786(f)(11)(C)(ii). The approval to waive the requirement to adhere to the participant's specific supplemental food package includes the ability to substitute

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unavailable WIC supplemental foods for different foods.

Further, **Section 2204** allows states to waive the **minimum stocking requirements** set forth in 42 CFR 246.12(g)(3)(i). The approval to waive the minimum stocking requirements will include a waiver of onsite pre-authorization visits to check minimum stocking requirements.

USDA is sending this information to state partners tonight and will be available for completion by the states through partnerweb. Please d*o not have states complete the attached pdf version of the template. The template sample attached is for your awareness only*. State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Rural Feeding Partnership

This week USDA announced a collaboration to deliver nearly 1,000,000 meals to students in a limited number of rural schools closed due to COVID-19. You may read the public announcement here. Schools districts interested in participating may find this one page information sheet helpful.

Communication with States

To communicate and allow for direct questions from state program staff, FNS is also conducting webinars and information sessions. And, our USDA intergovernmental team will continue to push out information directly to states to ensure they have necessary resources.

The USDA Food and Nutrition Regional Offices are a vital part of our structure of responsiveness to local needs. States may work with their respective Regional Office for specific customer service and technical assistance. And subsequently local providers are encouraged to communicate with their state program leaders.

Thank you for this opportunity to update your team.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture)
Subject: RE: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:35:00 PM

My apologies, I'm not sure I understand the questions, but I'll try.

The below press release is in reference to monthly spending following the release of all state initial snap emergency allotments.

On authority for max allotments, the way I read Section 2302 of the Families First bill says given certain emergency conditions and a state's request the Secretary shall provide the allotments. Section 2302(a) describes the pandemic conditions that must exist. I'm happy to double check with the FNS team, just want to make sure I'm understanding the nuances you're seeking clarity on.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:17 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

Thanks for the earlier notice Veronica. Since this appears to a month-to-month state request + USDA approval, is this limited to the pandemic emergency declaration period(s)? If not, does USDA have authority to end these max allotments?

Robert R. Rosado
Senior Professional Staff
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Chairman Pat Roberts
Washington, D.C. 20510
Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov
Office direct: (202) 224-6438
Mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]

From: USDA Food and Nutrition Service <usda.fns@service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

USDA News Release

Contact: USDA Press
press@oc.usda.gov

USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

Emergency Benefits Prompted by COVID-19

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(Washington, D.C., April 22, 2020) –Today, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced emergency benefit increases have reached $2.0 billion per month for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households across all 50 states and 3 territories to increase food security during the coronavirus national emergency. These emergency benefits represent a 40% increase in overall monthly SNAP benefits, significantly increasing food purchasing power for American families.

“These are unprecedented times for American families who are facing joblessness and hunger. USDA is providing a 40% increase in SNAP benefits to ensure that low-income individuals have enough food to feed themselves and their families during this national emergency,” said Secretary Perdue. “President Trump is taking care of America’s working-class families who have been hit hard with economic distress due to the coronavirus. Ensuring all households receive the maximum allowable SNAP benefit is an important part of President Trump’s whole of America response to the coronavirus.”

Background:

Currently, a household with two adults, 3 children, and no income can receive the maximum benefit of $768. However, due to reportable income and other factors, the average 5-person household receives significantly less, $528. These emergency benefits would provide the average 5-person household an additional $240 monthly in food purchasing power, bringing the average household up to the same benefit level as households already receiving the maximum.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), signed into law by President Trump, provided for the issuance of emergency allotments in response to COVID-19. Across the United States, emergency allotments total nearly $2 billion per month, which is in addition to approximately $4.5 billion in benefits already provided to SNAP households each month.

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-- Launching Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) to provide the value of school breakfast and lunch to families eligible for free and reduce-price lunch;

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: McCarthy, Karen (Murkowski)
Subject: RE: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:55:00 AM

Karen,

The release is in reference to SNAP emergency allotments.

Veronica

From: McCarthy, Karen (Murkowski) <Karen_McCarthy@murkowski.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

Veronica, with the exception of the approval of Hawaii's application today, this is old news, right? Alaska was approved for this on April 2. Or is this different from the Emergency Allotments?

Thanks,
Karen



Karen McCarthy | Senior Legislative Assistant
Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski | United States Senate
karen_mccarthy@murkowski.senate.gov
522 Hart Senate Office Building
202-224-6665
http://murkowski.senate.gov

From: USDA Office of Communications <feedback@oc.usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:36 AM
To: McCarthy, Karen (Murkowski) <Karen_McCarthy@murkowski.senate.gov>
Subject: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

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USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

Emergency Benefits Prompted by COVID-19

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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 2440 of 2450

USDA-20-1045-A-002249

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:54:00 AM

Thank you. The headline throws me off.

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:51 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

(b) (5), DPP [redacted].

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]?

From: USDA Office of Communications <feedback@oc.usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:36 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

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United States Department of Agriculture USDA Office of Communications press@oc.usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: McCarthy, Karen (Murkowski)
Subject: RE: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:25:00 PM

Hawaii's approval on Friday4/17 marked all 50 states plus the territories having requested the emergency allotment.

From: McCarthy, Karen (Murkowski) <Karen_McCarthy@murkowski.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 1:48 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

Right – the provision that allowed all states to provide the maximum benefit regardless of income. That's old news, right?



Karen McCarthy | Senior Legislative Assistant
Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski | United States Senate
karen_mccarthy@murkowski.senate.gov
522 Hart Senate Office Building
202-224-6665
http://murkowski.senate.gov

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:55 AM
To: McCarthy, Karen (Murkowski) <Karen_McCarthy@murkowski.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

Karen,

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Veronica

From: McCarthy, Karen (Murkowski) <Karen_McCarthy@murkowski.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA Increases Monthly SNAP Benefits by 40%

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Thanks,
Karen



Karen McCarthy | Senior Legislative Assistant
Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski | United States Senate
karen_mccarthy@murkowski.senate.gov
522 Hart Senate Office Building
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2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 2250 of 2254

USDA-20-1045-A-002258

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: USDA MAC COVID-19 Agency Actions Mar 2, 2020
Date: Monday, March 2, 2020 8:48:13 PM

[redacted]

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 8:42:47 PM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA MAC COVID-19 Agency Actions Mar 2, 2020

Absolutely. (b) (5), DPP [redacted] ?

Jessica Fantinato

Director
Office of Homeland Security
United States Department of Agriculture

Office: 202.720.2582
Mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]

USDA Operations Center:
202.720.5711 and OpsCenter@dm.usda.gov

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 8:39 PM
To: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA MAC COVID-19 Agency Actions Mar 2, 2020

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]
[redacted] ?

Thanks looks good

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 8:35:04 PM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Colby, Michelle - OHS, Washington, DC <michelle.colby@usda.gov>
Cc: O'Connor, Mike - OHS, Washington, DC <mike.oconnor@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA MAC COVID-19 Agency Actions Mar 2, 2020

Rebeckah and Michawn-
Below is (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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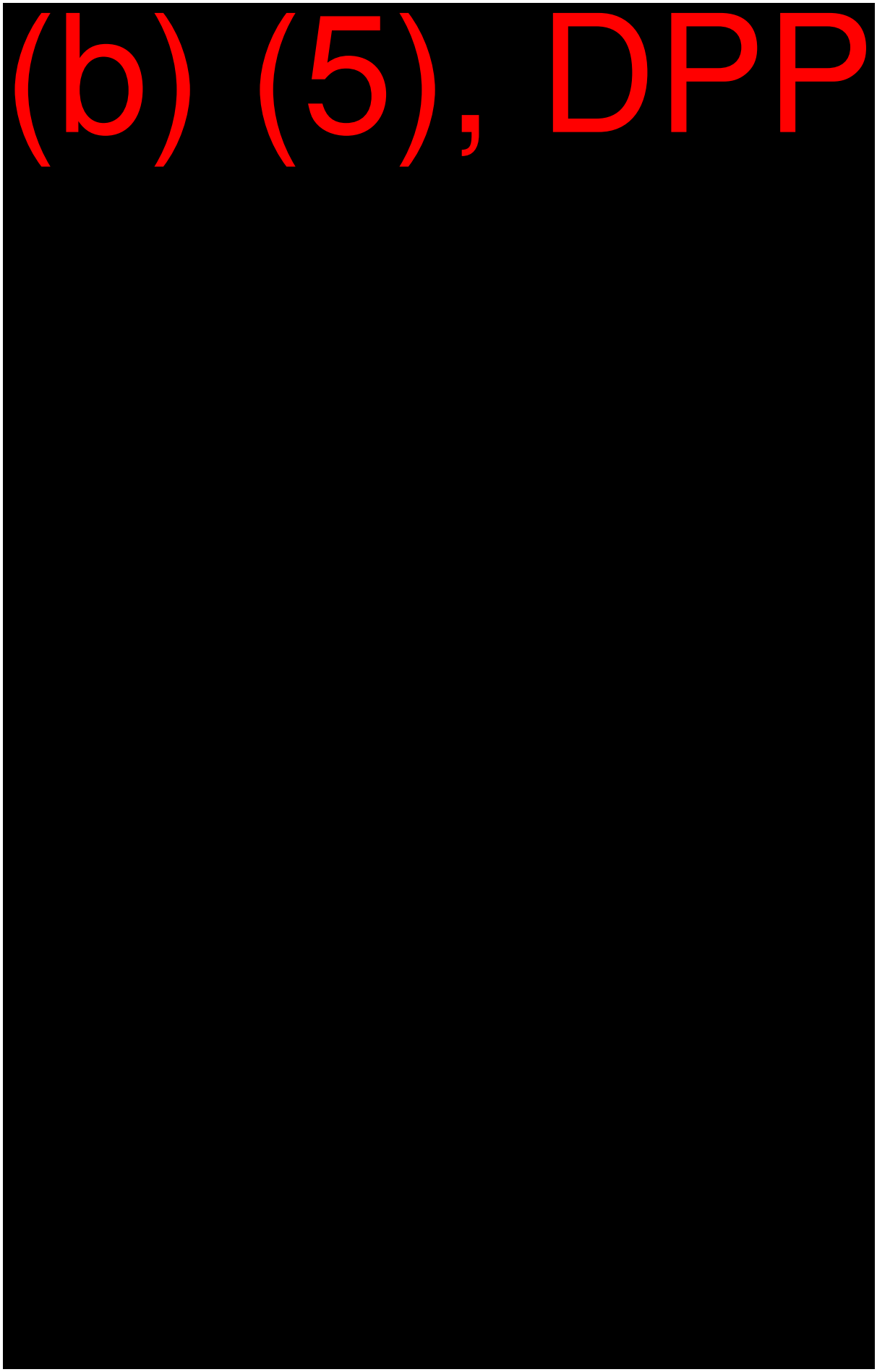
(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Let us know what else you need.

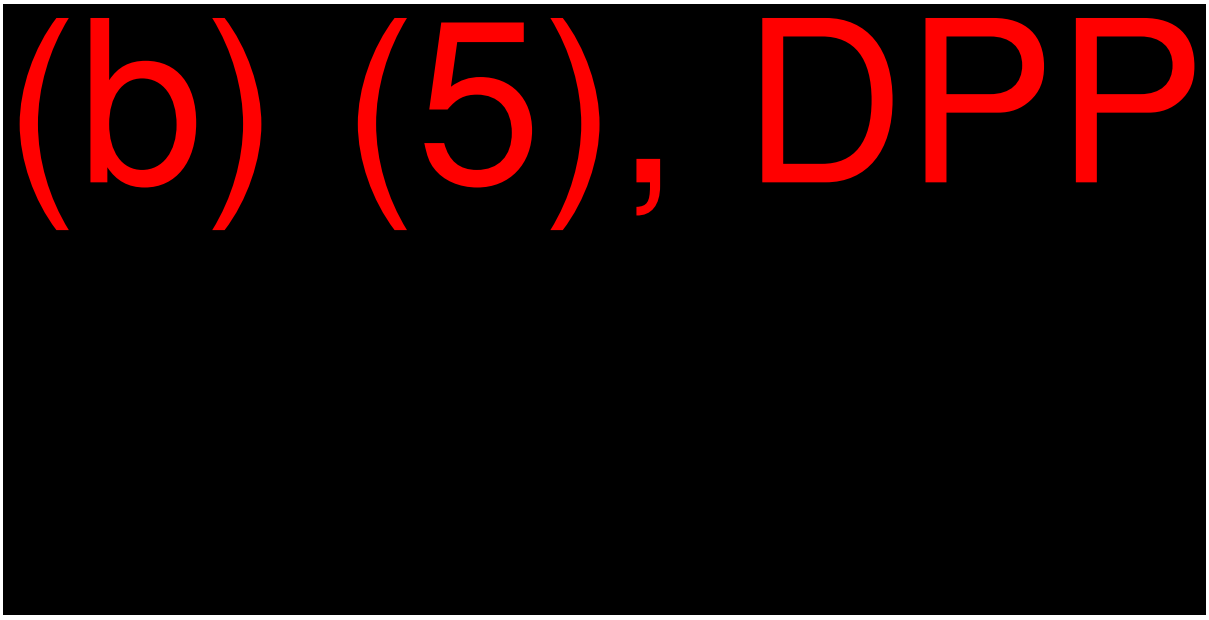
Jessica



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From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: USDA MAC COVID-19 Agency Actions Mar 2, 2020
Date: Monday, March 2, 2020 10:52:49 PM

[redacted]

Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 9:40:42 PM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA MAC COVID-19 Agency Actions Mar 2, 2020

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

Please let me know if you want any additional changes.

Jessica Fantinato

Director
Office of Homeland Security
United States Department of Agriculture

Office: 202.720.2582
Mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]

USDA Operations Center:
202.720.5711 and OpsCenter@dm.usda.gov

From: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 8:39 PM
To: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA MAC COVID-19 Agency Actions Mar 2, 2020

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(b) (5), DPP
?

Thanks looks good

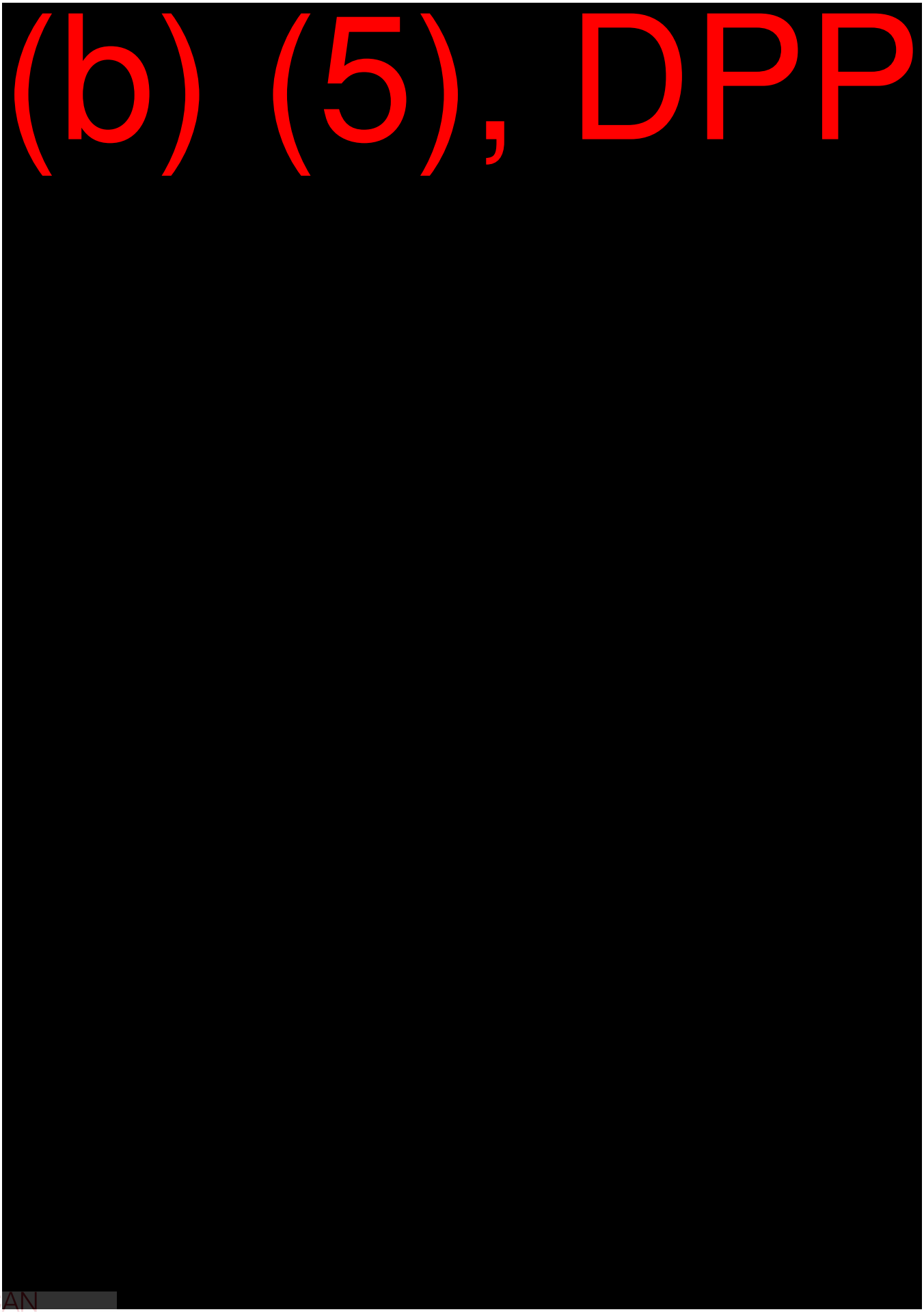
Rebeckah.Adcock@USDA.gov

From: Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 8:35:04 PM
To: Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Colby, Michelle - OHS, Washington, DC <michelle.colby@usda.gov>
Cc: O'Connor, Mike - OHS, Washington, DC <mike.oconnor@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA MAC COVID-19 Agency Actions Mar 2, 2020

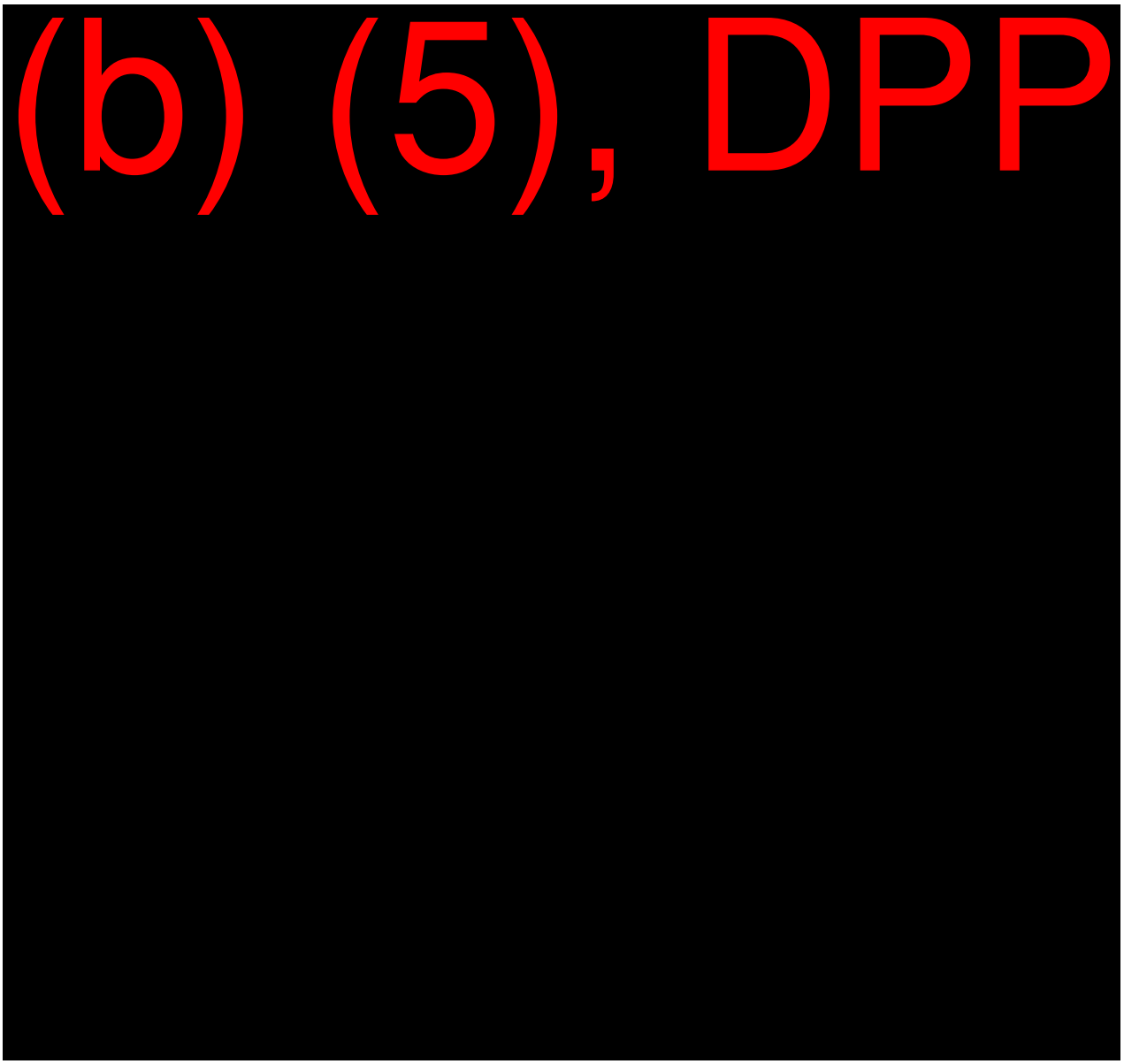
Rebeckah and Michawn-
Below is (b) (5), DPP
.
Let us know what else you need.
Jessica

(b) (5), DPP

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture)
Cc: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture)
Subject: RE: USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children Amid Washington State Coronavirus Outbreak
Date: Friday, March 6, 2020 8:16:00 PM

Yes, my sincere apologies.

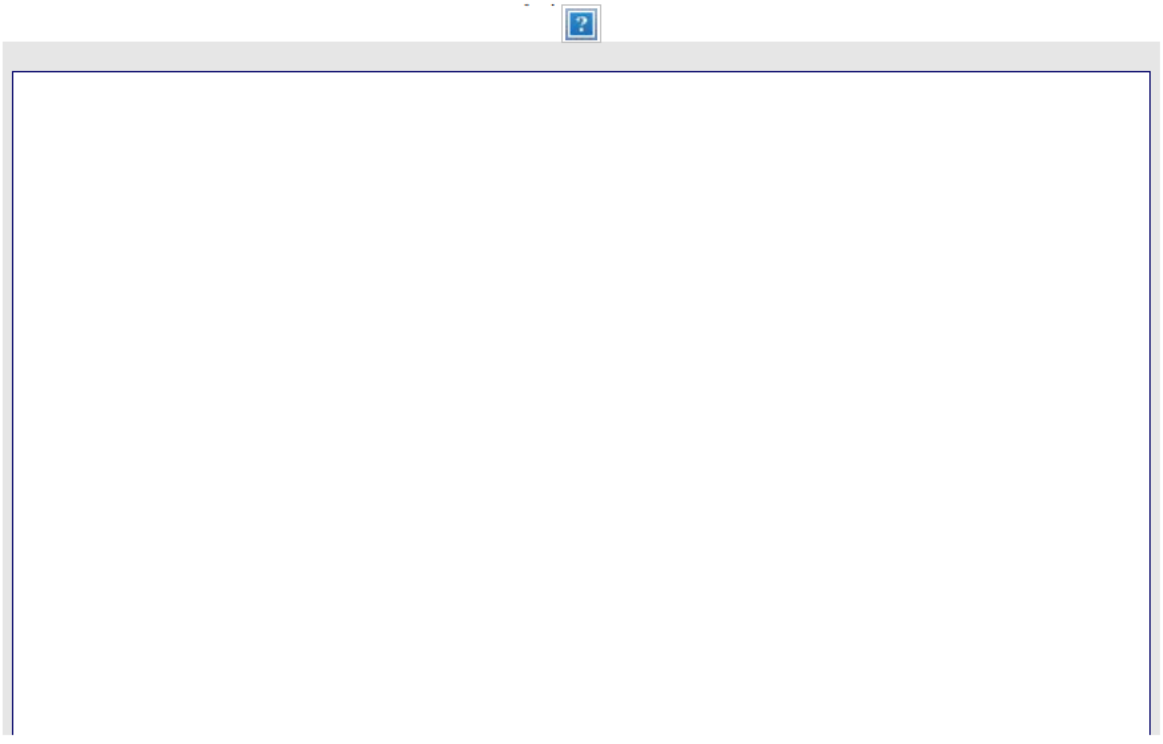
FNS is currently reviewing an Alaska congregate feeding waiver. I hope to have information to share on the determination soon.

From: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture) <Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 8:13 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture) <Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov>
Subject: Fwd: USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children Amid Washington State Coronavirus Outbreak

Heads up on this stuff would be really cool!

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** USDA Office of Communications <feedback@oc.usda.gov>
> **Date:** March 6, 2020 at 5:24:34 PM EST
> **To:** "Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture)" <Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov>
> **Subject: USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children Amid Washington State Coronavirus Outbreak**
> **Reply-To:** feedback@oc.usda.gov



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United States Department of Agriculture USDA Office of Communications press@oc.usda.gov

USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children Amid Washington State Coronavirus Outbreak

WASHINGTON, March 6, 2020 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved a request from Washington State to allow meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. These meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and are not required to be served in a group setting, to ensure kids receive nutritious meals while schools are temporarily closed.

"USDA stands with the people of Washington State as a part of a federal-wide coordinated response," said Brandon Lipps, Deputy Under Secretary for USDA's Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. "The flexibility provided by the waiver approved today will help ensure that our children get wholesome meals, safeguarding their health during times of need."

The waiver announced today is effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020. USDA stands ready to provide additional assistance to the people of

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Washington State and other areas impacted by the coronavirus as allowed by law and in coordination with the much larger government-wide response.

All Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service administers 15 nutrition assistance programs that leverage American's agricultural abundance to ensure children and low-income individuals and families have nutritious food to eat. FNS also co-develops the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which provide science-based nutrition recommendations and serve as the cornerstone of federal nutrition policy.

#



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Unsubscribe jacqlyn_schneider@ag.senate.gov

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Sent by feedback@oc.usda.gov

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Email addresses withheld are Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children Amid Washington State Coronavirus Outbreak
Date: Friday, March 6, 2020 8:05:35 PM

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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From: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 6:32:27 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children Amid Washington State Coronavirus Outbreak

Thanks for the additional information. Please keep me in the loop on all things COVID 19 as I have daily calls with OMB.

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky

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Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6)
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

Email addresses withheld are Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 6:12 PM

To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>

Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>

Subject: Re: USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children Amid Washington State Coronavirus Outbreak

Sure.

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Let me know if you need more info.

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Email addresses withheld are Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

Regards,

Brandon

(b) (6) (cell)

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From: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 6:00:44 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Gardner, Maureen - OSEC, Washington, DC <Maureen.Gardner@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children Amid Washington State Coronavirus Outbreak

Brandon,

(b) (5), DPP ?

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
(b) (6)
Stephen.Censky@usda.gov

From: USDA Office of Communications <feedback@oc.usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 5:24 PM
To: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children Amid Washington State Coronavirus Outbreak

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United States Department of Agriculture USDA Office of Communications press@oc.usda.gov

USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children Amid Washington State Coronavirus Outbreak

WASHINGTON, March 6, 2020 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved a request from Washington State to allow meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. These meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and are not required to be served in a group setting, to ensure kids receive nutritious meals while schools are temporarily closed.

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#

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Email addresses withheld are Secretary Perdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children in California Amid Coronavirus Outbreak
Date: Saturday, March 7, 2020 8:31:00 PM

Fyi – (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 2:15 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children in California Amid Coronavirus Outbreak

Sir,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Campbell

From: USDA Office of Communications <feedback@oc.usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children in California Amid Coronavirus Outbreak

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United States Department of Agriculture USDA Office of Communications press@oc.usda.gov

USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children in California Amid Coronavirus Outbreak

WASHINGTON, March 7, 2020 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved a request from California to allow meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. These meals are available at no cost to low-income children – and are not required to be served in a group setting – to ensure kids receive nutritious meals while schools are temporarily closed.

"USDA stands with the people of California as a part of a federal-wide coordinated response," said Brandon Lipps, Deputy Under Secretary for USDA's Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. "The flexibility provided by the waiver approved today will help ensure that our children get wholesome meals, safeguarding their health during times of need."

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All Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

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#



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Sent by feedback@oc.usda.gov

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Email addresses withheld are Deputy Secretary Censky alias email address

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: HARDEN, GIL; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC; Bumbary-Langston, Inga - OGC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Illenberg, Mike - OC, Washington, DC; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC; Soles, Scott - OCFO, Washington, DC; Moaney, Lynn - OCFO, Washington, DC; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brand, Bette - RD, Washington, DC; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hubbard, Jim - OSEC, Washington, DC; Marklund, Chris - OSEC
Subject: RE: USDA Pandemic-Related Management Challenges
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 11:56:00 AM
Attachments: Pandemic-Related Management Challenges USDA Track Changes 5.13.20.docx

(b) (5), DPP

Thanks for your consideration,
Kailee

From: HARDEN, GIL <GIL.HARDEN@oig.usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; (b) (b) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) (6) usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>; Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>; Bumbary-Langston, Inga - OGC, Washington, DC <inga.bumbary-langston@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Illenberg, Mike - OC, Washington, DC <mike.illenberg@usda.gov>; Fillpot, Dirk - OC, Washington, DC <dirk.fillpot@usda.gov>; Soles, Scott - OCFO, Washington, DC <Scott.Soles@usda.gov>; Moaney, Lynn - OCFO, Washington, DC <lynn.moaney@usda.gov>; Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC <Mindy.Brashears@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Brand, Bette - RD, Washington, DC <bette.brand@usda.gov>; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Northey, Bill - OSEC, Washington, DC <Bill.Northey@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; Hubbard, Jim - OSEC, Washington, DC <jim.hubbard@usda.gov>; Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Pandemic-Related Management Challenges

All,

(b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Thanks,
Gil

Gil H Harden, CPA
Assistant Inspector General | Audit
USDA OIG Office of Audit
Desk: 202-720-8724 Cell: (b) (6)

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USDA Top Management Challenges
Pandemic-Related Responsibilities



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DRAFT

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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Subject: RE: USDA Single Point of Entry for SNAP Questions re: COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 16, 2020 1:25:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

I would suggest(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted] Thanks!

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 1:23 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Single Point of Entry for SNAP Questions re: COVID-19

(b) (5), DPP
[redacted]

[redacted]
?

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 12:52 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA Single Point of Entry for SNAP Questions re: COVID-19

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 12:51 PM

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Cc: Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Single Point of Entry for SNAP Questions re: COVID-19

Good afternoon!

Many of your bosses are currently on a phone call with President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Perdue, and other Federal partners. On the call it was announced that in response to COVID-19, USDA has created an email address that will serve as a single point of entry for state agencies to contact regarding questions about child nutrition assistance when schools are closed for extended periods of time. USDA will manage comments and questions and ensure that companies receive prompt direction responses and guidance. Please see the email address below and feel free to share with your state agencies.

FeedingKids@USDA.gov

Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have!

Best,
Lillie

Lillie J. Brady | Director
External and Intergovernmental Affairs
United States Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary
Cell: (b) (6) | Lillie.Brady@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: VA and KS PEBT
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 3:20:00 PM

Thanks!

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 2:36 PM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: VA and KS PEBT

Draft press release below.

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 1:39:10 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: VA and KS PEBT

Sir -

FNS has received approvable plans from Virginia and Kansas to operate P-EBT, making them the 11th and 12th approved states behind Michigan Rhode Island, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Arizona, Illinois, Alabama, Wisconsin, California and Connecticut.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Both States have been notified.

USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in Kansas and Virginia

Pandemic EBT to Feed Children during COVID-19 National Emergency

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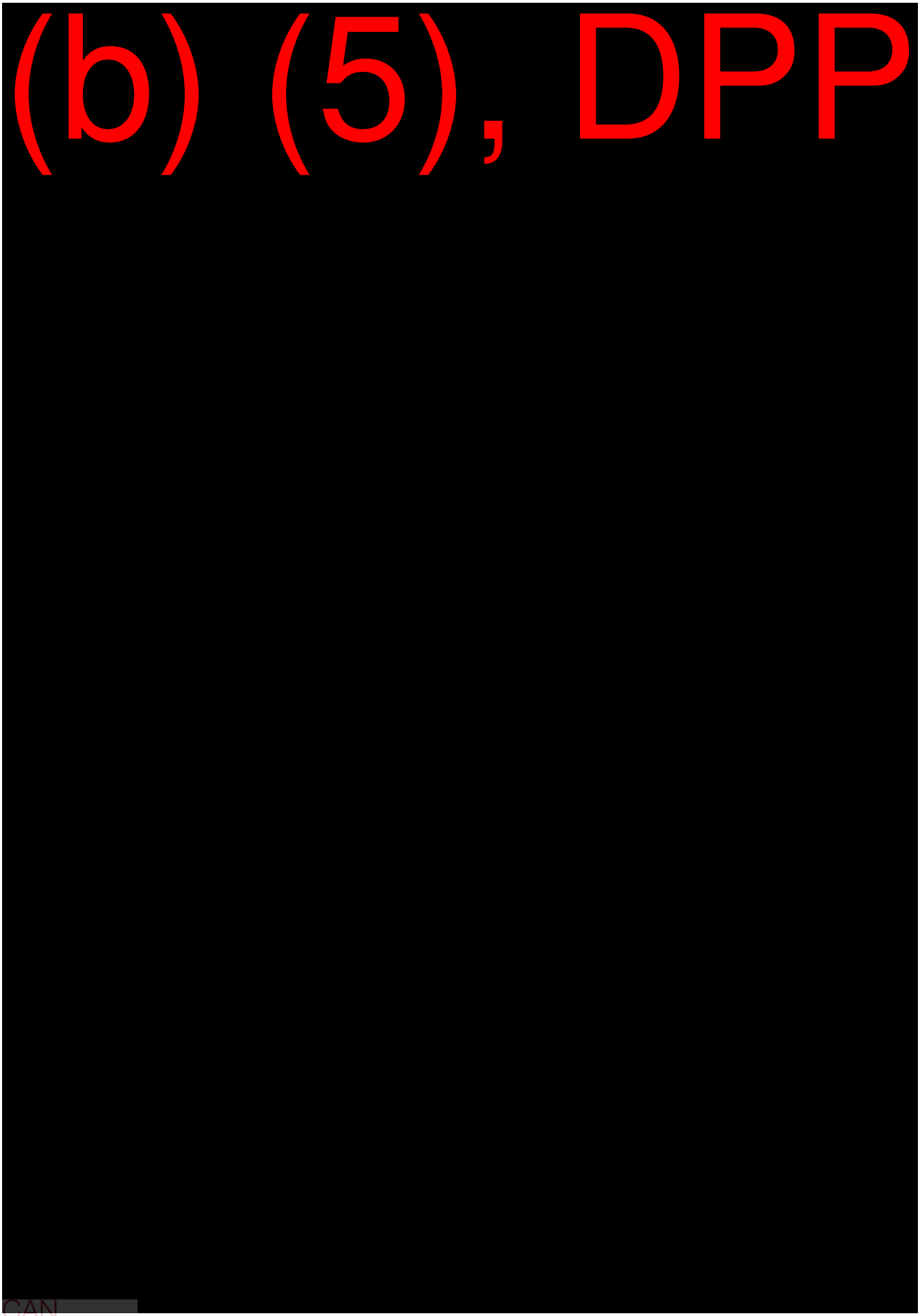
Release & Contact Info

Press Release
Release No. 0224.20

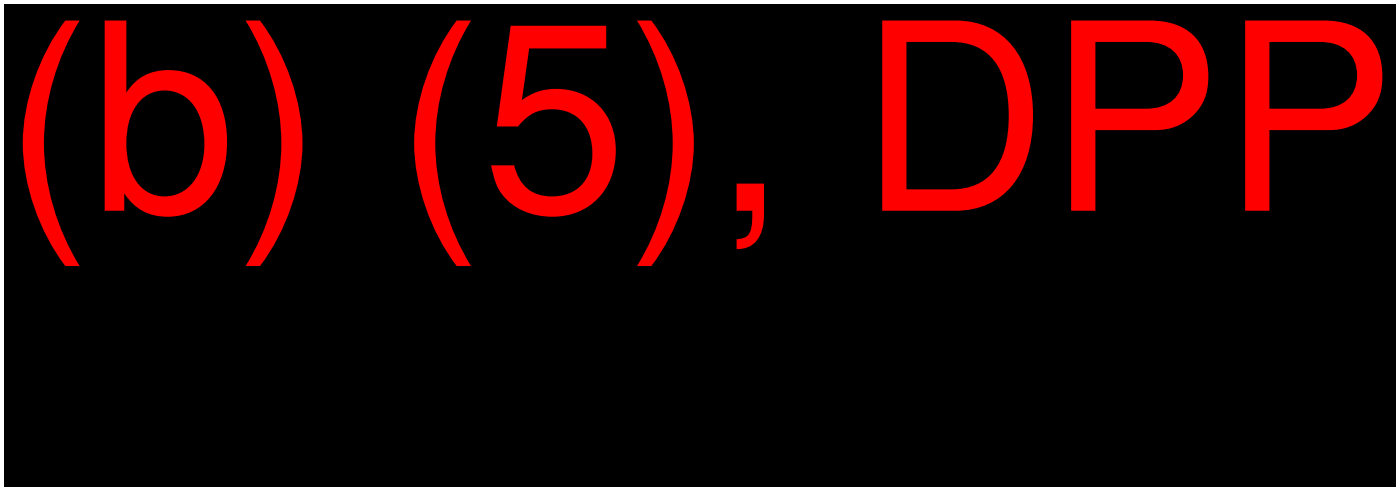
Contact: USDA Press
Email: press@oc.usda.gov



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#

Anne DeCesaro
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture
202-720-7711 (office)

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS
Subject: Re: Vermont Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 6:06:41 PM

So am I ok to (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 6:01 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS
Subject: Re: Vermont Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

Sorry, (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

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From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 5:53:45 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Vermont Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

Adding Campbell.

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Vermont Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

Hey guys,

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Somewhere along the line I got cut out of the internal notices on the online pilot and p-ebt approvals. If I could get looped back in that will help me notice the hill.

Thanks!
V

From: USDA Office of Communications <feedback@oc.usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 5:47 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Vermont Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

United States Department of Agriculture USDA Office of Communications press@oc.usda.gov

Vermont Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

USDA is expanding access to innovative online food purchase program

(Washington, D.C., April 24, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced approval of a request from Vermont to provide online purchasing of food to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households. This approval will allow the State to expedite the implementation of online purchasing with currently authorized SNAP online retailers with a target start date to be announced at a later time. Vermont's SNAP participation is nearly 70,000 individuals, nearly 30,000 households, and totals nearly $100 million annually in federal funding. This announcement further demonstrates President Trump's whole of America approach to fighting the coronavirus pandemic by ensuring those affected are fed.

Background:

The SNAP online pilot is currently operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. The authorized retailers working with all pilot states are Amazon and Walmart, while Wrights Market and ShopRite are working with Alabama and New York respectively. USDA previously announced Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, North Carolina, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, and Kentucky, Missouri, and Texas would also be joining. With these 16 states, more than half of all households receiving SNAP will have access to online purchasing.

Though the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is receiving interest to expand the SNAP online pilot program, the responsibility is on state agencies, their third-party processor, and any retailers who wish to participate. To ease the process, FNS put together a simplified template for states who wish to enter the online pilot which is provided as an attachment to this letter.

USDA continues to provide significant technical assistance to interested states to ensure that plans are thorough and appropriate preliminary testing is conducted. If not done properly and judiciously, there is a risk to the State's entire benefit system. Each State, its EBT processor and retailers present their own mix of challenges so FNS is providing customer service based on each of their specific needs.

FNS will continue to work with interested states in advancing their participation in this pilot. Until States are prepared to operate the pilot, USDA recommends States utilize other options that retailers may already provide, such as Pay at Pick-up (also known as "Click and Collect"), where SNAP cardholders can shop online and then pay for their purchase using their EBT card at pick-up. Grocery pickup is already an option that these retailers offer beyond SNAP so they are already thinking through how they can provide a safe environment to do so with the growing concerns around social distancing.

During these challenging times, FNS is working hand-in-hand with state program leadership, to provide support and guidance to adapt to the challenges of this public health emergency. USDA intends to use available program flexibilities and contingencies to continue to serve our program participants. For up to date information and to learn more about flexibilities being used in FNS nutrition programs, please visit the FNS website.

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#



Department of Agriculture | 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250

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From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS; Randall, Kiev - FNS; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee)
Cc:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Rey, Yasmin - FNS; Stagno, Laura - FNS; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	RE: Vermont State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date:	Monday, March 16, 2020 1:20:00 PM

Thanks I will respond with that sentiment.

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 1:19 PM
To: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Vermont State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

(b) (5), DPP, ACP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 1:15 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Vermont State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

I think it (b) (5), DPP, ACP ?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Randall, Kiev - FNS <kiev.randall@usda.gov>; Wilson II, Anthony - FNS <anthony.wilson@usda.gov>; Whalen, Karla - FNS (Detailee) <Karla.Whalen@usda.gov>

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Cc: Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>; Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Vermont State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

See the question from Sen Leahy's office on another VT state waiver request.

From: Bahrenburg, Andrew (Leahy) <Andrew_Bahrenburg@leahy.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 12:43 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Vermont State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

Just tried you at OCR and heard you are teleworking. Good! Us too. Curious if you could provide me with an update on Vermont's other waiver application for non-congregate feeding in CACFP.

Thanks!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 8:23 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: Vermont State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

Good evening,

This email is to inform you that tonight the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the Vermont Agency of Education to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the approval currently**.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act summer food programs congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

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(WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Bahrenburg, Andrew (Leahy)
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: VT waiver for WIC
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 10:50:23 AM

Andrew,

FNS is working quickly to put out information for states and stakeholders. I'm hopeful to be able to share updates soon.

Thanks,
Veronica

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From: Bahrenburg, Andrew (Leahy) <Andrew_Bahrenburg@leahy.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 10:40:01 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: VT waiver for WIC

Hey all,

Now that the President has signed H.R. 6201 into law, is there a timeline by which Sec. Perdue will be using his new waiver authorities? The specific section I'm referring to is below – for which Vermont needs a waiver ASAP.

Thanks

- SEC. 2203. PHYSICAL PRESENCE WAIVER UNDER WIC DURING CERTAIN PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES. WAIVER AUTHORITY.—IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may grant a request described in paragraph (2) to—(A) waive the requirement under section 7(d)(3)(C)(i) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(d)(3)(C)(i)); and (B) defer anthropometric and bloodwork requirements necessary to determine nutritional risk.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Bahrenburg, Andrew (Leahy) <Andrew_Bahrenburg@leahy.senate.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Vermont State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

Yes we're the best contacts. And unfortunately I don't have a time frame. We have to ensure we are complying with the law as written.

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From: Bahrenburg, Andrew (Leahy) <Andrew_Bahrenburg@leahy.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 3:42:04 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Vermont State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

Thanks, both. I'm sure the volume is high for you right now. Is there any kind of timeframe you can offer on OGC's decision? I know they've been looking into this since last week. All Vermont schools are set to close on Wednesday.

And just so I know, are you two the best contacts for nutrition-related questions going forward? I'm sure there will be more coming in from our stakeholders.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 1:35 PM
To: Bahrenburg, Andrew (Leahy) <Andrew_Bahrenburg@leahy.senate.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Vermont State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

Andrew,

This waiver request is still under review. Our program staff are working with our Office of General Counsel to determine if this type of waiver is possible under current authorities. We will continue to look for options. As an aside, should the house passed bill become law, clear authority for the type of waiver would exist.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Bahrenburg, Andrew (Leahy) <Andrew_Bahrenburg@leahy.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 12:43 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Vermont State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

Hi Veronica,

Just tried you at OCR and heard you are teleworking. Good! Us too. Curious if you could provide me with an update on Vermont's other waiver application for non-congregate feeding in CACFP.

Thanks!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 8:23 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: Vermont State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19

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Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: webinar
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 11:16:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP !

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 11:15 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: webinar

(b) (5), DPP

Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 9:05 AM
To: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: webinar

(b) (5), DPP

From: CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 9:04 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: webinar

(b) (5), DPP

Jamie

From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>

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Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: webinar

(b) (5), DPP

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:37 AM
To: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: webinar

(b) (5), DPP
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From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:24 AM
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: webinar

Hey! (b) (5), DPP

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Kailee M. Tkacz

Chief of Staff to Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky
United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: (b) (6)

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: WRAP UP: March 24 Waivers, Accomplishments
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:54:00 AM

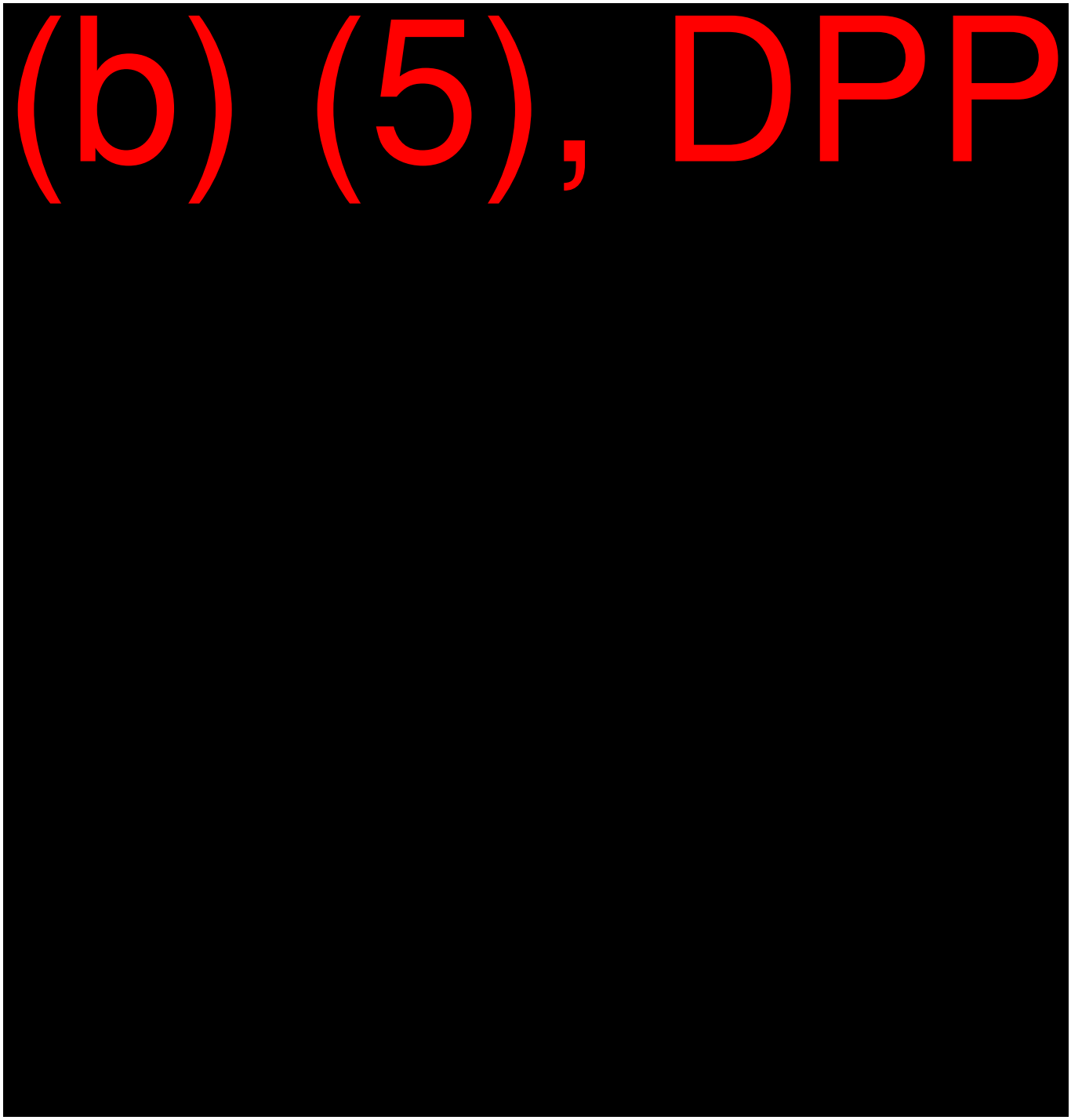
This is great, thanks for sharing internally only of course.

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:27 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: WRAP UP: March 24 Waivers, Accomplishments

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From: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: WRAP UP: March 24 Waivers, Accomplishments
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:29:00 AM

This is really helpful – thanks for passing along. Hope you are hanging in there!

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:27 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <ashley.willits@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Adams, Kiki - OSEC, Washington, DC <kiki.adams@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: WRAP UP: March 24 Waivers, Accomplishments

For internal purposes only. If you want to use any of the information below, please contact FNCS. Public materials can be found at https://www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus



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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: WRAP UP: March 24 Waivers, Accomplishments
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 2:33:00 PM

(b) (5), DPP

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 2:32 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: WRAP UP: March 24 Waivers, Accomplishments

(b) (5), DPP

Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 2:24 PM
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: WRAP UP: March 24 Waivers, Accomplishments

(b) (5), DPP ?

From: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 8:30 AM
To: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>; Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>
Cc: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: WRAP UP: March 24 Waivers, Accomplishments

(b) (5), DPP ! Thank you!

(b) (5), DPP

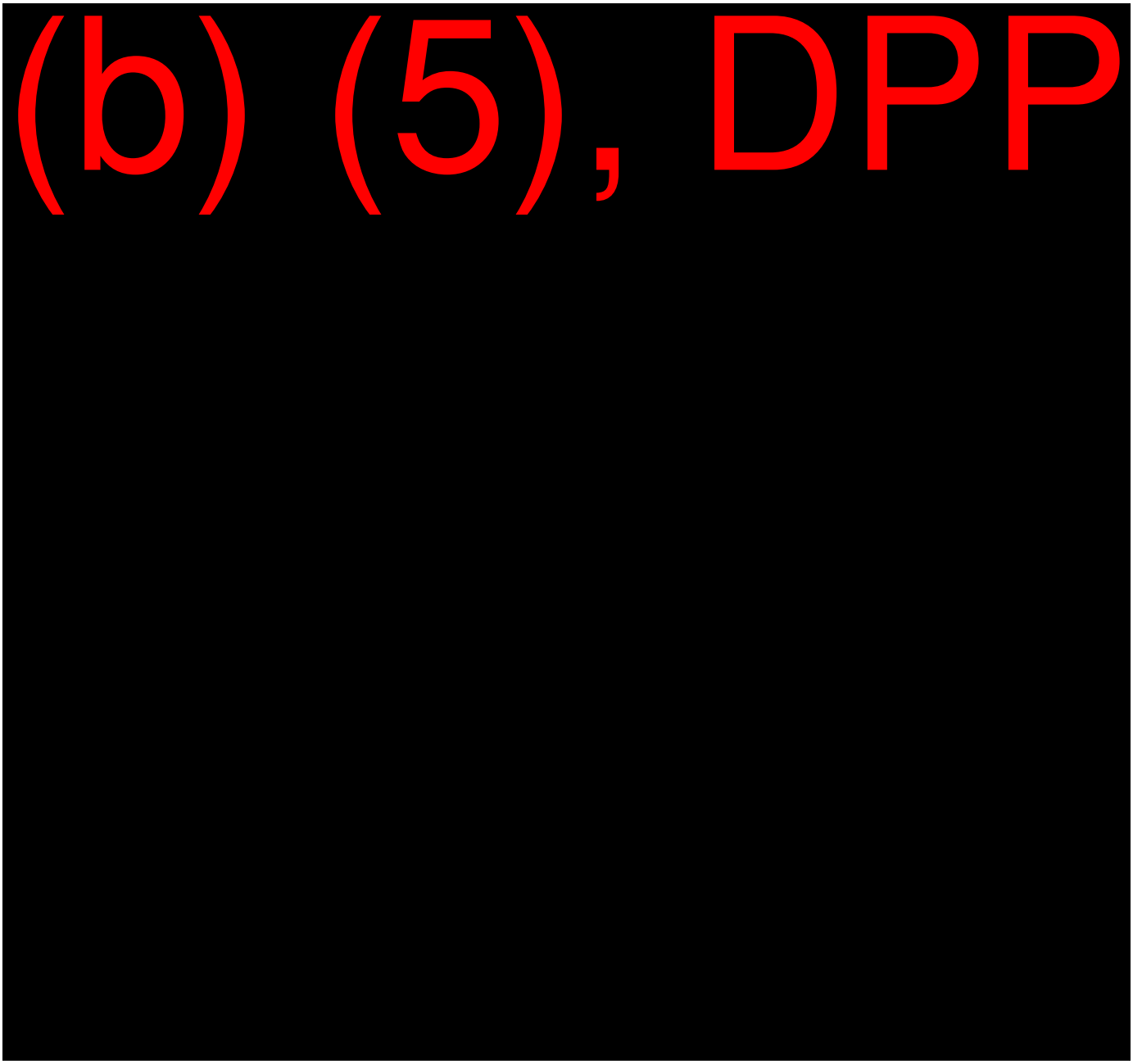
Anne DeCesaro
FNCS/USDA
202-720-7711

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Miller, Pam - FNS <pam.miller@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 6:05 PM
To: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Cc: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Corley, Shiela - FNS <shiela.corley@usda.gov>; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS <Joe.Tvrdy@usda.gov>; Cohen, Jeffrey (Jeff) - FNS <Jeffrey.Cohen@usda.gov>; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS <Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov>; Rey, Yasmin - FNS <Yasmin.Rey@usda.gov>; Stagno, Laura - FNS <Laura.Stagno@usda.gov>
Subject: WRAP UP: March 24 Waivers, Accomplishments

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



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Withheld email address is Secretary Perdue alias email address

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: WV SNAP Online Purchasing
Date: Saturday, April 18, 2020 10:43:02 AM

(b) (5), DPP

-SP

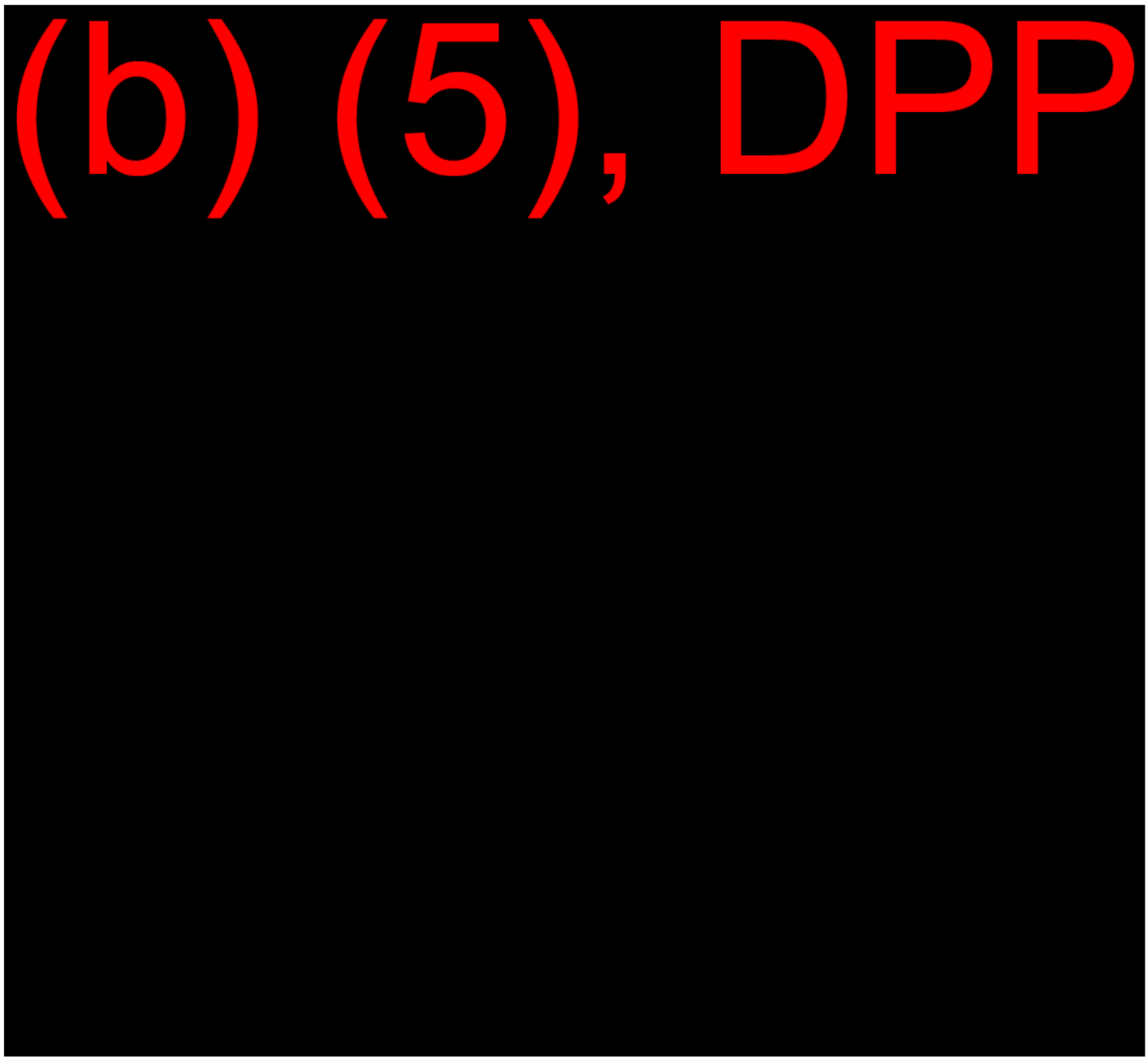
From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 10:45:10 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: WV SNAP Online Purchasing

Sir - below is the release. (b) (5), DPP !

Meghan

(b) (5), DPP

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#

Withheld email address is Secretary Perdue alias email address

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From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 10:03:27 PM

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>

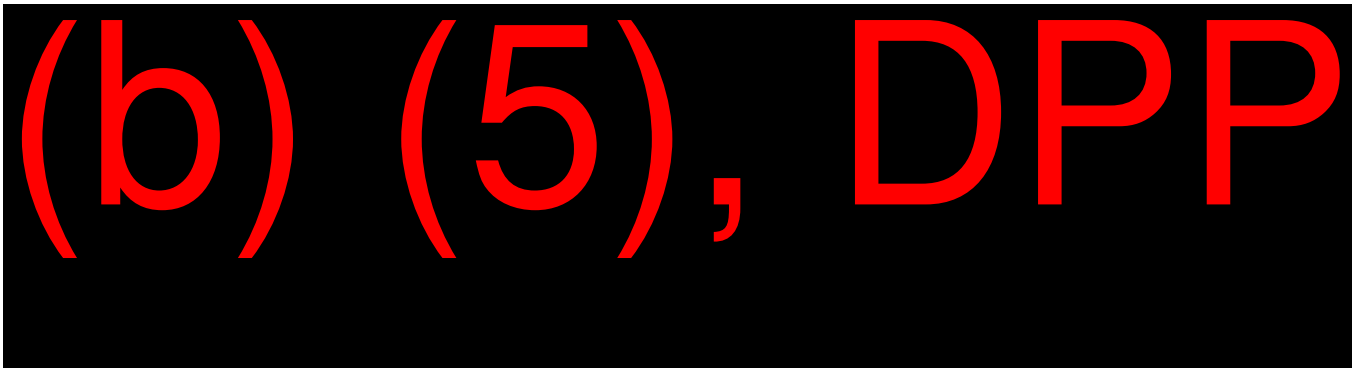
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC

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<lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>

Subject: WV SNAP Online Purchasing

Sir,



Please let us know if you have any questions.

Campbell

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: WV SNAP Online Purchasing
Date: Saturday, April 18, 2020 8:46:00 AM

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]. thanks!

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From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 8:45:03 AM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: WV SNAP Online Purchasing

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Have a great weekend!
Meghan

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 8:29:53 AM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: WV SNAP Online Purchasing

Meghan or Alec,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]? Thanks!

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---

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 10:45:10 PM

To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>

Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>

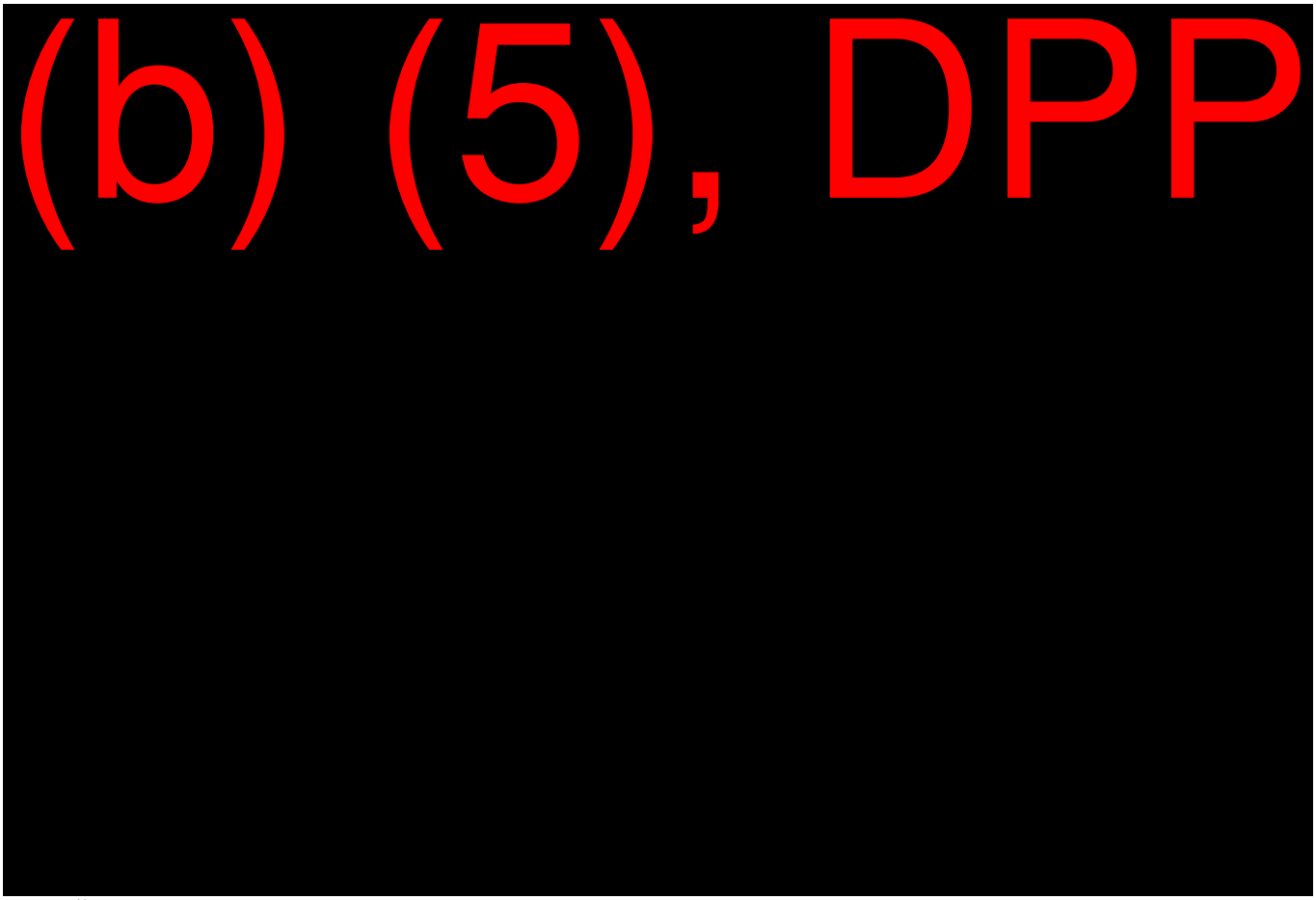
Subject: Re: WV SNAP Online Purchasing

Sir - below is the release. (b) (5), DPP !

Meghan

(b) (5), DPP

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#

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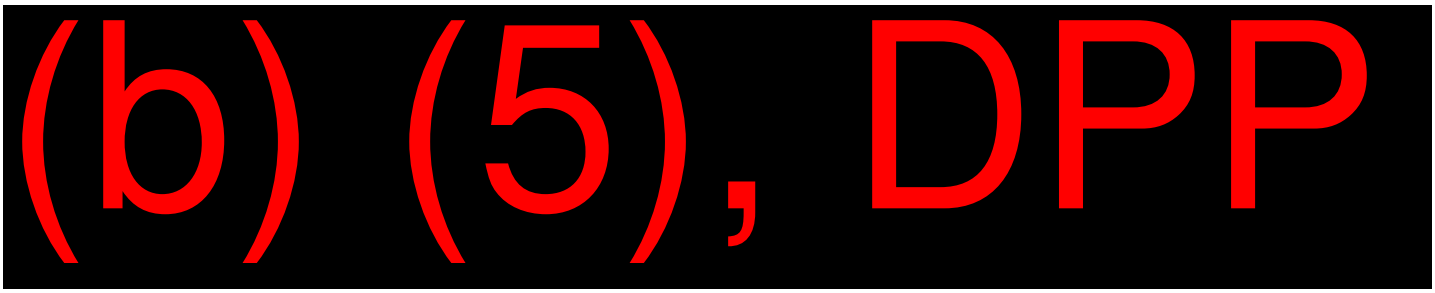
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From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 10:03:27 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: WV SNAP Online Purchasing

Sir,

(b) (5), DPP

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Please let us know if you have any questions.

Campbell

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: WV SNAP Online Purchasing
Date: Saturday, April 18, 2020 11:37:37 AM

Thanks

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From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>

Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 11:18:05 AM

To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>

Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>

Subject: Re: WV SNAP Online Purchasing

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]. Have a great weekend!

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From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>

Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 11:13:53 AM

To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>

Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>

Subject: Re: WV SNAP Online Purchasing

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

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From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>

Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 8:45:03 AM

To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>

Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>

Subject: Re: WV SNAP Online Purchasing

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(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted]

Have a great weekend!
Meghan

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 8:29:53 AM
To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>
Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: WV SNAP Online Purchasing

Meghan or Alec,

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]? Thanks!

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From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 10:45:10 PM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; (b) (6) [redacted] - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) [redacted] usda.gov>
Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: WV SNAP Online Purchasing

Sir - below is the release (b) (5), DPP [redacted]!

Meghan

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(b) (5), DPP

#

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From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 10:03:27 PM

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) usda.gov>

Cc: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC <brandon.lipps@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>

Subject: WV SNAP Online Purchasing

Sir,

(b) (5), DPP

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Campbell

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From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Readout from call
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2020 6:27:50 PM
Attachments: image001.png

PREDECISIONAL/DELIBERATIVE:

(b) (5), DPP



Blake Rollins
Deputy Chief of Staff

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 205-4380

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Gregor.Catto@mail.house.gov
Subject: Rep Aderholt RE: P-EBT
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:49:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image004.png
image005.png

Gregor,

Thank you for the email. Our USDA FNS team has a call with the AL DHHS this afternoon (April 21) to discuss the AL plan. This is a follow-up to previous conversation and USDA is hopeful that the plan can be finalized after this call.

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Catto, Gregor <Gregor.Catto@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in Arizona and Illinois

Hi Veronica,

I understand Alabama has applied for this Pandemic EBT. Do you have an update on timeline for that approval?

Thank you,
Gregor

Gregor Catto
Legislative Assistant
Office of Rep. Robert B. Aderholt (AL-04)
1203 Longworth House Office Building
202/225-4876



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: USDA Office of Communications <feedback@oc.usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 10:07 AM
To: Catto, Gregor <Gregor.Catto@mail.house.gov>
Subject: USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in Arizona and Illinois

United States Department of Agriculture USDA Office of Communications press@oc.usda.gov

USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in Arizona and Illinois

Pandemic EBT to Feed Children during COVID-19 National Emergency

(Washington, D.C., April 20, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced Arizona and Illinois have been approved to operate Pandemic

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Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), a new program authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), signed by President Trump, which provides assistance to families of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals dealing with school closures.

Background:
Arizona and Illinois will be able to operate Pandemic EBT, a supplemental food purchasing benefit to current SNAP participants and as a new EBT benefit to other eligible households to offset the cost of meals that would have otherwise been consumed at school. For the 2019-2020 school year, **Arizona** had approximately 604,000 children eligible for free-and reduced-priced lunch, or about 56% of children in participating schools. **Illinois** had approximately 1.1 million children eligible for free-and reduced-priced lunch, or nearly 63% of children in participating schools. Michigan was the first state announced to operate last week, followed by Rhode Island, and then North Carolina and Massachusetts.

Under FFCRA, States have the option to submit a plan to the Secretary of Agriculture for providing these benefits to SNAP and non-SNAP households with children who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to pandemic-related school closures. State agencies may operate Pandemic EBT when a school is closed for at least five consecutive days during a public health emergency designation during which the school would otherwise be in session.

The implementation of Pandemic EBT is in line with USDA's commitment to keep Americans safe, secure, and healthy during this national emergency and to keep kids fed when schools are closed. USDA is working with states and local authorities to ensure schools and other program operators can continue to feed children. This latest action complements previously-announced flexibilities for the Child Nutrition programs that:

- Allow parents and guardians to pick up meals to bring home to their kids;
- Temporarily waive meal times requirements to make it easier to pick up multiple-days' worth of meals at once;
- Allow meals be served in non-congregate settings to support social distancing;
- Waive the requirement that afterschool meals and snacks served through certain programs be accompanied by educational activities to minimize exposure to the novel coronavirus; and
- Allow states, on an individual state-by-state basis, to serve free meals to children in *all* areas, rather than only those in areas where at least half of students receive free or reduced-price meals.

Today's announcement is the latest in a series of actions that USDA's Food and Nutrition Service has taken to uphold the USDA's commitment to "Do Right and Feed Everyone" during this national emergency. Other actions include:

- Launching a new coronavirus webpage to proactively inform the public about USDA's efforts to keep children and families fed;
- Providing more than one million meals a week through public-private partnership Meals to You;
- Increasing access to online purchasing by expanding the online purchasing pilot;
- Debuting "Meals for Kids" interactive site finder – to help families find meals for children while schools are closed;

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- Allowing states to issue emergency supplemental SNAP benefits totaling more than $ 2 billion per month to increase recipients' purchasing power;
- Collecting solutions to feeding children impacted through feedingkids@usda.gov; and
- Providing administrative flexibilities in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to allow for social distancing.

These actions and more are part of USDA's focus on service during the COVID-19 outbreak. To learn more about FNS's response to COVID-19, visit www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers 15 nutrition assistance programs that leverage American's agricultural abundance to ensure children and low-income individuals and families have nutritious food to eat. FNS also co-develops the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which provide science-based nutrition recommendations and serve as the cornerstone of federal nutrition policy.

###

Department of Agriculture | 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250

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Sent by feedback@oc.usda.gov

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jonathan McCracken
Cc: Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov)
Subject: Sen Brown re: p-ebt Ohio
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 11:53:00 AM

Jonathan,

Yes, FNS has received Ohio's application and are working with the State to provide technical assistance. FNS has a call with the State this afternoon. FNS hopes to approve the plan in the near future.

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: McCracken, Jonathan (Brown) <Jonathan_McCracken@brown.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: USDA FNS - 1 SNAP Flexibility Income and Eligibility Verification System - COVID-19

Thanks for the update. Does FNS have Ohio's application for Pandemic-EBT?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 30, 2020, at 5:08 PM, Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov> wrote:

> All,
>
> This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
>
> FNS is approving the **Ohio** IEVS adjustment for ongoing SNAP households at recertification and periodic report from the receipt of this approval through May 31, 2020 under authorization of **section 2302** of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

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This adjustment will allow the state to suspend the use of the **Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS)** for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. The State will continue to verify income through other data sources and databases and act on all other mandatory matches, including prisoner and death matches. Therefore, ongoing SNAP households will not have their benefits reduced or terminated based on IEVS data. This adjustment approval does not adjust the State agency's requirement to use IEVS data matches in determining eligibility at initial certification.

The State agency that requested this flexibilities received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with any questions.

Regards,
Chris



Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Howard, Rebecca (Jones)
Cc: Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov)
Subject: Sen Jones P-EBT application
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:51:00 AM
Attachments: Alabama P-EBT Application.pdf
image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image005.png

Rebecca,

Attached.

Thanks,
Veronica

From: Howard, Rebecca (Jones) <Rebecca_Howard@jones.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:06 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Their application, please!

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Howard, Rebecca (Jones) <Rebecca_Howard@jones.senate.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Rebecca,

Are you looking for the state's application or the approval letter?

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Howard, Rebecca (Jones) <Rebecca_Howard@jones.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Chris and Veronica,

Excited about this news. Is there any way you can share their application? It would be greatly appreciated.

Best,

Rebecca Howard
Legislative Assistant
Office of U.S. Senator Doug Jones
(202) 228-3737



From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 5:33 PM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Alabama has received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval.

The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Smith, Lucas (Reed)
Cc: Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov)
Subject: Sen Reed (RI) RE: P-EBT RI
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 8:52:00 AM

Lucas,

The State estimates that it will issue $5,794,814 to 18,000 SNAP households and $8,392,315 to 26,848 non-SNAP households for school closures extending from March 16, 2020 through April 30, 2020 a total of 34 days. The State will issue additional benefits for canceled school days in May and June if schools remain closed beyond the end of April. This information is the state's estimates from the P-EBT plan recently approved by USDA.

Regards,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

From: Smith, Lucas (Reed) <Lucas_Smith@reed.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

Hi Chris,

Can you tell me what the total funding provided to the state for this will be? How many students/families will be served?

Best,
Lucas

From: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 11:14 AM
Cc: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19

All,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Rhode Island received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval.

The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,
Chris

Chris Kidd
Office of Congressional Relations

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-7095

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From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Senator remarks on Ag/CCC
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 9:57:48 PM
Attachments: image001.png

For your reading pleasure, below is the text of remarks that several Senators made on the Senate floor today regarding CCC. This includes Stabenow, Hoeven, Thune, Roberts, and Fischer.

Stabenow Comments:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

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(b) (5), DPP .

Hoeven Comments:

(b) (5), DPP

Thune Comments

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Fischer Comments:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

Roberts Comments:

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]



Ken Barbic
Assistant Secretary – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture); Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture)
Subject: SNAP Flexibility on QC Interview Requirements Granted
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 4:45:00 PM

Rob and Jacqlyn,

This email is to inform you that to allow for greater social distancing to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Secretary is allowing States to conduct telephone interviews instead of face-to face-interviews for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC) purposes.

States must notify FNS in advance if they choose to implement this flexibility and must follow all other requirements for the QC interview as specified in SNAP regulations. A notification may be done through email, letter, or oral affirmation that they plan to use this flexibility.

This flexibility applies to any QC case reviews conducted in March, April and May 2020.

Regional FNS offices are informing states of this flexibility now.

Thank you,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Mandy.Schaumburg@mail.house.gov; Hard, Alison
Subject: SNAP Flexibility on QC Interview Requirements Granted Today
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 4:45:00 PM

Ali and Mandy,

This email is to inform you that to allow for greater social distancing to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Secretary is allowing States to conduct telephone interviews instead of face-to face-interviews for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC) purposes.

States must notify FNS in advance if they choose to implement this flexibility and must follow all other requirements for the QC interview as specified in SNAP regulations. A notification may be done through email, letter, or oral affirmation that they plan to use this flexibility.

This flexibility applies to any QC case reviews conducted in March, April and May 2020.

Regional FNS offices are informing states of this flexibility now.

Thank you,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: SNAP Online Pilot Expansion
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 11:15:00 AM

Anne – (b) (5), DPP
?

Campbell – (b) (5), DPP

I will send when you both let me know you're good. Thanks!

Mr. Secretary:

(b) (5), DPP

Regards,
Brandon

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tiller, Jennifer
Subject: snap online purchase pilot
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:33:00 AM
Attachments: Conaway Letter with Letterhead.pdf
SNAP COVID Online Pilot Template.pdf

Jen,

Attached is the reply letter with template for states to use if they are interested in the SNAP online purchasing pilot. It is also available on PartnerWeb.

Here is additional background information on the current landscape for the online pilot:

-The SNAP online pilot is currently operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. Nebraska joined the pilot on April 1, 2020. Maryland and New Jersey remain non-operational pilot states.

-The authorized retailers working with all pilot states are Amazon and Walmart, while Wrights Market and ShopRite are working with Alabama and New York respectively. Dash's Market, Fresh Direct, Hy-Vee, and Safeway are authorized retailers, which are not currently operational.

-Though the USDA and FNS is receiving interest to expand the SNAP online pilot program, the responsibility is on state agencies, their third-party processor, and any retailers who wish to participate. To ease the process, FNS put together a simplified template for states who wish to enter the online pilot which is provided as an attachment.

-States that have expressed interest in joining include California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, New Mexico, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

-So far, California is the only state that has submitted a plan with the requisite commitments from all parties.

-Many states and their respective entities are already facing capacity issues with the COVID-19 response, and FNS continues to provide significant technical assistance to interested states to ensure that plans are thorough and appropriate preliminary testing is conducted.

-If not done properly and judiciously, there is a risk to the State's entire benefit system. Each State, its EBT processor and retailers present their own mix of challenges so FNS is providing customer service based on each of their specific needs.

-FNS will continue to work with interested states in advancing their participation in this pilot.

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

April 6, 2020

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway
Ranking Member
House Agriculture Committee on Agriculture
1010 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Conaway:

Thank you for your letter dated March 27, 2020 regarding COIVD-19's impact on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the SNAP online purchase pilot. SNAP participants should have the opportunity to shop for food the same way more and more Americans shop for food – by ordering and paying for groceries online. As technology advances, SNAP is advancing too, so we can offer the same shopping options to SNAP and non-SNAP recipients.

The SNAP online pilot is currently operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. Nebraska joined the pilot on April 1, 2020. Maryland and New Jersey remain non-operational pilot states. The authorized retailers working with all pilot states are Amazon and Walmart, while Wrights Market and ShopRite are working with Alabama and New York respectively. Dash's Market, Fresh Direct, Hy-Vee, and Safeway are authorized retailers, which are not currently operational.

Though the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is receiving interest to expand the SNAP online pilot program, the responsibility is on state agencies, their third-party processor, and any retailers who wish to participate. To ease the process, FNS put together a simplified template for states who wish to enter the online pilot which is provided as an attachment to this letter.

States that have expressed interest in joining include California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, New Mexico, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Each of these states and their respective entities are already facing capacity issues with the COVID-19 response, and FNS continues to provide significant technical assistance to interested states to ensure that plans are thorough and appropriate preliminary testing is conducted. If not done properly and judiciously, there is a risk to the State's entire benefit system. Each State, its EBT processor and retailers present their own mix of challenges so FNS is providing customer service based on each of their specific needs.

So far, California is the only state that has submitted a plan with the requisite commitments from all parties. We look forward to them moving forward when they feel comfortable and will defer to them to announce the timing.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 2440 of 2464

FNS will continue to work with interested states in advancing their participation in this pilot. Until States are prepared to operate the pilot, USDA recommends States utilize other options that retailers may already provide, such as Pay at Pick-up (also known as "Click and Collect"), where SNAP cardholders can shop online and then pay for their purchase using their EBT card at pick-up. Grocery pickup is already an option that these retailers offer beyond SNAP so they are already thinking through how they can provide a safe environment to do so with the growing concerns around social distancing.

During these challenging times, FNS is working hand-in-hand with state program leadership, to provide support and guidance to adapt to the challenges of this public health emergency. USDA intends to use available program flexibilities and contingencies to continue to serve our program participants. For up to date information and to learn more about flexibilities being used in FNS nutrition programs, please visit our website at https://www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Again, we appreciate your focus on our nutrition programs, and you have USDA's continued commitment to work with each state and community on their unique needs. If you need further assistance, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (b) (6)

Sincerely,



Sonny Perdue
Secretary

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

State Plan for Providing Online Purchasing to SNAP Households

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

1. **Type of Request:** Initial

2. **Primary Citation:** Implementation of Expedited Online Purchasing Option for SNAP due to Covid-19 and the National Emergency declared on March 13, 2020.

3. **State [specify]:**

4. **Proposed Alternative Procedures:**

The State proposes to provide online purchasing as an option to SNAP households in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 that was declared a National Emergency on March 13, 2020, resulting in many individuals needing to self-quarantine and engage in social distancing, which in turn has made it challenging for some SNAP households to travel to stores to purchase food.

The State acknowledges that an expedited timeframe for this project carries some inherent risks, such as potential disruption to normal EBT transaction processing if the changes are not thoroughly tested before implementation. The requirements outlined below allow the State to address how these risks would be mitigated.

Requirements: By submitting this plan to FNS, the State is confirming/ acknowledging the following:

- A change order has been initiated with the EBT Processor for these changes or an agreement has been reached as to how costs will be covered.
- This plan has been discussed with the contracted EBT Processor, the Third Party Processor/Secure PIN-entry Provider (TPP) and the experienced retailers **currently authorized for online purchasing**, and all parties agree they can support an implementation date of [DATE]. **A letter of commitment from each of these stakeholders is attached to this plan.**

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- The timeline in this plan includes the following activities:
    - Full documentation of the changes to the EBT system or a plan for how/when such documentation will be received.
    - QA testing of the EBT system (either by the processor or the State) to include not only online purchasing functionality but also regression testing of point of sale transaction processing.
- The changes necessary for online purchasing have been fully reviewed such that the State was able to subsequently assess any downstream impacts of these changes to their State system(s).
- The State has developed a detailed timeline and is able to make the necessary updates to their systems by the implementation date and will have the necessary technical resources to meet the timeline and requirements.
- EBT test cards will be provided to retailers such that end-to-end testing is conducted in the production environment, and passed prior to opening up online purchasing to SNAP households. This testing will include all stakeholders of this project including: the State, the EBT Processor, the TPP, the retailers and FNS. This testing involves the retailer running standard transaction scenarios on the their website (successful purchase, insufficient funds, invalid PIN, balance inquiry, split tender, etc…) and verifying that the transactions execute as expected and the State is able to view the transaction details in their State EBT system.

Reporting: The State commits to report to FNS regarding project development status (via email or phone call) at least weekly, and to inform FNS of any changes to the implementation plan or expected launch date.

5. **Justification for Request:** Coronavirus COVID-19

6. **Affected Caseload:** Any households in the State will be able to utilize online purchasing. [IF RETAILERS PLAN TO START IN A LIMITED AREA AND EXPAND COVERAGE OVER A PERIOD OF TIME ADDRESS THAT IN THE RESPONSE.]

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7. **Anticipated Implementation Date:**

8. **Signature and Title of Requesting State Agency Official:**

_____

Signature

_____

Print Name and Title

9. **Date of Request:**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Second attachment included on pages 2346-2348

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Saundrea.Shropshire@mail.house.gov; Garrison, Eyang
Subject: snap online purchasing pilot
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:33:00 AM
Attachments: Congressman McGovern Letter on Letterhead.pdf
SNAP COVID Online Pilot Template.pdf
Fudge Letter on Letterhead.pdf

Saundrea and Eyang,

Attached are the reply letters from USDA on the SNAP online purchasing pilot.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

April 6, 2020

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
U.S. House of Representatives
2344 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Fudge:

Thank you for your letter dated April 1, 2020 regarding COIVD-19's impact on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the SNAP online purchase pilot. SNAP participants should have the opportunity to shop for food the same way more and more Americans shop for food – by ordering and paying for groceries online. As technology advances, SNAP is advancing too, so we can offer the same shopping options to SNAP and non-SNAP recipients.

The SNAP online pilot is currently operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. Nebraska joined the pilot on April 1, 2020. Maryland and New Jersey remain non-operational pilot states. The authorized retailers working with all pilot states are Amazon and Walmart, while Wrights Market and ShopRite are working with Alabama and New York respectively. Dash's Market, Fresh Direct, Hy-Vee, and Safeway are authorized retailers, which are not currently operational.

Though the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is receiving interest to expand the SNAP online pilot program, the responsibility is on state agencies, their third-party processor, and any retailers who wish to participate. To ease the process, FNS put together a simplified template for states who wish to enter the online pilot which is provided as an attachment to this letter.

States that have expressed interest in joining include California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, New Mexico, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Each of these states and their respective entities are already facing capacity issues with the COVID-19 response, and FNS continues to provide significant technical assistance to interested states to ensure that plans are thorough and appropriate preliminary testing is conducted. If not done properly and judiciously, there is a risk to the State's entire benefit system. Each State, its EBT processor and retailers present their own mix of challenges so FNS is providing customer service based on each of their specific needs.

So far, California is the only state that has submitted a plan with the requisite commitments from all parties. We look forward to them moving forward when they feel comfortable and will defer to them to announce the timing.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 2450 of 2451
USDA-20-1045-A-002350

FNS will continue to work with interested states in advancing their participation in this pilot. Until States are prepared to operate the pilot, USDA recommends States utilize other options that retailers may already provide, such as Pay at Pick-up (also known as "Click and Collect"), where SNAP cardholders can shop online and then pay for their purchase using their EBT card at pick-up. Grocery pickup is already an option that these retailers offer beyond SNAP so they are already thinking through how they can provide a safe environment to do so with the growing concerns around social distancing.

During these challenging times, FNS is working hand-in-hand with state program leadership, to provide support and guidance to adapt to the challenges of this public health emergency. USDA intends to use available program flexibilities and contingencies to continue to serve our program participants. For up to date information and to learn more about flexibilities being used in FNS nutrition programs, please visit our website at https://www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Again, we appreciate your focus on our nutrition programs, and you have USDA's continued commitment to work with each state and community on their unique needs. If you need further assistance, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (b) [redacted] (6) A similar letter has been sent to Congressman James McGovern.

Sincerely,



Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

April 6, 2020

The Honorable James P. McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:

Thank you for your letter dated April 1, 2020 regarding COIVD-19's impact on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the SNAP online purchase pilot. SNAP participants should have the opportunity to shop for food the same way more and more Americans shop for food – by ordering and paying for groceries online. As technology advances, SNAP is advancing too, so we can offer the same shopping options to SNAP and non-SNAP recipients.

The SNAP online pilot is currently operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. Nebraska joined the pilot on April 1, 2020. Maryland and New Jersey remain non-operational pilot states. The authorized retailers working with all pilot states are Amazon and Walmart, while Wrights Market and ShopRite are working with Alabama and New York respectively. Dash's Market, Fresh Direct, Hy-Vee, and Safeway are authorized retailers, which are not currently operational.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 2450 of 2452

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Again, we appreciate your focus on our nutrition programs, and you have USDA's continued commitment to work with each state and community on their unique needs. If you need further assistance, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (b) [redacted] (6) A similar letter has been sent to Congresswoman Marcia Fudge.

Sincerely,



Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Rosado, Robert (Agriculture); Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture)
Subject: snap online purchasing pilot
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:39:00 PM
Attachments: SNAP COVID Online Pilot Template.pdf

Attachment included previously at pages 2346-2348

Rob and Jacqlyn,

Attached is the template for states to use if they are interested in the SNAP online purchasing pilot. It is also available on PartnerWeb.

Here is additional background information on the current landscape for the online pilot:

-The SNAP online pilot is currently operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. Nebraska joined the pilot on April 1, 2020. Maryland and New Jersey remain non-operational pilot states.

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-FNS will continue to work with interested states in advancing their participation in this pilot.

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Dickerson, Jasmine; Lisa. Shelton (Lisa.Shelton@mail.house.gov); Hwang, Chu-Yuan; Cep, Melinda; Phillips, Troy; anne simmons; Tiller, Jennifer
Subject: snap online purchasing pilot
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:34:00 AM
Attachments: SNAP COVID Online Pilot Template.pdf

Attachment included previously at pages 2346-2348

All,

Several staff has asked for a copy of the template for states to use if they are interested in the SNAP online purchasing pilot. It is attached and is also available on PartnerWeb.

Here is additional background information on the current landscape for the online pilot:

-The SNAP online pilot is currently operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. Nebraska joined the pilot on April 1, 2020. Maryland and New Jersey remain non-operational pilot states.

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-FNS will continue to work with interested states in advancing their participation in this pilot.

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

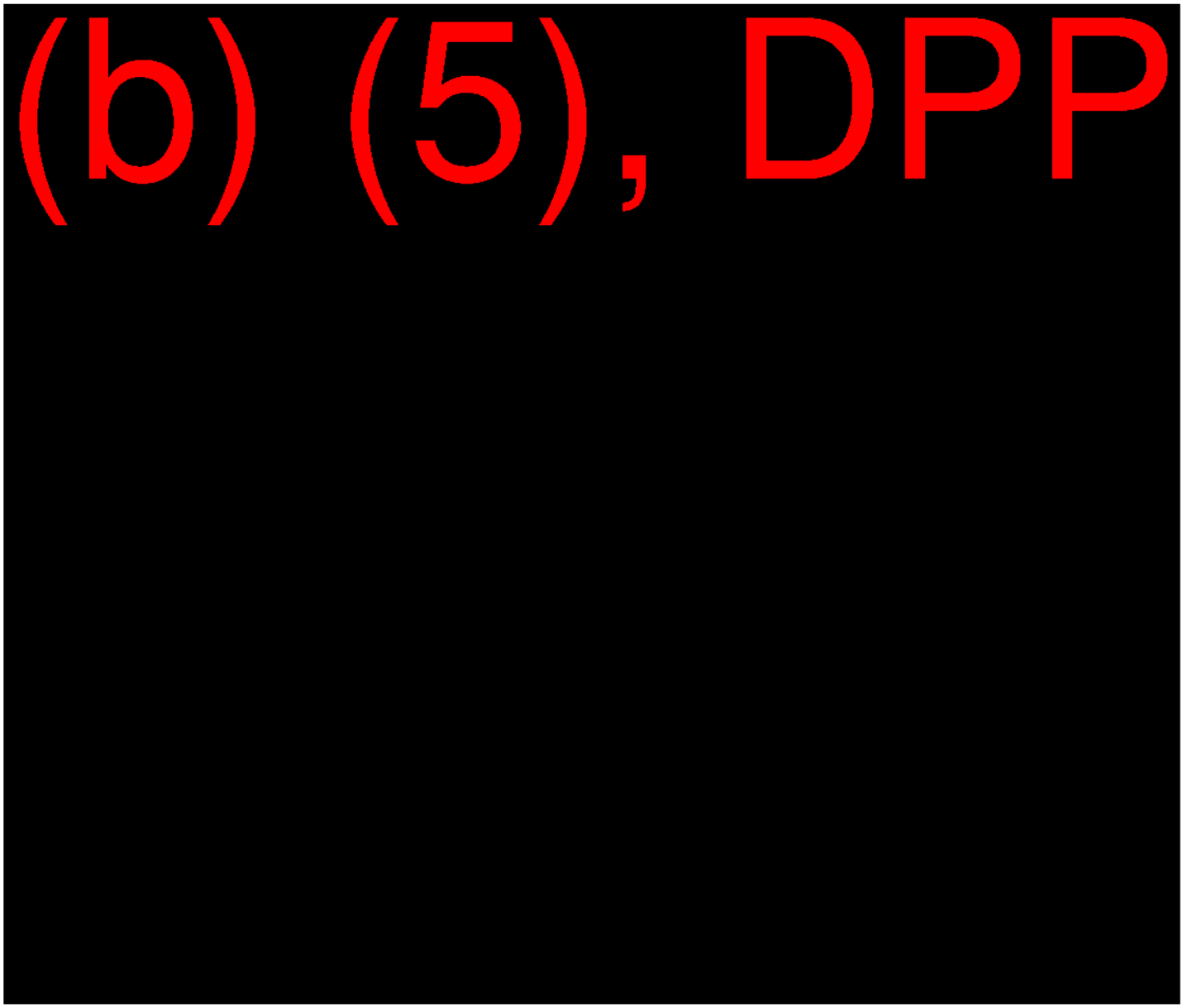
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: SP Denials and Updates 040120
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 11:54:00 AM
Attachments: SP Denials and Updates 040120.docx

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Secretary Perdue
From: Campbell, Brandon, Anne - FNCS
Date: April 1, 2020
Re: FNCS Updates. WIC Food Packages Substitutions and SNAP COVID-19 Flexibilities

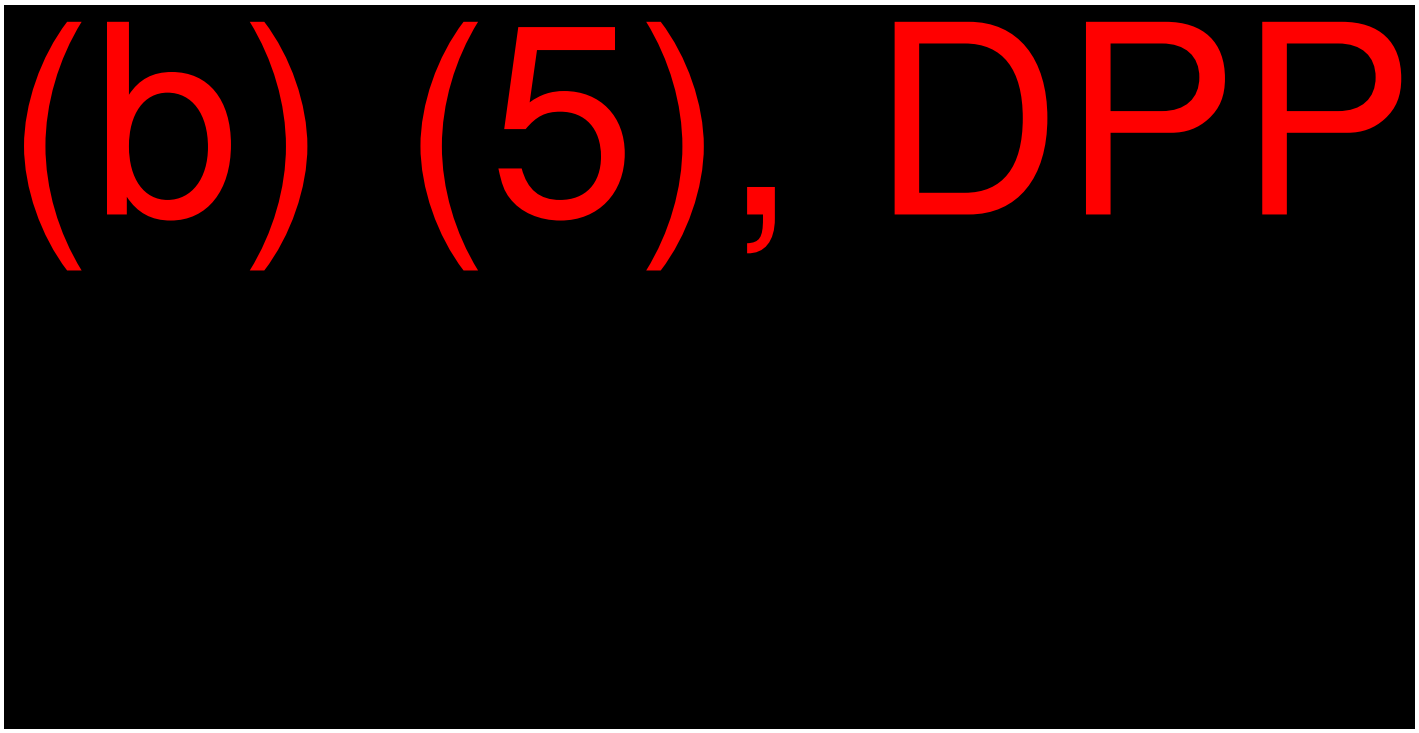
PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: SP Disaster Household Distribution AD
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 9:29:00 AM
Attachments: SP Disaster Household Distribution AD.docx

Campbell –

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Secretary Perdue
From: FNCS; Campbell
Date: March 26, 2020
Re: **Disaster Household Distribution Update**

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: SP Waiver Extensions 051220
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:08:00 PM
Attachments: SP Waiver Extensions 051220.docx

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted] Let me know your thoughts. Thanks!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: The Secretary
From: FNCS
Date: May 12, 2020
Re: Waiver Extensions

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: SP Waiver Extensions 051220
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:28:00 PM
Attachments: SP Waiver Extensions 051220.docx

(b) (5), DPP [redacted] I think we can just go with this?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: The Secretary
From: FNCS
Date: May 12, 2020
Re: Waiver Extensions

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tiller, Jennifer
Subject: SSN Good Cause
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:27:00 PM

Jen,

Here is more information on the SSN Good Cause:

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.6(d) allow the State Agency to grant good cause for an individual who has not applied for or provided a SSN for 1 month plus the month of application. After this time frame good cause must be determined monthly on case by case basis.

- This adjustment allows the State Agency to grant Good Cause for 3 additional months beyond the 1 month plus month of application allowed by regulation for an individual that cannot show they have applied for or provide an SSN.

- The State requested this adjustment because the SSA offices are closed, therefore an individual is limited as to how they can apply for a number or verify a SSN. SSA does have an online process, however not all individuals who need to apply for an SSN or get verification of an SSN meet the online criteria, so they must present themselves in an SSA office to conduct business. Since the offices are closed to the public, this is not possible during this time.

- States are still required to verify all other eligibility criteria and adjusting this requirement allows the State to grant a longer good cause timeframe, giving SSA offices time to reopen and the individual more time to retrieve the information.

- The good cause period will not impact the State's responsibility to verify immigration status via SAVE, whether it is a 1 month good cause period or an extended good cause period.

- Typically, a non-citizen would provide documentation from USCIS on their immigration status to be verified by the State. The individual should have this documentation regardless of whether they have received an SSN.

Veronica

From: Tiller, Jennifer <Jennifer.Tiller@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause Flex - COVID-19

Can you confirm that this ensures the SNAP applicant has indeed applied for a SSN, but due to

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

COVID, is unable to follow-up because of the moratorium of face:face interviews?

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC <Chris.Kidd@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause Flex - COVID-19

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a **Washington** waiver request to **increase the time allowed to provide the SSN for SNAP applicants** under Good Cause as a result of the State's response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following flexibilities under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations,** FNS's existing statutory authority.

FNS will allow the state to extend the timeframe for an individual to participate in SNAP after having established good cause for failure to provide a SSN for up to an additional three months. This will allow the State agency to grant good cause for a total of five months, the month of application plus one month as already provided for by 7 CFR 273.6(d), and an three additional months as provided for by this adjustment. This adjustment is approved through May 31, 2020.

The State has been provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tiller, Jennifer
Subject: state waiver denial letter
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 9:53:00 AM

Jen,

For your awareness, this waiver denial letter was sent to states on Friday afternoon.

https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/covid-19/denial-certain-state-requests

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

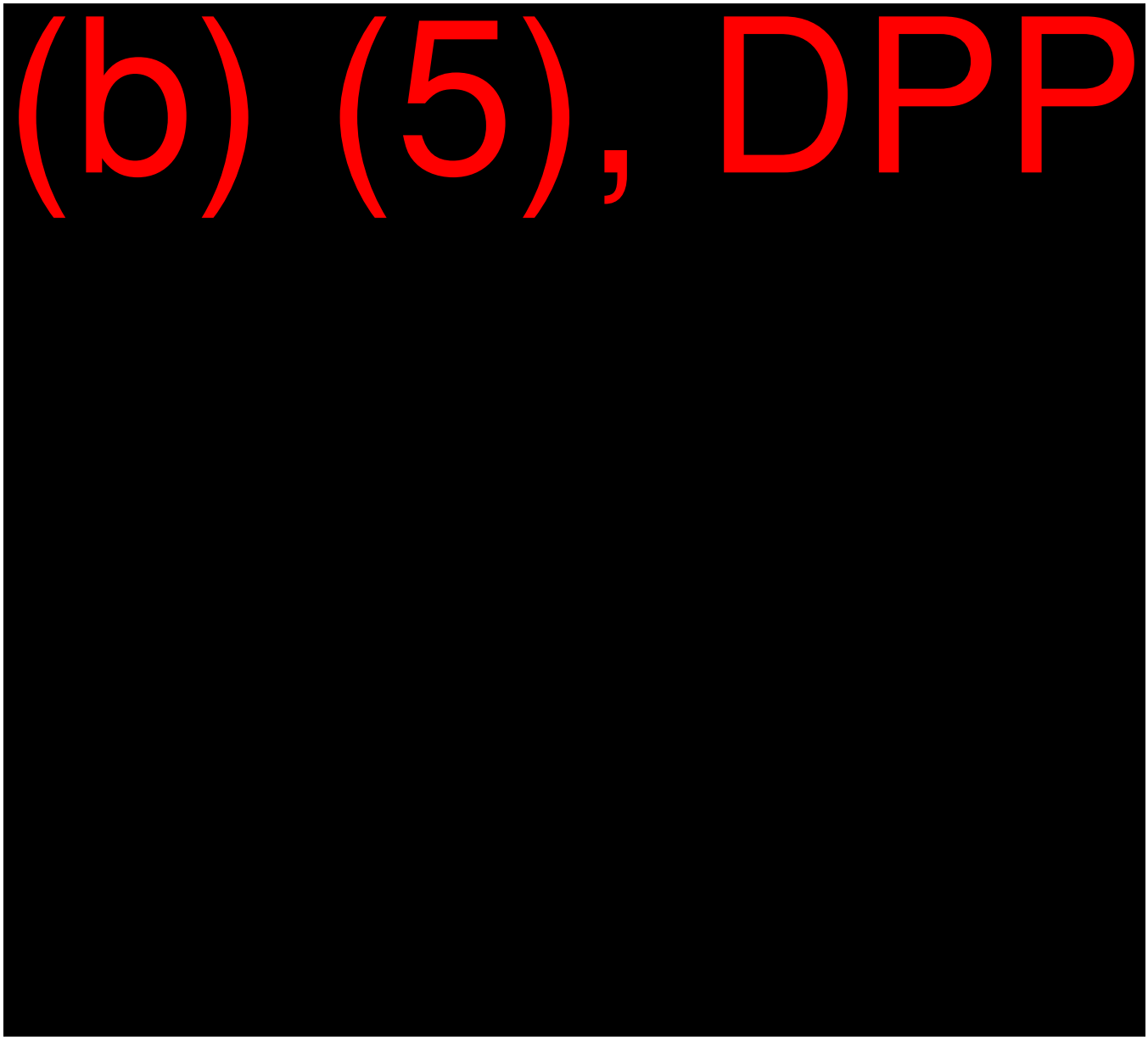
AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Summary of Democrat Phase 4 bill
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:58:44 PM
Attachments: image001.png

(b) (5), DPP ?

Sir,

Attached is a summary of the key USDA/Ag provisions in the phase 4 bill. A few topline "highlights" here:



Ken Barbic
Assistant Secretary – Office of Congressional Relations

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile: (b) (6)
Office: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld emails are Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC
Subject: Summary of USDA provisions in Phase 3 supplemental
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 9:15:52 PM
Attachments: USDA COVID-19 Supp Phase III Summary FINAL 3.25.20 v3.docx
image001.png

Sir,

(b) (5), DPP

Stay tuned!
Ken

Ken Barbic
Assistant Secretary – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile: (b) (6)
Office: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: The Secretary
From: FNCS
Date: May 12, 2020
Re: Waiver Extensions

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

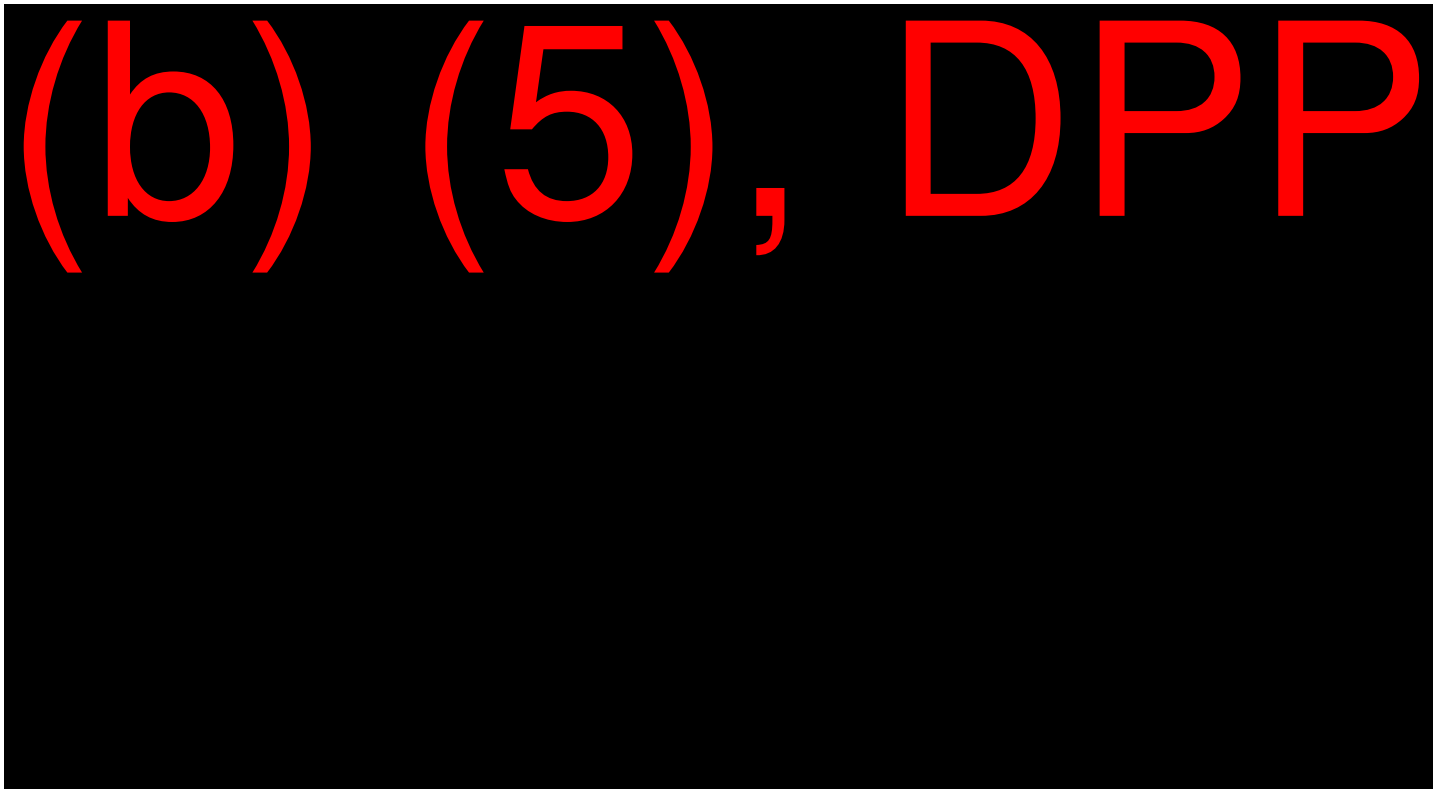


AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Tennessee D-SNAP (Note: This email is re: tornadoes, not COVID)
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020 12:26:00 PM

Does this make sense?

Mr. Secretary –



Please let us know if you would like any additional information.

Regards,
Brandon

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld email addresses are Perdue and Censky alias email addresses

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Miller, Pam - FNS; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Tennessee D-SNAP (Tornados, not COVID)
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020 2:02:24 PM

Mr. Secretary –

(b) (5), DPP

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Please let us know if you would like any additional information.

Regards,
Brandon

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Thoughts? I"m ready to send and so is everyone else.
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 7:32:00 PM

Mr. Secretary –



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

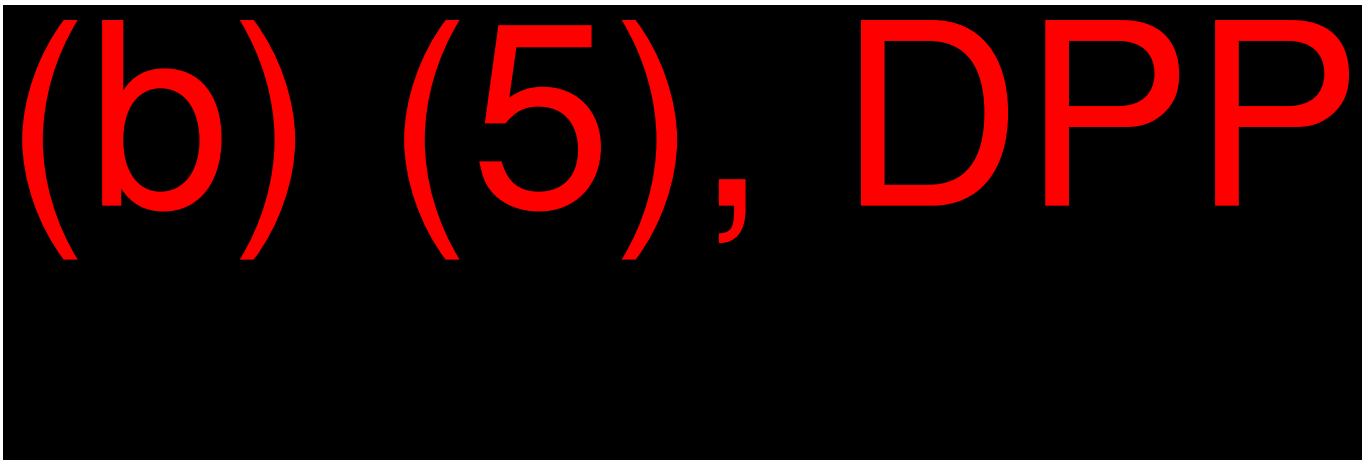
(b) (5), DPP

Regards,
Bandon

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov); Lindsay - FNS Datlow (Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov); Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject: Tiller questions
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 10:01:00 PM

Jen Tiller has a few questions:



Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Miller, Pam - FNS; Corley, Shiela - FNS
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: today"s memo.
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:02:00 AM
Attachments: SP Denials and Updates 040120.docx

Attachment included previously at pages 2357-2359

Good morning -

(b) (5), DPP

Thanks!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Corley, Shiela - FNS; Miller, Pam - FNS; Tvrdy, Joe - FNS; Datlow, Lindsay - FNS
Subject: TOP PRIORITY!
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 11:05:00 AM
Attachments: Pandemic Response Policy Briefing - FNCS.docx

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

[redacted] Thanks!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Secretary Perdue
From: Brandon, Pam, Anne FNCS ; Campbell, OSEC
Date: March 23, 2020
Re: **FNCS Policy Briefing on Implementation of HR 6201 FFCVA**

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

(b) (5), DPP

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



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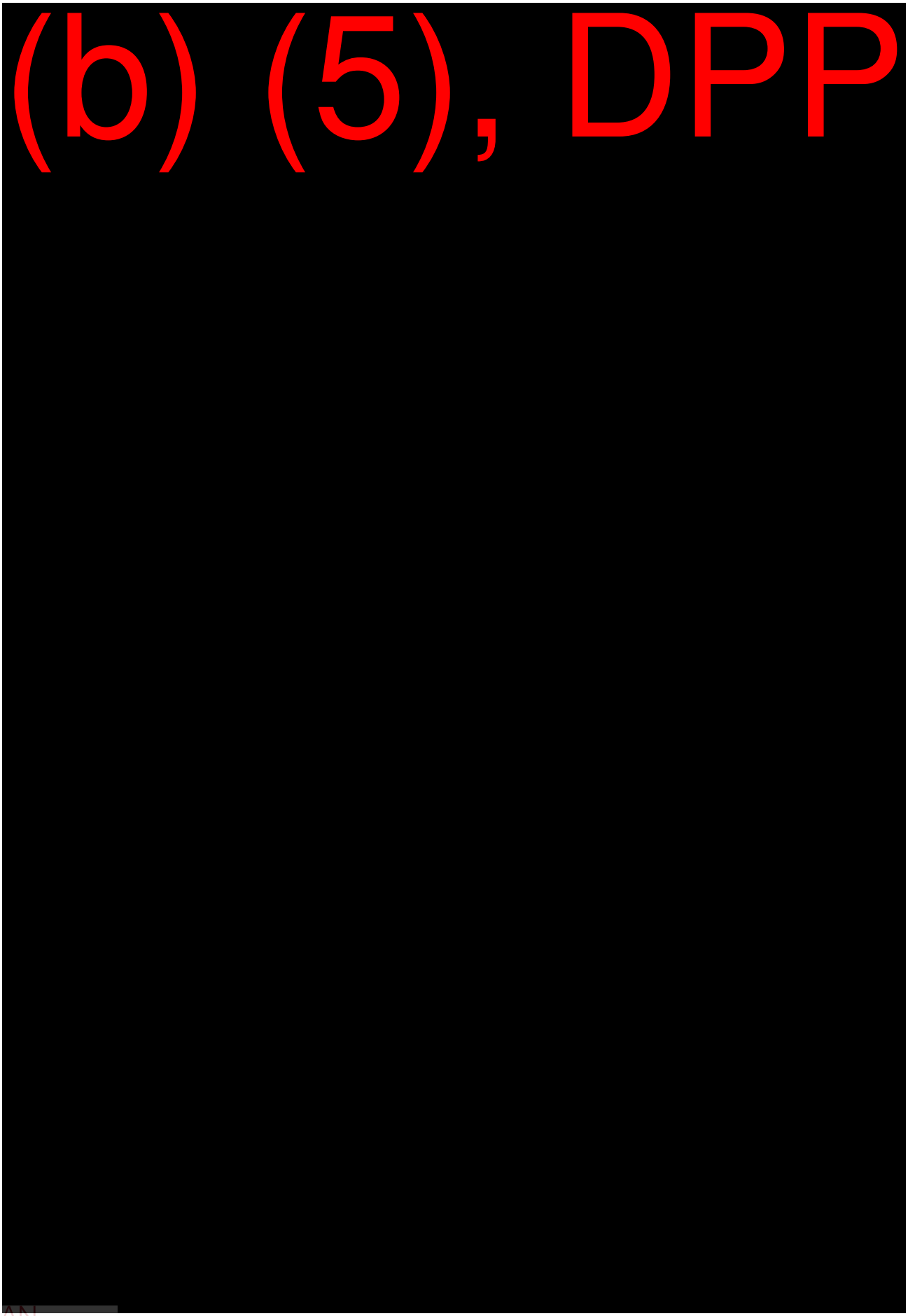
From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Anne - OSEC Washington DC DeCesaro (Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov)
Cc: Pam - FNS Miller (pam.miller@usda.gov)
Subject: topics for Fri 11am Hill call
Date: Thursday, April 30, 2020 2:06:00 PM

Anne, For tomorrow's 11am hill call, here are the topics/questions I've received from committee staff. I will let you know if I receive more.

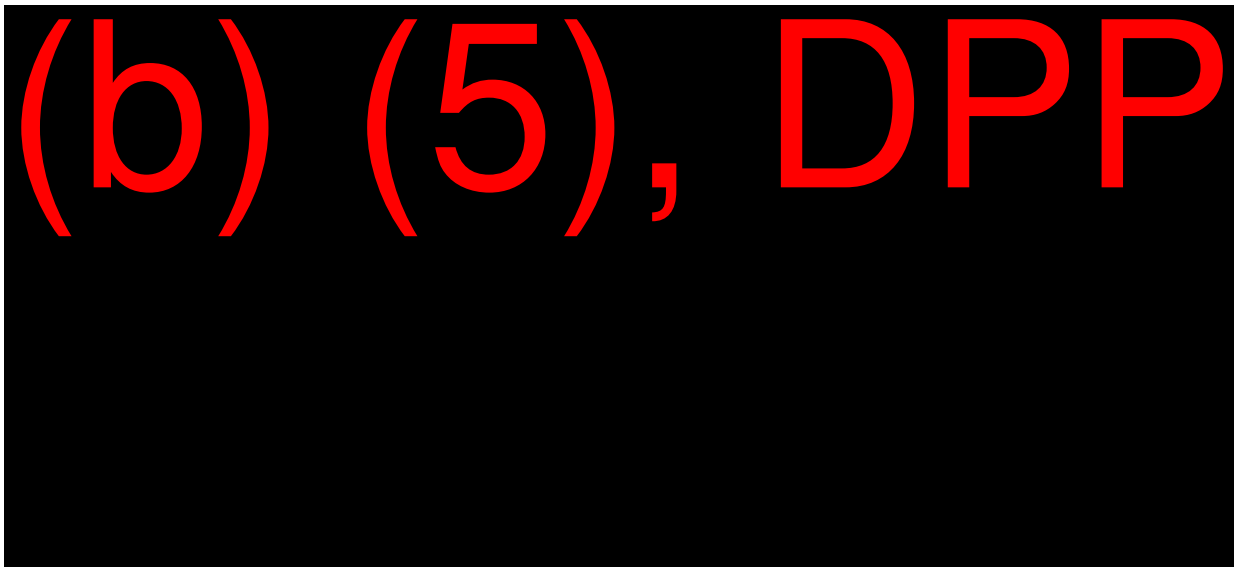
-



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Withheld email address is Secretary Perdue alias email address

From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC
Subject: Update on online pilot expansion announcement
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:25:00 AM

Sir –

Your script for today's (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Thanks,

Brandon

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Foley, Martha; Tom.O"Brien@mail.house.gov
Cc: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: update on SFSP/SSO congregate state waivers
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 2:20:00 PM

Martha and Tom,

This email is to update you on USDA approved Food and Nutrition state waivers.

Child Nutrition - Congregate Feeding

All 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico now have approved Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and/or Seamless Summer Options (SSO) congregate feeding waivers. In total USDA issued 58 waivers, with 6 states needing two waivers because of unique configurations within these states like their SFSP program is run out of one Department and their SSO program run out of another. The six states are Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas.

SNAP – Quality Control

USDA is allowing States to conduct telephone interviews instead of face-to face-interviews for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC) purposes. States must notify FNS in advance if they choose to implement this flexibility and must follow all other requirements for the QC interview as specified in SNAP regulations. A notification may be done through email, letter, or oral affirmation that they plan to use this flexibility.

This flexibility applies to any QC case reviews conducted in March, April and May 2020. States already have the option to use telephonic for certification/recertification purposes.

16 states are now using this QC flexibility: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Wyoming.

This website link with this state waiver information will be updated as needed:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Dent, Elizabeth (Appropriations); Dianne_Nellor@appro.senate.gov
Subject: update on USDA FNS state waivers - COVID-19
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 2:23:00 PM

Elizabeth and Diane,

This email is to update you on USDA approved Food and Nutrition Service state waivers related to COVID-19.

Child Nutrition - Congregate Feeding

All 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico now have approved Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and/or Seamless Summer Options (SSO) congregate feeding waivers. In total USDA issued 58 waivers, with 6 states needing two waivers because of unique configurations within these states like their SFSP program is run out of one Department and their SSO program run out of another. The six states are Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas.

SNAP – Quality Control

USDA is allowing States to conduct telephone interviews instead of face-to face-interviews for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC) purposes. States must notify FNS in advance if they choose to implement this flexibility and must follow all other requirements for the QC interview as specified in SNAP regulations. A notification may be done through email, letter, or oral affirmation that they plan to use this flexibility.

This flexibility applies to any QC case reviews conducted in March, April and May 2020. States already have the option to use telephonic for certification/recertification purposes.

16 states are now using this QC flexibility: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Wyoming.

This website link with this state waiver information will be updated as needed:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - 1 SNAP Flexibility Income and Eligibility Verification System - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:12:16 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving the **California Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) adjustment flexibility** for ongoing SNAP households at recertification and periodic report from the receipt of this approval through May 31, 2020 under authorization of **section 2302** of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

This adjustment will allow the state to suspend the use of the IEVS for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. The State will continue to verify income through other data sources and databases and act on all other mandatory matches, including prisoner and death matches. Therefore, ongoing SNAP households will not have their benefits reduced or terminated based on IEVS data. This adjustment approval does not adjust the State agency's requirement to use IEVS data matches in determining eligibility at initial certification.

The State agency that requested this flexibilities received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with any questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS - 1 SNAP Flexibility Income and Eligibility Verification System - COVID-19
Date:	Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:19:51 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving the **Iowa Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) adjustment flexibility** for ongoing SNAP households at recertification and periodic report from the receipt of this approval through May 31, 2020 under authorization of **section 2302** of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

This adjustment will allow the state to suspend the use of the IEVS for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. The State will continue to verify income through other data sources and databases and act on all other mandatory matches, including prisoner and death matches. Therefore, ongoing SNAP households will not have their benefits reduced or terminated based on IEVS data. This adjustment approval does not adjust the State agency's requirement to use IEVS data matches in determining eligibility at initial certification.

The State agency that requested this flexibilities received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with any questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - 1 SNAP Flexibility Income and Eligibility Verification System - COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 6:51:07 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving the **Indiana Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) adjustment flexibility** for ongoing SNAP households at recertification and periodic report from the receipt of this approval through May 31, 2020 under authorization of **section 2302** of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

This adjustment will allow the state to suspend the use of the IEVS for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. The State will continue to verify income through other data sources and databases and act on all other mandatory matches, including prisoner and death matches. Therefore, ongoing SNAP households will not have their benefits reduced or terminated based on IEVS data. This adjustment approval does not adjust the State agency's requirement to use IEVS data matches in determining eligibility at initial certification.

The State agency that requested this flexibilities received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with any questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - 1 SNAP Flexibility Income and Eligibility Verification System - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:00:16 AM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving the **Minnesota** Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) adjustment flexibility for ongoing SNAP households at recertification and periodic report from the receipt of this approval through May 31, 2020 under authorization of **section 2302** of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

This adjustment will allow the state to suspend the use of the IEVS for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. The State will continue to verify income through other data sources and databases and act on all other mandatory matches, including prisoner and death matches. Therefore, ongoing SNAP households will not have their benefits reduced or terminated based on IEVS data. This adjustment approval does not adjust the State agency's requirement to use IEVS data matches in determining eligibility at initial certification.

The State agency that requested this flexibilities received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with any questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - 1 SNAP Flexibility Income and Eligibility Verification System - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, April 30, 2020 4:16:07 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving the **Ohio** IEVS adjustment for ongoing SNAP households at recertification and periodic report from the receipt of this approval through May 31, 2020 under authorization of **section 2302** of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

This adjustment will allow the state to suspend the use of the **Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS)** for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. The State will continue to verify income through other data sources and databases and act on all other mandatory matches, including prisoner and death matches. Therefore, ongoing SNAP households will not have their benefits reduced or terminated based on IEVS data. This adjustment approval does not adjust the State agency's requirement to use IEVS data matches in determining eligibility at initial certification.

The State agency that requested this flexibilities received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with any questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Attachment included previously at page 752

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 7:49:20 PM
Attachments: EmergencyAllotmentsGuidance.pdf

Committee and Leadership Contacts,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

As shared on today's Hill call, FNS will provide states templates to help ease the administrative burden of requests to USDA and increase the speed at which waivers can be approved.

To that end, attached is guidance for states implementing **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201**, which provides for the issuance of **emergency SNAP allotments** (supplements) based on a public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act related to an outbreak of COVID-19 when a State has also issued an emergency or disaster declaration.

States agencies have been provided a copy of this guidance document on this provision tonight. State agencies may contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

I will be sending this information to hill offices shortly.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - GA, MI, SC, TN approved - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:52:36 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving two month SNAP Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**

March and April Approvals: Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina

April and May Approvals: Tennessee

Guidance and templates for states to use in their requests were provided on Friday, March 20.

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments - MA, NJ, RI, IA approved - COVID-19
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 10:14:48 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**

March and April Approvals: Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island

April and May Approvals: Iowa

This is in addition to the 7 states noticed yesterday.

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS - SNAP emergency allotments and Extended Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:46:06 PM
Attachments:	VT - SNAP - COV-047 - Extend Certification Periods - Approval.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Recertification

Attached is **one additional state** SNAP flexibility Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201. This is in addition to the 3 states notified earlier today for a total of 41 already granted.**

USDA has granted **Vermont** a waiver through May 31, 2020 through the authority granted to the Secretary. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Emergency Allotment

FNS is approving Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**

March and April Approvals: Delaware, Ohio

This is in addition to the 11 states noticed yesterday.

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 26, 2020

Sean Brown
Deputy Commissioner
Economic Services Division
Department for Children and Families
HC 1 South, 280 State Drive
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1020

RE: SNAP – Vermont Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Brown:

This letter transmits approval of the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-047) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

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Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-047

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Vermont

5. **Region:** Northeast

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP flexibilities - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:38:07 PM
Attachments: SNAP-COVID19-AdjustInterviewRequirements 3.26.20.pdf

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All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

USDA is granting the following **SNAP flexibilities** under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** The official letter to state agencies is attached.
FNS will allow State agencies to adjust the following **SNAP interview requirements** through May 31, 2020:

- SNAP regulations at 7 C.F.R. §273.2(a)(2), §273.2(e), and §273.14(b)(3) by **not requiring a household to complete an interview prior to approval**, provided the applicant's identity can be verified and all other mandatory verifications have been completed.
- SNAP regulations at 7 C.F.R. §273.2(e)(2)(i) by **not requiring states to provide a face-to-face interview** to any household that requests one at application or recertification.
- SNAP regulations at 7 C.F.R. §273.2(i)(3)(iii) and 7 C.F.R. §273.2(i)(4)(iii)(A) and (B) by **not requiring households that are eligible** for expedited service to complete an interview prior to approval.

If a State agency elects to implement any or all of these adjustments, it must notify its respective FNS Regional Office of its intent to utilize one of these flexibilities or any combination thereof, and any State responses received will be relayed to the FNS Certification Policy Branch.

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been provided a copy of the attached letters, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 2021-002466
USDA-20-1045-A-002466

Date: March 26, 2020

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Adjusting Interview Requirements Due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Blanket Approval

Dear SNAP State agencies,

As authorized by section 2302 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), FNS will allow State agencies to adjust:

- SNAP regulations at 7 C.F.R. 273.2(a)(2), 273.2(e), and 273.14(b)(3) by not requiring a household to complete an interview prior to approval, provided the applicant's identity has been verified and all other mandatory verifications in 7 C.F.R. 273.2(f)(1) have been completed.[1]

- SNAP regulations at 7 C.F.R. 273.2(e)(2)(i) by not offering a face-to-face interview or granting a request for a face-to-face interview to any household at application or recertification.

- SNAP regulations at 7 C.F.R. 273.2(i)(3)(iii) and 7 C.F.R. 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(A) and (B) by not requiring households that are eligible for expedited service to complete an interview prior to approval, provided that an applicant's identity has been identified and an attempt has been made to contact the household for an interview.

Under the authority of Section 2302(a)(2), FNS has determined these adjustments to be consistent with what is practicable under actual conditions in areas affected by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

These flexibilities are available for all applications and recertifications requiring an interview through May 2020 and contingent upon a State agency's compliance with the conditions and evaluation requirements detailed in the attached enclosures, which are due 45 days after expiration (July 15, 2020).

If the State agency elects to implement any or all of these adjustments, it must make a request to its respective FNS Regional Office and identify which ones the State agency intends to use. Any State responses will be relayed to the FNS Certification Policy Branch.

[1] If State agencies have questions regarding other regulatory references to the interview requirement, please contact FNS.

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FNS is ready to provide technical assistance to State agencies as they seek to maintain operations and serve clients during the current Public Health Emergency. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your respective Regional Office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Director
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosures

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

ADJUSTMENT OF INITIAL CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION INTERVIEW RESPONSE

1. **Regulatory citation:** 7 C.F.R. 273.2(a)(2), 273.2(e), and 273.14(b)(3)[2]

2. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations at 7 C.F.R. 273.2(a)(2) requires that the application process include an interview.

   Regulations at 7 C.F.R. 273.2(e) requires that the State agency interview households for eligibility before certifying.

   Regulations at 7 C.F.R. 273.14(b)(3) requires that State agencies interview households as part of the recertification process

3. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State will not be required to interview a household at initial application or recertification, provided that the applicant's identity has been verified and all other mandatory verifications in 7 C.F.R. 273.2(f)(1) have been completed. The State will be required to contact the household if any information on the application is questionable and cannot be verified. The State will make every attempt to verify household circumstances through data matching and mailing or uploading verifications to the State system.

4. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for adjustments due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. As authorized by section 2302 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), FNS' approval of this adjustment is based on the determination that the adjustment is consistent with what is practicable under actual conditions in areas affected by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. FNS is approving the adjustment for all applications and recertifications requiring an interview through May 31, 2020.

5. **Conditions of approval:** FNS is approving this adjustment subject to the following conditions:

   - The adjustment is limited to those households for which mandatory verifications have been completed and the applicant's identity has been verified;
   - The State agency will ensure that sufficient controls in their policy and automation are in place to implement the terms of this adjustment correctly;
   - The State agency will contact the household if information in the application that is required to be verified under 273.2(f)(1) is questionable and cannot be verified through a data match;
   - The State agency has the capacity to provide to FNS the data required for evaluation of the caseload for which the State agency has adjusted the interview requirements.

[2] If State agencies have questions regarding other regulatory references to the interview requirement, please contact FNS.

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6. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this adjustment:

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of the adjustment on program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the adjustment procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of the adjustment on the provision of timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of the adjustment on any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

7. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020

8. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

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ADJUSTMENT OF FACE TO FACE INTERVIEW REQUIREMENTS

1. **Regulatory citation:** 7 C.F.R. 273.2(e)(2)(i)

2. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations at 7 C.F.R. 273.2(e)(2)(i) require that the State agency offer a face-to-face interview or grant a request for a face-to-face interview to any household at application or recertification, in lieu of a telephonic interview.

3. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency may require households to complete a telephonic interview during application and recertification. The State agency will use its existing interview procedures to allow clients to complete an interview by telephone. If requested, the State agency will schedule an interview to be conducted by telephone.

4. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As authorized by section 2302 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), FNS' approval of this adjustment is based on the determination that the adjustment is consistent with what is practicable under actual conditions in areas affected by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. FNS is approving the adjustment for all applications and recertifications requiring an interview through May 31, 2020.

5. **Conditions of approval:** FNS is approving this adjustment contingent upon the following conditions. The State agency must:

    - Inform clients that the State agency will schedule the interview;
    - Screen all applications for expedited service and instruct households found eligible for expedited service to complete the interview within 7 days from the date of application. The State will also be required to cold call households eligible for expedited service to attempt an interview. Nothing in this adjustment approval will absolve the State from meeting the expedited service processing standards in 7 C.F.R. §273.2(i) that require benefits to be made available to eligible households by the seventh calendar day after their application;
    - Provide households with clear, written instructions for completing the interview and the date by which the household should complete the interview requirement (calendar day);
    - Provide households eligible for expedited service that do not complete their interview by the 7th day after application, a Notice of Missed Interview (NOMI);
    - Provide households not eligible for expedited service that do not complete their interview by the 10th day after application, a NOMI;
    - Repeat instructions for completing the interview in the NOMI and inform applicants of the date on which their application will be denied or benefits terminated if the interview is not completed;

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- Ensure that recipient households that are sent a NOMI during recertification and are subsequently denied have until the end of their certification period to complete the interview without having to submit a new application form;
- Ensure that sufficient administrative and automation controls are in place so the terms of this adjustment are implemented efficiently. Phone system performance including dropped calls, wait times, call completion times, and staff adequacy must be monitored and adjusted to adequately serve incoming calls; and
- Ensure that the adjustment does not negatively impact program access or customer service.

6. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this adjustment:
   - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
   - A narrative on the effect of the adjustment on program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the adjustment procedure;
   - A narrative on the effect of the adjustment on the provision of timely and accurate benefits; and
   - A narrative on the effect of the adjustment on any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
7. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
8. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

ADJUSTMENT OF EXPEDITED SERVICE INTERVIEW REQUIREMENTS

1. **Regulatory citation:** 7 C.F.R. 273.2(i)(3)(iii) and 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(A) and(B)

2. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations at 7 C.F.R. 273.2(i)(3)(iii) require the State agency to conduct the interview (unless the household cannot be reached) and complete the application process within the expedited service standards.

   SNAP regulations at 7 C.F.R. 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(A) require that for households applying on or before the 15th of the month, the State agency may assign a one-month certification period or assign a normal certification period. Satisfaction of the verification requirements may be postponed until the second month of participation.

   SNAP regulations at 7 C.F.R. 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(B) require that for households applying after the 15th of the month, the State agency may assign a 2-month certification period or a normal certification period of no more than 12 months. Verification may be postponed until the third month of participation, if necessary, to meet the expedited timeframe.

   When a certification period of longer than 2 months is assigned and verification is postponed, households must be sent a notice of eligibility advising that no benefits for the third month will be issued until the postponed verification requirements are satisfied. The notice must also advise the household that if the verification process results in changes in the household's eligibility or level of benefits, the State agency will act on those changes without advance notice of adverse action.

3. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State will postpone the interview for certain households eligible for expedited service, provided that an applicant's identity has been verified and the State agency has attempted to contact the household for an interview. This will allow the State agency to provide benefits within 7 days for those expedited service eligible households. In these cases, the interview would be treated similar to other verification and could be postponed during the initial one- or two-month period. Therefore, households that apply on or before the 15th of the month would complete the interview, provide necessary verification, and have their applications processed by the end of the month of application in order to continue receiving ongoing benefits. Households that apply after the 15th of the month would complete the interview, provide necessary verification, and have their applications processed prior to the end of the month following application in order to continue receiving ongoing benefits.

4. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As authorized by section 2302 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), FNS' approval of this adjustment is based on the determination that the adjustment is consistent with what is practicable under actual conditions in areas affected by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. FNS is approving the adjustment for all applications and recertifications requiring an interview through May 31, 2020.

5. **Conditions of approval:** FNS is approving this adjustment subject to the following conditions:

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- The adjustment is limited to those households who meet the criteria for expedited service in 7 C.F.R. 273.2(i)(1);
- The State agency will ensure that sufficient controls in their policy and automation are in place to implement the terms of this adjustment correctly;
- The State agency will make efforts to complete the required interview within the 7 day time-period and will attempt to contact applicants in order to interview them prior to postponing the interview;
- The adjustment only applies to those applicants whose identity can be verified;
- The adjustment only applies to the above households at initial application;
- The State agency will assign expedited service households subject to this adjustment the normal certification periods pursuant to the following procedural requirements:
    - For households that apply on or before the 15th of the month, the State agency may postpone the interview and any required verification through the end of the month. If the household fails to participate in an interview or to provide needed verification by the end of the month, then the case will be closed. In addition, under these adjustment procedures, households that apply on or before the 15th of the month must have the opportunity to be interviewed by the last day of the month and be allowed 10 days to provide any required verification documents that may arise from the interview. Thus, interviews should be scheduled such that households would be able to provide any required documentation in time to avoid a delay in the issuance of their second month's benefits;
    - For households that apply after the 15th of the month, the State agency may postpone the interview and any required verification no later than the month subsequent to the month of application after which the case is closed if the household fails to participate in an interview or fails to provide needed verification; and
    - The notice of eligibility must clearly advise households subject to this adjustment of the postponed interview requirement and provide a specific interview appointment. In addition, the notice must clearly advise households of the closure of their case should they not participate in the postponed interview.
- If the household does not satisfy the postponed verification requirements and does not participate in the postponed interview, the State agency is not required to contact the household again and the case would be closed. The State agency would process any subsequent application(s) from the household under normal processing standards in accordance with 7 C.F.R. 273.2(i)(4)(iv);
- Households whose identities cannot be determined by the State agency do not qualify for the adjustment and must be processed under normal SNAP application processing procedures;

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- and
- The State agency has the capacity to provide to FNS the data required for evaluation of the expedited service caseload for which the interview adjustment has been made.

6. **Evaluation Data Requirements**

   The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this adjustment:

   - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
   - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the adjustment procedure;
   - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
   - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process, including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency

7. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

8. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP flexibilities telephonic signature - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 6:06:34 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Under authority granted in Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, 9 states have been approved for **SNAP flexibility on telephonic signatures** through May 31, 2020**: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, and Oregon.**:

Specifically, states will be able to adjust:

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(A) by not requiring States to specify in their State plan of operation that they will accept telephonic signatures.
- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(B) and 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(C) by not requiring an audio recording of a telephonic signature, provided that the State documents in the case file that a client verbally attested to the information provided on the application.

The state agencies have each been provided a copy of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website soon.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - 1 SNAP Flexibility Authorized Representative - COVID-19
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:47:15 AM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) flexibilities in response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following flexibility to **Illinois** through May 31, 2020 to allow certain **community partners and advocates to sign a SNAP application as an authorized representative** of a household based on the household's verbal assent.

USDA is granting Illinois this SNAP flexibility under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.**

Under this adjustment, the community partner or advocate must obtain verbal assent from the household over the phone, giving the community partner approval to serve as the authorized representative for the purpose of signing the application. The community partner or advocate would then be able to sign the application as the client's authorized representative without a written designation. This adjustment permits community partners or advocates to serve as authorized representatives for the purposes of signing the application.

The State has been provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - 1 SNAP Flexibility In-Person Application - COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 3:55:24 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) flexibilities in response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting **Ohio** the flexibility to suspend **SNAP in-person application requirements** through May 31, 2020**,** as a result of the State's response to COVID-19. USDA is granting this flexibility under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.**

Under this adjustment, the State agency may suspend SNAP in-person collection of applications and verification documents from households in order to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection of both households and State agency staff, but will continue to allow households to submit applications or verification documents through all other available methods the State agency has made available, including, but not limited to: online portals and services, mobile applications, mail, telephone, or fax.

The State has been provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19
Date:	Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:21:19 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving SNAP **Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to **the 48 States** previously approved.

April and May Approvals: US Virgin Islands

The State agency that requested this flexibilities received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:48:24 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving SNAP **Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to **the 46 States** previously approved.

March and April Approvals: Nebraska and Nevada

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19
Date:	Monday, April 6, 2020 5:00:18 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving SNAP **Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to **the 44 states** previously approved.

April and May Approvals: Oregon and Texas

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19
Date:	Thursday, April 2, 2020 3:57:52 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving SNAP **Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to **the 42 states** previously approved.

March and April Approvals: Idaho, Pennsylvania

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - 2 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 3:10:16 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving SNAP **Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to **the 50 State Agencies** (there are 53 SNAP state agencies including DC, Guam, and US Virgin Islands) previously approved.

March and April Approvals: South Dakota

April and May Approval: Minnesota

The State agency that requested this flexibilities received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov)
Bcc:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov); Alison.Hard@mail.house.gov; anne simmons; Campbell - OSEC Washington DC Shuford (Campbell.Shuford@osec.usda.gov); Cep, Melinda; Chu-Yuan.Hwang@mail.house.gov; Claire_Borzner@ag.senate.gov; DaNita_Murray@ag.senate.gov; dianne_nellor@appro.senate.gov; Elizabeth_Dent@appro.senate.gov; Emma.Rindels@mail.house.gov; Evan - OSEC Washington DC Lee (Evan.Lee@osec.usda.gov); eyang.garrison@mail.house.gov; Fred_Clark@ag.senate.gov; Haley_Donahue@ag.senate.gov; Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov; James_Glueck@ag.senate.gov; Jasmine.Dickerson@mail.house.gov; Jennifer.Tiller@mail.house.gov; Joe - FNS Tvrdy (Joseph.Tvrdy@fns.usda.gov); Joe_Shultz@ag.senate.gov; karla whalen; Katelyn_Bunning@mcconnell.senate.gov; Ken - OSEC Washington DC Barbic (Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov); kiev randall; Layman, Joseph; Lindsay - FNS Datlow (Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov); Lisa.Shelton@mail.house.gov; Lyron.Blum-Evitts@mail.house.gov; Mandy.Schaumburg@mail.house.gov; Martha.Foley@mail.house.gov; marybeth_schultz@ag.senate.gov; Morgan_Ulmer@appro.senate.gov; Pam - FNS Miller (pam.miller@usda.gov); patti.ross@mail.house.gov; Phillips, Troy; Ravi, Suhasini; Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov; Sean_Byrne@schumer.senate.gov; tom.o"brien@mail.house.gov
Subject:	USDA FNS - 2 SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause Flex - COVID-19
Date:	Tuesday, April 21, 2020 8:29:00 AM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of waiver request granted to **Ohio and Illinois** to **increase the time allowed to provide the SSN for SNAP applicants under Good Cause** as a result of the State's response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following flexibilities under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations,** FNS's existing statutory authority.

FNS will allow the state to extend the timeframe for an individual to participate in SNAP after having established good cause for failure to provide a SSN for up to an additional three months. This will allow the State agency to grant good cause for a total of five months, the month of application plus one month as already provided for by 7 CFR 273.6(d), and an three additional months as provided for by this adjustment. This adjustment is approved through May 31, 2020.

The States have been provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS - 2 SNAP Nationwide Flexibilities Claims Suspension and Fair Hearings - COVID-19
Date:	Monday, April 13, 2020 2:52:49 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of blanket waiver request as a result of a State's response to COVID-19.

Under the authority of 7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i), FNS may authorize temporary waivers to deviate from specific regulatory provisions when they cannot be implemented due to extraordinary temporary situations. FNS has received multiple requests from State agencies for these flexibilities and has determined that approval is appropriate due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

SNAP Nationwide Claims Suspension

FNS will allow states to adjust through May 31, 2020:

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(d) by allowing flexibility in the time frame for establishing or disposing of new claims.

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(e)(1) and (e)(5) by not requiring collection of active recoupment of SNAP overpayments, delaying collection on newly established overpayments, and not considering any payments delayed due to this suspension to be delinquent.

Households remain liable for their outstanding SNAP debts and the State agency will restart collection activity and delinquency determinations at the end of the waiver period.

SNAP Nationwide Fair Hearings

FNS will allow states to adjust:

- As needed, State agencies may extend the fair hearings process up to 120 days from receipt of the request for fair hearings that were already in process or for which requests are received from March 1 through May 31, 2020.

- The time frame for sending notices confirming oral withdrawal requests may be extended up to 30 days from receipt of the request for such requests received during this same time period

FNS encourages States to use existing flexibility to conduct hearings by alternate means, such as telephone or video conference, when possible, to meet the standard required time frames. Fair hearings can be requested by SNAP participants, for example, if they disagree with the circumstances regarding their case, such as a reduction in their monthly household allotment. This is not related to cases of fraud.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

If the State agency elects to implement either of the above SNAP nationwide flexibilities, it must notify its respective FNS Regional Office.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS - 3 SNAP emergency allotments CT, KY, ME - COVID-19
Date:	Saturday, March 28, 2020 3:38:31 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving **SNAP Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**

March and April Approvals: Connecticut

April and May Approvals: Kentucky, Maine

This is in addition to the 21 states previously approved.

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - 6 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 11:22:24 AM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving **SNAP Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to the 28 states previously approved.

March and April Approvals: **Colorado**

April and May Approvals: **Arizona, Illinois, Maryland, Montana, Wyoming**

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - 8 SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 4:08:06 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving SNAP Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**

March and April Approvals: Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, Vermont, Washington

April and May Approvals: Indiana; West Virginia

This is in addition to the 14 states previously approved.

State agencies that have requested these flexibilities have been received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - AL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:55:07 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Alabama has received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval.

The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - AZ and IL Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 8:17:42 AM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Arizona and Illinois have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval.

The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - CA and CT Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 5:11:41 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

California and Connecticut have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The states will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The States will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The States will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The States will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies received notice of this approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - CO, MO, WY Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 10:16:18 AM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Colorado, Missouri, and Wyoming has received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state(s) will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State(s) will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State(s) will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State(s) will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - DE and OR Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Friday, May 1, 2020 10:38:48 AM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Delaware and Oregon have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The states will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The States will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The States will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The States will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - IN and LA Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 5:26:24 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Indiana and Louisiana has received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state(s) will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State(s) will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State(s) will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State(s) will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS - KS and VA Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date:	Monday, April 27, 2020 3:20:03 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Kansas and Virginia have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The states will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The States will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The States will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The States will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies received notice of this approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - MD and NM Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 5:57:18 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Maryland and New Mexico have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The states will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The States will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The States will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The States will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies received notice of this approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - ME Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 2:07:17 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Maine has received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state(s) will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State(s) will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State(s) will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State(s) will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS - ND, VT, WV Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date:	Monday, May 4, 2020 8:42:38 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

North Dakota, Vermont and West Virginia have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The states will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The States will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The States will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The States will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS - NE SNAP Extended Recertification - COVID-19
Date:	Thursday, April 2, 2020 4:25:10 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Nebraska received approval for SNAP flexibility **Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020 under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to the **45 already granted.** . The State agency may extend certification periods and periodic reports for households scheduled through May 31, 2020.

The State agency that requested these flexibilities has received notice of the approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - NY and PA Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 4:00:13 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

New York and Pennsylvania have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state(s) will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State(s) will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State(s) will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State(s) will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS - NY SNAP Flexibility Telephonic Signatures - COVID-19
Date:	Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:26:42 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

New York received approval for SNAP flexibility on **telephonic signatures** through May 31, 2020 under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to the **17 states** previously notified**.** Specifically, states will be able to adjust:

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(A) by not requiring States to specify in their State plan of operation that they will accept telephonic signatures.
- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(B) and 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(C) by not requiring an audio recording of a telephonic signature, provided that the State documents in the case file that a client verbally attested to the information provided on the application.

The State agency received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - OH Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:13:21 AM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Ohio has received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state(s) will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State(s) will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State(s) will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State(s) will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:30:15 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Michigan received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201.**

The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state plan and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly.

The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 10:00:07 AM

All,

This information is embargoed until 11am ET today.

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Rhode Island received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval.

The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP E&T Extending Comment Period
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 8:29:30 AM

All,

Today USDA will extend the deadline for the public to comment on a proposed rule on the **SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Program**. USDA is providing additional time to ensure those who wish to provide input do not miss out on the opportunity while dealing with the impacts of COVID-19.

This proposed rule, announced on March 5, 2020, included reforms that would strengthen the way states serve SNAP recipients in the E&T program.

The comment period will be extended to June 17, 2020. USDA encourages stakeholders and the public to submit comments via regulations.gov.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS - SNAP Emergency Allotments - COVID-19
Date:	Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:10:27 AM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) response to COVID-19 regarding the implementation of phase two **SNAP Emergency Allotments** to States and Territories across the US.

USDA is granting the following blanket approval for SNAP Emergency Allotments under authority granted in the **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**.

FNS will allow States to provide SNAP Emergency Allotments month-to-month.

To qualify one or more of the following conditions are also required:

- Residents of the State are confirmed to have contracted Covid-19
- Some or all areas of the State are containment or quarantine zones
- Businesses have closed or significantly reduced their hours
- The State's residents have experienced economic impacts due to job suspensions or losses
- The State's residents have been directed to practice social distancing

And

- The State's emergency or disaster declaration remains active.

And

- The Federal Public Health Emergency Declaration remains active.

States must submit information regarding the Emergency Allotment issuance date(s) and the estimated number of impacted households and benefit amount each month. This information will be submitted to FNS on the 15th of each month for the subsequent month. States will await FNS acknowledgement before sending the Emergency Allotment issuance file(s) to their EBT processor.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Information on previous SNAP emergency allotments can be found here.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities Administrative Disqualification Hearings - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:28:17 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) the following flexibilities in response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following SNAP flexibilities to **Delaware, Georgia, and South Dakota** under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations** through May 31, 2020.

FNS is approving flexibility on **Administrative Disqualification Hearings** under 7 CFR 273.16(e)(2), which states that, within 90 days of the date the household member is notified in writing that a State or local hearing initiated by the State agency has been scheduled, the State agency shall conduct the hearing, arrive at a decision, and notify the household member and local agency of the decision. This regulation also states that the accused individual has until 10 days before the scheduled hearing to request a postponement, but the hearing may not be postponed by more than 30 days.

The State will have 180 days, instead of 90 days to complete the hearings. The agency must notify households affected by this flexibility. All other rights of households and responsibilities of the State agency to ensure full due process, as described in the regulations, remain regardless of a potential extended timeline to meet these requirements.

All States were provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities Claims Suspension - COVID-19
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:10:54 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) the following flexibilities in response to COVID-19.

Under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations,** USDA is granting the below flexibilities through May 31, 2020 to the following states:
Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, New Mexico, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, DC.

FNS is approving flexibility on the following regulations:

- 7 CFR 273.15(c) *Timely action on hearings* - Within 60 days of a receipt of a request for a fair hearing, the State agency shall assure that the hearing is conducted, a decision is reached, and the household and local agency are notified of the decision.

- 7 CFR 273.15 (j)(2) *Denial or dismissal of request for hearings* - State agency must respond to a request from a household or its representative to withdraw a hearing request by providing written notice to the household within 10 days of the household's request confirming the withdrawal request and providing the household with an opportunity to request a hearing.

Fair hearings can be requested by SNAP participants, for example, if they disagree with the circumstances regarding their case, such as a reduction in their monthly household allotment. This is not related to cases of fraud.

The State agencies have been provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities Claims Suspension - COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 6:51:27 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) the following flexibilities in response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting flexibilities under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations** through May 31, 2020 to the following states: **Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and South Carolina.**

FNS is approving flexibility on the following regulations:

- FNS approves the State agency's request to temporarily suspend SNAP claims collection regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(e)(1), which require State agencies to begin collection on all claims unless it is not cost effective.
- FNS also approves the State agency's request to suspend delinquency determination regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(e)(5), which indicate a claim must be considered delinquent if a scheduled payment has not been received by the due date.

Households remain liable for their outstanding SNAP debts and the State agency will restart collection activity and delinquency determinations at the end of the waiver period.

All States were provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities SSN Good Cause Flex - COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 6:51:48 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a **Washington** waiver request to **increase the time allowed to provide the SSN for SNAP applicants** under Good Cause as a result of the State's response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following flexibilities under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations,** FNS's existing statutory authority.

FNS will allow the state to extend the timeframe for an individual to participate in SNAP after having established good cause for failure to provide a SSN for up to an additional three months. This will allow the State agency to grant good cause for a total of five months, the month of application plus one month as already provided for by 7 CFR 273.6(d), and an three additional months as provided for by this adjustment. This adjustment is approved through May 31, 2020.

The State has been provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Flexibilities Telephonic Signatures - COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 6:51:34 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Virginia received approval for SNAP flexibility on **telephonic signatures** through May 31, 2020 under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to the **14 states** previously notified**.** Specifically, states will be able to adjust:

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(A) by not requiring States to specify in their State plan of operation that they will accept telephonic signatures.
- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(B) and 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(C) by not requiring an audio recording of a telephonic signature, provided that the State documents in the case file that a client verbally attested to the information provided on the application.

The State agency received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov)
Bcc:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC; FNS Govt Affairs (SM.fn.GovtAffairs@usda.gov); Alison.Hard@mail.house.gov; anne simmons; Campbell - OSEC Washington DC Shuford (Campbell.Shuford@osec.usda.gov); Cep, Melinda; Chu-Yuan.Hwang@mail.house.gov; Claire_Borzner@ag.senate.gov; DaNita_Murray@ag.senate.gov; dianne_nellor@appro.senate.gov; Elizabeth_Dent@appro.senate.gov; Emma.Rindels@mail.house.gov; Evan - OSEC Washington DC Lee (Evan.Lee@osec.usda.gov); eyang.garrison@mail.house.gov; Fred_Clark@ag.senate.gov; Haley_Donahue@ag.senate.gov; Jacqlyn_Schneider@ag.senate.gov; James_Glueck@ag.senate.gov; Jasmine.Dickerson@mail.house.gov; Jennifer.Tiller@mail.house.gov; Joe - FNS Tvrdy (Joseph.Tvrdy@fns.usda.gov); Joe_Shultz@ag.senate.gov; karla whalen; Katelyn_Bunning@mcconnell.senate.gov; Ken - OSEC Washington DC Barbic (Ken.Barbic@osec.usda.gov); kiev randall; Layman, Joseph; Lindsay - FNS Datlow (Lindsay.Datlow@usda.gov); Lisa.Shelton@mail.house.gov; Lyron.Blum-Evitts@mail.house.gov; Mandy.Schaumburg@mail.house.gov; Martha.Foley@mail.house.gov; marybeth_schultz@ag.senate.gov; Morgan_Ulmer@appro.senate.gov; Pam - FNS Miller (pam.miller@usda.gov); patti.ross@mail.house.gov; Phillips, Troy; Ravi, Suhasini; Robert_Rosado@ag.senate.gov; Sean_Byrne@schumer.senate.gov; tom.o"brien@mail.house.gov
Subject:	USDA FNS - SNAP Recertification Periods and Reporting Extended - COVID-19
Date:	Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:06:00 AM
Attachments:	Extend All Certification Periods and PR through June 2020.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is extending the current flexibility on **SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through June 30, 2020 under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.**

For the **46 state agencies** that already requested and received approvals for certification period extensions through May 31, 2020, this adjustment provides an additional month of flexibility. If a State agency elects to implement this adjustment, it must notify its respective FNS Regional Office, and any State notifications will be relayed to the FNS Certification Policy Branch.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

April 22, 2020

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Extending Certification Periods and Adjusting Periodic Reports Due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Blanket Approval

Dear SNAP State Agencies,

As authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA; P.L. 116-127), the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is permitting all interested State agencies to extend certification periods and accordingly adjust periodic report submission dates for ongoing SNAP households who are due for recertification or periodic reporting through June 30, 2020.

Under this adjustment, SNAP State agencies may adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (FNA) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR §273.10(f)(5) to extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April, May, and June 2020, for up to 6 months, until September, October, November, and December 2020, respectively.

State agencies may also adjust the periodic report requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the FNA, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR §273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR §273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households for the same time period - March, April, May, and June 2020. If the state agency wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period an extension request must be submitted to FNS for approval.

FNS has determined this adjustment to be consistent with what is practicable under actual conditions in areas affected by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

This adjustment is contingent upon a State agency's compliance with the conditions and evaluation requirements detailed in the attached enclosure, which should be provided to FNS 45 days after expiration of the adjustment (August 14, 2020).

For State agencies that already requested and received approvals for certification period extensions through May 2020, this adjustment provides an additional month. If a State agency elects to implement this adjustment, it must notify its respective FNS Regional Office, and any State notifications will be relayed to the FNS Certification Policy Branch.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

FNS is ready to provide technical assistance to State agencies as they seek to maintain operations and serve clients during the current Public Health Emergency. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your respective Regional Office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Director
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST PERIODIC REPORT REQUIREMENT ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Statutory and regulatory citations:** Section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (FNA) and 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5); section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the FNA and 7 CFR §273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR §273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B).

2. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 C.F.R. §273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 C.F.R. §273.10(f)(5) allow States to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report between 4 and 6 months (typically in the sixth month) for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 C.F.R. §273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with §273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

3. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April, May and June 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for up to 6 months until September, October, November and December 2020. The State will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through June 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this adjustment.

4. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for adjustments due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. As authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (P.L. 116-127), FNS' approval of this adjustment is based on the determination that the adjustment is consistent with what is practicable under actual conditions in areas affected by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. FNS is approving this adjustment for 4 months, effective March 1, 2020.

5. **Conditions and reasons:** FNS is approving this adjustment subject to the following conditions:

   - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
   - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

6. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** Within 45 days of the expiration of this adjustment, the State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment.
- A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the adjustment procedure.
- A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits.
- A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

7. **Expiration date:** June 30, 2020.
8. **Quality control procedures:** SNAP Quality Control will review cases subject to this adjustment against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Telephonic Signatures AZ - COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 6:33:11 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Michigan and DC received approval for SNAP flexibility on **telephonic signatures** through May 31, 2020 under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to the **10 states** previously notified**.**

Specifically, states will be able to adjust:

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(A) by not requiring States to specify in their State plan of operation that they will accept telephonic signatures.
- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(B) and 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(C) by not requiring an audio recording of a telephonic signature, provided that the State documents in the case file that a client verbally attested to the information provided on the application.

The State agencies received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Telephonic Signatures NH and NJ - COVID-19
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:02:43 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

New Hampshire and New Jersey received approval for SNAP flexibility on **telephonic signatures** through May 31, 2020 under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to the **11 states** previously notified**.**

Specifically, states will be able to adjust:

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(A) by not requiring States to specify in their State plan of operation that they will accept telephonic signatures.

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(B) and 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(C) by not requiring an audio recording of a telephonic signature, provided that the State documents in the case file that a client verbally attested to the information provided on the application.

The State agencies received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 2455 of 2459

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Waiver to Suspend Claims Activity - COVID-19 Response
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 4:04:57 PM
Attachments: CT Claims Waiver Response.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a Connecticut SNAP waiver request to temporarily suspend claims activity as a result of the State's response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following SNAP flexibilities under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations,** FNS's existing statutory authority. The official letter to Connecticut is attached.
FNS will allow **Connecticut to temporarily suspend claims** activity through May 31, 2020:

- For SNAP claims collection regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(e)(1), which require State agencies to begin collection on all claims unless it is not cost effective.
- For delinquency determination regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(e)(5), which indicate a claim must be considered delinquent if a scheduled payment has not been received by the due date.

The State has been provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Deidre Gifford, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Social Services
55 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Connecticut request to suspend claims collection action and delinquency determination due to COVID-19

Dear Commissioner Gifford:

This letter transmits approval of the Connecticut Department of Social Services (CDSS) request to suspend collection action on SNAP overpayments and delinquency determination on households whose payment are affected by this suspension. CDSS requested this temporary authority to alleviate administrative burden on the State and to alleviate financial hardship on households as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving this request through May 31, 2020, pursuant to 7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i), which authorizes FNS to approve requested waivers of regulatory provisions that cannot be implemented due to extraordinary temporary situations.

FNS approves the State agency's request to temporarily suspend SNAP claims collection regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(e)(1), which require State agencies to begin collection on all claims unless it is not cost effective. FNS also approves the State agency's request to suspend delinquency determination regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(e)(5), which indicate a claim must be considered delinquent if a scheduled payment has not been received by the due date.

The State agency may temporarily suspend collection of active recoupment of overpayments and delay collection action on newly established overpayments. The State agency will not consider payments delayed due to this suspension to be delinquent. Households remain liable for their outstanding SNAP debts and the State agency will restart collection activity and delinquency determinations at the end of the waiver period.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer and Lender

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If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional Office representative.

Sincerely,

4/2/2020

X Ronald K. Ward

Ronald K. Ward
Director, Program Accountability and Administrati...
Signed by: Department of Agriculture

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer and Lender

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - SNAP Waiver to Suspend Claims Activity - COVID-19 Response
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:28:41 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) the following flexibilities in response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following flexibilities to **Michigan** under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations** through May 31, 2020.

FNS is approving flexibility on the following regulations:

- FNS approves the State agency's request to temporarily suspend SNAP claims collection regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(e)(1), which require State agencies to begin collection on all claims unless it is not cost effective.

- FNS also approves the State agency's request to suspend delinquency determination regulations at 7 CFR 273.18(e)(5), which indicate a claim must be considered delinquent if a scheduled payment has not been received by the due date.

Households remain liable for their outstanding SNAP debts and the State agency will restart collection activity and delinquency determinations at the end of the waiver period.

Michigan has been provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website soon.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - Telephonic Signatures CO - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:45:44 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Colorado received approval for SNAP flexibility on **telephonic signatures** through May 31, 2020 under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to the **13 states** previously notified**.** Specifically, states will be able to adjust:

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(A) by not requiring States to specify in their State plan of operation that they will accept telephonic signatures.
- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(B) and 7 CFR 273.2(c)(7)(viii)(C) by not requiring an audio recording of a telephonic signature, provided that the State documents in the case file that a client verbally attested to the information provided on the application.

The State agency received notice of this approval, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - TX and NJ Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:12:17 AM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Texas and New Jersey have received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state(s) will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State(s) will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The States will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State(s) will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State(s) will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agencies are being notified of the approval.

The State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - UT SNAP emergency allotments - COVID-19
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 6:29:00 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

FNS is approving SNAP **Emergency Allotments** for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** This is in addition to **the 51 State Agencies** (there are 53 SNAP state agencies including DC, Guam, and US Virgin Islands) previously approved.

April and May Approval: Utah

The State agency that requested this flexibilities received notice of these approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - WA SNAP Extended Recertification - COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 6:51:39 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Washington received approval for SNAP flexibility **Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020 under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** The State agency may extend certification periods and periodic reports for households scheduled through May 31, 2020.

The State agency that requested this flexibility has received notice of the approvals, and a copy of the state request and USDA's approval will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS - WI Pandemic-EBT Approval - COVID-19
Date:	Thursday, April 23, 2020 4:49:26 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

Wisconsin has received approval for their **Pandemic EBT** (P-EBT) plan under authority granted in **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201**. The state will issue P-EBT benefits to current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and non-SNAP households, which include children eligible for free and reduced price school meals, through the State's SNAP EBT card system.

The State will use procedures described in the plan to identify eligible children in both SNAP and non-SNAP households. The State will use existing case information to issue benefits to current SNAP households and the State will obtain all necessary data to issue EBT cards to eligible non-SNAP households.

The State will issue benefits only to households of children whose schools were closed for at least 5 consecutive days during the emergency designation and who would have received free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closures. The State will conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits regarding the purposes of P-EBT and how P-EBT benefits and EBT cards are to be used.

The State agency received notice of this approval.

The State agency should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS - WV SNAP EBT CARD REPLACEMENT FLEXIBILITY - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 8:26:40 AM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) the following flexibilities in response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following flexibility to **West Virginia** under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations** through May 31, 2020, or 2 weeks after offices open again, whichever is later.

FNS approves the State agency's request to **temporarily suspend Excessive Card Replacement Notice regulations** at 7 CFR 274.6(b)(6), which require State agencies to send a notice upon the fourth request for a replacement SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card in a 12-month period, alerting the household that their account is being monitored for potential suspicious activity.

Approval of this waiver is contingent on the State agency meeting the following conditions. The State agency will continue to maintain and review documentation of the excessive card request information and share with fraud and investigations team when appropriate. At the conclusion of the waiver period, the State agency will send the delayed notices to affected households.

All States were provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA fns - WV SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot
Date: Saturday, April 18, 2020 11:37:33 AM

All,

Today USDA will announce West Virginia has been added to the SNAP online purchasing pilot.

Regards,
Veronica

West Virginia Added to Innovative SNAP Online Pilot Program

(Washington, D.C., April 18, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced approval of West Virginia's requests to provide online purchasing of food to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Households. This approval will allow the State to expedite the implementation of online purchasing with currently authorized SNAP online retailers with a target start date to be announced at a later time.West Virginia's SNAP participation is nearly 300,000 individuals, almost 150,000 households, and totals nearly $400 million annually in federal funding. This announcement further demonstrates President Trump's whole of America approach to fighting the coronavirus pandemic by ensuring those affected are fed.

Background:

The SNAP online pilot is currently operational in Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. Nebraska joined the pilot on April 1, 2020. The authorized retailers working with all pilot states are Amazon and Walmart, while Wrights Market and ShopRite are working with Alabama and New York respectively. On April 8, it was announced that Arizona and California would be joining, and on April 11 announced Florida and Idaho.Then on April 17, it was announced that North Carolina and the District of Columbia would also be joining.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Dickerson, Jasmine; Lisa. Shelton (Lisa.Shelton@mail.house.gov); Tiller, Jennifer
Subject: USDA FNS state waiver update - COVID -19
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 2:26:00 PM

Lisa, Jasmine, Jen,

This email is to update you on USDA approved Food and Nutrition Service state waivers related to COVID-19.

SNAP – Quality Control

To allow for social distancing, USDA is allowing States to conduct telephone interviews instead of face-to face-interviews for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC) purposes. States must notify FNS in advance if they choose to implement this flexibility and must follow all other requirements for the QC interview as specified in SNAP regulations. A notification may be done through email, letter, or oral affirmation that they plan to use this flexibility.

This flexibility applies to any QC case reviews conducted in March, April and May 2020. States already have the option to use telephonic means for certification/recertification.

16 states are now using this QC flexibility: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Wyoming.

Child Nutrition - Congregate Feeding

All 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico now have approved Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and/or Seamless Summer Options (SSO) congregate feeding waivers. In total USDA issued 58 waivers, with 6 states needing two waivers because of unique configurations within these states like their SFSP program is run out of one Department and their SSO program run out of another. The six states are Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas.

This website link with this state waiver information will be updated as needed:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Van Doren, Terry (McConnell); Bunning, Katelyn (McConnell)
Cc: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA- FNS state waivers updates - COVID-19
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 2:33:00 PM

Terry and Katelyn,

This email is to update you on USDA approved Food and Nutrition Service state waivers related to COVID-19.

Child Nutrition - Congregate Feeding

All 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico now have approved Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and/or Seamless Summer Options (SSO) congregate feeding waivers. In total USDA issued 58 waivers, with 6 states needing two waivers because of unique configurations within these states like their SFSP program is run out of one Department and their SSO program run out of another. The six states are Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas.

I see through Ag Commissioner Quarles Friday public update, the Commonwealth is already putting this waiver to use to provide grab-n-go food for students.

SNAP – Quality Control

USDA is allowing States to conduct telephone interviews instead of face-to face-interviews for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC) purposes. States must notify FNS in advance if they choose to implement this flexibility and must follow all other requirements for the QC interview as specified in SNAP regulations. A notification may be done through email, letter, or oral affirmation that they plan to use this flexibility.

This flexibility applies to any QC case reviews conducted in March, April and May 2020. States already have the option to use telephonic for certification/recertification purposes.

16 states are now using this QC flexibility: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Wyoming.

This website link with this state waiver information will be updated as needed:
https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19

Thank you,
Veronica

From: Van Doren, Terry (McConnell) <Terry_VanDoren@mcconnell.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 11:14 PM
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>; Scholtz, Quentin (McConnell) <Quentin_Scholtz@mcconnell.senate.gov>; Bunning, Katelyn (McConnell)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<Katelyn_Bunning@mcconnell.senate.gov>
Cc: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Kentucky Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition - School Meals - COVID-19

Including Katelyn. Quentin no longer works for/with us.

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 11:07 PM
To: Van Doren, Terry (McConnell) <Terry_VanDoren@mcconnell.senate.gov>; Scholtz, Quentin (McConnell) <Quentin_Scholtz@mcconnell.senate.gov>
Cc: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Subject: Kentucky Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition - School Meals - COVID-19

Terry and Quinton,

This email is to inform you that tonight USDA **approved** a request from the Kentucky Department of Education to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the waiver approval momentarily**.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

Please note, the Commonwealth's request included an additional provision related to non-traditional instruction through virtual learning that is under review. We hope to have a determination on that piece quickly, but because schools are closing tomorrow, we are pushing this piece through first.
I will notify the Kentucky Congressional delegation via email next.

Thanks,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture

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Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS Update - Nevada SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 10:42:34 PM
Attachments:	NV-SNAP-COV-013-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Nevada a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Nevada state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Steve H. Fisher
Administrator
Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
Nevada Health and Human Services
1470 East College Parkway
Carson City, Nevada 89706

RE: SNAP – Nevada Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Fisher:

This letter transmits approval of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-013) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

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Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-013

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Nevada

5. **Region:** Western

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

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15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS Update - Pandemic EBT - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 9:09:41 PM
Attachments:	P-EBTDraftPlanTemplate.pdf

Attachment included previously at pages 2346-2348

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, attached is guidance for states related to **Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)** under **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201.**

Section 2201 provides the Secretary of Agriculture authority to approve State agency plans for temporary emergency standards of eligibility and levels of benefits under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 for children who would normally receive free or reduced price school meals but are unable to attend their school due to closure related to the COVID-19. State Agencies may submit plans for schools closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency designation during which the school would otherwise be in session.

Please see the attached guidance to State agencies on plan requirements seeking approval.

States agencies have been provided a copy of this guidance document on this provision. State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

For additional information regarding FNS's response to COVID-19, please visit this link, https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

MEMORANDUM

TO: SNAP State Agencies
Child Nutrition State Agencies

FROM: Jessica Shahin, Associate Administrator, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Kristen Hyatt, Acting Deputy Administrator, Child Nutrition Programs

DATE: March 20, 2020

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 provides the Secretary of Agriculture authority to approve State agency plans for temporary emergency standards of eligibility and levels of benefits under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. Children who would receive free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closure are eligible under this provision. State Agencies may submit plans in any case in which a school is closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency designation during which the school would otherwise be in session. The attached is guidance to State agencies on plan requirements in order to receive approval.

Please be advised that the contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Any questions should be directed to Angela Kline, Director, Policy and Program Development Division, Child Nutrition Programs, and Andrea Gold, Director, SNAP Retail Policy and Management Division.

Sincerely,

Jessica Shahin
Associate Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program (SNAP)

Kristen Hyatt
Acting Deputy Administrator
Child Nutrition Programs

Attachment

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State Plan for Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

1. **Type of Request:** Initial

2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act

3. **State:**

4. **Proposed Alternative Procedures:**

   The State proposes to provide P-EBT benefits to SNAP and non-SNAP households with children who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price school meals due to pandemic-related school closures. These households are eligible for P-EBT because they:

   - Include an eligible child or children, who if not for the closure of their school during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID-19 outbreak, would receive free or reduced-price school meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, and
   - The child's school or district will be (or has been) closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID-19 outbreak.

   The household allotment amount will be no less than the value of school meals at the free rate over the course of five (5) school days for each eligible child in the household. The value of the school meals is equal to the Federal reimbursement rate for breakfast and lunch at the free rate, as specified by USDA.

   Verification of P-EBT Eligibility: [STATE MUST ADDRESS HOW THEY WILL OBTAIN ENROLLMENT DATA FROM LOCAL EDUCATIONAL ENTITIES, TO DETERMINE WHO THE CHILDREN ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE P-EBT BENEFITS

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ARE, AND MATCH THEM TO THEIR EXISTING SNAP CASE, WHERE APPLICABLE.

Release Of Information. Per Section 1101(e) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize State educational agencies and school food authorities administering a school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) to release to appropriate officials administering the supplemental nutrition assistance program such information as may be necessary to carry out this section."

Calculation of Household Allotments:

- IN ORDER TO STREAMLINE THE ISSUANCE OF P-EBT BENEFITS, STATES MAY USE AN AVERAGE DATE FOR THE END OF THE SCHOOL CLOSURES AND/OR AN AVERAGE NUMBER OF CANCELLED SCHOOL DAYS FOR WHICH BENEFITS ARE ISSUED.
- P-EBT BENEFITS MAY BE PROVIDED ON A MONTHLY BASIS THROUGH THE END OF THE STATE'S CALCULATED AVERAGE DATE FOR THE END OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED SCHOOL YEAR.
- THE BENEFITS ISSUED SHALL BE EQUIVALENT TO THE DAILY REIMBURSEMENT FOR FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH IN THE STATE, AS SPECIFIED BY USDA, MULTIPLIED BY THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS SCHOOL WAS CANCELLED IN THE MONTH FOR EACH ELIGIBLE CHILD IN THE HOUSEHOLD.
- THE STATE SHOULD INDICATE WHICH MONTH WILL BE THE FIRST MONTH OF ISSUANCE AND PROVIDE ESTIMATES FOR THE TOTAL FIRST MONTH.]

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Issuing P-EBT Benefits to Households: [STATE MUST ADDRESS HOW THEY WILL ISSUE THESE BENEFITS TO EXISTING SNAP HOUSEHOLDS, E.G., IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO PROVIDING AUTOMATIC SUPPLEMENTS UNDER D-SNAP OPERATIONS, AND HOW THEY WILL SET UP NEW CASES AND ISSUE CARDS AND BENEFITS TO NON-SNAP HOUSEHOLDS.]

For SNAP households States will use existing case information to issue the benefit. Therefore, the State could provide the P-EBT benefit without contacting a SNAP household.

For non-SNAP households, an application is required so that a P-EBT case may be set up in the State's eligibility system and benefits can be issued. A non-SNAP household will need to provide household information in order to participate. A State may propose alternate procedures if the necessary data for non-SNAP households is readily available.

In instances where P-EBT eligible children are not part of an existing SNAP household, the State agency will obtain the following information prior to providing benefits:

- Name and signature of the head of household (which may be electronic).
- Number and names of eligible children in the household
- Address of household on record with the school district
- Mailing address if different than address on record with the school district

If available and practicable, States are encouraged to utilize existing household information from school meal applications in order to create P-EBT cases in their system.

Other Requirements: [If applicable, STATE SHOULD ADDRESS ANY OTHER STATE-SPECIFIC NEEDS THEY MAY HAVE.]

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All P-EBT benefits will be delivered on an EBT card, and the State hereby confirms that it has sufficient card stock on hand to successfully begin operations for the number of households estimated below.

The State should conduct a public information campaign to alert those receiving benefits the purpose of P-EBT and how it is to be used.

The State's SNAP agency also agrees to complete the FNS-292 form on a timely basis in accordance with requirements as well as all other normally recurring SNAP reporting included the FNS 46 and 388 reports, on a timely basis in accordance with requirements.

In addition, the State agency will submit monthly reports to FNS with the following information for the entire State:

- The value of the P-EBT benefits issued to SNAP and non-SNAP households, separately identified.
  - Within SNAP households, the data must differentiate between base SNAP benefits and P-EBT benefits
- The average P-EBT issuance amount per household for SNAP and non-SNAP households, separately identified.
- The number of SNAP households issued P-EBT and the number of non-SNAP households issued P-EBT

5. **Justification for Request:** Coronavirus COVID-19

Affected Caseload: One month estimates for existing SNAP households under these procedures:

- Number of households receiving P-EBT benefits:
- Number of children receiving P-EBT benefits:
- Amount of P-EBT benefits to be issued: $

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One month estimates for those non-SNAP households/children who will receive P-EBT under these procedures:

- Number of households receiving P-EBT benefits:
- Number of children receiving P-EBT benefits:
- Amount of P-EBT benefits to be issued: $

6. **Anticipated Implementation Date: [STATES SHOULD SPECIFY TWO DATES IF THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE WILL VARY FOR SNAP AND NON-SNAP HOUSEHOLDS]**

7. **Signature and Title of Requesting SNAP and Child Nutrition State Agency Officials:**

_____

Signature

_____

Print Name and Title

_____

Signature

_____

Print Name and Title

8. **Date of Request:**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Attachment included in pages immediately preceding this one

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Pandemic EBT - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 9:12:07 PM
Attachments: P-EBTDraftPlanTemplate.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, attached is guidance for states related to **Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)** under **Section 1101 of H.R. 6201.**

Section 2201 provides the Secretary of Agriculture authority to approve State agency plans for temporary emergency standards of eligibility and levels of benefits under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 for children who would normally receive free or reduced price school meals but are unable to attend their school due to closure related to the COVID-19. State Agencies may submit plans for schools closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency designation during which the school would otherwise be in session.

Please see the attached guidance to State agencies on plan requirements seeking approval.

States agencies have been provided a copy of this guidance document on this provision. State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

For additional information regarding FNS's response to COVID-19, please visit this link, https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS Update - 1 SNAP Flexibility Telephonic Designation of Authorized Rep - COVID-19
Date:	Thursday, April 30, 2020 7:41:14 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) flexibilities in response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following SNAP flexibility to **Delaware** through May 31, 2020**,** as a result of the State's response to COVID-19, to allow certain community partners and advocates to **sign an application as an authorized representative of a household based on the household's verbal assent**.

USDA is granting the state this SNAP flexibility under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.**

Under this adjustment, the community partner or advocate must obtain verbal assent from the household over the phone, giving the community partner approval to serve as the authorized representative for the purpose of signing the application. The community partner or advocate would then be able to sign the application as the client's authorized representative without a written designation. This adjustment permits community partners or advocates to serve as authorized representatives for the purposes of signing the application.

The State has been provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS Update - 3 SNAP Emergency allotments - COVID-19
Date:	Tuesday, March 24, 2020 7:10:19 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) response to COVID-19.

FNS is approving Emergency Allotments for the following states under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201:**

March and April Approvals: Alabama, Arkansas, Virginia

This is in addition to the 4 states noticed on early today.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS Update - 3 state waivers SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date:	Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:04:49 AM
Attachments:	NH - SNAP - COV-029 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf OK - SNAP - COV-045 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf MS - SNAP - COV-046 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf

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All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

To that end, attached are **3 state** SNAP waivers Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201. This is in addition to the 38 states already granted.**

USDA has granted **Oklahoma, Mississippi, and New Hampshire** a waiver through May 31, 2020 through the authority granted to the Secretary. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 26, 2020

Jacob Black
Deputy Executive Director for Operations
Mississippi Department of Human Services
200 South Lamar Street
Jackson, MS 39205

RE: SNAP – Mississippi Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Black:

This letter transmits approval of the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-046) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-046

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Mississippi

5. **Region:** Southeast

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 26, 2020

Patrick Klein
Director
Adult and Family Services
Oklahoma Department of Human Services
Sequoyah Memorial Office Building
2400 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

RE: SNAP – Oklahoma Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Klein:

This letter transmits approval of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-045) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-045

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Oklahoma

5. **Region:** Southwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 26, 2020

Debra E. Sorli
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Family Assistance
Department of Health and Human Services
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-3857

RE: SNAP – New Hampshire Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Sorli:

This letter transmits approval of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-029) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-029

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** New Hampshire

5. **Region:** Northeast

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.
15. **Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):** Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - 5 state waivers SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 1:54:25 PM
Attachments: AZ-SNAP-COV-041-Approval.pdf
AR-SNAP-COV-040-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
CO - SNAP -COV042 -ExtendCertPeriods-Approval .pdf
WV - SNAP - COV-044 - Extended Cert Periods - Approval.pdf
IA - SNAP - COV-043 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf

Attachments included previously at pages 726

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

To that end, attached are **5 state** SNAP waivers Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201. This is in addition to the 33 states already granted.**

USDA has granted **Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, and West Virginia** a waiver through May 31, 2020 through the authority granted to the Secretary. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS Update - 7 more state waivers SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting waivers - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 11:06:41 PM
Attachments:	OH-SNAP-COV20-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf DE-SNAP-COV-009-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf OR-SNAP-COV21-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf CT-SNAP-COV-005-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf VA-SNAP-COV-017-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf LA - SNAP - COV-007 - ExtendCertPeriods - Approval.pdf NM-SNAP-COV-019-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, attached are **7 more state waivers** under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201. This brings the total to 21 states notified tonight.**

USDA has granted **Connecticut, Virginia, New Mexico, Louisiana, Delaware, Oregon and Ohio a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020 through the authority granted to the Secretary. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Sammy Guillory
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Department of Children and Family Services
627 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

RE: SNAP - Louisiana Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Guillory:

This letter transmits approval of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-007) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-007

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Louisiana

5. **Region:** Southwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

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15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

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March 20, 2020

Karmela Martinez
Division Director
Income Support Division
New Mexico Human Services Department
P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348

RE: SNAP – New Mexico Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Martinez:

This letter transmits approval of the New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-019) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-019

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** New Mexico

5. **Region:** Southwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

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15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Deidre Gifford
Commissioner
Department of Social Services
55 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

RE: SNAP – Connecticut Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Gifford:

This letter transmits approval of the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-005) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-005

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Connecticut

5. **Region:** Northeast

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

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15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Heather Miles
SNAP Program Manager
Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs
Department of Human Services
500 Summer Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SNAP – Oregon Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Miles:

This letter transmits approval of the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment #COV-021) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-021

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Oregon

5. **Region:** WRO

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

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15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Thomas Hall
Deputy Director
Division of Social Services
Herman M. Holloway Sr. Health and Social Services Campus
1901 North DuPont Highway
New Castle, Delaware 19720

RE: SNAP – Delaware Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Hall:

This letter transmits approval of the Delaware Division of Social Services (DSS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-009) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-009

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Delaware

5. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

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15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Betsy Suver
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Cash/Food policy & Technical Support
Department of Job and Family Services
30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: SNAP – Ohio Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Suver:

This letter transmits approval of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) adjustment request (Adjustment#COV-020) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-020

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Ohio

5. **Region:** Midwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

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and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Toni Blue Washington
Director
Division of Benefit Programs
Virginia Department of Social Services
801 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: SNAP – Virginia Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Washington:

This letter transmits approval of the Virginia Department of Social Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-017) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-017

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Virginia

5. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - California Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:29:11 PM
Attachments: CA-SNAP-COV-036-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 341

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of **California** has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Connecticut SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:06:53 PM
Attachments: CT-SNAP-COV-005-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 2510

All,
This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Connecticut a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Connecticut state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - DC SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 9:48:53 PM
Attachments: DC-SNAP-COV-001-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **DC a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The District agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the District agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

DC program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Anthea Seymour
Administrator
District of Columbia Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 91920
64 New York Avenue, North East
Washington, DC 20002

RE: SNAP – District of Columbia Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Seymour:

This letter transmits approval of the District of Columbia Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-001) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households District-wide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-001

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** District of Columbia

5. **Region:** Mid-Atlantic

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Delaware SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:06:42 PM
Attachments: DE-SNAP-COV-009-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 2518

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Delaware a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Delaware state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Florida Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:28:21 PM
Attachments: FL-SNAP-COV-025-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 347

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of **Florida** has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Georgia Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:27:37 PM
Attachments: GA-SNAP-COV-032-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 359

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of **Georgia** has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Guam SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 9:45:44 PM
Attachments: GU-SNAP-COV-018-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Guam a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Guam program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Linda Unpingco Denorcey
Director
Department of Public Health and Social Services
123 Chalan Kareta
Mangilao, Guam 96913

RE: SNAP - Guam Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Unpingco Denorcey:

This letter transmits approval of the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-018) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-018

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Guam

5. **Region:** Western

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Hawaii SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:28:42 PM
Attachments: HI-SNAP-COV-016-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Hawaii a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Hawaii state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Pankaj Bhanot
Director
Hawaii Department of Human Services
1390 Miller Street, Room 209
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SNAP – Hawaii Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Pankaj Bhanot,

This letter transmits approval of the Hawaii Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-016) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-0016

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Hawaii

5. **Region:** WRO

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Idaho SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 9:52:48 PM
Attachments: ID-SNAP-COV-010-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Idaho a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Idaho state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Julie A. Hammon
Administrator
Division of Welfare
Department of Health and Welfare
Post Office Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720

RE: SNAP - Idaho Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Hammon:

This letter transmits approval of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-010) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-010

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Idaho

5. **Region:** Western

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS Update - Illinois SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 10:28:02 PM
Attachments:	IL-SNAP-COV-006-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Illinois a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Illinois state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Grace Hou
Secretary
Illinois Department of Human Services
Harris II Building, 3rd Floor
100 South Grand Avenue, East
Springfield, Illinois 62762

RE: SNAP - Illinois Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Secretary Hou:

This letter transmits approval of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-006) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-006

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Illinois

5. **Region:** Midwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.

    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Indiana Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:27:02 PM
Attachments: IN-SNAP-COV-037-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 350

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of **Indiana** has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Kansas waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:28:51 PM
Attachments: KS-SNAP-COV-026-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval (1).pdf

Attachment included previously at page 344

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of **Kansas** has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Louisiana SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:06:48 PM
Attachments: LA - SNAP - COV-007 - ExtendCertPeriods - Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 2502

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Louisiana a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Louisiana state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Maine SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:28:37 PM
Attachments: ME - SNAP - COV-003 - ExtendCertPeriods - Approval.pdf

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All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Maine a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Maine state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Anthony Pelotte
Director
Office for Family Independence
Department of Health and Human Services
19 Union Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: SNAP - Maine Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Pelotte:

This letter transmits approval of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-003) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-003

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Maine

5. **Region:** Northeast

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Maryland SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:28:25 PM
Attachments: MD-SNAP-COV-008-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Maryland a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Maryland state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Netsanet Kibret
Executive Director
Family Investment Administrative
Department of Human Services
311 W. Saratoga Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-3500

RE: SNAP – Maryland Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Netsanet Kibret,

This letter transmits approval of the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-008) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-008

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Maryland

5. **Region:** MARO

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS Update - Massachusetts SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 10:28:14 PM
Attachments:	MA-SNAP-COV-002-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Massachusetts a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Massachusetts state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Amy Kershaw
Commissioner
Department of Transitional Assistance
Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services
600 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

RE: SNAP - Massachusetts Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. Kershaw:

This letter transmits approval of the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-002) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-002

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Massachusetts

5. **Region:** Northeast

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Michigan Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:27:56 PM
Attachments: MI-SNAP-COV-027-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 338

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of **Michigan** has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Minnesota Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:28:51 PM
Attachments: MN - SNAP - COV-035 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 325

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of **Minnesota** has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS Update - Missouri SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 10:28:02 PM
Attachments:	MO - SNAP - COV-011 - ExtendCertPeriods - Approval.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Missouri a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Missouri state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Kim Evans
Director
Family Support Division
Department of Social Services
PO Box 2320
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

RE: SNAP - Missouri Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Kim Evans:

This letter transmits approval of the Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-011) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-011

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Missouri

5. **Region:** Mountain Plains

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS Update - MN SNAP Flexibility Telephonic Designation of Authorized Rep - COVID-19
Date:	Monday, May 11, 2020 2:47:45 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) flexibilities in response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following SNAP flexibility to **Minnesota** through May 31, 2020**,** as a result of the State's response to COVID-19, to allow certain community partners and advocates to **sign an application as an authorized representative of a household based on the household's verbal assent**.

USDA is granting the state this SNAP flexibility under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.**

Under this adjustment, the community partner or advocate must obtain verbal assent from the household over the phone, giving the community partner approval to serve as the authorized representative for the purpose of signing the application. The community partner or advocate would then be able to sign the application as the client's authorized representative without a written designation. This adjustment permits community partners or advocates to serve as authorized representatives for the purposes of signing the application.

The State has been provided an approval letter, and a copy of the state request and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Montana Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:27:07 PM
Attachments: MT-SNAP-COV-025-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 356

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of Montana has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS Update - New Jersey SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 10:42:25 PM
Attachments:	NJ-SNAP-COV-0I2-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **New Jersey a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

New Jersey state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Larry Braasch
Assistant Division Director
Division of Family Development
Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 716
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

RE: SNAP – New Jersey Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mr. Braasch,

This letter transmits approval of the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-012) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-012

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** New Jersey

5. **Region:** MARO

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - New Mexico SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:06:38 PM
Attachments: NM-SNAP-COV-019-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 2506

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **New Mexico a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

New Mexico state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - New York Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:32:31 PM
Attachments: NY - SNAP -COV030 -ExtendCert.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 332

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of **New York** has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Ohio SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:06:38 PM
Attachments: OH-SNAP-COV20-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 2522

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Ohio a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Ohio state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Oregon SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:06:47 PM
Attachments: OR-SNAP-COV21-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 2514

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Oregon a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Oregon state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS Update - Pennsylvania SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 10:42:04 PM
Attachments:	PA-SNAP-COV-004-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Pennsylvania a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Pennsylvania state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

Pennsylvania agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Lisa M. Watson
Deputy Secretary
Office of Income Maintenance
Department of Human Services
P. O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8018

RE: SNAP – Pennsylvania Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms.Watson:

This letter transmits approval of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-004) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-004

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Pennsylvania

5. **Region:** MARO

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.

10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.

11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.

12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.

13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.

14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Puerto Rico NAP - COVID-19
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 7:19:02 PM
Attachments: PRNAP FFRCA.CARES Plan FNS Approval final.05.15.20.pdf

---

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) response to COVID-19 for Puerto Rico.

Today, FNS **approved changes to Puerto Rico's Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP).** Puerto Rico runs a block grant version of SNAP, known as NAP. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) provided an increase to the block grant of $198 million and the Coronavirus Relief Act (CARES Act) provided an additional $99 million.

The Amendment and Plan include the following activities approved by FNS:

- The June NAP Relief 2 benefit will be issued in May.
- The CARES and Family First Funding of $295 million will be distributed in June and July by issuing the maximum allotment to all households.
- All elderly households' benefits will increase by an additional amount of $16 in June and July.
- The three month certification period extension waiver will be extended by one month, until the end of July, to align with the funding.
- The Department of Family will hire 40 temporary in-takers to support technicians during the process of approval of all new NAP Covid-19 applications.

Puerto Rico has been informed of the approval, attached.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

300 Corporate Blvd
Robbinsville, NJ
08691-1598

May 15, 2020

Honorable Eddie A. Garcia Fuentes
Secretary
Department of the Family
PO Box 11398
San Juan, PR 00910-1398

Dear Secretary Garcia Fuentes:

We have completed our review of the NAP Relief Comprehensive Plan Amendment, submitted on April 29, 2020, and the CARES and Family First Act Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) Plan final revision, submitted on May 14, 2020. The final revision included recommended modifications and edits for further consideration by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). FNS is approving both the NAP Relief Comprehensive Plan Amendment and CARES/Family First NAP Plan, herein incorporated into one document.

The Amendment and Plan include the following activities approved by FNS:

- The June NAP Relief 2 benefit will be issued in May.
- The CARES and Family First Funding of $295 million will be distributed in June and July by issuing the maximum allotment to all households.
- All elderly households' benefits will increase by an additional amount of $16 in June and July.
- The three month certification period extension waiver will be extended by one month, until the end of July, to align with the funding.
- The Department of Family will hire 40 temporary in-takers to support technicians during the process of approval of all new NAP Covid-19 applications.

FNS will continue to work with PR ADSEF for further clarification of some of the administrative costs items listed in the Plan and corresponding budget. Only costs that align with efforts related to the COVID-19 public health emergency and incurred during the grant performance period will be allowed.

While this letter extends FNS' approval for the Plan, please note all costs incurred in connection with this grant award must be necessary, reasonable, allocable, properly supported, and incurred during the grant award's stated period of performance.

FNS will continue to provide technical assistance on implementing policies and procedures for program operations. Changes to program operations and implementation of waivers and program flexibilities are subject to approval by FNS.

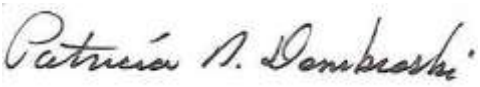
We appreciate your leadership and ADSEF's efforts in ensuring that the vulnerable

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population in Puerto Rico is able to access this vital nutrition assistance program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (609) 259-5025 or David Gagliardi at David.Gagliardi@usda.gov or (609) 259-5028.

Sincerely,



Patricia N. Dombroski
Administrator
Mid-Atlantic Region

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer and Lender

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Rhode Island Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:29:02 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of **Rhode Island** has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA FNS Update - SNAP Flexibilities QC Waivers - COVID-19
Date:	Thursday, April 30, 2020 4:07:49 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) the following flexibilities in response to COVID-19.

USDA is granting the following SNAP flexibilities to **all States** under authority granted in **7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(i) of the Federal regulations** affecting the quality control (QC) sample months of March, April, and May 2020.

FNS is approving flexibility on the following regulations:

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 275.11 (b)(1) and (2) by adjusting the minimum sample sizes for both active and negative cases for fiscal year 2020, as detailed in the enclosure. As a result of this blanket approval States will select cases from only nine months of the fiscal year for QC review.

- SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 275.12 and 275.13 by not requiring States to conduct QC reviews for active or negative cases for the sample months of March, April and May 2020.

Upon issuance of this waiver, all **QC reviews** for the sample months of March, April, and May 2020 will be cancelled, unless a State opts not to operate under the waiver.

All States were provided a copy of this letter, and a copy of the letter will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - South Dakota Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:26:52 PM
Attachments: SD - SNAP - COV-031 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 328

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of South Dakota has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - State Waivers approvals SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:00:34 PM
Attachments:
GU-SNAP-COV-018-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
ID-SNAP-COV-010-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
DC-SNAP-COV-001-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
IL-SNAP-COV-006-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
MA-SNAP-COV-002-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
MD-SNAP-COV-008-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
ME - SNAP - COV-003 - ExtendCertPeriods - Approval.pdf
PA-SNAP-COV-004-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
NV-SNAP-COV-013-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
NJ-SNAP-COV-0I2-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
HI-SNAP-COV-016-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
MO - SNAP - COV-011 - ExtendCertPeriods - Approval.pdf
VI-SNAP-COV-014-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
WI - SNAP - COV-015 - ExtendCertPeriods - Approval.pdf

First 12 attachments included previously.

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, attached are 14 state/district/territory waivers under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.**

USDA has granted **Guam, DC, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virgin Island, Wisconsin a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020 through the authority granted to the Secretary. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Kimberley Causey-Gomez
Commissioner
U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services
3011 Golden Rock
Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00820

RE: SNAP – U.S. Virgin Islands Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Mrs. Causey-Gomez:

This letter transmits approval of the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services' (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-014) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-014

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** U.S. Virgin Islands

5. **Region:** Northeast

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

March 20, 2020

Rebecca McAtee
Director, FoodShare
Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street
P.O. Box 309
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

RE: SNAP - Wisconsin Request to Extend Certification Periods and Adjust Reporting Requirements Due to COVID-19 – Approval

Dear Ms. McAtee:

This letter transmits approval of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) adjustment request (Adjustment # COV-015) to extend certification periods and adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households statewide. FNS is approving this request under authorization of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the State agency's request to adjust the certification provisions of section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5). The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. This adjustment includes households with earned income that by regulation cannot normally be certified for more than a six month period.

FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements of section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Act, and SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(1) and 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii)(B) for ongoing households in the approved areas.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this adjustment, please contact your respective Regional office representative.

Sincerely,

Sasha Gersten-Paal
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Enclosure

EXTEND CERTIFICATION PERIODS AND ADJUST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ADJUSTMENT RESPONSE

1. **Adjustment serial number:** COV-015

2. **Type of request:** Initial

3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5)

4. **State:** Wisconsin

5. **Region:** Midwest

6. **Regulatory requirements:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(3)(i) require a minimum certification period of 6 months for most households. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5) allow states to extend certification periods up to 12 months or 24 months for those households that are all elderly or disabled. Regulations at 7 CFR 273.12(a)(5)(iii) require an interim periodic report in the sixth month for households assigned to simplified reporting (SR), if the certification period exceeds 6 months.

   SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.14 state that no household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms, scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State agency will adjust the expiration for certification periods expiring in March, April and May 2020 and will extend the certification period of these households for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. The state will also adjust the periodic reporting requirement for households with a period report due between March through May 2020 and for households whose certification period is extended under this waiver.

8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the need for State agency measures for effective

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

and efficient program management. FNS is approving this request for 3 months, effective March 1, 2020.

9. **Legislative basis for action:** Approval is based on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), which allows FNS to approve adjustments that would result in a more effective and efficient administration of the program.
10. **Conditions and reasons:** Approval is contingent upon the following conditions:
    - The State must notify households impacted by this approval and continue to comply with the notice requirements at 7 CFR 273.10(f)(5).
    - SNAP Quality Control will review against the terms of this adjustment and in accordance with FNS Handbook 310.
    - The State agency will submit a request to FNS for approval if it wishes to extend this adjustment beyond the initial period.
11. **Evaluation Data Requirements:** The State agency must provide to FNS the data and analysis listed below required for evaluation of this waiver.
    - Estimated number of households affected by this adjustment;
    - A narrative on the effect of program access and client satisfaction, including an analysis of any client or advocate complaints received related to the waived procedure;
    - A narrative on the effect of providing timely and accurate benefits; and
    - A narrative on the effect of any other aspects of the eligibility process including the ability to manage staff caseload growth and the impact on administrative efficiency.
12. **Expiration date:** May 31, 2020.
13. **Limitation, if any, on approval:** Approval of this adjustment is limited to the State SNAP agency.
14. **Quality control procedures:** No special Quality Control (QC) procedures are required for cases subject to the provisions of this adjustment. Cases should be reviewed using standard review procedures contained in the FNS Handbook 310.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

15. Date of National Office action: March 20, 2020

16. Anticipated implementation date (*notify FNS if actual date differs*):
Upon receipt of approval

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - State Waivers approvals SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:53:37 PM
Attachments: GA-SNAP-COV-032-Approval.pdf
MT-SNAP-COV-025-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
RI - SNAP -COV033 -ExtendCert.pdf
IN-SNAP-COV-037-Approval.pdf
FL-SNAP-COV-025-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
KS-SNAP-COV-026-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval (1).pdf
CA-SNAP-COV-036-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
MI-SNAP-COV-027-Approval.pdf
TX-SNAP-COV-034-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf
SD - SNAP - COV-031 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf
NY - SNAP -COV030 -ExtendCert.pdf
MN - SNAP - COV-035 - Extend Cert Periods - Approval.pdf

Attachments included previously

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, attached are **12 state** SNAP waivers Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201. This is in addition to the 21 states already granted.**

USDA has granted **California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Texas** a waiver through May 31, 2020 through the authority granted to the Secretary. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Texas Waiver approval SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:28:06 PM
Attachments: TX-SNAP-COV-034-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 335

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

To that end, the state of **Texas** has received a waiver to extending SNAP Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting under authority granted in **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201.** USDA has granted the waiver through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The state agency has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the state waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Virgin Islands SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:42:12 PM
Attachments: VI-SNAP-COV-014-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 2608

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **the Virgin Islands a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

The Virginia Islands Dept of Human Services has been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Virginia SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:06:38 PM
Attachments: VA-SNAP-COV-017-ExtendCertPeriods-Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 2526

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Virginia a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Virginia state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update - Wisconsin SNAP Recertification and Periodic Reporting - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 10:42:19 PM
Attachments: WI - SNAP - COV-015 - ExtendCertPeriods - Approval.pdf

Attachment included previously at page 2612

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) implementation of a provision of the recently enacted H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act.*

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, USDA has granted **Wisconsin a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting** through May 31, 2020. The State agency may extend certification periods for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, for 6 months until September, October and November 2020. FNS also grants the State agency's request to adjust the periodic reporting requirements for ongoing households in the approved areas.

Wisconsin state program authorities have been provided a copy of the waiver approval, and a copy of the waiver and USDA's response will be posted on the FNS Response to COVID-19 website shortly in accordance with the law.

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS Update- WIC and SNAP Waiver Extensions - COVID-19
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 7:04:11 PM

All,

This email provides an update on USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service (FNCS) response to COVID-19.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127, the Act) provides the USDA statutory and regulatory waiver authorities necessary in an emergency such as COVID-19.

FNS is **extending all existing waiver approvals for WIC state agencies through June 30, 2020** for States that choose to continue operations under their approved waivers**.** State and local agency reporting requirements still apply.

FNS is **extending all SNAP waiver approvals through June 30, 2020** for States that choose to continue operations under their approved waivers for States operating under an emergency or disaster declaration based on an outbreak of COVID-19**.** State and local agency reporting requirements still apply.

FNS will continue to monitor this emergency and will consider subsequent extensions of waivers.

States agencies have been notified and they should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

For additional information regarding FNS's response to COVID-19, please visit this link: www.fns.usda.gov/coronavirus

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA FNS updates COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 6, 2020 6:19:44 PM

All,

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has updated program information you or your stakeholders may find useful in consideration of COVID-19.

Recently updated FNS materials: https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic

All Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation.

Today's USDA press release: https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/03/06/usda-makes-it-easier-safer-feed-children-amid-washington-state

For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,
Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition - work requirement self-executing memo - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 2:56:46 PM

Committees and Leadership Contacts,

This email provides an update on the implementation of USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services components of the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Section 2301 of H.R. 6201 temporarily and partially suspends the time limit for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP). State agencies are prohibited from limiting ABAWDs' eligibility under section 6(o)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (FNA) unless the individual is not complying with a work program or workfare program offered by the State that meets standards of section 6(o)(2)(B) or (C). This suspension applies during the period of April 1, 2020, through the end of the month subsequent to the month in which the public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services based on an outbreak of COVID-19 is lifted.

States agencies have been provided a copy of this guidance document on this provision, linked here: https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/FFCRA-Impact-on-ABAWD-TimeLimit.pdf

State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Thank you,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: McCarthy, Karen (Murkowski); quinton_carroll@sullivan.senate.gov; truman.reed@mail.house.gov
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition Alaska Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 6, 2020 8:31:00 PM

Karen, Quinton, Truman,

This email is to inform you the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has **approved** a request from Alaska to allow meal service during school closures, should the need arise, to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

In submitting the recent waiver request to USDA, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development noted there were no cases of COVID-19 in Alaska, but the situation is evolving and program sponsors are preparing if school or child care closures occur. USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (also called non-congregate), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals while schools are temporarily closed.

The waiver is effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020.

All Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Washington state has also been approved under a similar waiver; more information on that notice here.

Thank you,

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Evan.Dorner@mail.house.gov; matt.dernoga@mail.house.gov; Khaula.Kaiser@mail.house.gov; Kelvin.Lum@mail.house.gov; David.Schutt@mail.house.gov; Richie.O"Connell@mail.house.gov; Erin.Sandlin@mail.house.gov; Jaqueline.Serrano@mail.house.gov; David.Silberberg@mail.house.gov; Thomas.Rivera@mail.house.gov; Kayla.Rillo@mail.house.gov; Sheresh.Khan@mail.house.gov; Ben.goldeen@mail.house.gov; Jared.Henderson@mail.house.gov; michael.perez@mail.house.gov; sarah.jackson@mail.house.gov; Eric.Henshall@mail.house.gov; joe_petrzelka@feinstein.senate.gov; Iain.hart@mail.house.gov; Tigran.Agdaian@mail.house.gov; Diana.rios@mail.house.gov; Jessica.Ilaria@mail.house.gov; Jonathan_Bertran-harris@harris.senate.gov; ben.steinberger@mail.house.gov; logan.ferree@mail.house.gov; holly.hough@mail.house.gov; kevin.fox@mail.house.gov; Kathleen.devlin@mail.house.gov; emma.mehrabi@mail.house.gov; jonathan.gilbert@mail.house.gov; julian.sham@mail.house.gov; priscilla.kim@mail.house.gov; ngoc.nguyen@mail.house.gov; emily.richardson@mail.house.gov; kyle.lombardi@mail.house.gov; andrew.keyes@mail.house.gov; mike.stoever@mail.house.gov; morgan.leonard@mail.house.gov; ian.foley@mail.house.gov; Riya.mehta@mail.house.gov; anais.vorja@mail.house.gov; jessica.seigel@mail.house.gov; sabir.muhammad@mail.house.gov; debbie.jessup@mail.house.gov; austin.yager@mail.house.gov; cody.willming@mail.house.gov; zach.sorenson@mail.house.gov; rob.robilliarb@mail.house.gov; Sera.Alptekin@mail.house.gov; art.motta@mail.house.gov; adrienne.castro@mail.house.gov; nate.denthan@mail.house.gov; clay.boggs@mail.house.gov; hannah.cejas@mail.house.gov; kathleen.sengstock@mail.house.gov
Subject:	USDA Food and Nutrition California Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date:	Saturday, March 7, 2020 7:59:36 PM

All,

This email is to inform you today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the State of California to allow meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (also called non-congregate), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals while schools are temporarily closed.

The state waiver is effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020. Here is the link to the USDA press release on the California waiver.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Anthony - FNS Wilson II (anthony.wilson@usda.gov); Randall, Kiev - FNS; Whalen, Karla - AMS; Kate.rohr@mail.house.gov; Daniel.Martin@mail.house.gov; michael.brooks@mail.house.gov; judd_gardner@moran.senate.gov; katherine_thomas@roberts.senate.gov; Christiana.Reasor@mail.house.gov
Bcc:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA Food and Nutrition Kansas Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date:	Monday, March 9, 2020 7:49:00 PM

All,

This email is to inform you today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the Kansas State Department of Education to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed.

The statewide waiver is to the congregate feeding requirement, effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition Maryland Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 5:53:22 PM

All,

This email is to inform you today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from Maryland to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed.

The statewide waiver is to the congregate feeding requirement, effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA Food and Nutrition Service UPDATE - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 8:31:55 PM
Attachments:	EmergencyAllotmentsGuidance.pdf COVID-19 WIC State Agency Waiver Request_Print Response.pdf

Attachments included previously at pages 752-755

All,

This email provides an update on USDA 's Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services (FNCS) efforts to assist communities in feeding children during COVID-19.

General

With the approval of the H.R. 6201 this week, USDA's FNCS is working swiftly. We understand your communities are eager to take advantage of the range of flexibilities and new support in the bill. To that end FNS has begun rolling out new information and will continue to do so in the coming days.

SNAP Emergency Allotments

Importantly, FNS is providing states templates to use in making requests to USDA to help ease the administrative burden and increase the speed at which waivers and polices can be approved for implementation.

Tonight, guidance was provided to states interested in implementing **Section 2302 of H.R. 6201**, which provides for the issuance of emergency **SNAP allotments (supplements)** based on a public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act related to an outbreak of COVID-19 when a State has also issued an emergency or disaster declaration.

The template states may use is attached. States agencies have been provided a copy of this document and they may contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

SNAP ABAWDs

USDA has provided state agencies information related to **Section 2301 of H.R. 6201**. This provision temporarily and partially suspends the time limit for **Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)** participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP).

States agencies have been provided a copy of this guidance document on this provision, linked here: https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/FFCRA-Impact-on-ABAWD-TimeLimit.pdf. State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

WIC Flexibilities

Tonight USDA provided the attached template for states to use for WIC flexibilities under **Section 2203 and Section 2204 of H.R. 6201.**

Section 2203 of H.R. 6201 allows states to waive the **physical presence requirements for WIC** during any portion of the emergency period through September 30, 2020. The approval to waive

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the physical presence requirement includes the ability to defer anthropomorphic and bloodwork requirements necessary to determine nutritional risk for the period the physical presence waiver is in effect per 42 U.S.C. 2203(a)(1)(B).

Sections 2204 of H.R. 6201 allows states to request to waive the **supplemental food substitutions** requirements set forth in 42 U.S.C. 1786(f)(11)(C)(ii). The approval to waive the requirement to adhere to the participant's specific supplemental food package includes the ability to substitute unavailable WIC supplemental foods for different foods.

Further, **Section 2204** allows states to waive the **minimum stocking requirements** set forth in 42 CFR 246.12(g)(3)(i). The approval to waive the minimum stocking requirements will include a waiver of onsite pre-authorization visits to check minimum stocking requirements.

USDA is sending this information to state partners tonight and will be available for completion by the states through partnerweb. Please d*o not have states complete the attached pdf version of the template. The template sample attached is for your awareness only*. State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

Rural Feeding Partnership

This week USDA announced a collaboration to deliver nearly 1,000,000 meals to students in a limited number of rural schools closed due to COVID-19. You may read the public announcement here. Schools districts interested in participating may find this one page information sheet helpful.

Communication with States

To communicate and allow for direct questions from state program staff, FNS is also conducting webinars and information sessions. And, our USDA intergovernmental team will continue to push out information directly to states to ensure they have necessary resources.

The USDA Food and Nutrition Regional Offices are a vital part of our structure of responsiveness to local needs. States may work with their respective Regional Office for specific customer service and technical assistance. And subsequently local providers are encouraged to communicate with their state program leaders.

Thank you for this opportunity to update your team.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT
2020-OSEC-03700-F 1st Interim Response 2020-10-30
USDA-20-1045-A-002629

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject:	USDA Food and Nutrition Service UPDATE - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 20, 2020 8:40:15 PM
Attachments:	EmergencyAllotmentsGuidance.pdf COVID-19 WIC State Agency Waiver Request_Print Response.pdf

Attachments included previously at pages 752-755

All,

My apologies if you receive this email twice.

This email provides an update on USDA 's Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services (FNCS) efforts to assist communities in feeding children during COVID-19.

General

With the approval of the H.R. 6201 this week, USDA's FNCS is working swiftly. We understand your communities are eager to take advantage of the range of flexibilities and new support in the bill. To that end FNS has begun rolling out new information and will continue to do so in the coming days.

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The template states may use is attached. States agencies have been provided a copy of this document and they may contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

SNAP ABAWDs

USDA has provided state agencies information related to **Section 2301 of H.R. 6201**. This provision temporarily and partially suspends the time limit for **Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)** participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP).

States agencies have been provided a copy of this guidance document on this provision, linked here: https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/FFCRA-Impact-on-ABAWD-TimeLimit.pdf. State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

WIC Flexibilities

Tonight USDA provided the attached template for states to use for WIC flexibilities under **Section 2203 and Section 2204 of H.R. 6201.**

Section 2203 of H.R. 6201 allows states to waive the **physical presence requirements for WIC**

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during any portion of the emergency period through September 30, 2020. The approval to waive the physical presence requirement includes the ability to defer anthropomorphic and bloodwork requirements necessary to determine nutritional risk for the period the physical presence waiver is in effect per 42 U.S.C. 2203(a)(1)(B).

Sections 2204 of H.R. 6201 allows states to request to waive the **supplemental food substitutions** requirements set forth in 42 U.S.C. 1786(f)(11)(C)(ii). The approval to waive the requirement to adhere to the participant's specific supplemental food package includes the ability to substitute unavailable WIC supplemental foods for different foods.

Further, **Section 2204** allows states to waive the **minimum stocking requirements** set forth in 42 CFR 246.12(g)(3)(i). The approval to waive the minimum stocking requirements will include a waiver of onsite pre-authorization visits to check minimum stocking requirements.

USDA is sending this information to state partners tonight and will be available for completion by the states through partnerweb. Please do *not have states complete the attached pdf version of the template. The template sample attached is for your awareness only*. State agencies should contact their respective FNS Regional Offices with questions.

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Communication with States

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The USDA Food and Nutrition Regional Offices are a vital part of our structure of responsiveness to local needs. States may work with their respective Regional Office for specific customer service and technical assistance. And subsequently local providers are encouraged to communicate with their state program leaders.

Thank you for this opportunity to update your team.

Regards,

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA Food and Nutrition UTAH Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 5:52:59 PM

All,

This email is to inform you today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from Utah to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed.

The statewide waiver is to the congregate feeding requirement, effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6)
veronica.wong@usda.gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From:	Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	megan_thompson@cantwell.senate.gov; david_marten@cantwell.senate.gov; Shantanu.tata@mail.house.gov; emily.kolano@mail.house.gov; Ben.bruns@mail.house.gov; Jessica.mulligan@mail.house.gov; katie.allen@mail.house.gov; samuel.wilcoxson@mail.house.gov; jared.powell@mail.house.gov; hart_clements@murray.senate.gov; travis.martinez@mail.house.gov; Jennifer.cash@mail.house.gov; amanda.wyma-bradley@mail.house.gov
Cc:	Chris Kidd (Chris.Kidd@usda.gov)
Subject:	USDA Food and Nutrition Washington Waiver - School Meals - COVID-19
Date:	Friday, March 6, 2020 9:32:00 PM

All,

This email is to inform you today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has **approved** a request from Washington to allow meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus.

USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver are not required to be served in a group setting (also called non-congregate), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals while schools are temporarily closed.

The waiver is effective immediately and will continue through June 30, 2020. Here is the link to the press release on the Washington waiver.

All Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,

Veronica

Veronica Smith Wong
Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]
veronica.wong@usda.gov

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Withheld email addresses are Secretary Perdue and Deputy Secretary Censky alias email addresses

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: USDA provisions in Phase 3 supplemental and messaging
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 2:50:41 PM
Attachments: USDA COVID-19 Supp Phase III Summary FINAL 3.25.20 v3.docx
image001.png

Attachment include previously at pages 634-639

Sir,

I know you have received this already, but just re-upping the summary we did for the phase 3 bill as you head over to the WH for signing. Additionally, below are (b) (5), DPP [redacted]

Key USDA specific items:

(b) (5), DPP [redacted]

From: "Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Ken.Barbic@usda.gov>
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 9:15 PM
To: "(b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC" <(b) (6) usda.gov>
Cc: "(b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC" <(b) (6) usda.gov>, Kailee Tkacz <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>, Joby Young <joby.young@usda.gov>, Blake Rollins <blake.rollins@usda.gov>, "Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC" <evan.lee@usda.gov>, Veronica Wong <Veronica.Wong@usda.gov>, Meghan Rodgers <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>, Michawn Rich <michawn.rich@usda.gov>, Alec Varsamis <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>, Mary Beal <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>, Erica Navarro <erica.navarro@usda.gov>, Campbell Shuford <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>, Dudley Hoskins <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>, Kristi Boswell <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>, Rebeckah Adcock <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>, Kyle Liske <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>, Robert Johansson <robert.johansson@usda.gov>

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Subject: Summary of USDA provisions in Phase 3 supplemental

Sir,

Attached is a document we have prepared that gives an overview of (b) (5), DPP [redacted] We have also included some narrative summary of the other major items in the broader bill, we are happy to provide further analysis if you'd like. Of note in the broader bill, (b) (5), DPP [redacted].

The Senate is expected to vote on this package later tonight. The House could take the legislation up tomorrow, but from what I'm hearing it is more likely to come up on Friday, mostly because it is still up in the air how Pelosi will handle vote, but good chance members have to fly back to vote. The House could pass by voice vote or unanimous consent, but it is not yet clear whether they would be able to do that.

Stay tuned!
Ken

Ken Barbic
Assistant Secretary – Office of Congressional Relations
United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]
Office: (b) (6) [redacted]

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Schneider, Jacqlyn (Agriculture); Rosado, Robert (Agriculture)
Subject: UT and MD - SNAP COVID
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 5:48:00 PM

Rob and Jacqlyn,

An update on Maryland and Utah.

Maryland and Utah has have just been **approved** to allow non-congregate feeding for unanticipated school closures associated with COVID-19. The respective waivers are effective immediately through June 30, 2020. **The state will be notified of this shortly**.

We have more coming in so I am working on getting the most up to date list to you shortly.

Veronica

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From: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Wong, Veronica - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Kidd, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Vermont State Waiver - USDA Food and Nutrition Service - COVID-19
Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 8:22:38 PM

Good evening,

This email is to inform you that tonight the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **approved** a request from the Vermont Agency of Education to add flexibilities in school meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. **The State is being notified of the approval currently**.

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act summer food programs congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

All USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs – including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs – have flexibilities and contingencies built-in to allow them to respond to on-the-ground realities in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. For more information about the coronavirus response across USDA, please visit: www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

Thank you,
Veronica

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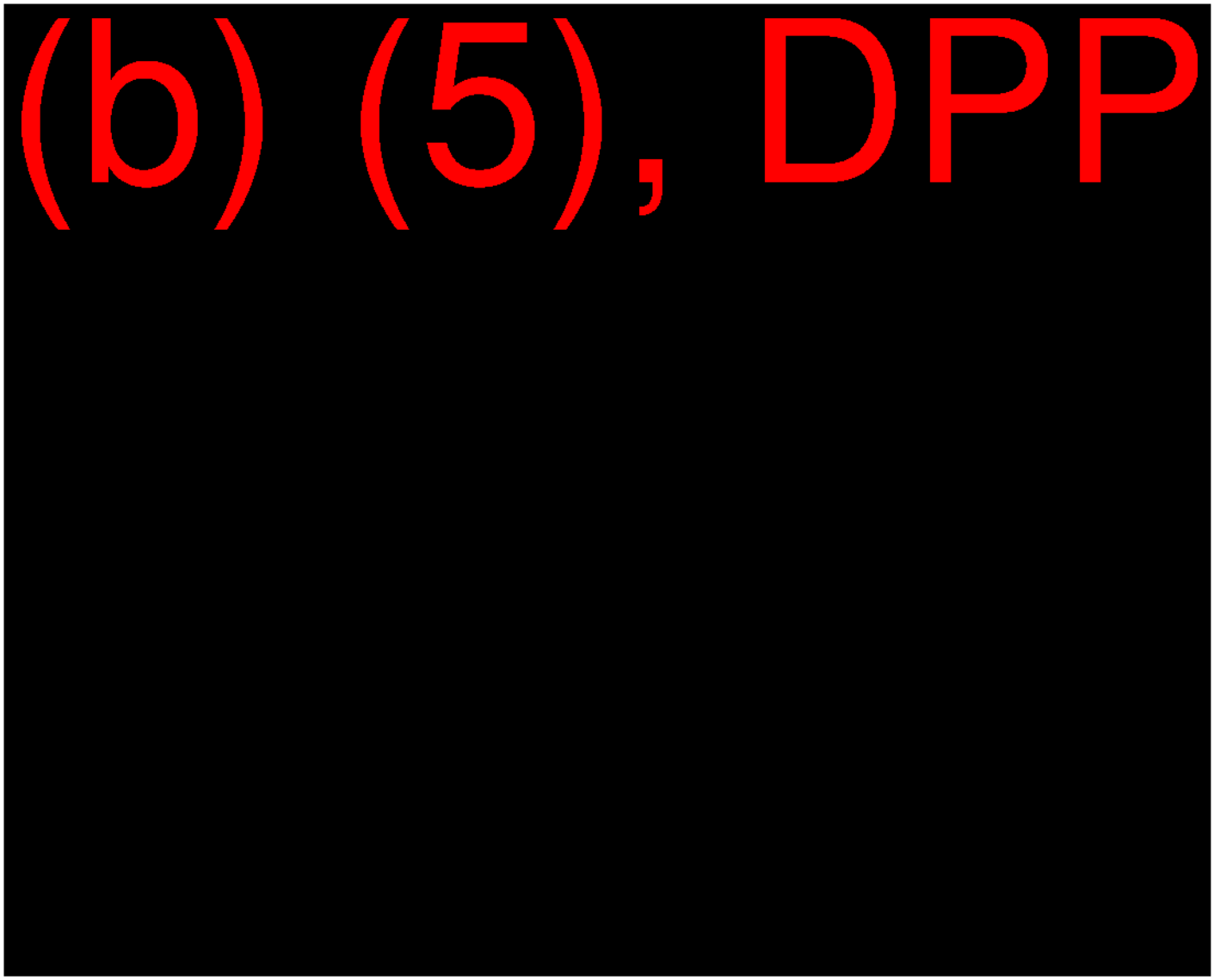
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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Waivers
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 12:23:00 PM
Attachments: Waivers.docx

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: The Secretary
From: FNCS
Date: 03.20.20
Re: Expanded Waiver Authorities Under COVID-19 Legislation

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT



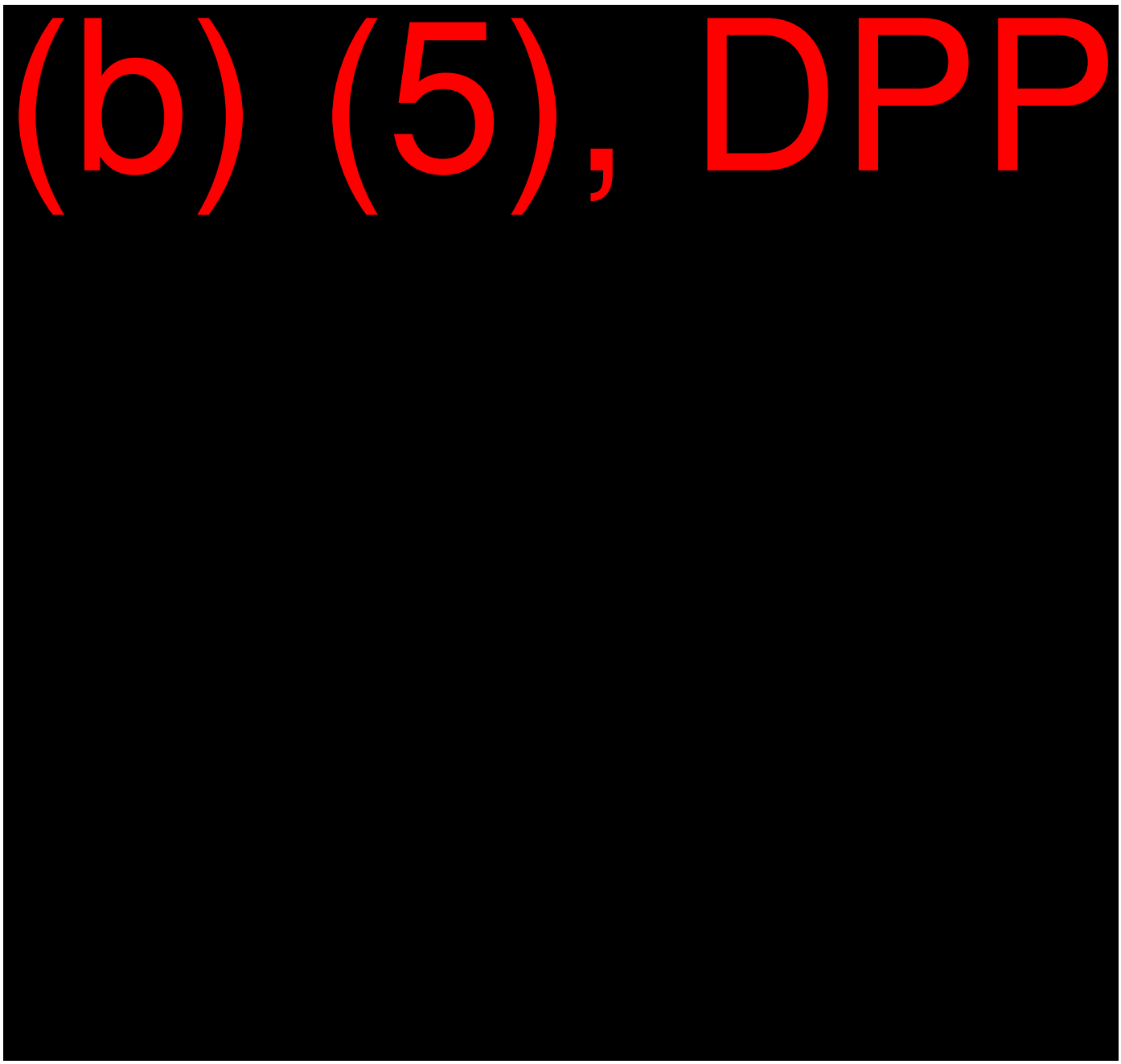
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From: Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Waivers: Please review and then lets circle up on ideas to reorganize/streamline
Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 11:12:00 AM
Attachments: Waivers.docx

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: The Secretary
From: FNCS
Date: 03.20.20
Re: Expanded Waiver Authorities Under COVID-19 Legislation

PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE
BRIEFING DOCUMENT



AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



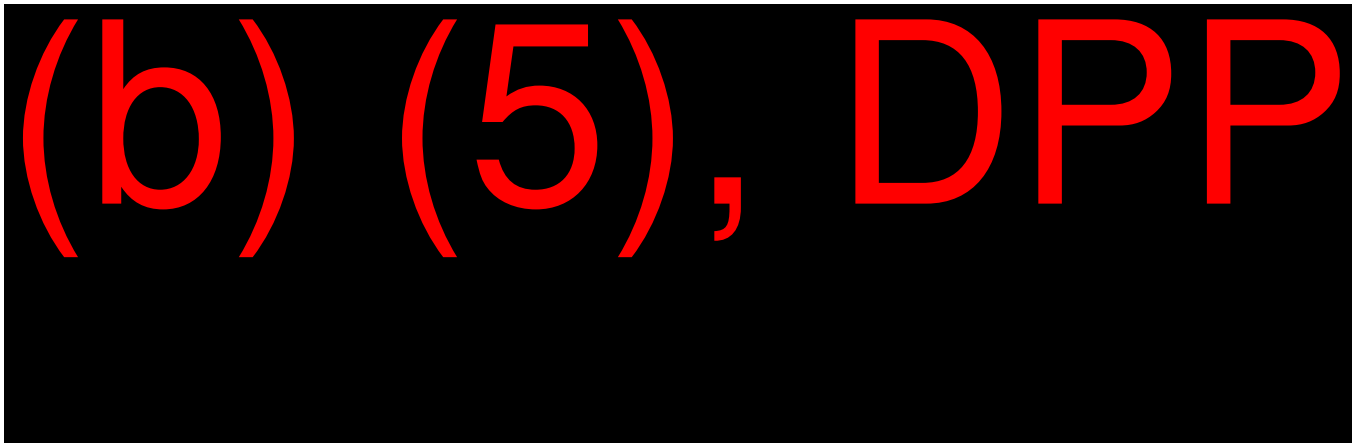
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From:	Lipps, Brandon - OSEC, Washington, DC
To:	Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc:	DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC
Bcc:	Tvrdy, Joe - FNS
Subject:	WY online pilot
Date:	Thursday, May 14, 2020 5:21:00 PM
Attachments:	USDA Approves Wyoming to Accept SNAP Benefits Online.docx

Sir,

FNS has received an approvable plan from Wyoming to operate the SNAP online pilot.

Previously announced online pilot states include: Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, North Carolina, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, Vermont, Minnesota, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Rhode Island and Wisconsin, covering more than half of all SNAP recipients.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

The state have been notified. Online Pilot release attached.

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USDA Approves Wyoming to Accept SNAP Benefits Online

USDA is expanding access to innovative online food purchase program

Release & Contact Info

Press Release
Release No. 0250.20

Contact: USDA Press
Email: press@oc.usda.gov

(Washington, D.C., May 8, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced approval of a request from Wyoming to provide online purchasing of food to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households. This approval will allow Wyoming to expedite the implementation of online purchasing with currently authorized SNAP online retailers with a target start date to be announced at a later time. Wyoming's SNAP participation is more than 24,309 individuals, more than 10,912 households, and totals $36 million annually in federal benefits. This announcement further demonstrates President Trump's whole of America approach to fighting the coronavirus pandemic by ensuring those affected are fed. **Background:**

SNAP online purchasing is currently operational in Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, North Carolina, New York, Oregon, and Washington State. The authorized retailers working with all states are Amazon and Walmart, while Wrights Market and ShopRite are working with Alabama and New York respectively. USDA previously announced the District of Columbia, West Virginia, Missouri, Texas, Vermont, Minnesota, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin would also be implementing online purchasing in the near future. With these states, more than half of all households receiving SNAP will have access to online purchasing.

Multiple stakeholders – notably, state agencies, their third-party processor, and any retailers that wish to participate – must work together to implement online purchasing using SNAP benefits. To ease the process, FNS put together a simplified template for states that want to operate online purchasing and provided guidance to interested retailers, which is available online.

USDA continues to provide significant technical assistance to all interested stakeholders to ensure implementation plans are thorough and appropriate preliminary testing is conducted to avoid compromising the state's entire benefit system. Each state, EBT processor, and retailer presents their own mix of challenges so FNS is providing customer service based on each of their specific needs.

Until States are prepared to operate the pilot, USDA recommends utilizing other options that retailers may already provide, such as Pay at Pick-up (also known as "Click and Collect"),

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where SNAP cardholders can shop online and then pay for their purchase using their EBT card at pick-up. Grocery pickup is already an option that these retailers offer beyond SNAP so they are already thinking through how they can provide a safe environment to do so with the growing concerns around social distancing.

During these challenging times, FNS is working hand-in-hand with state program leadership, to provide support and guidance to adapt to the challenges of this public health emergency. FNS is granting states significant program flexibilities and contingencies to best serve program participants across our 15 nutrition assistance programs. For up to date information and to learn more about flexibilities being used in FNS nutrition programs, please visit the FNS website.

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