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

Dear Secretary Purdue,

As we continue to address the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important school meal programs remain accessible to our nation’s children. We request an extension of all of USDA’s COVID-19 waivers through the end of the 2020/2021 school year to allow school districts facing difficult budget decisions the certainty they need to continue providing meals to their students.

We appreciate the USDA’s extension of the non-congregate waiver and the area eligibility waiver through the end of the summer. However, these programs are still at risk at a time when rising unemployment is leading more families than ever to depend on school meals to feed their children. School districts need certainty and flexibility in their meal programs as they continue to navigate this crisis and prepare for the inevitable changes to school programing during the upcoming academic year. These programs are being asked to operate multiple service models simultaneously, serving some students in the cafeteria, some in the classroom and others via grab-and-go pick up or meal delivery – and all these plans could be upended by a second wave of COVID-19.

In order to support families during this uncertain time and to provide school meal programs the necessary flexibility, we urge the USDA to immediately extend the following COVID-19 waivers for all states through the end of school year 2020/2021:

- Meal Times Waiver
- Non-congregate Feeding Waiver
- Afterschool Activity Waiver
- Meal Pattern Waiver
- Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Parent Pick Up Waiver
- Child Nutrition Monitoring Waiver
- Waiver of Food Management Company Contract Duration Requirements
- Waiver of Local School Wellness Assessments
- Area Eligibility Waiver

Thank you for your prompt consideration and please notify our offices of your decision.

Sincerely,

Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress