



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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### **Senate Democrats Applaud Governor's Action, Community Responses to Federal Failure to Issue Food Assistance**

*President Trump and Republicans in Congress must act next, releasing SNAP benefits*

**SALEM, OR** – A coordinated state response will give Oregonians some relief from the Trump administration's blockage of nutrition assistance for needy families. Upon Governor Kotek's Wednesday announcement of \$5 million for foodbanks, a food-emergency declaration, and an appeal to Oregonians to help neighbors in need, Oregon Senate Democrats commended the progress while keeping pressure on the Republican-controlled federal government to fulfill its taxpayer-funded responsibilities.

"Community networks, individuals, and state government are doing all they can to weather the hardship that will come when 757,000 Oregonians lose SNAP benefits on November 1," said **Oregon Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D – East Portland, Boring & Damascus)**. "But the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress cannot dodge the fact that federal tax dollars from our state—nearly \$42 billion a year—should be flowing back to Oregonians as essential services and benefits like food assistance."

Throughout Oregon, residents and community organizations are showing more concern for needy families than our federal government, which was elected to serve the public.

"It's stunning to realize that a federal administration that finds ample funds for militant pet projects during the shutdown won't do anything to keep families from brink of catastrophic hunger," said **Senator Jeff Golden (D – Rogue Valley)**. "But that's triggered a new wave of compassion in Southern Oregon; everyday people have the backs of their most vulnerable neighbors."

"It is cruel to use food assistance funding as a political bargaining chip. I applaud Governor Kotek for allocating resources in response to federal inaction on the government shutdown. Beyond providing financial resources, our food banks urgently need volunteers," said **Senator Janeen Sollman (D – Forest Grove, Hillsboro & the Rock Creek area)**. "Here in Western Washington County, Centro Cultural Food Mercado has told me they are in need of volunteers to help out. I encourage everyone to reach out to their local food pantry, whether you can volunteer your time or donate, every contribution matters."

“Serving on the Oregon Hunger Task Force, I have seen that the need for help in accessing food in Oregon has never been greater. I have long been convinced that we must do what we can to meet that need, and I crafted legislation earlier this year to help address this issue,” said **Senator Deb Patterson (D – Salem)**. “I am grateful to the Governor for this action to reduce hunger among families in communities across Oregon worsened by the government shutdown, and I urge the federal administration to move quickly to end this needless suffering.”

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