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## Rising Hunger in Alaska Highlights Urgent Need to Protect SNAP

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Food Bank of Alaska is sounding the alarm on increased hunger rates across the state, as detailed in Feeding America's latest *Map the Meal Gap* report. The update reveals that 1 in 7 Alaskans and 1 in 5 Alaskan children experience hunger. This marks a significant increase from previous years, underscoring the need in Alaska.

As the hunger relief network adapts to the risen need, the House of Representatives recently passed the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," which includes an estimated \$300 billion in cuts to SNAP that would include an annual multi-million-dollar cost shift to the state and create additional barriers to access. Feeding America, the largest anti-hunger organization in the country, estimates the SNAP cuts in the bill could take an average of 9.5 billion meals off the table every year.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as a critical lifeline for many Alaskans facing food insecurity. Nearly 70,000 Alaskans receive SNAP with over 64% of recipients are part of families with children.

"Protecting SNAP is not just about preserving a program; it's about safeguarding the health and well-being of Alaskans," said Cara Durr, Food Bank of Alaska CEO. "We urge our fellow Alaskans to meet this moment and take action in this critical fight against hunger."

In response, the Alaska Food Coalition is mobilizing to protect SNAP and calling upon both organizations and individuals to act:

**Organizations**: Sign on to the Alaska Food Coalition's letter to our Senators <u>HERE.</u> **Individuals:** Call toll-free at (800) 708-8229 to leave a message for your Senators and urge them to save SNAP and Medicaid.

- Email Senator Dan Sullivan
- Email Senator Lisa Murkowski

For more information or to support hunger relief statewide, visit <u>foodbankofalaska.org</u>.

## **About Food Bank of Alaska**

Food Bank of Alaska is a registered 501(c)(3) whose mission is to eliminate hunger in Alaska by obtaining and providing food to partner agencies feeding hungry people and through anti-hunger leadership. Founded in 1979, the Food Bank provides food and grocery products through a network of over 150 Partner Agencies and nutrition programs, serving nearly 20,000 people every week. Headquartered in Anchorage, the Food Bank serves the entire state of Alaska. For more information on the Food Bank and its programs, visit foodbankofalaska.org, find us on Facebook or follow us on X.