



House of Representatives

SANDRA SCOTT
MINORITY CAUCUS CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 76
18 CAPITOL SQUARE, CLOB 611
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(678) 283-7149 (C)

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
404 -656-0314 OFFICE
404 -651-8086 FAX

EMAIL: sandragivensscott@gmail.com

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

BANKS AND BANKING
DEFENSE & VETERANS AFFAIRS
HUMAN RELATIONS & AGING
INSURANCE
REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING

October 22, 2025

The Honorable Brian P. Kemp

Governor of the State of Georgia
206 Washington Street, Suite 203, State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Re: Urgent Request for State Emergency Funding to Support SNAP, Medicaid, and Other Essential Safety-Net Programs During the Federal Shutdown

Dear Governor Kemp,

We, the undersigned members of the Georgia House of Representatives—**Rep. Viola Davis (D-Stone Mountain)**, **Rep. Kim Schofield (D-Atlanta)**, and **Rep. Sandra G. Scott (D-Rex)**—write to you with grave concern regarding the ongoing federal government shutdown and its devastating impact on Georgia's most vulnerable residents.

As of this week, more than one million Georgians who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will not receive critical food benefits in November due to suspended federal operations. Payments normally distributed between November 5 and November 23 are not expected until December, leaving families with no resources during Thanksgiving and the holiday season.

This delay—compounded by rising food prices and the reduced eligibility criteria imposed by the so-called “*One Big Beautiful Bill*”—has created an unprecedented crisis. Thousands of children, seniors, veterans, and working families are now at risk of food insecurity. Many will turn to already overburdened food banks, which are struggling to meet surging demand.

Simultaneously, federal Medicaid and healthcare funds remain frozen or delayed, jeopardizing services at community health centers and rural hospitals already operating on thin margins. As we detailed in our recent column, “*Georgia's Rural Hospitals Are on Life Support*,” these facilities are the backbone of healthcare in underserved areas. Without swift state action, the shutdown will deepen financial instability, leading to potential layoffs, reduced services, and even closures.

Given Georgia's **\$15 billion budget surplus**, we urge your administration to exercise executive authority to:

1. **Authorize Emergency State Bridge Funding** to ensure that SNAP recipients and low-income households receive temporary food assistance during the shutdown;
2. **Direct the Department of Human Services and the Department of Community Health** to implement emergency provisions allowing Medicaid continuity and expedited eligibility renewals;
3. **Establish a Temporary Georgia Food Security Relief Fund**, in partnership with local governments and food banks, to support families experiencing hunger due to federal delays; and
4. **Coordinate with the Georgia General Assembly** to prepare a supplemental appropriation, if necessary, to sustain essential safety-net services until federal operations resume.

This is not a partisan request—it is a humanitarian one. Georgia’s families cannot afford to wait for Washington gridlock to end. As state leaders, we must ensure no child, veteran, or senior goes hungry or loses medical care because of political dysfunction beyond their control.

We are confident that with your leadership, Georgia can demonstrate compassion and fiscal responsibility by using a fraction of its surplus to protect its people during this crisis. We stand ready to work with your office, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Community Health to develop an immediate action plan.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your prompt response and partnership in protecting Georgia’s families during these challenging times. Georgia does not have time to play partisan politics, when urban, rural and suburban communities are at risk.

With respect and urgency,

Rep. Viola Davis (D-Stone Mountain)
Georgia House District 87

Rep. Kim Schofield (D-Atlanta)
Georgia House District 63

Rep. Sandra G. Scott (D-Rex)
Georgia House District 76