



## CAFB LTE Template for Federal Budget

### *Instructions:*

*While this is an easy template for your food bank to customize, I recommend reading through your local newspaper's guidelines and previously published letter to the editors. Call your local paper if you can't find any information in print or online and reference an article the outlet has published on the President's budget, if available. If you have any further questions, or need help, please feel free to contact me at [daniela@cafoodbanks.org](mailto:daniela@cafoodbanks.org) or (510) 350-9919.*

<YOUR NAME>

<YOUR FOOD BANK'S MAILING ADDRESS>

<YOUR OFFICE PHONE NUMBER>

<YOUR EMAIL>

<DATE>

<EDITOR NAME>

<PUBLICATION NAME>

<PUBLICATION ADDRESS>

Dear Editor,

<STATE THE NAME AND DATE OF THE ARTICLE YOU ARE REFERENCING IF YOU ARE RESPONDING TO ONE>

Example: "As Modesto's CalFresh Outreach coordinator, I am deeply troubled by the 25 percent cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program proposed in President's Trump budget (HEADLINE, DATE)."

*Make sure you don't bury your lede! Your disagreement with the budget should be upfront and clear.*

<FRAME YOUR POSITION HERE>

Example: "SNAP is the nation's most important anti-hunger program, helping more than <INSERT YOUR LOCAL NUMBER> in <INSERT COUNTY> put food on the table. SNAP benefits target those in need, over half of whom are children living in poverty, in addition to seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and others still suffering from the Great Recession. Improvements to benefits have shown time and time again that they reduce hunger and help the local economy.

<FOCUS ON ONE TAKE-AWAY>

Economy Example: Insert your city or county's data on the economic value of CalFresh. *Or*

Poverty Example: Insert your city or county's data on poverty and food insecurity. Focus on children if possible. Include a client story. Keep the story short, think "Joe the Plumber."



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### <INCLUDE A STORY THAT CARRIES THE THEME OF YOUR TAKE-AWAY>

*Include a story from a for-profit partner, yourself, or a client. Keep the story short, think "Joe the Plumber."*

### <STATE WHAT YOU WANT>

Example: "President Trump should ..."

"I encourage everyone to call INSERT NAME OF ELECTED and demand he/she stop any cuts to SNAP and the other safety net programs vital to the health and wellbeing of families in our community."

If you have a congressional target, name them.

### <SIMPLE CLOSE>

Example: "Thank you for your consideration."

Sincerely,

<YOUR NAME>

<CITY YOU ARE A RESIDENT OF>

<YOUR TITLE>

<YOUR FOOD BANK>

### GENERAL EXAMPLE

Dear Editor,

I am deeply troubled by the \$193 billion in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as CalFresh in California, proposed in President's Trump FY 18 budget. This budget abandons a decade's long bi-partisan commitment to addressing hunger and takes aim at core nutrition and income support programs through harsh cuts that will impact the health and economic security of our state's most vulnerable residents including children, working families, people with disabilities and seniors.

California is one of the wealthiest states in our nation, yet far too many Californians struggle with hunger. More than six million Californians live in poverty, and more than four million Californians, including over two million children, struggle with food insecurity.

Working at a food bank, I see first-hand the how effective the partnership between federal nutrition programs and food banks is at helping the poor. These aren't programs deserving of cuts, and neither are the Californians that rely on them.

I urge Congress to reject these proposed cuts and any budget proposal that abandons our long-standing national commitment to combat hunger and ensure that no Californian goes hungry.

Sincerely,

NAME



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