



Senate Democrats Hold a Conference on SNAP Emergency Funds



Logo of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Photo Courtesy of the United States Department of Agriculture

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Wednesday, October 29, 2025, eight Democrat Senators held a conference to address the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program’s (“SNAP”) Emergency Funds, as well as the current government shutdown. Democrats present were Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Edward Markey (D-MA), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Chirs Murphy (D-CT), Tina Smith (D-MN), Elizabeth Warrant (D-NV), Peter Welch (D-VT), and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).

The conference began at 1:45 PM EST with Senator Sanders opening by giving the Democrats’ perspective on the shutdown. Specifically, he began by addressing the government shutdown and claiming that “for the first time in the modern history of our country, the majority party of the Senate.... Is refusing to negotiate.” He went on to say that according to studies from Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania, if the Democrats allow the current Continuing Resolution to pass, over 15 million people would be kicked off their healthcare, and that would result in 50 thousand deaths per year. Senator Sanders also explained why he, and the other Democrats, called the conference: President Trump is refusing to release the 5 billion dollars in Emergency Funding for SNAP. He pointed out that the President is legally obligated to release those funds, and the administration was preparing to do that, yet now they are pulling back.

After Senator Sanders spoke, each of the other Senators took time to reiterate the urgency of the situation, and discussed the government shutdown, the cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, and the SNAP Emergency Fund.