



## North Carolina General Assembly Senate

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### **Senator Chaudhuri Celebrates Senator Grafstein's Press Conference on SNAP Cuts, Echoes Devastating Impacts to North Carolina Communities**

*Lawmakers, experts, non-profit leaders, and advocates urge the General Assembly to act, protect food assistance programs aiding over one million North Carolinians.*

**RALEIGH** – This afternoon, Senator Grafstein spoke at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina alongside Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina CEO, Amy Beros; Carolina Hunger Initiative Project and Communications Director, Tamara Baker; and SNAP beneficiary and proud grandparent, Gregory Jones; bringing attention to the devastating impact of federal SNAP cuts on North Carolinians.

The federal cuts passed by Congress in the “Big Beautiful Bill” and signed into law by President Trump on July 4 “threaten the well-being of more than 1.4 million North Carolinians who rely on this crucial support for themselves and their families,” said Grafstein. She added, “In Wake County alone, over 83,000 people rely on the program for food security, including 37,000 children.” With the General Assembly failing to pass a budget before the June 30 fiscal deadline, programs that support free school meals, promote healthier eating, and expand access to nutritious foods are at risk of disappearing altogether.

“In North Carolina, more than 850,000 students qualify for free school meals because their families participate in SNAP. If those benefits are lost or restricted, families will be forced to navigate complex applications and income verification processes just to access school meals. The result? Children fall through the cracks.” said Tamara Baker from the Carolina Hunger Initiative. North Carolina received almost \$703 million in school breakfast and lunch reimbursements from the federal government according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Gregory Jones, a passionate community advocate and kinship caregiver to five grandchildren, stressed how SNAP has provided his family a lifeline to keep them from making difficult choices. “Without [benefits], the question too often became: *Do we eat tonight, or do we pay the light bill?*” Further expressing his support for SNAP and the dangers of its eradication, he shared, “[SNAP] reduces caregiver

stress, prevents homelessness, and keeps people from having to choose between food and medicine, or between groceries and a working car. If we slash these benefits, we don't just hurt individuals, we trigger a ripple effect that will hit every community in this country." According to the Food Research and Action Center, every \$1 spent on SNAP generates \$1.79 in economic activity.

Senate Democratic Whip Jay Chaudhuri echoed Senator Grafstein's call urging people across North Carolina to call their representatives and share their stories, like that of Gregory Jones. "Working families are already stretched thin. When constituents share how social programs, like SNAP, have made a difference in their lives, it reminds lawmakers that these cuts are not just numbers on a page—they directly affect families, communities, and the future of our children."

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