



Steve Bullock
Governor of Montana
Chair

Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
Vice Chair

Scott D. Pattison
Executive Director and CEO

January 20, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-224
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

We write to congratulate the House of Representatives for passing H.R. 430 to extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program through June 30, 2019 and allow payments to states to resume, and we urge the Senate to pass the bill and send it to the president for signature.

The TANF program’s funding and authorization expired with the start of the partial government shutdown that began on December 22. Impacts of a lack of TANF funding and authorization vary among states. Some states are using previous-year funding to cover costs. At least one state expects to exhaust its funding in early February while others will be able to cover the program for the next several months. States’ abilities to continue covering these costs may change based on caseload and enrollment. Payments to both individuals and families, in addition to support services funded by TANF, are at risk unless funding is restored.

We understand that without further action it is possible the Congressional Budget Office will not include TANF in its baseline calculation expected in March. That means that the program would have to not only be restarted via legislation but also paid for and offset. It is untenable for states to administer effective TANF programs given the current uncertainty.

We are calling on the Senate to pass a TANF extension bill quickly and send it to the president for signature. A short-term extension is challenging for states, and we look forward to working with Congress on a long-term reauthorization in the near future. Thank you, and please contact Annie McColaugh in Governor Brown’s office at



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Annie.McColaugh@oregon.gov, or David Garriepy in Governor Baker's office at David.Garriepy@state.ma.us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Governor Kate Brown, Oregon
Chair
National Governors Association
Health and Human Services Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Baker". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Governor Charlie Baker
Vice Chair
National Governors Association
Health and Human Services Committee