

STEVE COHEN

9TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE
2268 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3265
FAX: (202) 225-5663

ODELL HORTON FEDERAL BUILDING
167 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 369
MEMPHIS, TN 38103

TELEPHONE: (901) 544-4131
FAX: (901) 544-4329

WWW.COHEN.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE
(U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

December 29, 2025

Governor Bill Lee
Tennessee State Capitol, 1st Floor
600 Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37243

I concur with Senate Democratic Caucus Chair London Lamar and urge you to direct the Tennessee Department of Human Services to notify the U.S. Department of Agriculture of its intent to apply to the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer Program for Children (Summer EBT) before the deadline of January 1, 2026.

I wrote to you last year urging you to apply for these benefits. You chose not to, and the state instead ran its own program that cost much more to feed far fewer children. The state program fed 18,000 children and only reached 15 rural counties, while Summer EBT would have fed nearly 700,000 children and reached all 95 counties.

As you know, grocery prices are up tremendously. It is concerning you would turn down nearly \$84 million meant to feed hungry children at a time when affordability should be the first issue on all our agendas.

I urge you to direct the Tennessee Department of Human Services to apply for these important funds. There is no good reason to turn down aid for hungry children.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress