

Oklahoma State Senate

KENNETH CORN
DISTRICT 4

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR



November 9, 2009

Dear Legislative Member:

As we all know by now, Oklahoma's senior nutrition programs are facing catastrophic times. The state's budget shortfall has forced the State Department of Human Services to cut \$7.4 million out of the nutrition programs for fiscal year 2010. That equates to 781,000 fewer meals being served to the state's most needy citizens.

For several weeks now, I and other legislators have been attempting to convince Governor Henry, Senator Coffee and Speaker Bengé and minority leaders, Senator Laster and Representative Morgan that a solution must be found to this harsh reality. Unfortunately, even after hundreds of senior citizens came to the capitol to plead for help last week, no solution or agreement has been reached regarding these cuts.

I know all of you share my deep concern over what is happening to our senior citizens and that is why I am contacting you now. Enclosed you will find a legal petition drafted by Senate staff that will enable the legislature to call itself into an immediate special session to deal with the senior nutrition program cuts and other budget-related items.

Several of your colleagues in both the House and Senate have signed this petition and I have also received pledges from others to sign the petition. I am urging you to immediately sign this petition and return the entire packet to my State Senate office no later than Monday, November 16, 2009. In addition, a petition is available for signature in my legislative office.

Time is critical. Senior citizen nutrition programs are closing all around the state and our constituents are going to bed hungry. We cannot, as leaders of this state, allow this tragedy to continue.

Again, please join me and your other colleagues by signing this petition to call ourselves back into session immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Corn'.

Kenneth Corn
State Senator