

LARRY WALKER III
District 20
1110 Washington Street
Perry, Georgia 31069

421-A State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Tel: (404) 656-0095

Larry.Walker@senate.ga.gov



COMMITTEES:

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Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Secretary
Appropriations, Subcommittee Chairman
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Health and Human Services, Ex-Officio
Retirement, Ex-Officio

The State Senate

The Honorable Raphael Warnock
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Ossoff
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

October 29, 2025

Dear Senators Warnock and Ossoff:

Now more than ever Middle Georgians are feeling the effects of the political games playing out in our Nation's Capitol. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to prioritize an immediate vote to reopen the federal government and end this protracted shutdown, now in its 29th day. The cost of the negotiations over partisan leverage and political posturing is mounting daily, and nowhere is it more acutely felt than in our state, where Georgia families are on the brink of crisis.

This week marks a particularly devastating turning point for thousands of hardworking Georgians who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Due to the ongoing federal funding lapse, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued guidance indicating that EBT cards will cease functioning as early as November 1—leaving an estimated 1.5 million SNAP recipients in Georgia, including over 300,000 children, without access to essential grocery benefits. In my district alone, this affects families who are already stretched thin by rising costs and economic uncertainty. The expiration of these benefits is not a distant threat; it is imminent, and it will exacerbate hunger and food insecurity at a scale we have not seen in years. Georgia's children, seniors, and working poor deserve better than to bear the brunt of Washington's dysfunction.

Compounding this tragedy is the profound impact on our military and civilian workforce at Robins Air Force Base, the largest single-site employer in our state with over 22,000 personnel. The shutdown has furloughed hundreds of essential non-exempt employees in my district, halting critical maintenance, research, and support operations that underpin our national security and local economy. These dedicated public servants—many of whom are veterans and single parents—are now facing delayed paychecks, mounting bills, and the fear of financial ruin.

Robins AFB is not just a federal installation; it is the economic heartbeat of Middle Georgia, supporting tens of thousands of jobs and billions in annual economic activity. Every day the government remains closed, we risk long-term damage to our readiness and our communities' stability.

Senators, like you I took an oath to protect the most vulnerable among us and to honor those who serve our nation. I implore you to set aside partisan divides and lead the charge in the Senate to pass the clean continuing resolution and restore funding and reopen the government without further delay. Your voices carry immense weight in this moment of urgency, and a vote in favor of resolution will directly alleviate the suffering of our fellow Georgians—from the family food pantries across the state to the flight line at Robins AFB.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this pressing matter. I stand ready to support any efforts that bring relief to our state. Together, we can ensure that Georgia's families do not pay the price for inaction in Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Walker". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Larry Walker III
State Senator, District 20