

Matt Felix

From: Gutierrez, Daniel E <Daniel.Gutierrez@bannerhealth.com>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 10:01 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Letter of Concern

You don't often get email from daniel.gutierrez@bannerhealth.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

11/03/2025

Dear Members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors,
My name is Daniel Gutierrez, and I am a family medicine physician resident practicing in Pima County. In my clinic, I have the privilege of caring for many refugee families who have resettled here after fleeing war, persecution, and displacement. Every day, I see how their health and recovery are shaped not only by access to medical care, but also by the social determinants of health especially food security, stable housing, and adequate income.

I am deeply concerned about the impact of H.R. 1 on SNAP eligibility for my refugee patients. Many of these families arrive with little financial stability, limited English proficiency, and face barriers to employment and transportation. Most of my refugee patients work full-time in low-wage jobs and rely on SNAP benefits to provide food for their families. The upcoming termination of SNAP eligibility for refugees will have devastating consequences-forcing families to choose between food, rent, and healthcare.

I urge the Board to take action to protect food security and community health by:

- Providing emergency funding to local food banks and refugee-serving organizations to meet immediate needs.
- Supporting refugee and immigrant service organizations that offer trusted assistance with benefit navigation, legal support, and employment access.

Ensuring stable access to food is essential for health. I ask that you make food security and health equity a priority in upcoming policy and budget decisions.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the wellbeing of all our residents.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gutierrez, DO
Family Medicine Physician Resident

Banner Sensitive Data - External

Matt Felix

From: Laurel Bellante [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 10:05 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support for Protecting Refugee Access to Food Assistance

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

I am writing in strong support of Pima County's efforts to protect refugee families and other vulnerable residents from the harmful effects of H.R. 1 and related reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

For 22 years, **Iskashitaa Refugee Network (IRN)** has worked to strengthen Tucson's food system through hands-on education, community partnerships, and sustainable local food providing initiatives that reduce food loss, food waste, and hunger. Learning from over 57 ethnic groups, Iskashitaa's approach to food security and community integration is both unique and effective. Refugees and resident asylum seekers are not only receiving food – they are actively **harvesting, gleaning, and redistributing** it to others in need through IRN.

Each year, refugees with Iskashitaa glean between **60,000 and 150,000 pounds of backyard fruits and vegetables**, and more than **half is donated** to local food banks, shelters, and tribal partners – reaching far beyond the refugee community. This work embodies the spirit of self-reliance, contribution, and community-building that Pima County stands for.

We recognize that SNAP is meant to be supplemental. However, without this crucial support in their first years of resettlement, refugees struggle to meet their families' basic needs while learning English, developing marketable skills, and finding employment. The loss or reduction of SNAP benefits at this stage could severely hinder their ability to become self-sufficient and integrated members of our community. Barriers to becoming legal permanent residents (green card holders), increased eligibility requirements for SNAP benefits all increase the possibility of evictions of Pima county residents.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to take all possible actions to advocate with DES and state leadership to mitigate the impact of H.R. 1 and protect access to essential food assistance for all Pima County residents – including our newest neighbors.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a compassionate, food-secure Southern Arizona.

Sincerely,

Laurel Bellante (Member, Pima County Food Alliance; Ally of Iskashitaa Refugee Network)

Matt Felix

From: Megan Carney [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 10:15 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: re: emergency funding for food assistance

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Pima County Board of Supervisors
33 N Stone Ave 11 Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701-1207

November 3, 2025

Dear members of the Board of Supervisors, My name is Megan Carney, and I reside in Pima County. I am writing to you today to ask you to support emergency funding for our refugee neighbors in need in Pima County.

On November 1st refugee families will struggle to put food on their tables due to the HR1 SNAP cuts, which removed refugees from eligibility for SNAP- creating a total loss of food assistance for newly arrived refugees.

I write today to ask that Pima County support the positive impact of refugees on our local communities, and invest in programs that will ensure economic stability for our entire community. I urge you to support:

- Emergency funding for community food banks to address immediate needs
- Emergency funding for refugee support programs that deliver trusted guidance, basic needs assistance and accredited legal services: Refugee serving organizations are a trusted source of information, basic needs coordination, and also are DoJ accredited to deliver immigration legal services but require support for rapid scaling and capacity building to meet the moment.
- Pima County to work with AZDES on English language, workforce and volunteer programs and AZDOT on state IDs/driver's license renewal to remove unnecessary barriers and streamline processes.

I care about this issue because of more than two decades of working as an engaged researcher on food insecurity among displaced, migrant, and refugee populations in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world.

The people are core to the success of Arizona's economy and the state thrives when we invest in the residents of our state. Please take action to ensure that refugees are supported as valuable long-term members and contributors of our Pima County community.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Megan Carney
Palo Verde neighborhood

--

Megan A. Carney, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, School of Anthropology
Director, Center for Regional Food Studies
University of Arizona
Pronouns: she/her
www.megan-carney.com

Recent publications:

Carney, M.A., Vannini, S., Genovese, A., Saguto, D., Jammeh, M., Deme, I. and A. Fantin. 2025. "'Il gioco' as collaborative method: Feminist and antiracist musings on the power of play." *Annals of Anthropological Practice* e12230. <https://doi.org/10.1111/napa.12230>

Carney, M.A. 2025. "Fieldwork in transition: Rethinking anxieties, solidarities, and ontologies amid compounding forms of distress." *Feminist Anthropology*
<https://doi.org/10.1002/fea2.70000>

Carney, M.A. 2024. "The Climate-Food-Migration Nexus: Critical Perspectives." *Global Food Security*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2024.100786>

Carney, M.A., Chess, D., and Hammond, D. 2024. "Black-led Community Health Initiatives: Reflections on the Dunbar Wellness Project in Tucson, Arizona." *Practicing Anthropology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08884552.2024.2387593>