

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 26, 2013

The Honorable Mark Pryor  
Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration and  
Related Agencies  
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration and  
Related Agencies  
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member:

As your subcommittee considers the Fiscal Year 2014 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you provide \$202.7 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). This amount is consistent with the President's fiscal year 2014 budget request.

The CSFP provides nutritious food to low-income pregnant and nursing mothers, infants and children, and the elderly. The United States Department of Agriculture purchases this food which is made available to the vast majority of our States, the District of Columbia and 2 Tribal Organizations who distribute it to eligible recipients. Currently, 97% of CSFP recipients are elderly individuals at or below an income of \$14,521. As its name suggests, the CSFP is not intended to provide complete meals, but to provide a supplemental source of food high in nutrients. These foods include canned fruits and vegetables, juices, meats, fish, peanut butter, cheese, cereal and grain products, and dairy products.

In a time of continued economic hardship, it is vitally important that we continue to provide nutritious food to this vulnerable population. In 2012, approximately 590,000 food packages were distributed each month through this program, providing food high in nutrients to mothers, children and the elderly.

We hope that you consider our request to fund this program at \$202.7 million for FY 2014.

Sincerely,

  

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Jeanne Shaker

Jany Beldi

Patrick Leahy

Bert Sanders

Frank R. Lautenberg

Buck Ewing

Robert Menendez  
Sherrod Brown

Chuck Sch

Tom Harkin

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Mark

Jim Johnson

Tom Udare

Al Franken

Jon Tester

Pat Wyden