

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
2407 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member Bishop,


We write to express our strong support for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Specifically, as you begin work on the fiscal year 2018 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to provide sufficient funding to maintain the current caseload, and to provide an opportunity for the two remaining states to start programs subject to USDA approval. Based on currently available program costs, we estimate that the needed appropriation will need to be no less than \$250 million.

As you know, CSFP is a critical nutrition program that delivers U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities primarily to seniors. In this time of continued economic hardship, reliance on nutrition assistance is greater than ever. CSFP is an important component of our nutrition efforts because it reaches many seniors who qualify for no other program while providing delivery for those that are homebound.

In FY 2018 CSFP will provide up to 697,865 food packages each month in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and 2 Indian Tribal Organizations. This year program participants are elderly individuals with an income at or below \$15,444. CSFP food packages are designed to supplement needed sources of nutrients typically lacking in participants' diets, including protein, iron, zinc, and vitamins B-6 and B-12. CSFP providers also have been very cost efficient: the typical food package has a retail value up to \$50 but costs the Federal government approximately \$23 per participant package.

We appreciate your consideration of this important request and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that no American goes hungry.


Sincerely,


Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress


Gwen Moore
Member of Congress


David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress


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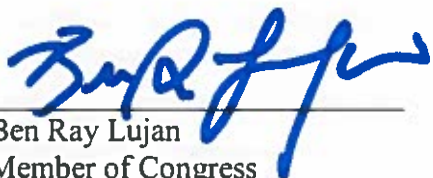

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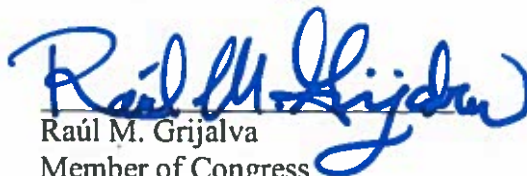
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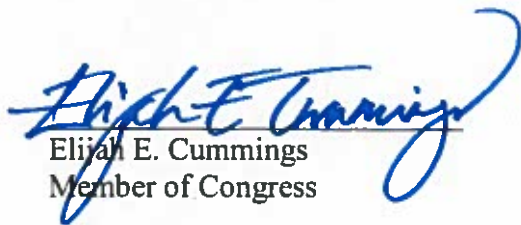
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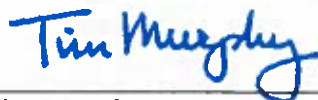
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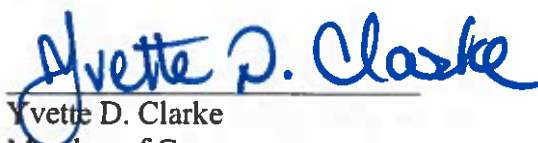
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

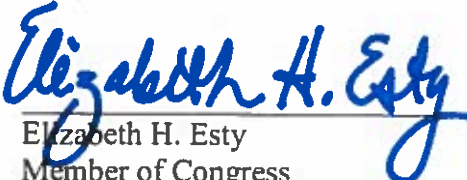


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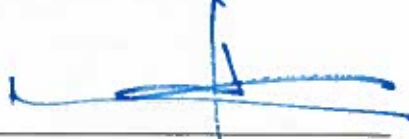

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