

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 15, 2017

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
129 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
125 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hoeven and Ranking Member Merkley:

As your subcommittee considers the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you provide \$250 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which would support current assigned caseload levels. As you know, CSFP is a critical nutrition program that delivers U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities to nearly 700,000 seniors with an income at or below \$15,678.

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. 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 who are homebound in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and two Indian Tribal Organizations.

It is vitally important that we continue to provide nutritious food to this vulnerable population. We thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



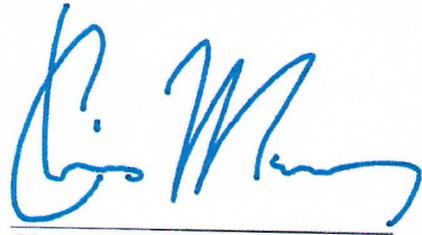
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



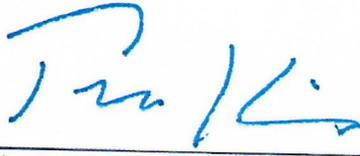
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



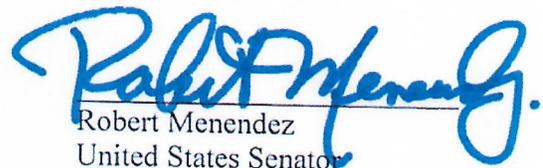
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



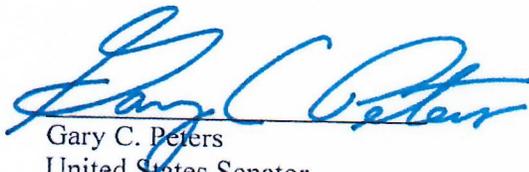
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
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Al Franken
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Tammy Baldwin

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Chris Coons

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Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
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Joe Manchin III

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Chris Van Hollen

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Debbie Stabenow

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United States Senator

Ben Cardin

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator