

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2018

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 preserving the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in the Fiscal Year 2019 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. As you may know, President Trump has proposed to eliminate all funding for the CSFP in his Fiscal Year 2019 budget request. We strongly urge you to reject this proposed elimination and provide sufficient funding to maintain the current caseload, and to provide an opportunity for the one remaining state to start their program subject to U.S. Department of Agriculture (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 may know, CSFP is a critical nutrition program that delivers 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 728,552 food packages each month in 49 states, the District of Columbia, 3 Indian Tribal Organizations, and Puerto Rico. This year program participants are elderly individuals with an income at or below \$15,782. 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 \$20 per participant package.

As you begin the appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2019, we urge you to maintain sufficient funding to this important lifeline that supports many seniors in our communities. We appreciate your consideration of this important request and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that no American goes hungry.

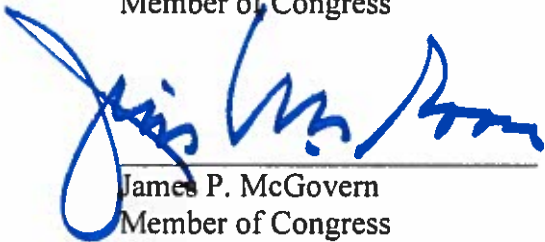
Sincerely,



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty
Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

Alma Adams
Alma Adams
Member of Congress

David Scott
David Scott
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Val B. Demings
Val B. Demings
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Ryan A. Costello
Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress

John Lewis
John Lewis
Member of Congress

Jacky Rosen
Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond
Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa
Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



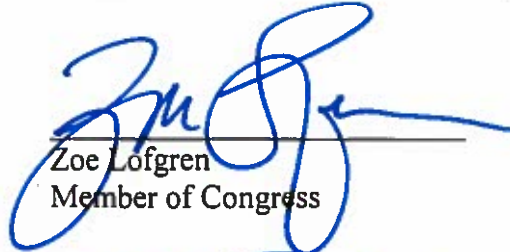
Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Nanette Barragán
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress




Seth Moulton
Member of Congress





Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress


Darren Soto
Member of Congress


Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Anthony Brown
Member of Congress


Mark Takano
Member of Congress


Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress


Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress


Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress


Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

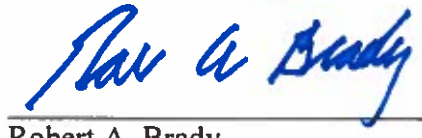

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress


Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

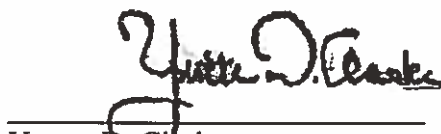

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress


Mike Kelly
Member of Congress


Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress


Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress


Kathy Castor
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

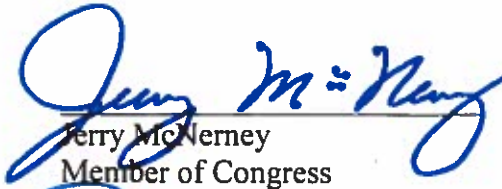
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Tom Marino
Member of Congress

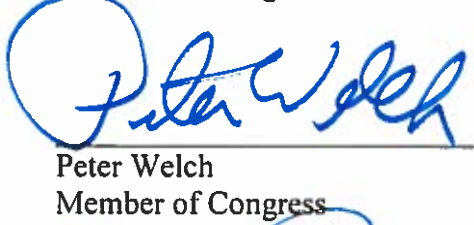
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

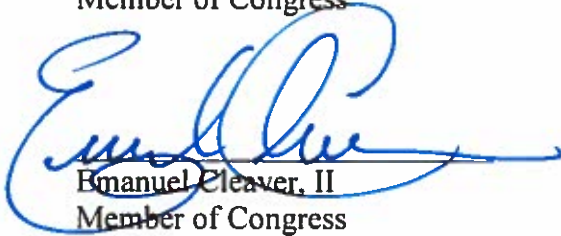
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress


Perry McNerney
Member of Congress

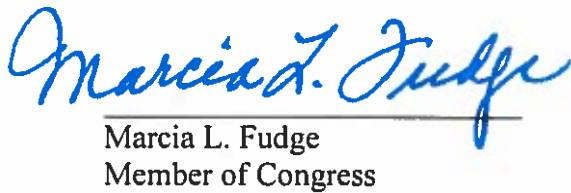

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress

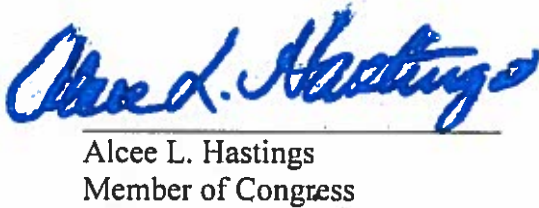

Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress

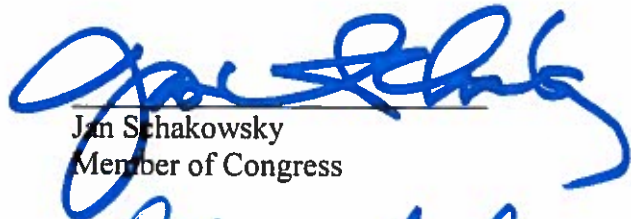

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress


Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

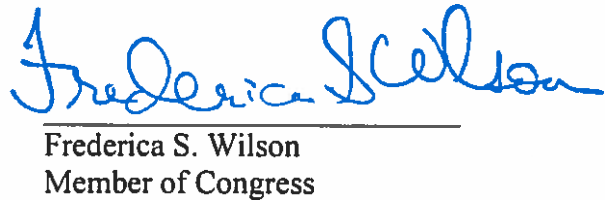

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Adam Schiff
Member of Congress

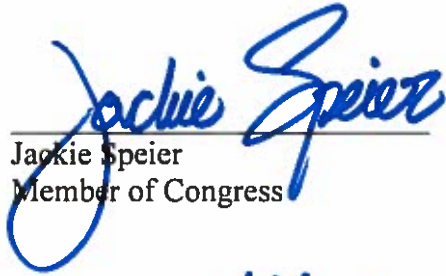

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress


Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress


Ted Deutch
Member of Congress


Dina Titus
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress


Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress


Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress


Gene Green
Member of Congress


Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress


Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress


Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress


Ro Khanna
Member of Congress


Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress


Al Lawson, Jr.
Member of Congress


Brad Sherman
Member of Congress