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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2209

April 1, 2019

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HEMISPHERE, CIVILIAN SECURITY AND
TRADE

The Honorable Sanford Bishop Jr.
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 Jeff Fortenberry
Ranking Member

Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
1514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Fortenberry,

We write to express our strong support for preserving the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 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 2020 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 appropriations will need to be no less than \$238.120 million.

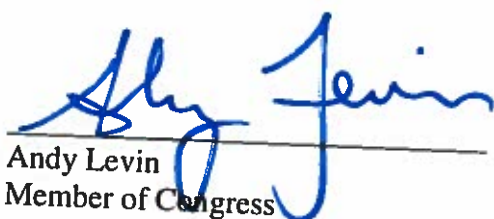
As you may know, CSFP is a critical nutrition program that delivers USDA commodities primarily to seniors. In this time of continued economic hardship, reliance on nutrition assistance is greater than ever. CSFP is an important component of our nutrition efforts because it reaches many seniors who qualify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

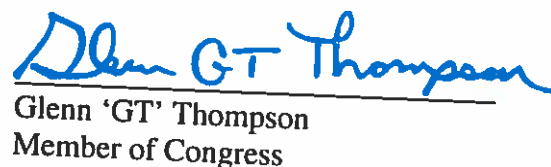
In FY 2019, CSFP will provide up to 736,110 food packages each month in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 5 Indian Tribal Organizations, and Puerto Rico. This year, program

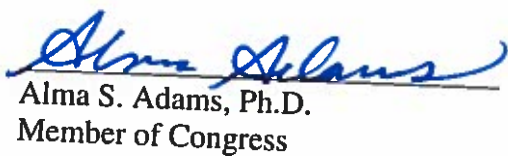
participants are elderly individuals with an income at or below \$16,237. CSFP food packages are designed to supplement needed sources of nutrients typically lacking in participants' diets, including protein, iron, zinc, and vitamins B-6 and B-12. CSFP providers also have been very cost efficient: the typical food package has a retail value up to \$50, but costs the federal government approximately \$23 per participant package.

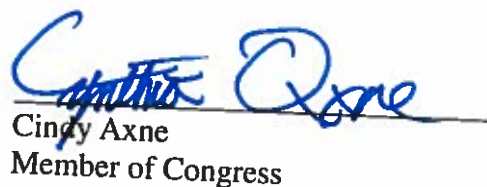
As you begin the appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2020, we urge you to maintain sufficient funding for this important lifeline that supports many seniors in our communities. We appreciate your consideration of this important request and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that no American goes hungry.

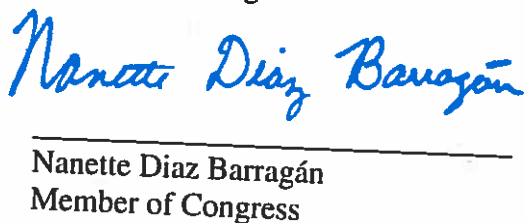
Sincerely,


Andy Levin
Member of Congress


Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress

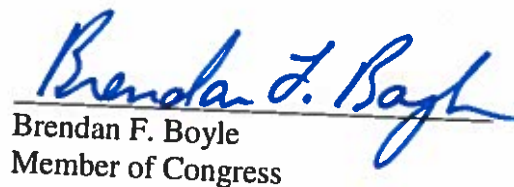

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

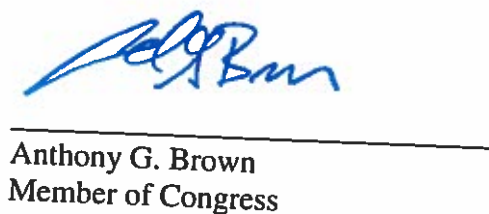

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

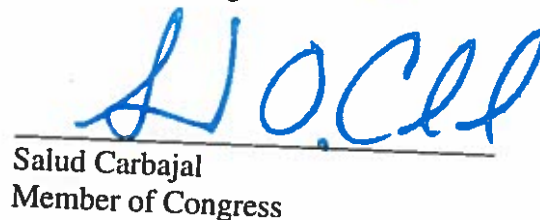

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Suzanne Bonamici
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Anthony G. Brown
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Salud Carbajal
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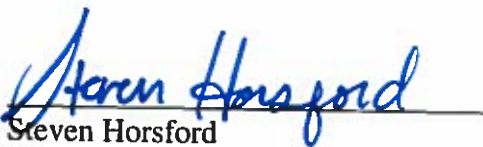

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
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Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

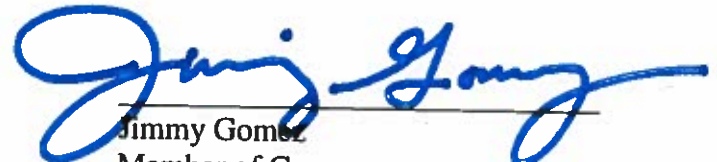

Alcee L. Hastings
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Brian Higgins
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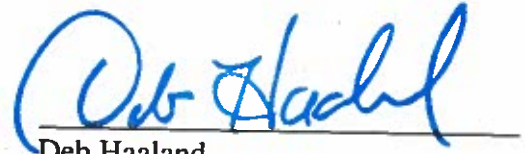

Steven Horsford
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Bill Foster
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Ruben Gallego
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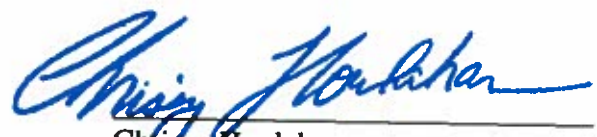

Jimmy Gomez
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Al Green
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Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

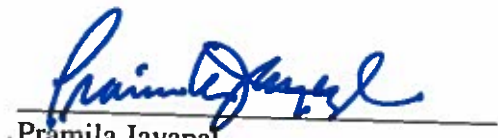

Denny Heck
Member of Congress


Katie Hill
Member of Congress

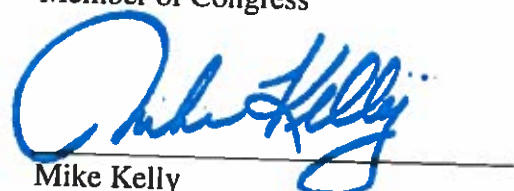

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Gwen Moore
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Max Rose
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Kilili

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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

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Donna E. Shalala

Donna Shalala
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Mikie Sherrill

Mikie Sherrill
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Albio Sires

Albio Sires
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Elissa Slotkin

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

Adam Smith

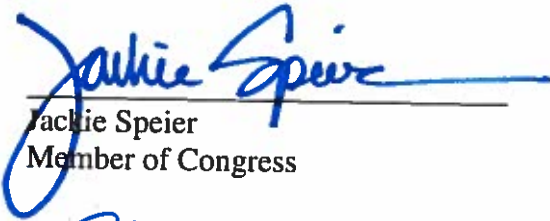
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Darren Soto
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Jackie Speier
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Haley Stevens
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Mark Takano
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Dina Titus
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Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



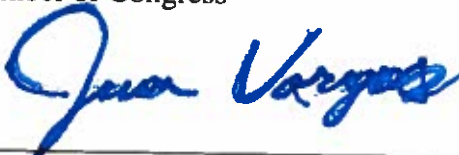
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress



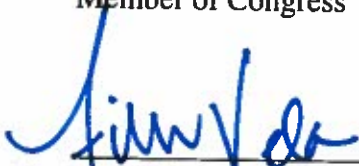
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Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



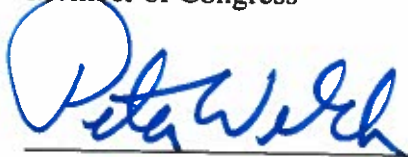
Marc Veasey
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Filemon Vela
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Peter Welch
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John Yarmuth
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