

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Support the Commodity Supplemental Food Program

March 12, 2008

Dear Colleague,

We urge you to join with us in support for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, an important safety-net program that has provided food assistance for thousands of low-income seniors, women, and children operating in 32 states, the District of Columbia, and two Indian reservations. The Administration has again proposed to eliminate this important nutrition program despite strong and continued support from Congress and around the nation. Please join us in preserving and strengthening CSFP in the FY 2009 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

In 2007, CSFP provided nutritious food packages to nearly 500,000 mothers, infants, children and, primarily, low-income seniors across the nation each month. CSFP food packages are designed to supplement needed sources of nutrients typically lacking in recipients' diets, including protein, iron, zinc, and vitamins B-6 and B-12. In FY07, 93 percent of the program's recipients were elderly individuals with an income at or below \$13,273 per year. Many of these seniors are home-bound and CSFP provides an added benefit by offering food box delivery directly to their homes.

CSFP providers also have been very cost efficient: the typical food package costs the government about \$19 per participant a month, with a retail equivalent of approximately \$60, and includes items such as canned tuna fish, peanut butter, cheese, cereal, and canned fruits and vegetables. Important sources of these commodities are crops purchased by the federal government to help relieve US growers in need. Unfortunately for CSFP and many other nutrition programs, rising food costs are dramatically increasing commodity costs, and reducing the number of individuals who can be served by the program.

We hope you will join us in continuing to support this important program. Please contact Oliver Kim with Senator Stabenow's staff (4-4822) or Zane Vaughn with Senator Domenici's staff (4-2463) for more information or to sign. This letter will close March 28.

Sincerely,



DEBBIE STABENOW



PETE V. DOMENICI