

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Support the Commodity Supplemental Food Program

April 2, 2009

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. Please join us in supporting CSFP in the FY10 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

In 2008, CSFP provided, on average, 475,000 food packages each month to mothers, infants, children, and low-income seniors across the nation. 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. Last year, 93 percent of the participants were elderly individuals with an income at or below \$13,270 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 domestic crops purchased by the federal government. Unfortunately for CSFP, and many other nutrition programs, rising food costs have reduced 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 Aaron Whitesel with Senator Lugar's staff (4-4814) for more information or to sign. **This letter will close April 24.**

Sincerely,


DEBBIE STABENOW


RICHARD LUGAR