



# National CSFP Association

Website: [www.csfpcentral.org](http://www.csfpcentral.org)

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## What Others Are Saying About Presidents Bush's Plan to Cut Food Assistance for the Needy, Elderly

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**Barb Petredis, 66, of Hamilton, Ohio:** "You can't live off Social Security when trying to run a house," said Petredis, who is among 1,116 seniors who benefit from CSFP in Butler County, Ohio. "I've heard old people say they eat dog food. It's hard to make it. It gets to be one battle after another."

**U.S. Sen. Norm Coleman (R-Minnesota):** "Eliminating CSFP will leave many of our poor and elderly Americans out in the cold without access to a nutritious food source. ... Will once again defend CSFP during this year's budget debate to make certain this valuable program has the resources to assist the poor and elderly in Minnesota and across America."

**Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director, Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks:** "A couple of weeks ago, the president stressed the shared priority of keeping Americans healthy. Two weeks later, he proposed a spending plan that eliminates the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides necessary food to half a million seniors in the nation."

**U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Connecticut):** On the commodity program's elimination: "I am extremely disappointed that the president has chosen to present to us a budget that is so unrealistic and, frankly, deceptive." DeLauro chairs the House subcommittee that sets funding for the program. The commodity program has been eliminated in the past, only to be resurrected by Congress.

**U.S. Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colorado):** "I am a chief proponent of cutting back (spending). However, I've seen firsthand how (CSFP) benefits local families and does so more efficiently than other programs."

**Father Larry Snyder, President, Catholic Charities USA:** Catholic Charities cited among the "most alarming cuts" in the budget a proposal to eliminate funding for CSFP. "The president's new budget hurts those living in poverty at a time when we should be doing even more to help the most vulnerable among us. America needs to strengthen vital social service programs to help those in need, not weaken those programs. ... The federal budget is a moral document that serves to tell us where we place our priorities. At a time when our nation is experiencing an ever widening gap between those who have resources and those who do not, we are disappointed that the president's proposal does not go far enough to address the basic needs of those live in poverty."

**Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont):** "Unfortunately, the budget presented by President Bush last week once again speaks to the needs and interests of the wealthiest people in this country, and it turns it's back on working people, the middle class, and low income families," Sanders said at a press conference expressing displeasure with the Bush budget, which eliminates CSFP for nearly 4,000 low-income Vermonters.

**Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota):** "I will use my seat on the (Agriculture) nutrition and food assistance subcommittee to fight this ill-conceived proposal."

**LaCrosse (Wis.) Tribune Editorial, Feb. 7, 2007:** “President Bush has announced that he wants to balance the federal budget in five years. But with the increased war spending and tax cuts that he wants to continue, he has decided that the way to balance the budget is by targeting discretionary domestic spending --- which include programs that help the poor and elderly. Examples include ... a program called the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides boxes of nutritional food to low-income elderly people. ... Let’s keep some balance in the budget process--- and consider very carefully the reductions in programs that provide the most basic assistance for poor people--- including children and the elderly.”

**Berry D. Friesen, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center:** “It’s an important niche program for seniors who have trouble getting out.” An estimated 13,000 to 14,000 Pennsylvania residents would lose the meals delivered to their homes as part of a \$108 million cut Bush proposed to food assistance programs.

**Linda Lee, Nutrition Services Manager, La Crosse County Health Department :** CSFP serves the elderly and children --- and it fills a gap between the time children leave WIC at age 5 and when they start school and qualify for school nutrition programs. “You can’t participate in WIC and this program at the same time, so it doesn’t duplicate.”

**Paul Ash, Administrator, San Francisco Food Bank:** Responding to President Bush’s proposed elimination of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program: “Low-income people have found it harder to get food stamps, have found it more difficult to sign up for programs like CSFP, have had fewer commodities available to them.”

**U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio):** “Was any moral litmus test applied to the President’s budget before he let it go out the door? There’s scant evidence of it. The President would not only cut people from food stamps, he would eliminate the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides nutritious food to low income seniors. The President claims that the CSFP duplicates food stamps. Low-income seniors in my state and the caring individuals who advocate for them tell a much different story.”

**Jon Allen, Spokesman, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services:** “The state is at the mercy of the federal government. It’s not an unusual position. The decision will have an impact on the state and individuals who use it.”

**Frank Kubik, President, National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association :** “For many seniors (elimination of CSFP) would be devastating. Many of them are homebound and can’t get out.” The program, which costs about \$108 million annually, distributes monthly food packets to seniors and a limited number of mothers and children.

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## And Some of the Places Where They’re Saying It

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The Associated Press  
Reuters  
Bloomberg News  
National Public Radio  
Denver Post  
San Francisco Examiner  
Detroit News  
The Columbus Dispatch  
Philadelphia Inquirer  
Centre (Pa.) Daily Times  
Harrisburg (Pa.) Patriot-News  
Huffington (N.Y.) Post  
Chippewa (Wis.) Herald, WI  
High Plains (Kan.) Journal  
Hamilton (Ohio) Journal News  
Worcester (Mass.) Telegram

Ann Arbor (Mich.) News  
Bay City (Mich.) Times  
Flint (Mich.) Journal  
Jackson (Mich.) Citizen Patriot  
Kalamazoo (Mich.) Gazette  
Muskegon (Mich.) Chronicle  
Saginaw (Mich.) News  
Grand Haven (Mich.) Tribune  
IndyBay.org  
LaCrosse (Wis.) Tribune  
The (Del.) News Journal  
WCCO-TV4 (CBS) Twin Cities  
KGO-TV7 (ABC) San Francisco  
WOOD-TV8( NBC) Grand Rapids  
WCAX-TV3 (CBS) Burlington

*And many, many more ...*