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December 2017

The Honorable Robert Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

Hunger-Free Pennsylvania along with the Pennsylvania network of CSFP sub-distribution sites -- comprised of food pantries, faith-based organizations, senior high-rises, senior centers, civic organizations – are pleased to endorse The Nourishing our Golden Years Act. This legislation would establish a statutory minimum certification period for Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) participants. In addition to a minimum certification period, the legislation would provide states with the flexibility to extend the certification period beyond the minimum requirement so long as the administering agency meets certain statutory requirements.

The CSFP works to improve the health of low-income adults age 60 and up by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. In 2018 CSFP will serve nearly 700,000 low-income adults, providing monthly boxes of shelf-stable, nutrient rich foods. CSFP recipients rely on the program to supplement their diets and to provide crucial nutrition. Eligible older adults are certified to receive CSFP for either 6 or 12-month periods depending on their state's administering agency.

States, administering agencies, as well as seniors often find the CSFP certification period too short and the recertification process burdensome. Older Americans who qualify for CSFP are generally on a fixed income with little to no change in their income on a yearly basis. Additionally, the burden of recertification is a barrier to receiving nutrition assistance and eligible older adults can be removed from the program if they are unable to recertify their eligibility in time. The Nourishing our Golden Years Act would address this issue while increasing state flexibility and decreasing administrative burden.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Hunger-Free Pennsylvania comprises a network of food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, charities and other hunger relief organizations working together to end hunger in Pennsylvania. The network has 21 members serving all 67 counties. Learn more about **Hunger-Free Pennsylvania** online at <http://www.hungerfreepa.org>, or visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/HungerFreePA>.