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

April 1, 2019

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LABOR
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WESTERN
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.

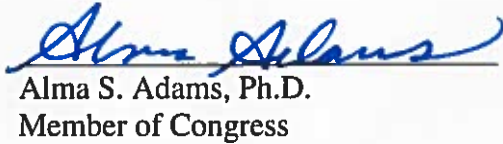
Sincerely,



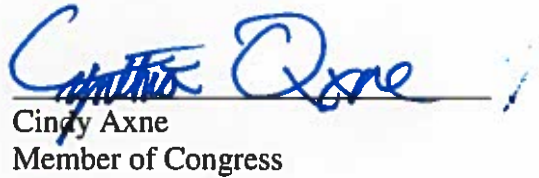
Andy Levin
Member of Congress



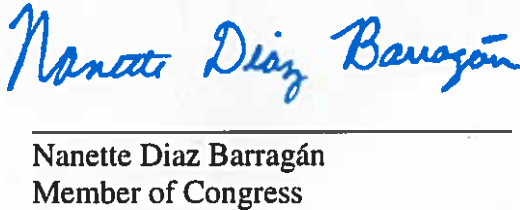
Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



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



Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



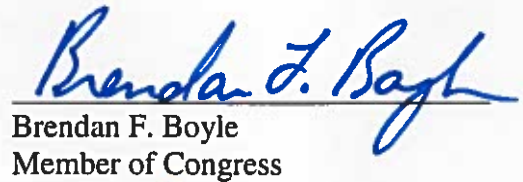
Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Mike Doyle
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Dwight Evans

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Abby Finkenauer

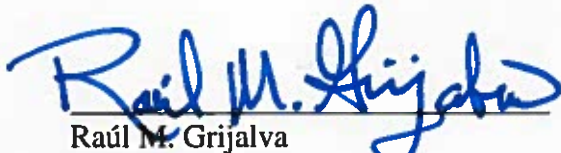
Abby Finkenauer
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Brian Fitzpatrick
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Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

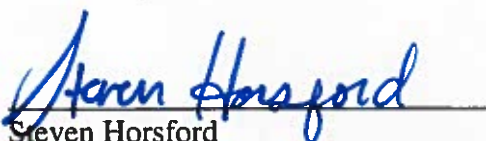

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
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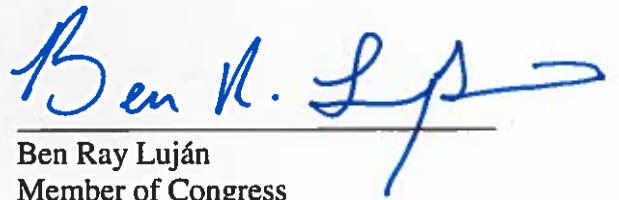

John Lewis
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Dave Loebsack
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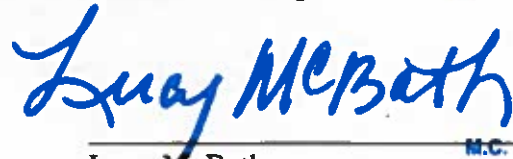
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



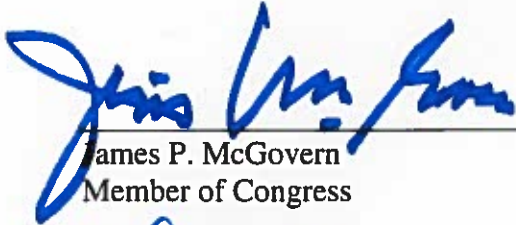
Ben Ray Luján
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Stephen Lynch
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Lucy McBath M.C.
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James P. McGovern
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Jerry McNerney
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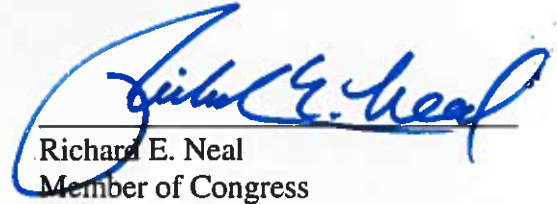
Gwen Moore
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Seth Moulton
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Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
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Richard E. Neal
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Tom O'Halleran
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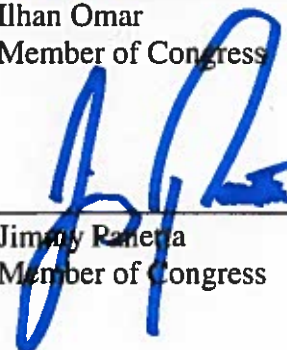
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Lucille Roybal-Allard

Lucille Roybal-Allard
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Raul Ruiz

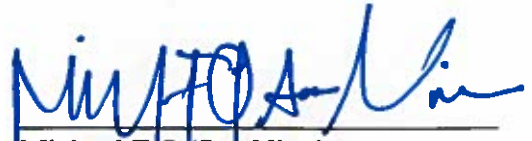
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



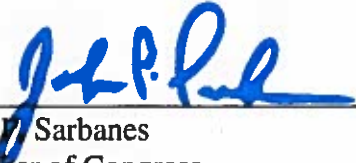
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



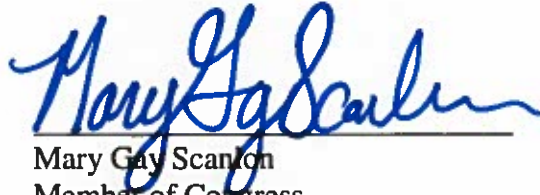
Michael F.Q. San-Nicolas
Member of Congress



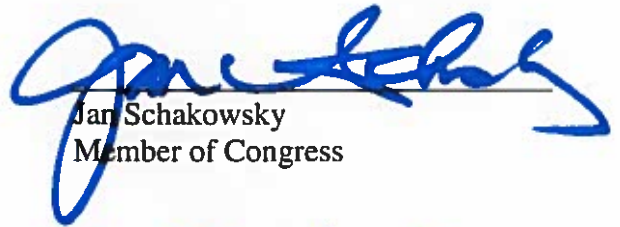
Linda T. Sánchez
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John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



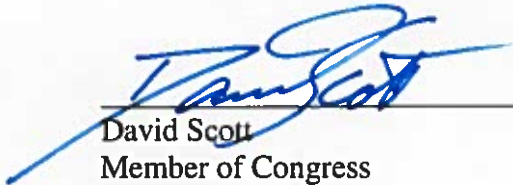
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Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Donna Shalala
Member of Congress



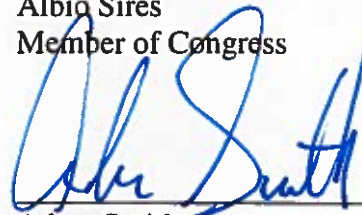
Mikie Sherrill
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Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
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Adam Smith
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Darren Soto
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Abigail D. Spanberger
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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



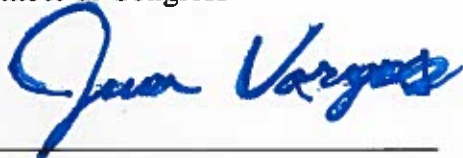
Lori Trahan
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David Trone
Member of Congress



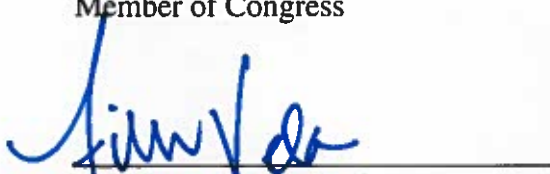
Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



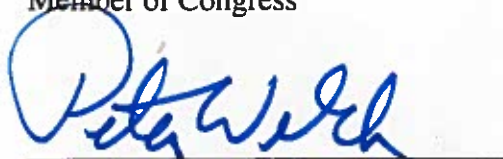
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



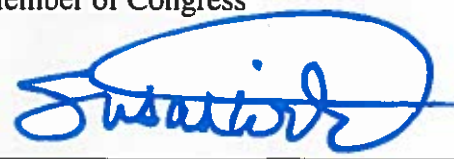
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress