

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting Americans across our country, especially vulnerable populations like seniors and low-income families. It has come to our attention that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania submitted waivers for distributing federal commodities, which includes the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). We respectfully request that you quickly approve the commonwealth's waiver requests so our constituents can continue to participate in the nutritional food programs essential to their health and wellbeing.

If granted, Pennsylvania's CSFP waiver request will allow volunteers to continue to deliver food packages to seniors and other program recipients without requiring signatures. Additionally, if the department grants the Pennsylvania Application for Disaster Household Distribution Program, it will temporarily remove the cumbersome TEFAP declaration and questionnaire requirements to allow low-income families to receive this critical food program. This will ensure both volunteers and recipients are able to adhere to federal and state guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID-19, including social distancing, avoiding non-essential travel, and adhering to critical hygiene practices.

In Pennsylvania, CSFP serves roughly 36,200 seniors across 67 counties. Of those individuals, 15 percent are veterans and over 50 percent are seniors with an income below \$800 a month. It is essential that these vulnerable Americans can continue to receive much needed nutrition assistance without making themselves susceptible to COVID-19.

Again, we request that you expeditiously approve Pennsylvania's commodity distribution waiver requests. Thank you for leadership during this crisis and your work on behalf of all Americans.

Very Respectfully,



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Dan Meuser
Member of Congress

Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Conor Lamb
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Glenn "G.T." Thompson
Member of Congress