

As a constituent who cares about our many neighbors struggling to feed themselves and their families, I urge you to do all you can to make certain that Pennsylvania's anti-hunger programs receive adequate funding in the state budget. Specifically, I urge you to give your strong support to the following budget items:

- **\$22 million for State Food Purchase Program (SFPP)** to help the private charitable food assistance network provide nutritionally balanced food packages to low-income families, children and seniors in all 67 counties.
- **\$3 million for Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)** to provide vouchers for fresh, locally-grown fruits and vegetables to low-income seniors and WIC families. Over 900 Pennsylvania farmers and 175,000 seniors participate in this program.
- **\$750 thousand for Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS)** to provide 2,640,000 lbs. (880,000 / 3 lb. bags) of Pennsylvania-grown apples to food banks across the Commonwealth for distribution to our neighbors in need.
- **\$19 million for Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP)** to provide tax credit incentives for food donations by Pennsylvania businesses subject to certain corporate taxes. The value of food donated under NAP in FY 07 was \$6.48 million.
- **\$6 million for Prescription for PA-School Food Services** to provide supplemental reimbursements to schools following the PA Department of Education's nutritional standards for food and beverage products.

The need for additional funding is clear-- hunger and food insecurity have increased to the point where 1.2 million Pennsylvanians do not have access to adequate food. Additionally, demand on food pantries has risen, food prices have gone up significantly, federal commodities distributed to food banks have sharply declined and food industry changes have reduced food donations. These state anti-hunger programs are crucial in the effort to end hunger. Please give them the priority that they deserve and let your colleagues and caucus leaders know of your support for these budget items. Thank you.

Sincerely,