



Keyport Ministerium Food Pantry, Inc.
P.O. Box 35
Keyport, New Jersey 07735
(732) 888-1986
www.keyportfoodpantry.org



Serving the Northern Bayshore area of Monmouth County
Hours of Operation: Tuesdays and Thursdays - 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Isaiah G. Cooper
Executive Director

Marjorie Conway
Associate Director

María Connors
Registrar

Farm Bill Action Needed

Please visit www.hungeractioncenter.org

This site enables visitors to quickly reach out to their legislators to share their views on the challenges faced by more than 35 million Americans experiencing hunger or food insecurity.

The website has a letter that can be e-mailed directly to Senators Lautenberg & Menendez. A copy of the letter is being provided below in the event that you want to edit, print or make available to others. If the letters are going to be mailed please make sure the name & address of the sender is on the letter.

We thank you in advance for your support – KMFP

[Lautenberg, Frank R.](#)- (D - NJ)
324 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-3224
Web Form: lautenberg.senate.gov/contact/

[Menendez, Robert](#)- (D - NJ)
317 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-4744

Dear Senator:

I am writing to respectfully request your continued leadership related to the 2007 Farm Bill reauthorization. As you know, the House bill (H.R. 2419, H. Rept. 110-256) provides \$4.3 billion over five years in new mandatory spending for the nutrition title (Title IV). The House made positive strides and improvements to the nation's food assistance safety net, and we encourage the Senate to enact a Farm Bill this year that includes at least as much funding for the nutrition title as was included in the House bill.

Food banks are having a difficult time meeting the needs of growing numbers of hungry families – many of them working -- and many of the elderly who come to them for help. Funding to buy commodities for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) has remained frozen since 2002. Moreover, between FY 2004 and FY 2006, the amount of bonus commodity donations to TEFAP declined by \$166 million (or 71%). Despite declining food resources, the demand for food assistance remains strong. Further, with only about 65 percent of eligible people participating in the Food Stamp Program due to challenges in accessing benefits, overly stringent asset tests, and inadequate benefits, more must be done to strengthen and enhance this critical safety net program. Finally, with many frail seniors in need of healthy food, it is essential that the Senate reauthorize the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

Simply stated, your support is essential for a strong Farm Bill nutrition title that:

1. Provides \$250 million for TEFAP indexed annually for inflation;
2. Increases the standard deduction, eliminates outdated asset tests and increases the minimum benefit amount provided in the Food Stamp Program;
3. Reauthorizes and strengthens the CSFP, and provides \$5 million annually in new mandatory funding for a CSFP senior pilot in 2-3 states (Please support starting this program in New Jersey!); and
4. Provides \$10 million annually in mandatory funding for food bank infrastructure and transportation grants to help quickly move perishable produce and protein products.

The priorities I have identified above are of substantial importance to the food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, Kids Cafés, adult day care and senior centers that work so hard in our state to ensure that every American who needs food in a country of such abundance as ours is able to secure it. The enactment of anything less will make it increasingly difficult for food banks to provide every hungry family, child and senior in desperate need of food assistance with the wholesome, healthy food they need.

I am deeply grateful for your leadership on behalf of low-income families in our state and for sound food and nutrition policies. Hungry working families, seniors, and children in your state and the charitable food assistance providers in your district that strive to serve them adequately, will all be deeply hurt by further delay in the passage of a new Farm Bill with sufficient resources. For this reason, I respectfully urge you to reach out to Chairman Harkin and your colleagues on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee with your support for the enactment of a Farm Bill with a strong nutrition title with sufficient funding for nutrition-assistance programs, like TEFAP, this year.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request. I look forward to hearing from you on this important issue.

Sincerely,
