

JOHN J. BONACIC
SENATOR, 42ND DISTRICT

CHAIR
COMMITTEES ON
JUDICIARY

RACING, GAMING & WAGERING

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE LEADER
FOR STATE/FEDERAL RELATIONS



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

COMMITTEES
ALCOHOLISM
BANKS
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CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM,
PARKS & RECREATION
FINANCE
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
RULES

February 9, 2016

Hon. John Flanagan
Majority Leader
330 CAP
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Majority Leader Flanagan:

On behalf of the undersigned members of the New York State Senate, we are requesting an additional \$16.5 million to support the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP). HPNAP is an essential source of funding for thousands of emergency food providers across New York State.

Through lines of credit at food banks and the United Way, HPNAP enables local emergency food providers – soup kitchens, food pantries and shelters - to distribute millions of pounds of nutritionally balanced food to New Yorkers in need. According to the New York State Department of Health, last year HPNAP funding provided more than 225 million meals to New Yorkers in need. Unfortunately, funding levels have not kept pace with rising need in our state.

New York State currently faces a Meal Gap of approximately 485 million meals – that is, New York State residents who experience food insecurity fall short of an adequate diet by 485 million meals in a single year – more than the state's entire emergency food system provides. Increasing funding to HPNAP by \$16.5 million, for a total of \$51 million, will allow the state to significantly reduce that Meal Gap.

The \$16.5 million ask was calculated by factoring in the increase of New York State residents in poverty, rising food costs, and the shortfall of pantry bags to meet the State's nine meal standard (on average, a pantry bag provides just under six meals).

HPNAP was created in 1984, when an emerging hunger crisis spurred then-Governor Mario Cuomo and the State legislature to action. Through their leadership, New York State became one of the first states in the nation to provide direct support to local hunger relief efforts. Since then, HPNAP has become of the most successful anti-poverty and nutrition programs in the state.

We ask that you put an additional \$16.5 million into the State Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget to support rising need for HPNAP. Hunger is felt in all corners of our great state - from Suffolk County to the Bronx to Auburn to Rochester to Plattsburgh. By coming together, we can work to reduce this problem and help New Yorkers in need. We should never let any American go hungry!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Bonacic".

Senator John J. Bonacic

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patty Ritchie".

Senator Patty Ritchie



Bill Perkins

Senator Bill Perkins

Gustavo Rivera

Senator Gustavo Rivera

Jack Martins

Senator Jack Martins

Kathleen A. Marchione

Senator Kathleen Marchione

Terrence P. Murphy

Senator Terrence Murphy

George Latimer

Senator George Latimer

Sue Serino

Senator Sue Serino

Brad Hoylman

Senator Brad Hoylman

Tony Avella

Senator Tony Avella

Leroy Comrie

Senator Leroy Comrie

Roxanne Persaud

Senator Roxanne Persaud

Neil D. Breslin

Senator Neil D. Breslin



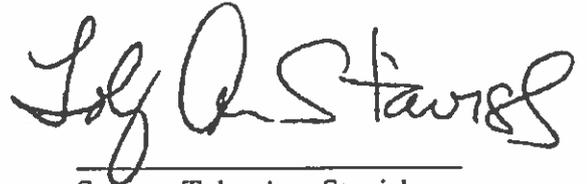
Senator Patrick Gallivan



Senator Jose Peralta



Senator Adriano Espaillat



Senator Toby Ann Stavisky



Senator Phil Boyle



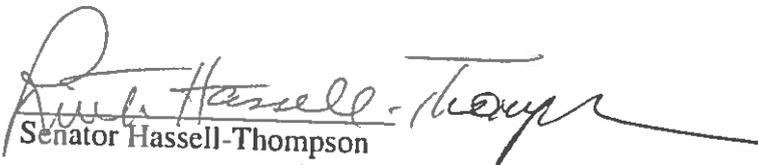
Senator Elizabeth Little



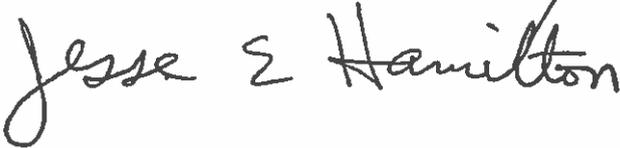
Senator William J. Larkin



Senator Kemp Hannon



Senator Hassell-Thompson



Senator Jesse Hamilton



Senator Thomas D. Croci



Senator David Carlucci