



# Advocacy Alert

October 5, 2011

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## **ACTION NEEDED** **Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction**

Right now, a special Congressional “Super Committee” is debating a deal on the federal budget and reducing the deficit. Programs that help struggling Americans are at risk of cuts. With thousands of Alaskans facing hunger, it is critical that the Alaska delegation hear from you about protecting anti-hunger programs and policies. Members of Congress have until Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> to provide recommendations and proposals to the Super Committee about where to find savings. Sending a message to our representatives in Washington DC this week can help influence the process and protect programs that feed the hungry and support food banks.

### **What’s at Risk?**

- Proposals could cut essential nutrition programs that low-income Alaskans rely on to get by – SNAP/Food Stamps, CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program), TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) and WIC.
- Last week the Farm Bureau issued recommendations that would make \$10 billion in cuts to nutrition programs. We must make it clear to our elected leaders that our nation cannot afford cuts to nutrition assistance programs.
- There is a recommendation to place a cap on charitable tax deductions, which would critically impact sources of support that our organizations depend on to operate and provide services to vulnerable Alaskans.
- Other basic safety net programs could be cut, including Medicaid, Medicare, unemployment insurance, housing and heating assistance, and Head Start. As thousands of Alaskans struggle to make ends meet the need for food assistance in our communities is already incredibly high and continues to increase. Cuts in these safety net programs will place more pressure on families as they made the difficult choices of paying for housing, utilities, medicine or food.
- Even with the generous donations and nutrition assistance programs at their current levels, the anti-hunger network in Alaska is stretched to capacity and not able to meet the need of our neighbors who are struggling to get by. If there are cuts in programs or capping charitable contributions we will not be able to meet the added demands or make up the difference.

## **Actions Needed**

Contact all members of the Alaska delegation this week, by phone, fax, or email. Tell them that you are a constituent and where you're from. Tell them that you're concerned about your neighbors across Alaska that struggle to make ends meet, and deliver a simple message:

- I support my local food banks and pantries and know they will have difficulty serving our communities if safety net programs are cut or the charitable deduction tax credit is capped.
- Please urge your colleagues on the Super Committee to protect all nutrition programs like SNAP/Food Stamps, CSFP, TEFAP, WIC, and the charitable deduction tax credit during the deficit negotiations.

## **Contact Information**

- Senator Lisa Murkowski - 202- 224-6665 (phone); 202- 224-5301 (fax)  
<http://murkowski.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=EMailLisa>
- Senator Mark Begich - 202-224-3004 (phone); 202-224-2354 (fax)  
<http://begich.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact?p=EmailSenator>
- Congressman Don Young - 202- 225-5765 (phone); 202- 225-0425 (fax)  
<https://donyoung.house.gov/Contact/default.aspx> (go to the bottom of the webpage to send an email)

## **Manage your Subscription**

Spread the word and help us fight hunger in Alaska!

- Please forward this alert to one person and encourage him/her to subscribe by e-mailing [rstilwell@foodbankofalaska.org](mailto:rstilwell@foodbankofalaska.org).
- To remove your name from the list, e-mail [rstilwell@foodbankofalaska.org](mailto:rstilwell@foodbankofalaska.org) and put "remove" in the subject field.

Thank you for your time and voice! I welcome your ideas, questions, comments and stories.

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