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Governor Bill Walker  
STATE OF ALASKA

March 13, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dan Sullivan  
United States Senate  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Don Young  
United States House of Representatives  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Congressman Young:

I am committed to ensuring a strong and effective national nutrition safety net for vulnerable, low-income individuals and families in our state.

As you know, in Alaska 1 in 7 individuals face food insecurity, and 20 percent of our children are living in households that struggle to put food on the table. This problem would be far, far worse if not for the nation's successful and cost-effective anti-hunger programs. Together, these federal nutrition programs reduce hunger and poverty, improve health and learning, increase productivity, create jobs, and invest in the future of our communities. These programs help Alaskans including seniors, children, people with disabilities, veterans, military families, and low-paid and underemployed adults.

In particular, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as our nation's first line of defense against hunger, has the broadest reach. In Alaska, SNAP provides critical benefits to 82,000 individuals, many of whom are children. It is structured to respond effectively to need as a result of economic downturns, natural disasters, and other causes. As a Governor tasked with administering SNAP for thousands of families in Alaska, it is imperative that this federal nutrition safety net remains strong in times of need for hungry Alaskans. Any efforts to weaken the reach of this program would result in harm to our most vulnerable.

I stand ready to work alongside you and others in Congress in an effort to protect these programs from block grants and structural changes and defend them from budget cuts. It is critically important that we take these actions at a time when our state is experiencing economic uncertainty; these programs need to be available and accessible to Alaskan families in times of need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker  
Governor