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ANGELO SANTABARBARA  
Assemblyman 111<sup>th</sup> District

January 20, 2024

Governor Kathy Hochul  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Subject: Urgent Call for Increased Funding in the New York State Budget to Combat Hunger

Dear Governor Hochul,

I trust this letter finds you well. I write to bring your attention to a pressing issue that requires our immediate collective action – the escalating crisis of food insecurity in New York State.

Recently, I collaborated with The Alliance for a Hunger-Free New York to host a crucial press conference at the New York State Capitol, emphasizing the urgent need for increased funding in this year's budget to address food insecurity.

Key points of our advocacy for this year's state budget are as follows:

1. **HPNAP Funding:** An increase in funding for the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) to \$75 million. This program plays a vital role in supporting an extensive network of food pantries and emergency food relief organizations.
2. **Nourish NY:** An allocation of \$75 million to Nourish NY, a program redirecting surplus agricultural products to those in need through the state's food bank network.
3. **Direct Contracts:** Providing all emergency food relief programs with the opportunity for direct contracts will ensure a more streamlined and efficient distribution process.

Given the alarming rise in food insecurity from 1 in 10 adults in 2022 to 1 in 4 adults in New York State as of early January 2024, representing a 108% increase, it is evident that immediate action is imperative.

I urge you to consider and support these essential initiatives in the upcoming budget, ensuring that our state takes significant steps to alleviate the hunger crisis. Your leadership in prioritizing these matters will undoubtedly have a positive and lasting impact on the lives of many New Yorkers.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to witnessing the positive changes that can be achieved through your continued dedication to the well-being of our state's residents.

Sincerely,

Angelo Santabarbara  
Member of the NYS Assembly  
111th District | Representing areas of Montgomery and Schenectady Counties