



## THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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February 13, 2020

Bonnie Brathwaite  
SNAP Regional Division Director  
USDA/FNS Northeast Regional Office  
10 Causeway Street, Room 501  
Boston, MA 02222

Dear Director Brathwaite:

I am officially extending my support of the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) January 16, 2020 request for a one-year waiver to exempt our territory from Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended. This federal regulation provides that no Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWDs) shall be eligible to participate in the SNAP as a member of any household, if the individual received program benefits for more than 3 months during any 3-year period in which the individual was subject to but did not comply with the ABAWD work requirement.

As our territory continues to recover from the two Category 5 Hurricanes in September of 2017, our unemployment rate continues to be higher than the national average, it is important for us to receive approval of this ABAWD waiver request. Our residents who meet the ABAWD criteria will benefit from the ability to apply and be determined eligible and be able to receive SNAP benefits beyond the 3-month maximum in a three-year period. I thank you for the ongoing support of the Food and Nutrition Services/SNAP's support of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert Bryan, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Albert Bryan, Jr.  
Governor

XC: Kimberley Causey-Gomez- Commissioner DHS  
Karl Knight- Chief of Staff/Office of the Governor  
Julia Sheen – Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor for Health and Human Services