

March 12, 2025

Representative Nolan West  
Chair of the Committee on Children and Families Finance and Policy

Re: HF 777— Coulter: Food shelf program funding provided, and money appropriated.  
Re: HF 841— Myers: Food shelf programs funding provided, and money appropriated.  
Re: HF 1112— Hemmingsen-Jaeger: Regional food bank grants created, and money appropriated.  
Re: HF 1098— Sencer-Mura: Food shelf facilities infrastructure funding provided, and money appropriated.

Dear Chair West and Committee Members,

The City of Minneapolis appreciates the opportunity to comment in support of HF 777, HF 841, HF 1112, and HF 1098.

These bills would either fund or establish important programs related to food security, such as supporting food shelf programs and regional food banks and improving and expanding the infrastructure of food shelf facilities.

Food insecurity is a pressing issue that affects many residents in the City of Minneapolis. This makes it difficult for them to access affordable, nutritious meals. Food assistance efforts such as this serve as critical lifelines for individuals and families in need. Investments in these programs are not just a commitment to fighting hunger; they are a commitment to fostering a healthier community.

Homegrown Minneapolis is the City's initiative to help increase residents' access to healthy food. The programs funded by these bills would help support multiple strategies under the Healthy Food Skills and Healthy Food Access priority of the Minneapolis Food Vision (MFV), adopted by City Council and the Mayor in 2023 (emphasis added):

- MFV strategy 4.1: **Improve accessibility to and availability of nutritious, culturally relevant, locally, and sustainably grown foods at places such as** schools and universities, hospitals, care facilities, childcare providers, correctional facilities, **hunger relief programs**, worksites, and any places where food is sold.
- MFV strategy 4.2: **Offer opportunities for all ages to gain skills to learn about healthy eating, culturally relevant foods, and the health-promoting benefits of food, as well as growing and preparing these foods**, strongly emphasizing children and youth
- MFV strategy 4.3: **Improve accessibility and affordability of nutritious, locally grown, and culturally relevant foods**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Heidi Ritchie  
Deputy Commissioner of Health  
City of Minneapolis