



## Statement in Support of HF 3933, Hunger Free Campus Law

March 7, 2022

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Hunger knows no boundaries, it affects everyone regardless of which school they attend whether that is a two-year institution, a public university, or a private college or university.

In 2019, LeadMN pushed for the adoption of the Hunger-Free Campus Act to address food insecurity for college students in the state of Minnesota. The bill was passed and signed into law, establishing a framework for two-year colleges and technical schools to be designated as a Hunger-Free Campus. This past year the program was expanded to include public colleges and universities as well as tribal colleges. Although the law has not yet reached its full potential, it can do so by expanding the program to include the private non-profit colleges and universities to be eligible for the grant funding and reach as many students as possible. With the expansion of the law to include the private non-profit colleges in the state as eligible to apply for matching grants to establish food pantries, the law will truly work towards eradicating hunger on all college campuses in the state of Minnesota.

As the number of eligible colleges and universities for the grant monies grow, we also call upon the legislature to increase the funding for the program. This can be done initially by utilizing funds from the \$9.5 billion dollar surplus the state possesses this year. However, action must be taken to ensure that the funding continues long-term regardless of a budget surplus. Specifically, we call for an increase from the current funding level of \$205,000 in the first year of the program, and \$102,000 in the second year of the biennium to ensure that the program is properly funded.

By working to eradicate hunger on college campuses, students can succeed and focus on their education instead of worrying where their next meal will come from, an issue that has only grown during the COVID-19 pandemic. We ask you to expand the Hunger-Free Campus grants to include private non-profit colleges and universities and increase the grant money pool to offset the influx in applicants.

We ask you to take action upon this letter of support from all facets of the Minnesota Higher Education Institutions.

Sincerely,



**Jonathon Krull**

Chair, Minnesota Association of Private College Students  
Vice-Chair, Student Advisory Council of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education



**Dylan Monahan**

Legislative Chair of the Minnesota Association of Private College Students



**Axel Kylander**

Chair, Student Advisory Council of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education  
President, LeadMN



**Emma Zellmer**

State Chair, Students United