



March 18, 2022

Dear Chair Sundin and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hunger Solutions Minnesota, we are writing in support of HF 4120.

This increase in funding for the MDA Farm to School grants would help meet the growing demand for the program, and it would expand eligibility to include early care providers, making fresh healthy foods available to young children as they develop their taste preferences and eating habits. Kids who participate in Farm to School eat more servings of a greater variety of fruits and vegetables and establish healthy eating habits that can carry forward for the rest of their lives, improving health outcomes and reducing diet-related disease.

We know that 4 out of 10 Minnesota children qualify for free and reduced school meals based on their family's income and depend on the meals they receive at school as a major source of their daily nutritional intake. Programs like MDA Farm to School grants incentivize schools to serve healthy, local foods in the meals our most vulnerable children depend on.

We urge your support of HF 4120.

Sincerely,

Colleen Moriarty, Director, Hunger Solutions Minnesota