



April 3, 2025

Members of the State Government Finance and Policy Committee,

The Nourish MN Coalition is pleased to offer our collective support for **HF1685 / SF2093, which proposes to include the Transit Assistance Program (TAP) in the Minnesota Benefits Portal to simplify the process of receiving a TAP card.**

The Nourish MN Coalition is composed of Minnesota nonprofits and community partners who engage in a cross-sector approach to uplift commonsense ideas that reduce poverty, end hunger, increase mobility, and make housing, healthcare, and childcare affordable and accessible for all Minnesotans.

Many already eligible Minnesotans are missing out on TAP benefits due to accessibility barriers. **TAP effectively cuts transportation costs in half for Minnesotans who qualify for public assistance programs**, like Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). **However, 2021 data suggest only around 1% of the hundreds of thousands of potentially eligible Minnesotans are enrolled¹.** **HF1685 / SF2093** would reduce barriers to TAP enrollment, like lack of time, by adding the TAP application to the Minnesota Benefits Portal, ensuring public transit affordability for more Minnesotans.

The Nourish MN Coalition envisions a Minnesota where everyone has the resources they need to thrive, and where everyone's basic needs are met. This legislation would move us closer to that goal, and it would make a meaningful impact on the people we serve. For that reason, we urge the Committee's support.

Sincerely,

Nourish MN Coalition

¹ H. Jiahong Pan, "Metro Transit has an excellent low income, reduced fare program, but people aren't using it," last modified September 22, 2021, <https://minnesotareformer.com/2021/09/22/metro-transit-has-an-excellent-low-income-reduced-fare-program-but-people-arent-using-it/>