



May 4, 2021

Health and Human Services Conference Committee
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Conference Committee Members,

We are writing to urge you to adopt the House language that includes increasing the gross income threshold on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) from 165% to 200% of federal poverty, in the final Conference Committee Report.

SNAP is the largest federal nutrition assistance program and the first line of defense against hunger. SNAP supplements low-income family food budgets so they can purchase food that meets their needs. For every meal provided by food banks and food shelves, SNAP provides 9, making it by far the most efficient solution.

Hunger has reached unprecedented levels, including approximately 1 in 5 Minnesotans experiencing food insecurity and nearly double that rate for communities of color. In tough times, Minnesotans take pride in taking care of one another. In 2020, food shelves across Minnesota served a record level of over 3.8 million visits. History tells us that those hit hardest by the current economic downturn will be the last to recover, and we must continue to rise to the occasion and leverage the resources necessary to help families struggling to make ends meet.

We have heard first-hand from families with incomes between 165% - 200% of poverty that are struggling to afford the essentials including food, housing, childcare and other daily living expenses. Increasing the income eligibility limit would leverage federal funds we are currently leaving on the table and allow more low-income Minnesota families to work, provide food for their families, and continue to move toward economic stability.

During a time of increased need, we urge your support.

Sincerely,

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency
Calvary Emergency Food Shelf
Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota
Community Action Duluth
Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES)
Family Pathways Food Shelves
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Hmong American Partnership
Hunger Solutions Minnesota
ICA Food Shelf
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis
Legal Services Advocacy Project
MAZON Advocacy Project: Minnesota
Minnesota Budget Project
National Council of Jewish Women Minnesota
National MS Society
Neighborhood House
NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center
Open Arms of Minnesota
PRISM
Round River Farm
Second Harvest Heartland
Seward Community Co-op
Takoda
The Food Group
The Open Door
Tri-County Action Program, Inc.
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council
TRUST Meals on Wheels
Twin Cities Medical Society
UFCW 1189
United Community Action Partnership

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