



February 18, 2024

Committee on Children and Families Finance and Policy
503 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the Committee on Children and Families:

The Minnesota Partners to End Hunger are writing in support of HF3469 – SNAP as Medicine - to temporarily extend state-funded SNAP benefits to Minnesota adults who are losing SNAP benefits under federal time limits.

As advocates working in the anti-hunger space, we are deeply concerned about the thousands of Minnesotans who reached federal time limits in the past few months and lost their food support. The number is growing, and food shelves are stretched to capacity. These adults are disproportionately living with chronic illness and disabilities. Advocates believe many of these Minnesotans are homeless or precariously housed.

This legislation creates a bridge for Minnesota adults to continue accessing state-funded food support while attempting to re-connect to federal SNAP benefits. Advocates believe many of these adults are eligible for federal exemptions but need a county or community navigator to help them navigate the process. Other adults could benefit from more information about SNAP employment and training resources and opportunities.

Minnesotans who are out of work and are striving for stability face significant harm by losing food. Hunger exacerbates illness and illness impedes employability. It's a vicious cycle.

We are asking the Legislature to find a temporary solution for this crisis facing thousands of Minnesotans. While we support the statewide solution, we also support a more narrowly crafted solution that would serve the highest-need counties.

Thank you for your consideration.

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On behalf of the Partners to End Hunger Coalition:



Advocates for Better Health

Blue Cross and Blue Shield Center for Prevention

Community Emergency Service

Family Pathways

Fairview Health Services

Foundation for Essential Needs

Hunger Solutions Minnesota

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis

Joyce Uptown Food Shelf

Legal Services Advocacy Project

Metro Meals on Wheels

Minnesota Community Action Partnership

Minnesota Farmers' Market Association

Neighborhood House

Open Arms of Minnesota

PRISM

Sanneh Foundation

Second Harvest Heartland

Students United

The Aliveness Project

The Food Group

Valley Outreach

Ramsey County

Trellis



HF3469: SNAP AS MEDICINE

In January and February 2024, nearly 6,000 Minnesotans lost SNAP benefits under federal time limits. Many of these adults are struggling with chronic illness, undiagnosed disabilities or addiction. Some are precariously housed or unsheltered.

Hunger exacerbates illness and instability. Food is medicine and SNAP benefits are a lifeline to people throughout Minnesota.

The “SNAP as Medicine” Pilot is an initiative to ensure adults enrolled in Minnesota health care programs can still access state-funded SNAP benefits while a navigator helps them explore how to get re-connected to federal SNAP benefits.

- Two-year pilot program
- Serves single adults between 18-54 without children
- Eligible adults must be enrolled in Minnesota health care programs
- Restores state-funded SNAP benefits to Minnesotans who lost food support
- Requires connection to a county worker or navigator to explore federal eligibility
- Requires a navigator to support connections to health care professionals
- Requires the Commissioner of DHS in collaboration with MDH to evaluate the pilot
- Requires the Commissioner of DHS in collaboration with MDH and community stakeholders to explore federal waivers and/or a Medicaid 1115 demonstration.

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