

# HUNGER DAY ON THE HILL 2024 TALKING POINTS FOR LEGISLATORS

## INCREASE THE SNAP MINIMUM BENEFIT FOR SENIORS

**Key points:**

- The current monthly minimum benefit for SNAP households of 1 to 2 people is \$23. This is too low.
- This bill ensures seniors 65 and older receive \$50 a month in SNAP benefits.

## EXPAND THE MARKET BUCKS MODEL TO MORE RETAIL SETTINGS

**Key points:**

- The Market Bucks model allows SNAP customers to receive a dollar-for-dollar match on fruits and vegetables. It's been an incredible success for over a decade.
- This program will leverage that model and apply it to grocery stores.

## SNAP AS MEDICINE

**Key points:**

- This is a pilot project ensuring that Minnesotans who lose SNAP benefits under federal time limits stay connected to state-funded SNAP benefits.
- If passed it will help more than 6,000 of Minnesota's most vulnerable citizens.

## ALLOW HOT PREPARED MEALS FOR SNAP

**Key points:**

- Currently SNAP benefits may only be used for specific, cold foods.
- Extending SNAP benefits to include hot prepared meals increases options for additional healthy, nutritious meals and helps save valuable time on cooking for recipients.

## COLLEGE STUDENT SNAP ACCESS

**Key points:**

- This bill clarifies state law and allows more low-income, food-insecure students to access SNAP.
- It allows Pell-eligible students enrolled in public colleges and universities access to this program.
- States including Ohio, Arizona, and Oregon have already done this.

## SEEK MEDICAID 1115 WAIVER FOR MEDICALLY TAILORED MEALS

**Key points:**

- This bill seeks to improve the health of Medicaid beneficiaries by providing prepared medically tailored meals to those in need.
- In our most vulnerable times, it's important that we have access meals that address our illnesses, diets and needs.

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## 15 MINUTE MINIMUM TIME FOR SCHOOL LUNCH

**Key points:**

- Due to increased participation in school meals and longer lines, sometimes students don't have enough time to eat.
- This bill ensures that would give students at least 15 minutes to eat their lunch.

## FARM TO SCHOOL & EARLY CARE EXPANSION

**Key points:**

- Farm to School & Early Care is one of the most popular grants offered statewide. There is constantly a waiting list for schools to participate.
- This bill would increase funding for more schools to participate – connecting more farmers and students by serving local food in their meals and strengthening local economies.

## EXPAND LEAFF (LOCAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FARMER FUND) STATEWIDE

**Key points:**

- LEAFF helps small-scale emerging farmers by purchasing the food they grow at fair market value and donating it to food shelves and other hunger relief orgs.
- The benefits of this bill are twofold - supporting new farmers and ensuring healthy food ends up in the hands of those in need.

## NOTES FROM HUNGER DAY SPEAKERS

**Key points:**

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## GENERAL HUNGER DAY ON THE HILL TALKING POINTS

**Key points:**

- Minnesotans made 7,551,147 visits to food shelves in 2023, a record high for the third consecutive year.
- This is 2 million more visits than in 2022.
- It's important that we pass ALL of these bills. No one initiative will solve hunger in our state. These bills work together to address the very real need we see in our state in a variety of ways.

### PEH ORGANIZATIONS

Advocates for Better Health, Appetite for Change, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Center for Prevention, Catholic Charities Twin Cities, Churches United in Ministry (CHUM), Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES), Community Emergency Service, Fairview Health Services, Family Pathways, Foundation for Essential Needs, Hunger Solutions Minnesota (the advocacy branch of The Food Group), ICA Food Shelf, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis, Joyce Uptown Food Shelf, Legal Services Advocacy Project, Loaves and Fishes, Metro Meals on Wheels, Minnesota Community Action Partnership, Minnesota Farmers' Market Association, Neighborhood House, Neighbors, Inc., Open Arms of Minnesota, Pillsbury United Communities, PRISM, Ramsey County, Sanneh Foundation, Second Harvest Heartland, Students United, St. Louis Park Emergency Program (STEP), The Aliveness Project, The Open Door Pantry, Trellis, Valley Outreach, White Bear Area Food Shelf