



HF 4108 / SF 4146

The current monthly minimum benefit level for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a mere \$23 a month. We know this is not enough to put food on the table for many Minnesotans in need and needs to be adjusted to support the rising costs of groceries.

In April of 2023 many older adults saw a drop in benefits from \$280 to \$23. This change happened abruptly and gave families and individuals little time to prepare, all while dealing with high food and energy costs. This led to many needing to turn to their local food shelf for help. In fact, food shelf visits have been on the rise across Minnesota for three consecutive years.

Food shelves alone cannot fill the gap as the demand continues to increase across the state. Visits to food shelves increased to 7.5 million in 2023. That's nearly 2 million more visits than the previous year.

We are facing an unprecedented cliff resulting in hunger and hardship across our entire state. We must act now.

The Solution

To address this increasing need, we are proposing to lift the current federal minimum nutrition benefit from \$23 to \$50 for seniors aged 55 and older.

This will have a huge impact and create a safety net for those struggling in our state. Expected outcomes include:

- Helping many vulnerable seniors and individuals with disabilities, who rely on nutritious foods to keep them healthy.
- Helping food retailers who have seen a significant decrease in business as a result of the ending of SNAP emergency allotments.
- Reducing food insecurity for thousands of Minnesotans who are in desperate need of help.

