

SUBJECT: Support Food Security Programs in 2024/2025 Budget

Dear [State Lawmaker's Name],

I am writing to express my strong support for several initiatives aimed at addressing food insecurity and promoting access to nutritious meals for Pennsylvanians. As your constituent, I urge you to consider the following funding allocations for the 2024/2025 Commonwealth budget:

1. \$7,500,000 for the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS): PASS plays a crucial role in facilitating the donation of surplus food from Pennsylvania's agricultural industry. This program ensures that safe and wholesome food products are not wasted but instead reach those in need. Without PASS, valuable resources would be lost, and food insecurity in our state could worsen.

2. \$17,000,000 to Increase the Minimum SNAP Benefit for Seniors and People with Disabilities: Increasing the minimum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit for seniors and individuals with disabilities would enhance food security and nutrition for some of our most vulnerable community members. A modest increase from the current federal minimum of \$23 per month to \$35 per month would make a significant difference in their lives.

3. \$23,000,000 for the State Food Purchase Program (SFPP): The demand for food assistance remains high, and food banks are facing challenges such as higher fuel prices, a significant drop in donated food, inflationary costs, and increased food prices. Supporting SFPP with additional funding is essential to ensure that food banks can continue their vital operations and meet the needs of families facing food insecurity.

4. \$290,000,000 for School Meals for ALL: Many Pennsylvania families are struggling to afford nutritious meals for their children, and schools are facing various challenges in providing quality meals. It is imperative to address the rising costs of food, labor, and transportation for school meals. Additionally, providing free school meals for all students would support their health and academic success while eliminating the burden of school meal debt on families and schools.

These investments are critical to combating food insecurity, promoting public health, and supporting the well-being of Pennsylvanians across the state. I strongly urge you to advocate for and prioritize these funding allocations in the upcoming budget negotiations.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your leadership in addressing food insecurity and improving access to nutritious meals for all Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]