

Minnesota Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MINNESOTA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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January 18, 2023

Human Services Policy Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W
St Paul, MN 55103

Dear Members of the House Preventative Health Committee,

On behalf of over 1,000 members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP), I am writing in support of SF 123 – a bill to provide no cost breakfast and lunch to Minnesota students.

Food insecurity is an everyday reality for too many children in Minnesota. A lack of access to nutrition can lead to serious health, wellness, and developmental concerns for children, and can eventually contribute to increased cases of diabetes and heart disease later in life. Food insecurity for children can also lead to worsened mental health for children and increased rates of anxiety and depression. Additionally, studies have shown that reducing hunger in the classroom has a strong positive impact on a child's academic performance and sets the pace for a student's lifelong trajectory.

Food insecurity has a disproportionate effect on Minnesota's minority communities. Child and adolescent health is heavily influenced by the conditions in which children cannot control. Food insecurity is one of these conditions and can contribute to the significant health inequities experienced by many Minnesotans.

MNAAP encourages members to support our youngest Minnesotans and vote "yes" on SF 123.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen Crespo".

Eileen Crespo, MD, FAAP
President, Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics