



January 24, 2023

Representative Cheryl Youakim  
443 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155

Re: Universal School Meals

Dear Chair Youakim and Members of the Committee:

We are writing to ask for your support for HF 5, a bill which would include school breakfast and lunch at no cost to all Minnesota students. While the federal government decided against continuing this pandemic-era program, Minnesota has an opportunity to fill that void and recognize the financial hardships many families are still facing while also eliminating the stigma that many students who receive free or reduced-price meals confront.

At Cargill, supplying people around the globe with safe, nutritious food and ingredients is at the core of our purpose. Cargill is a proud and strong financial supporter of organizations such as Every Meal, Second Harvest Heartland, and food shelves across the state who take on the challenge of addressing hunger every day. Additionally, Cargill recently supported the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's efforts toward qualifying for federal dollars from the USDA which ultimately put healthy food from Minnesota producers into school cafeterias across the state.

According to Feeding America, more than 200,000 Minnesota students face food insecurity, and nearly one-third of those students are ineligible for federal nutrition programs. With your crucial support of this legislation, you are acknowledging the critical link between student academic performance and hunger and that student success should not depend on income or administrative burdens in applying for free or reduced meals.

Again, we thank you for your consideration of this bill and ask for your support in helping to ensure access to healthy food for all Minnesotan students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Grogg".

Michelle Grogg  
Vice President  
Corporate Responsibility

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Clark Sieben".

Katie Clark Sieben  
Senior Director  
Corporate Responsibility