



March 13, 2024

Chair Wiklund & Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SF 4135 (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program restaurant meals program implementation requirement).

The Minnesota Retailers Association is composed of 1,200 retail stores across the state, including main street retailers, regional/mid-sized retailers, and retailers with a national presence. Some of our members offer prepared food options appreciated by busy Minnesotans. Across our state and conveniently located, there are over 2,400 convenience stores supporting local communities as food access points.

We would like to express our support for Sen. Mann's bill as an important option for individuals and families who rely on SNAP benefits. Under the bill, by allowing SNAP recipients to use their benefits at participating retailers, we can ensure that they have access to nutritious meals, especially in situations where cooking at home may not be feasible.

This program not only supports the health and well-being of SNAP recipients but also fosters community engagement and support for local businesses. It provides an opportunity for retailers to offer healthy meal options and contribute to the overall nutritional intake of individuals and families.

SF 4135 is a positive step towards addressing food insecurity while acknowledging the value of prepared food options that meet nutritional standards and accommodate the diverse needs of SNAP participants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Nustad". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "B" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Bruce Nustad  
president