



February 19, 2025

Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

The Nourish MN Coalition is pleased to offer our collective support for **SF1110 (Mann)**, which proposes to increase the minimum SNAP benefit for seniors in Minnesota from \$23 to \$50 a month.

The Nourish MN Coalition is composed of Minnesota nonprofits and community partners who engage in a cross-sector approach to uplift commonsense ideas that reduce poverty, end hunger, increase mobility, and make housing, healthcare, and childcare affordable and accessible for all Minnesotans.

The \$23 in minimum monthly SNAP benefits seniors receive are not enough to purchase food that meets their needs, especially with the rising costs of groceries.

Senior neighbors facing food insecurity are often facing high medical costs and limited mobility, which forces many to choose to pay bills over buying nutritious meals. Increasing the monthly minimum SNAP benefits for seniors to \$50 per month is necessary because SNAP is essential to the state's hunger relief network. For each meal food banks provide, SNAP provides nine.

There are many positive expected outcomes of increasing monthly minimum SNAP benefits for seniors. They include helping many vulnerable seniors with disabilities, who rely on nutritious foods to keep them healthy, helping food retailers who have seen a significant decrease in business because of the ending of SNAP emergency allotments, and reducing food insecurity for thousands of Minnesotans who are in desperate need of help. **SF 1110 (Mann) would further aid those already enrolled and incentivize more qualifying seniors to apply for SNAP, guaranteeing them more affordable meals.**

The Nourish MN Coalition envisions a Minnesota where everyone has the resources they need to thrive, and where everyone's basic needs are met. This legislation would move us closer to that goal, and it would make a meaningful impact on the people we serve. For that reason, we urge the Committee's support.

Sincerely,

Nourish MN Coalition