



February 19, 2025

Senator Melissa H. Wiklund  
Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: SF 849— Maye Quade: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Outreach Program appropriation  
Re: SF 1112— Mann: Minnesota food shelf programs appropriation  
Re: SF 1348— Boldon: Regional food bank grants appropriation  
Re: SF 1412—Kupec: Prepared meals food grant program establishment  
Re: SF 1110— Mann: Minnesota SNAP step up for seniors program establishment and appropriation

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

The City of Minneapolis appreciates the opportunity to comment in support of SF 849, SF 1112, SF 1348, SF 1412, and SF 1110.

These bills would either fund or establish important programs related to food security, such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) outreach and SNAP for seniors, food shelves and banks, and organizations that provide prepared meals.

Food insecurity is a pressing issue that affects many residents in the City of Minneapolis. This makes it difficult for them to access nutritious meals. Food assistance efforts such as these serve as critical lifelines for individuals and families in need. Investments in these programs are not just a commitment to fighting hunger; they are a commitment to fostering a healthier, more equitable community.

Homegrown Minneapolis is the City's initiative to help increase residents' access to healthy food. The programs funded by these bills would help support multiple strategies under the Healthy Food Skills and Healthy Food Access priority of the Minneapolis Food Vision (MFV), adopted by City Council and the Mayor in 2023 (emphasis added):

- MFV strategy 4.1: **Improve accessibility to and availability of nutritious, culturally relevant, locally, and sustainably grown foods at places such as** schools and universities, hospitals, care facilities, childcare providers, correctional facilities, **hunger relief programs**, worksites, and any places where food is sold
- MFV strategy 4.2: **Offer opportunities for all ages to gain skills to learn about healthy eating, culturally relevant foods, and the health-promoting benefits of food, as well as growing and preparing these foods**, strongly emphasizing children and youth
- MFV strategy 4.3: **Improve accessibility and affordability of nutritious, locally grown, and culturally relevant foods**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Heidi Ritchie*

Heidi Ritchie  
Deputy Commissioner of Health  
City of Minneapolis