



February 18, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee-

UCare is proud to support SF 849, SF 1348, SF 1112, SF 1110, and SF 1412. These bills will better provide nutritional supports to communities that need better access to nutritional supports.

With one in five Minnesotans meeting the definition of food insecure, UCare has recognized the importance of addressing access to nutrition to address the entire health of people. Because of this, UCare is working with Second Harvest Heartland to connect members to local food resources and help them enroll in SNAP food benefits programs if they qualify. SF 849 will allow further outreach to qualified individuals that will allow them to understand how to enroll and receive the SNAP benefits they qualify for.

UCare has also worked with Second Harvest Heartland to increase capacity for their Pop-Up Pantry Program that provides nutritious food to rural and isolated communities in seven North Central counties in Minnesota. Because of this, we are proud to support SF 1348 and SF 1112, which would allow for better funding of food banks in Minnesota which have disproportionate needs and less access to resources.

Through our SNAP referral program, we have also seen an increased need to connect seniors to nutritional supports. In light of this, we are happy to support SF 1110 to allow for further benefits to be provided to eligible seniors who qualify for federal SNAP benefits. Additionally, we are happy to support SF 1412 to allow for a prepared meals grant program to provide hunger relief for Minnesotans experiencing food insecurity and have difficulty preparing meals due to limited mobility, disability, or limited resources, which often includes Minnesota's seniors.

UCare is proud to support these bills to better care for the health and wellness of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joel Ulland".

Joel Ulland

Vice President and Public Affairs Officer, UCare