

Testimony In Support of HB 1471

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Bismarck
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Members of the Agriculture Committee:

Help elevate focus on, and action and resources toward ending nutrition insecurity and food insecurity in North Dakota.

Please provide a “Do pass” recommendation to HB 1471.

I had the opportunity to coordinate the Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota Coalition from its inception in 2009 through 2021. It was a great honor to help bring together state agencies, nonprofit organizations, education, health, nutrition, labor, farming, social work, and rural-focused groups to join together on the common goal of a state without hunger. Working together can help direct resources, find common actions, and reduce duplication of effort.

State agencies do work together. But in my experience, they also sometimes work alongside one another without connecting. The proposals in this bill will help raise the coordination to the agencies’ top level, provide for working together, and assure accountability through reporting.

Please provide a “Do pass” recommendation on this bill. The state places much effort and pride in “feeding the world.” Let us also ensure that the residents of North Dakota have enough healthful food every day.