

House Agriculture Committee
Jan 16th, 2025 HB 1143
Testimony in Support

Dear Chair Beltz and the members of the House Agriculture Committee,

I urge a “Do Pass” on HB 1143

Food insecurity is one of the biggest risk factors for suicide. One study shows veterans with food insecurity had nearly four times higher suicidal ideation one year later compared to veterans not reporting food insecurity (39% vs 10%). ([study](#))

We as a state have raised the alarm for food security across the last two years

- [Oct 16th, 2023: Area food drives offering only bare essentials compared to 2 years ago](#)
- [Jan 5th, 2024: Food deserts remain an issue in North Dakota, but efforts are ongoing to address them](#)
- [March 28th, 2024: With demand at an all-time high, Instacart now an option for donating to Great Plains Food Bank](#)
- [August 27th, 2024 - Tribal food assistance program in shambles after USDA warehouse consolidation](#)
- [Oct 23rd, 2024: Youthworks in Fargo asks for food and clothing donations](#)
- [Dec 12th, 2024: NDSU study finds food insecurity is up in North Dakota, leaders call for 'all hands on deck'](#)

As many stories exist about the tremendous work of our food pantries, volunteers, and the work of the Great Plains Food Bank. Yet, the research indicates these entities need more help to meet the demand of today as we still recover from a Covid 19 emergency.

As a suicide prevention advocate, I know there is little we can do in the world of mental health to help a kid who is starving. Food security doesn't just create good outcomes downstream across every factor we measure, it is essential for there to be a downstream to even look at. In whatever way is possible, I urge funding to feed our state and a passage of HB 1143 to support that dream

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler