



Great Plains Housing Authority

Serving Dickey, Eddy, Foster, Logan, Sargent, Stutsman, and Wells Counties

To: ND Legislators
From: David Klein, Great Plains Housing Authority
Date: February 3, 2025
Re: HB 1475

Great Plains Housing Authority supports HB 1475 relating to providing breakfast and lunch to all students of participating entities, including school districts, nonpublic schools, and tribal schools, at no cost to the student.

GPHA serves seven counties - Dickey, Eddy, Foster, Logan, Sargent, Stutsman, and Wells – with HUD rental assistance and housing expertise. Our agency sees the impact lunch costs can have on low-income households, and the needs for children to have decent meals. Food insecurity is enormous.

In addition, GPHA collaborates closely with schools and see their lunch debt eat away at regular budgets that could fund repairs or other staffing needs. All income ranges do not regularly pay the meal tab and that causes issues for the school system.

Food insecurity is an enormous problem in rural areas. The availability and cost of fresh produce, meat, dairy, and other food products is hard. Incomes and food assistance (SNAP) do not cover all costs for school age households.

HB1475 is a crucial step in reducing food insecurity and INVESTING in our youth to have good health, minds, and pride in their schools.

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