



1 Testimony in support

2 HB 1494 – School Lunch Meal Policies

3 Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education committee. We come to you with
4 support of this bill based on the amendments made by the House Education Committee.

5 Unpaid lunch debt is a very real issue in schools – this is a hard reality as we come out of
6 COVID with families who have become accustomed to or who have never had to before
7 pay for school lunch. With this bill and the amendments made in the House, it clarifies
8 the steps a school can take with students with insufficient funds. The options for schools
9 to provide with students with school meals without embarrassing them. We agree with
10 kids all getting the same meals. The bill also provides options for communicating with
11 parent and encouraging parents to apply for free or reduced meals.

12 We know how incredibly important it is for kids to have a nutritious meal to learn well.
13 We want them to have food to do so. We must be able to be fiscally responsible about how
14 we approach this issue. You will also be hearing HB 1491 tomorrow. HB 1491 will provide
15 grants for school meals for students that meet the criteria for free meals.

16 Thank you for the time to testify on this bill.