



March 12, 2021

Senate Committee on Education Finance and Policy  
95 University Ave West  
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Colleen Moriarty and I am Executive Director at Hunger Solutions Minnesota. Please accept this as my written testimony in support of the measures included in SF777 to end lunch shaming.

In these times of uncertainty and economic hardship, schools remain a critical access point for families in need of food. This fosters an important sense of community and demonstrates that all aspects of a child's well-being will be supported at our schools.

As children return to their classrooms, our commitment to their well-being must remain steadfast. This leaves no room for practices that single out or demean a student for having a lunch debt. Unfortunately, documented incidences of lunch shaming continue to surface, which we believe are the tip of the iceberg as we also hear of undocumented incidences directly from families. As a result, it is necessary that we act now to ensure that in the future all communications regarding school meal balances remain strictly between adults and that all children will be served a nutritious meal regardless of their family's ability to pay.

Thank you for taking action to make it clear that lunch shaming will no longer be tolerated in Minnesota.

Colleen Moriarty  
Executive Director  
Hunger Solutions Minnesota  
cmoriarty@hungersolutions.org  
651-789-9841