


SB 557 / HB 1501

ADDRESSING HUNGER AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS



PROBLEM

College tuition costs are rising, and with current inflation, so are the costs of housing, food, and other necessities. The inability to afford these basic needs is the number one reason cited by community college students for not completing their education. Even with tuition aid, 38% of students at two-year colleges and 29% of students at four-year universities experience hunger, according to a recent #RealCollege survey.

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SNAP is severely limited for college students.

College students in Texas shouldn't have to choose between food and education. Unfortunately, access to our nation's largest anti-hunger program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), is severely limited for college students, especially those attending school more than half-time. Eliminating hunger on Texas college campuses is critical to ensure our workforce remains strong, and our future leaders thrive.

SOLUTION

A simple change in policy will allow low-income students in vocational and technical degree programs to access SNAP while they pursue their educational goals.

The Texas Legislature should instruct the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to identify college degree programs that are vocational or technical in nature, so that students enrolled in these programs can receive SNAP.

Our workforce depends on students graduating with the skills and training that they need to succeed. Improving short-term food assistance will help these students along their path to economic self-sufficiency.





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