



NTFB VOICE

# Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

## Fight Hunger by Supporting Trade School Vocational or Technical Programs & SNAP - Advocacy Day Today!

As you may know, many Community College and Trade School students struggle to afford basic necessities like food, which can negatively impact their academic success and future prospects. A recent survey indicates that a significant percentage of students in two-year (38%) and four-year colleges (29%) experience hunger, even with tuition aid. Inability to afford basic needs is cited as the top reason by community college students for not completing their education.



During the pandemic, Texas adopted a policy that allowed students to access food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in order to help them complete their degrees and enter the workforce. This change not only helped students in need, but it also makes good business sense for Texas by investing in its future workforce, particularly skilled trade.

Anti-hunger advocates are proposing a new bill that would further support low-income trade school students. SB 557 / HB 1501 requires the executive commissioner of Texas Health and Human Services to form a work group, composed of members from educational institutions and nonprofit organizations, to identify which types of postsecondary degrees or vocational and technical programs would qualify a low-income student for SNAP benefits.

“Having been laid off from a seventeen-year career in sales, I was blessed to be accepted into the Nursing School at Grayson College, to pursue my dream of becoming a nurse. I found myself unable to qualify for most financial aid and it

became impossible for me to afford gas, food, and utilities—basics of life. I find it quite ironic because about five years ago, I helped to fill bags of potatoes at the North Texas Food Bank in South Dallas, I would never have imagined I would be in desperate need of such services.” -- Shelby\*, Sherman, Grayson College

By allowing those enrolled in vocational or technical degree programs to receive SNAP, this is a targeted investment in our students’ education and well-being will ultimately lead to greater self-sufficiency and economic competitiveness for Texas. We hope you will join us in advocating for this important change.

**ACTION:** [Please go here, today, to support SB 557/HB 1501](#)



Questions or Comments? Email us!

[People need plumbers](#)

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