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I strongly urge passage of LD 174, so that those in our state struggling with food insecurity may be assured of wider access to food, including culturally appropriate foods. Passage of this bill will improve access and participation in federal nutrition programs, which will provide much needed relief, especially for people of color who suffer from even higher rates of food shortages. In addition this bill provides resources to examine the root causes of hunger and food insecurity; its implementation will help to foster economic stability, provide safe and healthy places to live, address emotional and social wellbeing, and the need to eliminate health disparities.

For numerous reasons, please work to get this legislation passed. Thank you.