



February 25, 2026

To: Chairperson Hardin, and members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Anahí Salazar, Voices for Children in Nebraska

RE: Support for LR296, Urge the President of the United States and members of Congress to make permanent changes to the Child and Adult Food Programs

Young children learn best when they have access to nutritious food. The goals of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) are to share well balanced meals and see that good eating habits are taught in child care settings.¹ Voices for Children in Nebraska supports LR296 because it ensures participating family day care homes are reimbursed for nutritious meals and snacks, assuring building blocks to good health.

The CACFP helps battle hunger and brings health food to children's tables. CACFP serves: children through age 12, children of migrant workers through age 15, children through the age of 18 years in certain after school programs in area eligible locations and those residing in homeless shelters, physically and mentally disabled persons receiving care in a center where most children are 18 years old and under, as well as adults in nonresidential day care settings.² Providing meals and snacks to children in care contributes to wellness, healthy growth and development of children.

Across the country millions of children and adults are served daily through the CACFP; in Nebraska and average of 31,735 children and adults were served and over 16 million meals were served through CACFP.³ In Nebraska the majority of children served are in licensed home child care settings, and over 900 children coming from Tier 1 participating homes.⁴ By reimbursing all participating family day care homes, access to nutritious food can increase.

The program not only helps reduce food insecurity and protects children against hunger they also provide early nutrition education that can help bring forward positive eating habits. Learning about good food choices are important building blocks for children. Meals served through the CACFP are balanced, nutritious meals and snacks that meet standards set by the USDA.⁵ The standards support serving a variety of vegetables and fruit, whole grains, lean meats/meat alternative, and low-fat and fat-free dairy. This helps serve as a foundation for healthy food choices in life.

We want to thank Senator Hallstrom for bringing this important resolution and the Board for their time and consideration.

¹ Nebraska Department of Education, [Child and Adult Care Food Program – Nebraska Department of Education](#)

² Id.

³ National CACFP Sponsors Association, [cacfp.org/assets/pdf/2026+State+of+CACFP+cacfp.org/](#), 2022.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Child and Adult Care Food Program | Food and Nutrition Service](#)