



COLORADO CENTER  
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*Forging Pathways from Poverty*

June 9, 2020

The Honorable Chris Kennedy  
Chair, House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 E. Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: HB20-1422, Colorado Food Pantry Assistance Grant Program

Dear Representative Kennedy and Members of the Committee,

We thank the Committee for making HB20-1422, the Colorado Food Pantry Assistance Grant Program, a priority during this shortened session. Maintaining access to healthy, locally produced food for people in need is a crucial goal as we move through the COVID-19 crisis.

CCLP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that advocates at the state and federal governmental levels to advance the needs and legal rights of Coloradans facing economic insecurity. One out of 11 Coloradans struggles with food insecurity, defined as the state of being without reliable access to enough nutritious, affordable food. This is particularly true in communities of color and for people experiencing poverty.

Food pantries across the state have reported an increase in their client numbers from two to six times what they were previously. This bill supports our food pantries as they meet this need, as well as strengthening the partnership between pantries and Colorado's local farmers and ranchers. In the past, this program has served more than 86,000 Coloradans. It is more urgently needed now than ever before.

Resources dedicated to averting hunger will help Coloradans recover by ensuring access to a full, nutritious diet, including fresh dairy, meat, vegetables, and fruit. Money spent on the program will also aid Colorado's economy by sustaining our agricultural producers.

We encourage you to vote "yes" on HB20-1422 and send it to the Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Lipowitz  
Public Benefits Attorney  
Colorado Center on Law and Policy