



August 22, 2025

Dear Chair Brown and members of the House Health & Human Services Committee,

On behalf of Children's Hospital Colorado, the patients and families, and communities we serve, we are writing to respectfully ask for your **vote in support of SB25B-003 Healthy School Meals for All**, that will ensure that children and their families continue to have access to food and nutrition through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by modifying Proposition MM ahead of the November election.

Children's Hospital Colorado is proud to partner with the community to advocate for the health and well-being of kids and families. Our work goes beyond our hospital walls and into the communities we support. In addition to our patient care, Children's Hospital Colorado supports families by providing care coordination, advocacy and facilitating access to community programs and resources. Children's Hospital Colorado is also committed to the Food as Medicine philosophy that nutrition is a vital element of medical care, and we are dedicated to ensuring all children and families have easily accessible, affordable and nutritious foods for optimal health and well-being.

Across Colorado, more than 64% of SNAP participants are families with children. SNAP is one of the most important and effective anti-hunger programs, providing food benefits to families across the country and across the state. The SNAP benefit forms a critical foundation for the health and well-being of children and families, lifts millions above the poverty line, and improves food security for families, allowing them to spend more on nutritious food than their budgets would otherwise allow. SNAP also helps improve health outcomes, including reduced risk of food insecurity and malnutrition, and lower rates of obesity and diabetes.

Given congressional passage of H.R. 1 in July, we recognize this will dramatically reduce funding for food assistance and shift a significant financial responsibility to states including Colorado. Without additional state support, many Coloradans - including children and families - could be at risk of losing vital food assistance.

Children's Hospital Colorado is supportive of Proposition MM to ensure that our state's Healthy School Meals for All (HSMA) program is fully funded. Given the new federal law prompting these changes, we also urge you to support SB25B-003. This legislation will allow for the modification of Proposition MM so that voters can consider using excess revenue for SNAP. Both the HSMA program and SNAP are vital tools and programs to eliminate childhood hunger.

Thank you for your continued support of the health and wellbeing of Colorado kids. In this effort we encourage you to vote in favor of SB25B-003 to ensure that children and their families continue to have access to food and nutrition through SNAP by modifying Proposition MM ahead of the November election.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Ross DeCamp, MD, MSPH  
Children's Hospital Colorado

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**House Health & Human Services**

**08/22/2025 Upon Adjournment**

**SB25B-003 Healthy School Meals For All**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
<p>Martha Espinoza For themselves</p>	<p>¡Buen día!</p> <p>Mi nombre es Martha Espinoza vivo en Greeley, condado Weld.</p> <p>Soy madre, proveedora de cuidado infantil, y colabora para la COALITION estatal de padres de Colorado en los grupos de Lucha. También soy integrante del HISPANIC WOMEN s farming proyect.</p> <p>Estoy aquí para pedirles su voto en el proyecto de ley SB25B-003 Siendo está una propuesta de gran beneficio para nuestra comunidad, padres proveedores de cuidado infantil, pero sobre todo para nuestros niños que asisten a las escuelas en todo Colorado.</p> <p>Cómo proveedora de cuidado infantil he tenido a mi cuidado niños de familias que los padres tienen que entrar a trabajar a las 4:00am y necesitan manejar por una hora, en turnos de 12 horas diarias.</p> <p>Es muy complicado poder prepararles comidas saludables todos los días y tener la seguridad que la vayan a comer a una temperatura adecuada. Y por estar guardada por largo tiempo se encuentre en buen estado.</p> <p>Este proyecto ayudaría a que los padres tengan la seguridad de que sus hijos serán alimentados de una forma saludable mientras estén aprendiendo.</p>

	<p>Los niños que son nuestros estudiantes Cuenten con una alimentación saludable que les ayude a obtener el mejor aprovechamiento escolar, asistencia y mejor salud en general.</p> <p>Una niña que cuida ella está recibiendo el beneficio de comidas en la escuela. ella se siente segura de que tendrá los alimentos necesarios cada día. "Son muchas horas de aprendizaje y después del recreo estoy hambrienta y cuando eso pasa me frustró y no puedo concentrarme.</p> <p>El hecho de tener comidas saludables y gratis será de gran impacto en nuestra sociedad de manera general. Poder incluir en el plan agricultores y ganaderos locales garantiza la mejor calidad en los alimentos.</p> <p>Les pido por favor que voten si al proyecto de ley SB25B-003.</p> <p>GRACIAS</p>
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	<p>Hello!</p> <p>My name is Martha Espinoza I live in Greeley, Weld County.</p> <p>I am a mother, childcare provider, and a contributor to the Colorado State Parent COALITION in the Lucha groups. I am also a member of the HISPANIC WOMEN's farming project.</p> <p>I am here to ask for your vote on SB25B-003 This is a proposal of great benefit to our community, parent childcare providers, but most of all to our children who attend schools throughout Colorado.</p> <p>As a childcare provider, I have had children from families whose parents have to come to work at 4:00 a.m. and need to drive for an hour, in 12-hour shifts.</p> <p>It is very difficult to be able to prepare healthy meals for them every day and be sure that they are going to eat them at an appropriate temperature. And because it is stored for a long time, it is in good condition.</p> <p>This project would help parents to have the assurance that their children will be fed in a healthy way while they are learning.</p> <p>The children who are our students Count on a healthy diet that helps them obtain the best school performance, attendance and better health in general.</p> <p>A girl I care for is receiving the benefit of meals at school. She feels confident that she will have the necessary food every day. "There are many hours of learning and after recess I am hungry and when that happens, I get frustrated, and I can't concentrate.</p>
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	<p>Having healthy and free meals will have a great impact on our society in general. Being able to include local farmers and ranchers in the plan guarantees the best quality food.</p> <p>I ask you to please vote yes to SB25B-003.</p> <p>THANK YOU</p>
<p>Mayra Rodriguez For themselves</p>	<p>Buenos días comité:</p> <p>Mi nombre es Mayra Rodriguez. Vivo en Colorado con mi esposo, mi hijo y mi hija.</p> <p>Estoy aquí Estoy aquí para pedirles su voto a favor de la propuesta SB25B-003 en Apoyo al acceso a alimentos saludables.</p> <p>Para mí, la alimentación es la base de una vida digna. No se trata solamente de que los niños coman en la escuela, sino de que al regresar a casa haya comida suficiente para toda la familia. La mesa en nuestro hogar es donde nos unimos, conversamos y nos apoyamos.</p> <p>El programa de comidas escolares es muy importante, pero no es suficiente. SNAP ha sido clave para mi familia, porque gracias a este apoyo podemos cubrir lo más básico día a día. Sin SNAP, muchas familias como la mía tendríamos que enfrentar la difícil decisión entre pagar la renta o comprar alimentos.</p> <p>Por eso hoy les pido que protejan SNAP. Este programa no solo llena platos, también da tranquilidad y dignidad a familias trabajadoras que luchamos por salir adelante.</p> <p>Es fundamental que los recursos del programa Healthy School Meals for All puedan usarse también para fortalecer SNAP. Porque la</p>

	<p>necesidad de alimentarnos no termina en la escuela; la comida debe estar presente en cada mesa, en cada hogar, todos los días.</p> <p>Gracias por escucharme y por considerar esta decisión tan importante para nuestras familias.</p> <p>Good morning committee:</p> <p>My name is Mayra Rodriguez. I live in Colorado with my husband, son and daughter.</p> <p>I am here to ask for your vote in favor of SB25B-003 in Support of Healthy Food Access.</p> <p>For me, food is the basis of a dignified life. It is not only about the children eating at school, but also that when we return home there is enough food for the whole family. The table in our home is where we come together, talk and support each other.</p> <p>The school meal program is very important, but it's not enough. SNAP has been key for my family, because thanks to this support we are able to cover the basics on a day-to-day basis. Without SNAP,</p>
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	<p>many families like mine would be faced with the difficult choice between paying rent or buying food.</p> <p>That's why today I ask you to protect SNAP. This program not only fills plates, but it also gives peace of mind and dignity to hard-working families struggling to get by.</p> <p>It is critical that Healthy School Meals for All resources can also be used to strengthen SNAP. Because the need to feed ourselves, does not end at school; food must be present on every table, in every home, every day.</p> <p>Thank you for listening and for considering this important decision for our families.</p>
<p>Anyela Remolina For themselves</p>	<p>¡Buen día! Mi nombre es Anyela Remolina Trujillo.</p> <p>Estoy aquí Estoy aquí para pedirles su voto a favor de la SB25B-003en Apoyo al acceso a alimentos saludables.</p> <p>Quiero compartir mi experiencia con el programa SNAP en Colorado. Para mí, este apoyo tiene un gran valor, porque nos brinda la oportunidad de acceder a alimentos frescos y nutritivos para nuestras familias, lo que es esencial para el bienestar de nuestros hijos.</p> <p>Sin embargo, he vivido la dificultad de que durante los meses de vacaciones escolares el beneficio no siempre está disponible, y es en ese tiempo cuando los niños permanecen más tiempo en casa y el gasto en comida aumenta considerablemente. Esto genera una preocupación en muchas familias que dependen de este apoyo.</p>

Por eso, considero que es necesario que se realice un cambio y que el beneficio del SNAP también se otorgue durante los meses de vacaciones, de manera que podamos garantizar que nuestros hijos sigan teniendo acceso a comidas sanas y completas aun cuando no están en la escuela.

Agradezco profundamente el aporte que brinda SNAP, ya que gracias a este programa tenemos la posibilidad de comprar alimentos frescos y nutritivos que hacen una diferencia real en nuestra mesa y en la salud de nuestras familias.

Gracias al comité por escuchar mi testimonio, les pido su apoyo ante esta propuesta.

Good morning!

My name is Anyela Remolina Trujillo.

I am here to ask for your vote in favor of SB25B-003 – Supporting Access to Healthy Food.

I want to share my experience with the SNAP program in Colorado.

For me, this support is extremely valuable because it gives us the opportunity to access fresh, nutritious food for our families, which is essential for our children's well-being.



	<p>However, I have experienced the difficulty that during school vacation months, the benefit is not always available, and it is during this time that children spend more time at home and food expenses increase considerably. This causes concern for many families who depend on this support.</p> <p>That is why I believe that a change is necessary and that SNAP benefits should also be provided during the vacation months, so that we can ensure that our children continue to have access to healthy and complete meals even when they are not in school.</p> <p>I am deeply grateful for the contribution made by SNAP, as this program allows us to buy fresh, nutritious food that makes a real difference to our meals and the health of our families.</p> <p>Thank you to the committee for listening to my testimony. I ask for your support with this proposal.</p>
<p>Claudia Montes For themselves</p>	<p>Buenos dias</p> <p>Mi nombre es Claudia Montes, líder de VOZ en la Coalicion Estatal de Padres de Colorado y también madre inmigrante, residente del condado ADAMS.</p> <p>Estoy aquí Estoy aquí para pedirles su voto a favor de la SB25B-003en Apoyo al acceso a alimentos saludables.</p> <p>Solicitó su apoyo como ciudadana preocupada por la seguridad alimentaria de nuestros infantes y nuestras familias, veteranos, trabajadores de bajos ingresos, se ha demostrado que SNAP es una herramienta eficaz y necesaria, con ello miles de personas tendrán algo en su mesa y mejorarán los niveles de salud física y mental.</p> <p>Snap será de gran apoyo económico en medio del Caos que tiene el Estado con los despidos masivos laborales.</p> <p>Proteger a nuestras familias es nuestra obligación, no hacerlo pondría en riesgo a los más vulnerables.</p>



	<p>SNAP will be a great financial support amid the chaos the state is experiencing with massive layoffs.</p> <p>Protecting our families is our obligation; failing to do so would put the most vulnerable at risk.</p> <p>That is why today I am asking you to protect SNAP. Because this program sustains entire communities and guarantees dignity for working families like mine.</p> <p>It is very important to me that the surpluses from the Healthy School Meals for All program can be used to strengthen SNAP, because food is not limited to school and is a daily necessity that must be present in every Colorado home.</p> <p>Thank you very much to the Committee for listening to me and for giving us the opportunity to take care of our families with this decision.</p>
<p>Carmela Enriquez For themselves</p>	<p>¡Buen día!</p> <p>Mi nombre es Lucy Guereca, soy líder comunitaria y madre de dos adolescentes en las escuelas públicas de Jefferson.</p> <p>Estoy aquí Estoy aquí para pedirles su voto a favor de la SB25B-003 en Apoyo al acceso a alimentos saludables.</p> <p>Como madre, me preocupa profundamente la comida que reciben en la escuela. Están en pleno desarrollo, y cuando no se alimentan bien, no pueden concentrarse, prestar atención en clase ni aprovechar su aprendizaje.</p> <p>La comida saludable es medicina: nutre sus cuerpos, fortalece su mente y previene enfermedades. Además, mejora el rendimiento académico, reduce la inseguridad alimentaria y rompe con el estigma de las comidas escolares.</p> <p>Sueño con un distrito escolar donde nuestros niños elijan entre comidas saludables, atractivas, diversas y culturales, que reflejen la riqueza de nuestra comunidad.</p>

	<p>Por eso apoyo al 100% que los programas de comidas escolares sean sostenibles, inclusivos y transformen los menús actuales en opciones que realmente nutran a nuestros hijos.</p> <p>Porque cuando un niño está bien alimentado, es un niño sano, feliz, atento, con mejor rendimiento académico y preparado para ser el futuro de este país.</p> <p>Gracias por permitirme compartir mi voz. Les agradezco su apoyo para la propuesta SB25B-003</p> <p>Good morning!</p> <p>My name is Lucy Guereca, I am a community leader and mother of two teenagers in Jefferson public schools.</p> <p>I am here to ask for your vote in favor of SB25B-003 in support of access to healthy food.</p> <p>As a mother, I am deeply concerned about the food they receive at school. They are in the midst of development, and when they don't eat well, they can't concentrate, pay attention in class, or take advantage of their learning.</p> <p>Healthy food is medicine: it nourishes their bodies, strengthens their minds, and prevents disease. It also improves academic performance, reduces food insecurity, and breaks the stigma of school meals.</p>
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	<p>I dream of a school district where our children choose healthy, appealing, diverse, and culturally rich meals that reflect the richness of our community.</p> <p>That is why I am 100% in favor of school meal programs that are sustainable, inclusive, and transform current menus into options that truly nourish our children.</p> <p>Because when a child is well-fed, they are healthy, happy, attentive, perform better academically, and are prepared to be the future of this country.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to share my voice. I appreciate your support for proposal SB25B-003.</p>
<p>Carmela Enriquez For themselves</p>	<p>Gracias al Comité de Salud y Servicios Humanos por darme la oportunidad de compartir mi testimonio hoy. Mi nombre es Carmela Enriquez y vivo en Greeley, Colorado. He sido proveedora de cuidado infantil durante 21 años y, durante este tiempo, he cuidado a niños de familias con distintos niveles de ingresos. He visto de primera mano lo difícil que es para muchas familias ofrecer comida saludable a sus hijos.</p> <p>Me identifico completamente con estas situaciones. Ya sea por ingresos limitados o por falta de tiempo después de salir a trabajar, muchas familias enfrentan grandes desafíos para hacer algo que debería ser sencillo: alimentar bien a sus hijos. Algunas familias me cuentan, con cierta vergüenza, que, aunque planifiquen cuidadosamente sus compras, después de cubrir vivienda, seguro del carro y otros gastos, la comida saludable a menudo queda fuera de su alcance.</p> <p>Todos nos hacemos la misma pregunta: ¿por qué la comida chatarra es tan barata comparada con la comida nutritiva? A veces nos vemos obligados a enviar a nuestros hijos a la escuela con algo que no es nutricionalmente ideal, solo para que no pasen hambre mientras aprenden.</p> <p>Programas como SNAP y las comidas escolares gratuitas han sido un alivio para muchas familias, asegurando que los niños reciban alimentos nutritivos. Pero si estos programas cambian o se limitan, muchas familias volverán a enfrentar los mismos problemas de antes. Alimentar a nuestros hijos en Colorado no es solo responsabilidad de los padres; es un asunto de toda la comunidad.</p> <p>Si cuidamos bien a nuestros hijos y a sus familias, asegurando que tengan suficiente comida saludable, Colorado será un estado más</p>

	<p>fuerte, compasivo y próspero para todos sus habitantes. Por eso es tan importante apoyar programas como SB25B-0002, que garantizan comida saludable en las escuelas y acceso a SNAP para quienes más lo necesitan. Vota Sí a SB25B-0002 y protege la nutrición de nuestras familias."</p> <p>Thank you to the Health and Human Services Committee for giving me the opportunity to share my testimony today. My name is Carmela Enriquez, and I live in Greeley, Colorado. I have been a childcare provider for 21 years, and during this time I have cared for children from families with different income levels. I have seen firsthand how difficult it is for many families to provide healthy food for their children.</p> <p>I fully relate to these situations. Whether due to limited income or lack of time after leaving work on time, many families face great challenges in doing something that should be simple: feeding their children well. Some families tell me, with a bit of shame, that even when they carefully plan their shopping, after covering housing, car insurance, and other expenses, healthy food often remains out of reach.</p> <p>We all ask the same question: why is junk food so cheap compared to nutritious food? Sometimes we are forced to send our children to school with something that isn't nutritionally ideal, just so they won't go hungry while learning.</p> <p>Programs like SNAP and free school meals have been a relief for many families, ensuring that children receive nutritious food. But if these programs change or are limited, many families will face the same problems as before. Feeding our children in Colorado is not just the parents' responsibility; it is a matter for the whole community.</p> <p>If we take good care of our children and their families, ensuring they have enough healthy food, Colorado will be a stronger, more compassionate, and prosperous state for all its residents. That is why it is so important to support programs like SB25B-0002, which guarantee healthy food in schools and access to SNAP for those who need it most. Vote YES on SB25B-0002 and protect our families' nutrition."</p>
<p>Lucy Guereca For themselves</p>	<p>¡Buen día!</p> <p>Mi nombre es Lucy Guereca, soy líder comunitaria y madre de dos adolescentes en las escuelas públicas de Jefferson.</p>

	<p>Estoy aquí Estoy aquí para pedirles su voto a favor de la SB25B-003 en Apoyo al acceso a alimentos saludables.</p> <p>Como madre, me preocupa profundamente la comida que reciben en la escuela. Están en pleno desarrollo, y cuando no se alimentan bien, no pueden concentrarse, prestar atención en clase ni aprovechar su aprendizaje.</p> <p>La comida saludable es medicina: nutre sus cuerpos, fortalece su mente y previene enfermedades. Además, mejora el rendimiento académico, reduce la inseguridad alimentaria y rompe con el estigma de las comidas escolares.</p> <p>Sueño con un distrito escolar donde nuestros niños elijan entre comidas saludables, atractivas, diversas y culturales, que reflejen la riqueza de nuestra comunidad.</p> <p>Por eso apoyo al 100% que los programas de comidas escolares sean sostenibles, inclusivos y transformen los menús actuales en opciones que realmente nutran a nuestros hijos.</p> <p>Porque cuando un niño está bien alimentado, es un niño sano, feliz, atento, con mejor rendimiento académico y preparado para ser el futuro de este país.</p> <p>Gracias por permitirme compartir mi voz. Les agradezco su apoyo para la propuesta SB25B-003</p>
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	<p>Good morning!</p> <p>My name is Lucy Guereca, I am a community leader and mother of two teenagers in Jefferson public schools.</p> <p>I am here to ask for your vote in favor of SB25B-003 in support of access to healthy food.</p> <p>As a mother, I am deeply concerned about the food they receive at school. They are in the midst of development, and when they don't eat well, they can't concentrate, pay attention in class, or take advantage of their learning.</p> <p>Healthy food is medicine: it nourishes their bodies, strengthens their minds, and prevents disease. It also improves academic performance, reduces food insecurity, and breaks the stigma of school meals.</p> <p>I dream of a school district where our children choose healthy, appealing, diverse, and culturally rich meals that reflect the richness of our community.</p> <p>That is why I am 100% in favor of school meal programs that are sustainable, inclusive, and transform current menus into options that truly nourish our children.</p> <p>Because when a child is well-fed, they are healthy, happy, attentive, perform better academically, and are prepared to be the future of this country.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to share my voice. I appreciate your support for proposal SB25B-003.</p>
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**Colorado PTA's Testimony on SB25B-003,  
[Healthy School Meals for All](#)**

Colorado PTA Strongly Supports Senate Bill 3.

Our mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Food insecurity is linked to lower reading and math scores, falling behind peers academically and socially, and may lead to increased risk of behavioral issues, such as anxiety, hyperactivity and aggression.

PTA prides itself on being instrumental in the original passage of legislation at the national level that created the school lunch program over a century ago. We have been supporting Healthy School Meals for All in Colorado since its inception, and we continue that support here today.

We know that child hunger doesn't stop at the school door. PTA opposed the cuts to funding at the federal level that will result in more than 300,000 Coloradans — including children — going hungry. Thus, Colorado PTA supports changing Proposition MM to allow HSMA funds to be used to feed families through SNAP after all current obligations under the HSMA program are met.

Thank you for your consideration of PTA's position.

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PTA's Basis for Position:

- Colorado PTA's [Legislative Priorities](#)
- Colorado PTA's [Legislative Platform](#)
- [History of PTA](#)
- National PTA's position statement [Improving School Meals Program](#)

Previous Bills Supported by Colorado PTA

- HB25-1274 [Healthy School Meals for All Program](#)
- SB22-087, [Healthy Meals for All Public School Students](#)
- HB22-1414, [Healthy Meals for All Public School Students](#)