



March 7, 2022

Chair Connie Bernardy
563 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Bernardy and House Higher Education Committee Members,

My name is Kayden Rinzel and I am a third year student at Hamline University. I am majoring in Social Justice while also seeking a certification of Conflict Studies and a minor in Sociology. I am proud to say I am extremely involved in the food security and food advocacy work at Hamline, I am an executive team member of Feed Your Brain which is a student organization that founded our food resource center. I am also a student worker and past outreach intern for the Food Resource Center, as well as acting as the initial Hamline fellow in a project through the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, working in collaboration with St. Kate's University and Augsburg University.

Last year, I testified in support of the Hunger Free Campus program. Thank you for that opportunity to testify. The passage of that bill was an amazing step for food access and food justice work across many universities and for many students. Unfortunately, I am unable to testify again this year however, I am writing to support HF 3933 and the opportunity to receive matching grants. As matching grant opportunities were not included in last year's bill that is now signed into law, I wanted to share the programs Hamline University has that might benefit from this potential addition.

Hamline offers a lot of student lead and student-based work, as I mentioned Feed Your Brain is a student lead campus organization and the Food Resource Center, which is our food shelf on campus, was created due to student research. The research first done in 2017 showed 48.5% of respondents were food insecure according to USDA guidelines and 70% of students were food insecure when including Hope Lab questions. From this research, students worked in collaboration with Hamline's Student Congress to set up our food shelf, offering free groceries. There are options for students to seek support as well as lead, such as the Dean of Students Office emergency fund and one on one SNAP programming application support, offered by our current AmeriCorp VISTA and student interns.

Hamline University students, staff and faculty continue to work on bettering the Food Resource Center, providing additional accessibility for shoppers such as prepackaged, customized orders

and near campus delivery. There is also progress underway to move the Food Resource Center to a more centralized location on campus, as available best practices demonstrate that situating a campus pantry in a physically and socially accessible location improves student food access. We are excited about this project in the works!

There is a lot of potential for future growth on campus, despite all our current programs already in place, and I personally see Hamline University as an ideal example of a private university that would benefit from the addition of matching grants in future projects to support food access.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experiences with you and I am hopeful for forward motion on HF-3933.

Sincerely,
Kayden Rinzel
(She/Her/Hers)
Hamline University '23
Social Justice; Conflict Studies; Sociology
Student Worker: Food Resource Center, Undergraduate Admissions
IGNITE at Hamline, Feed Your Brain
krinzel01@hamline.edu