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HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE HEARING**

**Topic: Hunger Free Campus**

**Congregation Rodeph Shalom – Philadelphia, PA**

**January 29, 2020**

**AGENDA**

- 10:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10 a.m. Cathy Buhrig  
Director of Bureau of Policy for the Office Of Income Maintenance  
Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
- 10:20 a.m. *Questions & Answers*
- 10:40 a.m. Panel One:
- AaronRey Ebreo  
Director of Student Basic Needs  
Temple Student Government
  - Sara Goldrick-Rab  
Founder, Hope Center for College, Community and Justice  
Professor of Higher Education Policy & Sociology, Temple University
- 11:00 a.m. *Questions & Answers*
- 11:20 a.m. Panel Two:
- Pam Frontino  
Associate Director of Service-Learning & Volunteer Programs  
West Chester University
  - Allison Mootz  
Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs  
Manor College
- 11:40 a.m. *Questions & Answers*
- 12:00 p.m. Closing Remarks

Testimony on College Hunger

Catherine Buhrig

Bureau of Policy, Director, Office of Income Maintenance

House Minority Policy Committee  
January 29, 2020

Good morning, Chairman Sturla, committee members, and staff. I am Catherine Buhrig and I serve as the Director of the Bureau of Policy for the Office of Income Maintenance (OIM) in the Department of Human Services (DHS). On behalf of Secretary Miller and Deputy Secretary Watson, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding hunger on college campuses. Food security is a core social determinate of health; one of the important factors outside of a person's immediate medical condition and genetics that drives health outcomes. As a result, my testimony will focus on the role that the DHS can play in mitigating campus hunger based on existing policy, ways the state may expand its current policies, and actions taken by other states to address this issue.

### The Scope of Campus Hunger

Growing levels of food insecurity on college campuses are reflective of the extent to which the contemporary college student may not correlate to the "traditional" idea of who a student is and how federal and state policy may not have kept up to date with students' needs. Figures from the National Center for First Generation College Success show that 56 percent of all students in the 2015-2016 academic year had no parent with a bachelor's degree<sup>1</sup>. A 2019 report from the Institute for Women's Policy Research discovered that 22 percent of all undergraduates are parents<sup>2</sup>. This complicates the picture that many have of a traditional student population which lives on campus full time, is focused exclusively on their studies and who attends with support from a two-parent household. To the contrary, students today are managing rising costs while simultaneously seeking a degree. A degree that has never been more necessary for long term labor-market success. These students may live off-campus, requiring them to compete in costly rental markets, and they may be working part or full-time or relying on student loans to cover their expenses with minimal support from family members. A 2018 survey from the Wisconsin Hope-Lab indicated that 82 percent of community college students and 79 percent of four-year college students were employed or actively seeking employment.<sup>3</sup>

Research from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York shows that college degree holders can expect a wage premium of \$30,000 annually or 75 percent more than those with only a high school diploma or equivalent<sup>4</sup>, making college completion a key part of becoming a member of the middle class. Given this growing differential, the stakes of degree attainment are so high that students with fewer resources are enduring previously unheard-of levels of deprivation to achieve economic security. A 2018 Government Office of Accountability report analyzed data from 7.3 million students living at less than 130 percent of the FPIG and found that 31 percent were first generation college students and 25 percent were single parents. This report included a

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<sup>1</sup> <https://firstgen.naspa.org/research-and-policy/national-data-fact-sheets-on-first-generation-college-students/national-data-fact-sheets>

<sup>2</sup> [https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/C481\\_Parents-in-College-By-the-Numbers-Aspen-Ascend-and-IWPR.pdf](https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/C481_Parents-in-College-By-the-Numbers-Aspen-Ascend-and-IWPR.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Wisconsin-HOPE-Lab-Still-Hungry-and-Homeless.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2019/06/despite-rising-costs-college-is-still-a-good-investment.html>

review of 31 studies of college hunger and indicated there was a range of between 9 percent and 50 percent of students who experienced food insecurity on campuses and that in 22 of these studies, food insecurity was estimated to be above 30 percent of students surveyed. This review also indicated that food insecurity was often higher among two-year college students (42 percent) though still prevalent among four-year college students (36 percent).<sup>5</sup>

### Current Availability of Support

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, is widely regarded as the nation's leading anti-hunger program. Despite the prevalence of food insecurity among the college student population, there are strict limitations on when a student may qualify for this entitlement, largely rooted in the outdated conception of what a student looks like.

SNAP is a federal program administered by states that helps low-income Pennsylvanians afford the food they need to prevent hunger and malnutrition. The United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is the federal agency responsible for the oversight of SNAP, while DHS is the state agency responsible for administering SNAP here in Pennsylvania. Because it is a federal program, the eligibility rules are governed by federal legislation and regulation. States have some flexibility through the availability of state options and through federal approval of waivers. All SNAP benefits are 100 percent federally funded.

SNAP is the largest federal nutrition assistance program and delivers the most impact in serving individuals and families with food insecurity across the country. Households receive an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card which they can use in grocery stores and farmers markets that have been approved by FNS to accept SNAP benefits. The EBT card is used much the same as a credit or debit card. A recipient can use the card at a Point of Sale (POS) device, then enter a Personal Identification Number (PIN) which allows them to pay for allowable food costs. SNAP benefits can only be used towards food for human consumption and seeds or plants that can be used to grow food for personal consumption. SNAP benefits cannot be used towards items such as alcohol, pet food, hot foods, or hot food products prepared for immediate consumption, such as a rotisserie chicken. In addition, SNAP cannot be used towards any nonfood items, like paper products, soap, medicines or tobacco products.

SNAP eligibility is determined based on the household's gross income in comparison to the appropriate Federal Poverty Income Guideline (FPIG). With Pennsylvania's current Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility, households that have an elderly or disabled member have an income limit of 200 percent of FPIG, while households without an elderly or disabled member have an income limit of 160 percent of FPIG. For a household of three, this is equal to \$3,556 per month for a household with an elderly or disabled member and \$2,845 per month for a household without an elderly or disabled member. If a household is under the income limit, they receive certain deductions that determine how much in SNAP benefits the household can receive.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/696254.pdf>

These deductions include a standard deduction, an earned income deduction, child care deductions, medical expense deductions, and shelter and utility costs.

I've taken the time to explain how SNAP works in general because in addition to the information that I've already stated, students are subject to additional eligibility requirements. To be considered an eligible student, a student who is attending an institution for higher learning must be:

- Under age 18 or age 50 or older;
- Considered physically or mentally unfit;
- Attending high school;
- Responsible for the care of a dependent household member under the age of 6;
- Participating in on the job training or a work-study program;
- Working 20 hours per week;
- Receiving TANF benefits;
- Enrolled full time in an institution of higher education AND a single parent responsible for the care of a dependent child under age 12; or
- Enrolled in an institution of higher education in compliance with an Employment and Training (E&T) program.

These conditions make it difficult for college students to qualify for SNAP benefits, even as food insecurity on college campuses continues to grow.

Despite these limitations, DHS has taken steps to improve food security with the expansion of student SNAP eligibility to community colleges in 2018. The last student eligibility criterion listed above was that the student be enrolled in an institution of higher education and in compliance with an E&T program. Federal regulations specify that to be comparable to a SNAP E&T program for student eligibility purposes, a program must meet three requirements:

- The program must directly enhance the employability of participants;
- The program must be operated by a state or local government; and
- The program must have a focus on low-income households.

As community colleges are government operated and are frequently attended by low-income individuals, DHS expanded student eligibility to include students at a community college who are enrolled in a major that falls under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) or a major that leads to a career in a High Priority Occupation as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. Any students attending a community college at least half-time in a major that meets these requirements may now be SNAP eligible, if they meet the standard SNAP financial and non-financial criteria.

#### Action Taken by Other States

In recognition of the growing need among college students, Pennsylvania along with many other states, have been looking at ways to address campus food insecurity. In 2010, Massachusetts was one of the first states to confer SNAP eligibility to community college students. This change was

key to informing Pennsylvania's own policy change. In 2014 California passed Assembly Bill (AB) 1930 mandated that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) work with the California Community Colleges, State University system, University of California, the state Workforce Development Board, county human service agencies, and advocates to establish a protocol to identify and verify all potential exemptions to the student eligibility rule. This resulted in a similar but more wide-reaching policy change being enacted that identified a broad swath of programs from across the state that qualified to confer SNAP eligibility and established a protocol to consider new programs which may confer eligibility. AB 1930 was followed by provisions in the 2017 California state budget which dedicated \$7.5 million for the state and Community College Systems to develop student meal credit sharing programs known as Swipe Out Hunger, create campus food pantries, and designate employees to assist students with SNAP enrollment. New Jersey, in 2019, passed AB 4702 which created a \$1 million fund to support campuses in establishing solutions to address hunger.

### Future Potential Policy Changes

To improve the well-being of Pennsylvanians and continue our work towards the alleviation of campus hunger, DHS is working to release additional policy updates for the Fall semester of 2020 which will again expand the population of students which may be eligible for SNAP. The department is working with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and administrators and faculty in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) system to determine potential programs and program guidelines that could be used to expand the eligibility policy to every PASSHE campus and also state-related and independent colleges and universities, provided the student is participating in a program that meets the three criteria previously discussed: directly enhance employability of recipients; operated by a state or local government; and have a focus on low-income households. The ultimate success of this project will require an ongoing effort to ensure that the department and post-secondary institutions of higher learning continue to engage with each other to identify programs that can confer SNAP eligibility and an ongoing effort to ensure that students are aware that they may be eligible to receive this critical support. DHS looks forward to sharing more of the details of this policy change in the future.

### Conclusion

In closing, on behalf of DHS, I would like to thank you for your dedication to the citizens of Pennsylvania and for allowing us this opportunity to share our thoughts today.

**Hearing on Hunger Free Campus Bill**

**Sara Goldrick-Rab**

**Founding Director and Professor of Higher Education Policy and Sociology, Temple University**

**January 29, 2020**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this critical piece of legislation which will affect the lives of people across Pennsylvania. I would also like to commend Representatives Malcolm Kenyatta and Jennifer O'Mara for their leadership on the issue of campus food insecurity.

**Education beyond high school matters.** We now live in an economy in which the vast majority of new jobs created require some form of postsecondary credential. Workers with a postsecondary education also benefit from the majority of jobs with livable wages, employer-provided health and retirement benefits. Overwhelming evidence links each level of postsecondary education achieved with improved social, economic, and health outcomes. These include higher earnings and marriage rates, lower unemployment and single-parent births, and improved education outcomes for children.

Yet, outdated perspectives about who today's students are, and the respective policies reflecting these views, limit the ability of far too many students to pursue and achieve success in higher education. This in turn exacerbates income and racial inequality and creates a poverty trap.

Despite the cost and challenges many people continue to enroll in college at increasing rates because they understand that education beyond high school is the most reliable pathway to economic security.

But college is much harder for disenfranchised groups—such as people of color and low-income, parenting, working, first-generation, or immigrant students—who have significant financial challenges even *after* financial aid.

Improving access to nutrition support programs, as suggested in this bill, are critical to reduce hardship and support the educational attainment of students that can lead to family-sustaining wages, improved intergenerational mobility and a reduction in the racial wealth gap.

**Our research at the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice reveals that college is unaffordable for as many as 75% of all families.** The fact that college is unaffordable reduces students' performance and motivation in high school, diminishes the odds that they will get to and through college, and increases the chances that they will end up with debt they cannot repay.

Without sufficient food to eat and a safe place to sleep, most people have trouble learning. Thus, food and housing are critical educational expenses. Food and housing are critical components of the cost of attending college—in fact at public colleges and universities these costs, together with the cost of books, transportation, and medical expenses, constitute more than half of the total cost.

Students are the only people who really know what is happening. That's why the Hope Center fields student surveys using validated approaches to assess the security of their food and housing. Our two most recent national reports from 2017 and 2018 indicate the following:

- More than one-third of four-year college students and nearly half of all community college students dealt with food insecurity in the prior 30 days.
- Similar numbers experienced housing insecurity in the previous year.
- Almost 10% of four-year college students and as many as 14% of community college students were homeless in the previous year.

These national numbers align with those uncovered in similar studies in California and New York, and are supported by a series of peer-reviewed journal articles. Yet we know these problems exist across Pennsylvania too. When students drop out of college because they cannot afford basic necessities, like food, billions of dollars federal and state government investment to help make college accessible to students are undermined.

The good news is that California, Washington, Minnesota, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and even the federal government have started to recognize and address the challenges students face meeting their basic needs. That is because there is growing recognition that addressing the basic needs insecurity of students complement state and federal workforce goals as well as bolster higher education attainment goals.

Institutions have also taken on these efforts by implementing meal swipe programs, such as Swipe Out Hunger, that allow students to donate their unused meals to a fund for students who may be experiencing food insecurity. They have also expanded access and supportive services that connect students to public benefits for which they may be eligible. This is critical since we also know from a recent report by the Government Accountability Office that almost 60% of potentially eligible students are not getting help from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

**The proposed Hunger-Free Campus Grant legislation recognizes that in order to learn, Pennsylvania students must eat.**

The program will bring critical resources to higher education institutions to reduce the food insecurity students face and the risks hunger poses to learning.

This program will also provide essential data that neither the federal government nor the state of Pennsylvania collects on how many college students are dealing with food insecurity. This data will contribute to a body of growing evidence that shows how critical food access is to educational success and better equip policymakers and institutional leaders with real evidence to inform their decisions.

It is for these reasons that I fully support the proposed legislation.



Remarks on Addressing Food Insecurity on College Campuses

*presented to the*

House Democratic Policy Committee

by Pam Frontino, Assoc. Director of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs, West Chester University

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Good morning. My name is Pam Frontino, and I'm the Associate Director of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs at West Chester University. I've been asked to join you here today to share my insight and perspective on eliminating college hunger, based on my role managing West Chester's on-campus Resource Pantry. As you likely know, West Chester is the largest of the 14 universities within Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

At West Chester University, more than 30% of our students identify as food insecure. It's taken many years for dedicated staff at the University to build our on-campus pantry in a very grass-roots manner. After years of cultivating relationships with community organizations, donors and campus partners, our pantry is one of the strongest in the state. But despite our efforts, we still struggle to reach many of our food insecure students. This is because hunger on college campuses cannot and should not be addressed through one solution, such as a food pantry (even if it's a very strong one, like ours). Instead a comprehensive plan is needed to reach students with varying needs and life situations, such as those who rely on the campus dining hall or students who would benefit from SNAP to feed themselves and their families. Additionally, no institution can make sustainable change without having an accurate and complete understanding of the causes and extent of their campus community's struggles.

Through my work in this area, I can point out various challenges for reaching hunger goals without financial assistance. Those include a lack of adequate staffing, physical space and time. At West Chester, despite its support in many other ways, the University has not been able to provide any direct financial aid to this cause. We've built our pantry and food security programs through funding and support from donors and community partners. We are lucky to have a designated space for students to shop for food in a private but welcoming manner, but most schools do not have this option. I am the only person at West Chester whose job description allots time to managing our pantry and food security efforts for the school's almost 18,000 students, and it is only one third of my job description. If West Chester University faces challenges, the other State System universities do as well.

State System universities offer students a high-quality, affordable education and often attract individuals from low-income backgrounds who would otherwise not be able to attend college. That factor, coupled with a long list of academic priorities, places a high demand on State System universities to provide the tools and resources to safeguard our most vulnerable students against hunger.

Currently, all of the universities within the State System are making efforts that would set them on the path to becoming designated hunger-free campuses, by House Bill 2205's standards. From Bloomsburg University "Hungry Huskies" program, the Millersville HUB, Cheney's Food and Basic Needs pantry, to the Mansfield Campus Cupboard, the majority of System universities have an established on-campus food pantry.

Through the "Hungry Huskies" partnership between Bloomsburg University and the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard, a weekly timeslot is dedicated to Bloomsburg University students. An internal committee works to staff and promote the Hungry Huskies evening, where students can come to obtain a variety of food/grocery items for free. The "Hungry Huskies" program also works to provide food donations to the pantry to keep it stocked, and this includes monetary donations of student "flex" dollars that are unused at the end of each semester. Over \$15,000 was donated by Bloomsburg University students in the past two academic years. It is not unusual for between 20-30 students to utilize this resource each week, even hitting 50 students in some weeks.

At Millersville University, there is a wonderful resource, the HUB, in collaboration with the university's neighboring United Methodist Church, which is adjacent to campus. The HUB is a food pantry and gathering spot, frequently serving free hot meals, and hosting a campus closet (a clothing resource center for students going on internships or job interviews).

To alleviate college hunger on the campus of Cheyney University, the university established a Food and Basic Needs Pantry to provide food, feminine products, personal hygiene products, laundry aids and paper products. The university has also established partnerships with Chester County Food Bank, Reid Cares Foundation (RCF), Del Val Links, Salem Baptist Church and The Cheyney University National Alumni Association to provide donations on a regular basis. The university's Office of TRiO Student Support Services assists students who wish to apply for public assistance benefits such as SNAP, Cash assistance and Medical Insurance. This office has also facilitated awareness day activities, and is in negotiations with the campus food service provider to develop free meal vouchers or a meal sharing program for a specific number of commuter students with no meal plan and a demonstrated need.

There are all types of examples of food insecurity, and these are just a few of the hunger efforts underway across State System universities. Whether students are beginning their day without breakfast, not by choice, or unable to focus on studies due to hunger, data indicates the problem is serious and widespread, affecting almost half of the student population at community and public colleges. Some students even describe "poverty naps," choosing to sleep rather than dealing with hunger pangs.

As part of State System redesign efforts, the System is also focusing on solutions that address issues of student affordability including food insecurity, and believes that these issues can only be solved through partnerships and collaborative efforts.

Even with these efforts underway, there is opportunity for our universities to implement more comprehensive, complete plans for tackling the issue of food insecurity. And the grant funding and expectations thereof provided under House Bill 2205 could be greatly beneficial to State System universities. The hunger-free campus designation would ensure that all institutions possess the resources to directly aid students in various ways, while also cultivating data and information necessary for understanding the unique needs of students.

As a professional in this field, House Bill 2205 gives me hope for universities within the State System, and more importantly, the students who work so hard and make so many sacrifices to further their education and personal development. The Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program would create the opportunity for our universities to build a stronger foundation for sustainable change in the fight against hunger and in support of student success.

**January 29, 2020**

**Hearing on Hunger Free Campus**

**Testimony by: Allison Mootz, Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs, Manor College**

Good morning. Thank you Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta, Rep. Jennifer O'Mara and committee members, for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Manor College about students with food insecurity and helping to create a hunger-free campus.

My name is Allison Mootz and I am the Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs at Manor College in Jenkintown, PA (which is in suburban Philadelphia). We are a private, Catholic, co-educational, accredited institution of higher learning. Manor College's Catholic Basilian and Ukrainian foundations are what drive us to provide for our students an environment that is safe and nurtures the whole person as they navigate through their higher education journey. Founded by Ukrainian religious Sisters, today, Manor is 65% first-generation-to-college-students, 63% ethnic or racial minorities, and 94% of our students receive some form of financial aid. We have 50+ associate's, bachelor's and certificate programs. We also have a 12:1 student teacher ratio; we've been rated as among the best in our area for intergenerational economic mobility (upward mobility by the New York Times); and among the safest colleges in Pennsylvania; and we are very accessible because we are the best priced private college in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In the winter of 2017, members of the college's Student Senate brought to my attention that one of the officers of the organization had been sleeping in his car and was going without food. This student was an active student leader, high achieving academically, and well-known on campus. His family was involved with the college and by all appearances, he was not struggling. But he was. Having trouble at home, he decided his only solution was to be homeless, without food, and not to seek help.

Around the same time, the Chronicle of Higher Education featured campus food insecurity as a strongly emerging trend in higher education. Manor's President, Dr. Peri, took note of it with the college's Executive Leadership Team.

Unfortunately, our student's story is all too familiar among college students. And that is why addressing hunger on campus is so important to what we college administrators do every day. As a result of our student's experience, and with the support of the college's leadership, the Student Senate proposed opening an on-campus food pantry. They surveyed the student body and found that over one third said that there have been days, and even weeks, where they did not have enough food.

We saw the students take an issue of national concern seriously and we felt strongly that they were doing the right thing and should be supported. After visiting many local pantries, attending forums on the topic, and speaking with other schools and local community locations that were servicing their community in the same way, we were able to make it happen.

During the summer of 2017, that idea came to life and in September 2017, the Manor College "Bird Feed Food Pantry" was opened. The opening of a food pantry on campus helps to eliminate barriers to degree completion for students and helps them succeed. One student told us that, "I never really thought about having to choose between food and other necessities, but now, I see just how quickly someone would need to put getting food to the side in the hopes that the hunger pains wouldn't be that bad today, waiting a few more days to eat more than a few crackers would mean they have money to pay rent, or gas, or to feed their children. It's not an easy choice to make." This connects with something President Peri has said many times on our campus, "How is a student supposed to learn if they're in class and their stomach is rumbling? As a campus, we need to attend to basic needs so that higher needs can be fulfilled."

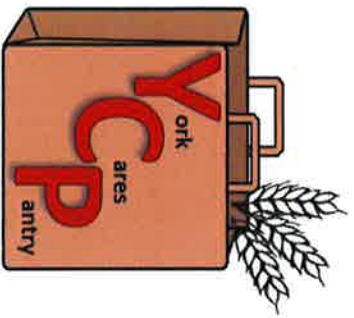
During the first year of operation, the Manor Bird Feed serviced over 150 students and their families and collected over 1,850 lbs of food and toiletries. Around the turn of the new year, we raised over \$6,000 to support the pantry and were able to purchase a food scale to help with inventory management. We will be giving the space a makeover this year and adding a refrigerator that was donated by President Peri so we can offer dairy products and perishable items. We have been grateful to Panera Bread, who has given us left over bread on a weekly basis. Additionally, we will be breaking ground this spring on a community garden! The garden will grow organic food for the pantry, and students and employees will have an opportunity to grow their own food.

Our pantry is stocked by the generous donations from students, staff, faculty and the local community. One of our biggest supporters is a foundation called Reid Cares Foundation, a 501c3 public charity on a mission to put an end to hunger among college students in the Southeastern PA region. Their mission is to (1) help stock college food pantries by hosting food, personal care items, and gift card drives; (2) partner with churches and organizations to raise awareness of the issue; and (3) raise money to offer scholarships to students who are battling food insecurity. We receive a donation from them every month and it has helped us keep our shelves consistently stocked.

Remember that student from the beginning of my testimony? I'm happy to say that he is now a sailor in the United States Navy and recently had the opportunity to return to his birth country with the military.

By providing a space for students to come and get their next meal or just something to hold them over, we are helping to educate them and affording them a brighter future. Students may use the pantry anonymously and confidentially, as most do not want to be seen as needing help or struggling. One student told us that, "it makes me feel comfortable and proud knowing if there was ever a time where providing food for my family would be an issue that I have somewhere to turn, judgement free."

Thank you for your time today and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



# The York Cares Pantry

Established by the Office of Intercultural Student Life & Global Programming (ISLGP) in 2016, the York Cares Pantry feeds hungry Spartans and raises awareness about campus food insecurity. The Pantry offers both immediate and regular opportunities to supplement the food supply of any food-insecure student struggling. It is 100% donation-run and a proud partner of the York County Food Bank.

## Please bring or send donations to:

Robert V. Iosue Student Union Building Room 101 (Lower Level)  
York College of PA  
441 Country Club Rd.  
York, PA 17403

For questions call ISLGP at (717) 815-1916

## What are a hungry student's options when accessing the Pantry?

- **Full Distribution** (student can schedule or walk in with a request for a 15-minute private shopping session, 1 free reusable shopping bag provided)
- **Quick Pick** (student can walk in to request a microwavable meal, serving of fruit, 2 snacks, and a bottle of water)

## Wonder what you can donate? Here are a few suggestions!

- **Personal Hygiene Products** (shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, feminine products...)
- **Breakfast Items** (cereal, toaster pastries, oatmeal...)
- **Snacks** (granola bars, chips, nuts...)
- **Canned Vegetables**
- **Fruits** (canned, cups, dried...)
- **Canned Meat**
- **Instant Meals** (microwavable meals, macaroni and cheese, instant potatoes...)
- **Monetary Donation**

## What if I want to volunteer to support the Pantry?

- **Inventory Maintenance** (students can schedule time to help us check expiration dates, tidy shelves, and organize supplies)
- **Special Donations** (YCP faculty have donated homegrown fresh produce and locally sourced honey, and YCP alumni have helped arrange for donations of reusable grocery bags)
- **Donation Collection** (at the end of each semester, we collect excess supplies from residence halls to supplement Pantry inventory and reduce campus food waste)

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## House Co-Sponsorship Memoranda

### House of Representatives Session of 2019 - 2020 Regular Session

#### MEMORANDUM

**Posted:** November 20, 2019 10:22 AM  
**From:** [Representative Malcolm Kenyatta](#) and [Rep. Jennifer O'Mara](#)  
**To:** All House members  
**Subject:** Hunger-Free College Campuses

As tuition for American colleges and universities continues to rise and financial aid fails to keep up, many students are forced to ignore their basic needs. Though it may come as a surprise, between one-third and one-half of college students struggle to find enough to eat.

Given that college is hard enough without worrying where your next meal will come from, I am introducing a pair of bills to tackle the issue of food insecurity on campuses across Pennsylvania. The Hunger-Free Campus Act would establish a grant program for institutions that take certain actions to eliminate hunger on their campus, including providing a food pantry and establishing a hunger task force. Meanwhile, the second bill would direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to deliver a report on food insecurity at colleges and universities, so we have the information we need to develop additional long-term solutions.

Right here in the richest country in the history of the world, many are denied the basic securities they need to survive. We can—and must—do better. Please join me in standing with the hardworking students of Pennsylvania by co-sponsoring this legislation.



Introduced as [HB2205](#)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2205 Session of  
2020

INTRODUCED BY KENYATTA, O'MARA, MURT, PASHINSKI, KOSIEROWSKI,  
HILL-EVANS, T. DAVIS, DONATUCCI, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, HOWARD,  
McCLINTON, SHUSTERMAN, HANBIDGE, STURLA, MADDEN, VITALI,  
KORTZ, SANCHEZ AND ROEBUCK, JANUARY 10, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 10, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in miscellaneous provisions relating  
6 to institutions of higher education, establishing the Hunger-  
7 Free Campus Grant Program and the Hunger-Free Campus Grant  
8 Fund.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
12 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
13 section to read:

14 Section 2002-I. Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program.

15 (a) Establishment.--The Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program is  
16 established within the Department of Education for the purposes  
17 under subsection (b).

18 (b) Purpose.--The purpose of the Hunger-Free Campus Grant  
19 Program shall be to provide grants to public institutions of  
20 higher education that have one or more campuses designated by

1 the Secretary of Education as hunger-free campuses under  
2 subsection (c). The purpose of the grant funding shall be to:

3 (1) Address student hunger.

4 (2) Leverage more sustainable solutions to address basic  
5 food needs on campus.

6 (3) Raise awareness of services currently offered on  
7 campus which address basic food needs.

8 (4) Continue to build strategic partnerships at the  
9 Federal, State and local levels to address food insecurity  
10 among students.

11 (c) Hunger-free campus designation.--In order to be  
12 designated as a hunger-free campus, a public institution of  
13 higher education shall:

14 (1) Establish a hunger task force that meets a minimum  
15 of three times per academic year to set at least two goals  
16 with action plans.

17 (2) Designate a staff member responsible for assisting  
18 students with enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition  
19 Assistance Program (SNAP).

20 (3) Provide options for students to utilize SNAP  
21 benefits at campus stores.

22 (4) Participate in an awareness day campaign activity  
23 and plan a campus awareness event during the National Hunger  
24 and Homelessness Awareness Week.

25 (5) Provide at least one physical food pantry on campus  
26 or enable students to receive food through a separate,  
27 stigma-free arrangement.

28 (6) Develop a "Swipe Out Hunger" student meal credit  
29 sharing program or designate a certain amount of money for  
30 free meal vouchers that might otherwise be raised through a



1 "Swipe Out Hunger" program.

2 (7) Annually conduct a student survey on hunger,  
3 developed by the Department of Education, and submit the  
4 results of the survey to the Secretary of Education at a time  
5 prescribed by the Secretary of Education for inclusion in a  
6 comparative profile of each campus designated as a hunger-  
7 free campus. In the development of the survey, the Department  
8 of Education may utilize any existing surveys designed to  
9 collect information on food insecurity among students  
10 enrolled in public institutions of higher education.

11 (d) Allocation.--The Secretary of Education shall allocate  
12 grant funding to each public institution of higher education  
13 that has one or more campuses designated by the Secretary of  
14 Education as a hunger-free campus as provided under subsection  
15 (c). The Secretary of Education, or a designee, shall determine  
16 the amount of each grant which shall be used by the public  
17 institution of higher education to further address food  
18 insecurity among students enrolled in the public institution of  
19 higher education.

20 (e) Report.--The Department of Education shall submit a  
21 report to the Governor, the chair and minority chair of the  
22 Education Committee of the Senate, and the chair and minority  
23 chair of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives  
24 no later than two years after the establishment of the Hunger-  
25 Free Campus Grant Program. The report shall include, but not be  
26 limited to, the number and amounts of the grant awards, the  
27 impact the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program had on establishing  
28 additional hunger-free campuses at public institutions of higher  
29 education and reducing the number of students experiencing food  
30 insecurity and recommendations on the expansion of the Hunger-

1 Free Campus Grant Program.

2 (f) Hunger-Free Campus Grant Fund.--The Hunger-Free Campus  
3 Grant Fund is established as a special fund in the State  
4 Treasury. The following shall apply to the operation of the  
5 fund:

6 (1) Money in the fund shall be appropriated on a  
7 continuing basis to the Department of Education for the  
8 purpose of awarding grants under this section.

9 (2) The sum of \$1,000,000 shall be transferred from the  
10 General Fund to the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Fund to be used  
11 exclusively for the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Fund.

12 (g) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
13 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
14 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Public institution of higher education." Any of the  
16 following:

17 (1) A community college operating under Article XIX-A.

18 (2) A rural regional college established under Article  
19 XIX-G.

20 (3) A university within the State System of Higher  
21 Education under Article XX-A.

22 (4) A State-related institution as defined in section  
23 2001-C.

24 (5) The Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

25 (6) The Pennsylvania College of Technology.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.