

SUBMITTED WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Committee House State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
Meeting Date 06/09/2020 Upon Adjournment of the Energy and Environment Committee

Registered	Bill Number	First Name	Last Name	Position on Bill	Representing	Status	Testifying	Text of Testimony
6/9/2020 10:08	HB20-1422	Alexander	Hernandez-Ball	For	Sister Carmen Community Center	Open	Submitted text	<p>The Food Pantry Assistance Grant Program is one piece of a network of supports that works to provide not only high-quality food to families in need, but also a solid revenue stream to local producers. At Sister Carmen, we are fortunate to work with small producers when we can, but often do not have sufficient funds to make larger orders that would have a bigger impact for our local producers. We operate in Lafayette, and we are surrounded by small farms that we would love to support and see thrive in our community; however, as budgets get smaller that is not always a reality for us. With the funds we receive from this grant, we are able to support our community in multiple ways and make important connections that might otherwise not be fostered. Also, the money we receive from this grant allows us to purchase foods that are not as often available to us, such as produce, meat, eggs, and dairy. These perishable foods are not items that we can collect during food drives, and therefore can only access them through purchasing or from store donations (although store donations vary widely). I believe strongly that this grant is crucial in creating a better future for many Coloradans, and it allows pantries, like Sister Carmen, the ability to provide our participants with healthier and harder to access foods. Please support this grant as it works to build a better, healthier Colorado!</p>

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6/9/2020 13:43	HB20-1422	Benzel	Jimmerson	For	Metro Caring	Open	Submitted text	<p>Metro Caring, Colorado's leading anti-hunger organization, which works to meet people's immediate need for nutritious food while building a movement to address the root causes of hunger supports HB20-1422. At Metro Caring, we are focused on ending Hunger at its root.</p> <p>We accomplish this through our operations internally, but also to build agency with residents, partners, and other strategic alliances - such as BluePrint to End Hunger and technology platforms such as Fresh Food Connect - to build community leadership and ownership of root cause solutions, legislative solutions, and food access innovations. We also have food production gardens which feed, educate, and bring people together to build community. We have nutrition programs which educate on how to use food to prevent and manage disease while building skills, leadership and opportunity for the residents who lead many of them. Additionally, we also have drive through and walk-up services that are serving an average of 300 families a day. We also continue to supply food to big and small agencies who have increased their client food needs by 300% since COVID-19 hit Colorado. We've even recently begun making ethnic specific food boxes to better cater to the preferences and dignities of residents.</p> <p>Metro Caring prioritizes fresh, healthy, nutritious food and we recognize that Colorado is a web of very unique food production. HB20-1422 will help us strengthen our partnerships with local producers to meet the immediate need for food in our community. For example, we have been working with NestFresh, a Colorado Proud egg producer, to source 2,000-dozen eggs on a weekly basis to meet the need for one of the staple items our community members are requesting. We have been working hard to build connections with the flour mills in northern Colorado as well as some of the bean producers on the western slope. COVID-19 has created such a high level of collaboration between food access organizations in Colorado, whether that is pooling resources to purchase products together or share a connection with a dry goods supplier – we believe that HB20-1422 will only strengthen this collaboration.</p> <p>In Service, C. Benzel Jimmerson Chief Impact Officer Metro Caring</p>

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6/9/2020 10:52	HB20-1422	Joel	McClurg	For	The Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 11:14	HB20-1422	Julie	Piller	For	Sister Carmen Community Center	Open	Submitted text	<p>I am writing to ask for the passage of the Food Pantry Assistance Grant program (HB20-1422). We need this investment especially now, during this time frame when we are experiencing the Pandemic.</p> <p>COVID-19 has increased the demand of our food bank services, The economic hardship on our already struggling community has been extreme. Our organization has also expanded capacity to serving first time participants seeking to feed their families through this crisis. Please make sure to fund this critical basic need of food security.</p>
6/9/2020 11:35	HB20-1422	Kyra	deGruy Kennedy	For	Young Invincibles	Open	Submitted text	<p>Good afternoon chair and committee members,</p> <p>I'm testifying in support of SB20-1422 on behalf of Young Invincibles and the young adults we serve. YI is an organization dedicated to amplifying the voices of and creating economic opportunity for young adults aged 18-34. As you know, the COVID crisis has disproportionately affected young adults, as they've lived through two recessions in the years they're expected to earn the majority of their lifelong income. Most of the young adults we serve are experiencing job loss, barriers to health care, housing insecurity and food insecurity.</p> <p>Many young adults count on their institution of higher education's food pantry, or their local community's food pantry to provide food for themselves and their families. Even in normal circumstances, food pantries have more need than capacity, and in this unprecedented time, that need is significantly heightened. Support for food pantries is desperately needed and this bill begins to address that need. I urge you to support the passage of this bill.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kyra deGruy Kennedy Young Invincibles</p>

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6/9/2020 10:19	HB20-1422	Marissa	Hunt	For	Manna - The Durango Soup Kitchen	Open	Submitted text	<p>As previous recipients of the Food Pantry Assistance Grant, Manna - The Durango Soup Kitchen believes these funds are vital to Colorado communities. The grant helps bridge gaps of food inequity across our state.</p> <p>Through these funds, our organization was able to purchase food from local farmers and distribute it to families in need, who otherwise may not be able to access or afford nutritious, healthy, locally grown produce.</p> <p>The Food Pantry Assistance grant is truly a win for all involved. Small-scale producers, who generally experience food insecurity themselves, can rely on stable income from local food pantries. People experiencing or at-risk of food insecurity are supplied with exceptional quality, nourishing foods. And food pantries can feel confident about the food they are distributing, while also supporting local producers.</p> <p>Small scale farmers consistently face the challenge of making enough money to support their livelihood. This is a far more threatening reality in the face of covid-19 economic downfalls. Continuing the Food Pantry Assistance Grant can boost rural economies, support small farms, and ensure that people have access to healthy food despite income limitations.</p>
6/9/2020 10:35	HB20-1422	Nichole	Robillard	For	Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry	Open	Submitted text	<p>Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry (CCFP) is based in Arapahoe County serving those facing food insecurity since 1995. By participating in the first Food Pantry Assistance grant, CCFP was able to purchase more of the nutritious items our clients request including protein (meat, eggs), dairy, and fresh produce. Families are always eager to select the Colorado Proud fresh, quality products. Our organization was able to establish relationships with local suppliers and utilize the funds to purchase items that normally would not be affordable with our budget. CCFP remains interested in applying for funds that can be used year-round and particularly during the prime Colorado harvest season. We would also like to see the marketplace for connecting local producers and pantries be expanded and accessible online. The value of strong local food systems is even more critical during the COVID-19 pandemic as all pantries have been placed in the predicament of historical sources being depleted while facing increased demand for services.</p> <p>On behalf of the communities we serve and food justice, CCFP urges support for HB20-1422, which will continue and fund the Colorado Food Pantry Assistance Grant.</p>

Registered	Bill Number	First Name	Last Name	Position on Bill	Representing	Status	Testifying	Text of Testimony
6/9/2020 13:10	HB20-1422	Pam	Hernandez	For	Rising Up	Open	Submitted text	Rising Up is a two-time recipient of funding from the Food Pantry Assistance Grant. Rising Up offers food pantry services to residents of Morgan County, serving on average 550 households each month. Grant funds were used to purchase food products from Colorado Proud growers and local farmers which enhanced the food pantry's offerings of nutritious and seasonally fresh produce. Notwithstanding, it offered a partnership with local businesses that maintained dollars locally benefiting the local economy. Rising Up would welcome and appreciate the opportunity to apply again.
6/9/2020 9:58	HB20-1422	Russell	Goodman	For	Self	Open	Submitted text	<p>RE: House Bill 20-1422</p> <p>A chorus of voices can be heard across our state seeking funding to remedy the societal harms brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. From the Eastern plains to the mountain communities to the desert, we can hear an impassioned voice above the din, and it is asking for food. Innovation and creative leadership will determine the future of our systems of education – but no child can learn if they are hungry. We have an urgent mandate to improve our systems of mental healthcare, but mental hygiene cannot exist alongside food insecurity. Reliable access to food is often out of reach to underserved populations and communities, including African American communities, indigenous communities, and other communities of people of color.</p> <p>Funding for House Bill 20-1422 is a phenomenal answer to this intractable problem. This legislation keeps CARES funding in Colorado and provides economic stimulus to food growers in our state. The green water in the vegetables that never leave our state also remains right here in Colorado. Funding food pantries so that they can purchase from Colorado Proud producers is a homerun. Supporting this bill will help those among us who need help feeding their families and will also provide early-season revenue and meaningful economic stimulus to the farmers and growers of our state. I was honored to have the opportunity to spend funding from previous Food Pantry Assistance Grant legislation on behalf of LiftUp of Routt County, and I promise you that the relationships established through that grant still exist to this day. There is a synergy among the stakeholders who make our foodshed, and this bill supports them across its length and breadth. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.</p> <p>Russell Goodman 3815 Whistler Rd Steamboat Springs, CO 80487</p>

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6/9/2020 12:58	HB20-1422	Sara	Lipowitz	For	Colorado Center on Law and Policy	Open	Uploaded file	
6/9/2020 10:25	HB20-1422	Sue	Fegelein	For	Lift Up of Routt County	Open	Submitted text	Lift Up of Routt County has twice been awarded a Food Pantry Assistance Grant, and we are truly grateful. This grant is exactly what food pantries and food pantry clients need. The dollars for this grant are designated for local food purchases of foods our clients have expressed they need the most-proteins, vegetables and dairy products. Local foods can be too cost prohibitive for food pantries to purchase in general. These grant dollars have allowed us to connect with local growers and ranchers and support them while providing nutritiously sound foods to our clients. Local growers and ranchers are then receiving funds to help them stay afloat, financially, and hopefully not have to utilize our food pantries themselves as clients. It's truly a win-win. Please help us continue to support our Colorado ranchers and growers at the local level all across the state, while providing our clients with the foods they have expressed that they most need. Thank you for all that you do.
6/9/2020 9:57	HB20-1422	Kent	Replogle	For	Amazing Grace Community Church Pastor's Pantry	Open	Submitted text	<p>As the founder and Senior Pastor at Amazing Grace Community Church and the Pastor's Pantry, I would respectfully request that this bill be adopted. Over the past 12 years, we have seen the need for food assistance go from a few hundred pounds a week to over 28,000 pounds a month at our pantry. In December 2019, we served about 600 persons a month. In May, 2020, we served 2,980 persons. The need is huge and the ability to purchase from local suppliers and growers benefits not only our clients but the Colorado economy as well.</p> <p>Please consider funding this important bill and allow us to serve those that supply the foods needed, but also feed those in need.</p> <p>Sincerely, Pastor Kent Replogle</p>