

## **LB285 – Sample Letter**

Dear Sen. [name]:

I am writing in support of LB285, providing breakfast and lunch to students in qualifying schools. As a former teacher, I saw the effects that going without breakfast can have on a child's emotions and performance in school. All students deserve the best education, regardless of their circumstances. In order to achieve this, we need to ensure that children have this basic need met each day.

The bill presents an investment in the education of our students, our schools, and our state. Nebraska will reap the long-term benefits of that investment with students who are better able to engage in their classwork because they start the day with a solid breakfast and receive a healthy lunch during the school day.

It's a small price to pay for giving them hope in building a bright future.

Please support LB285.

Thank you.

[Your name]

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## **LB99 – Sample Letter**

Dear Sen. [name]:

I am urging you to support LB99 and help move it forward. LB99 invests in families by reducing food insecurity and supports statewide educational achievement. Nearly half of Nebraska's 330,000 students qualified for free or reduced-price meals in 2020. When more kids eat breakfast and lunch, they miss fewer days at school. They also score better on standardized assessments.

Further, schools must invest staff time to determine student eligibility for free or reduced meals. That is an administrative burden borne by the school district. In addition, school districts have close to \$600,00 in unpaid school meal debt. That debt is a hidden tax on the school districts and community members. It diverts money from other educational programs.

LB99 makes sense. Please support our students, reduce food insecurity, and relieve our schools of administrative burdens in qualifying students for the benefit of free or reduced meals. Help pass LB99.

Thank you.

[Your name]

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**LB 84 Sample Letter**

Dear Sen. [name]:

I urge you to vote in support of LB84 to help Nebraskans access healthy food by keeping in place the 2021 change that addresses the SNAP “cliff effect.” No one in our state should go hungry.

The cliff effect happens when SNAP participants lose more resources in SNAP benefits than they gain in income after taking a raise or getting more hours of work that increases their income. Without action this legislative session, the cliff effect will return in full force and 10,000 Nebraskans working to get ahead will lose SNAP food benefits.

We know many Nebraskans rely on SNAP to make ends meet, especially with current grocery prices and inflation. LB84 will protect families, local businesses, and the economy.

Thank you.

[Your name]

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**LB88 – Sample Letter**

Dear Sen. [name]:

I'm asking you to support of LB88. The bill will eliminate the lifetime SNAP ban for people with certain drug-related convictions. Nebraska is impacted by high rates of parental incarceration. Voices for Children reports almost 1 and 10 Nebraska kids having had an incarcerated parent.

It is hard enough to reenter your community after a felony conviction. We should provide support to parents who are trying to get back on their feet. LB88 is a simple change that would allow more parents and families to move forward from a challenging past and have a better chance to become successful members of our communities.

This bill helps our neighbors and their families and reduces hunger in our communities. It will strengthen our communities by reducing recidivism, provide food security to individuals, and offer stability to them to get back on their feet.

Please vote in support of LB88.

Thank you.

[Your name]

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### **LB294 – Sample Letter**

Dear Sen. [name]:

I urge you to support LB294, the Child Tax Credit proposal for Nebraska. Children in Nebraska will benefit from this commonsense tax credit. An analysis from OpenSky Policy Institute shows that about half of all Nebraskans, including about 81% of our state’s children, would benefit.

I am a member of First-Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln. I am aware of the issue of food insecurity in our city. As a church member, I volunteer time to help with the monthly food distribution from our church. With the Lincoln Food Bank, we distribute food to over 600 families each month.

The federal Child Tax Credit contributed to a 26% reduction in food insecurity in families with children and improved the quality of diets for those children. A state-level Child Tax Credit will help families deal with the rising cost of living so they can afford food, utilities, and rent. It could ease food insecurity in families with children.

Please support LB294 and vote to advance it to General File.

Thank you.

[Your name]