



October 3, 2018

The Honorable Phil Pavlov
Chairman, Senate Education Committee
Michigan State Senate
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman Pavlov:

The Michigan League for Public Policy respectfully requests that you hold a hearing of the Senate Education Committee to consider Senate Bill 1078, a bipartisan bill to add a Hunger-Free Student Bill of Rights to the Revised School Code.

Nearly half of Michigan students receive free or reduced-price (FRP) school lunch. We are concerned about the remaining students who may be falling through the cracks—those whose parents earn slightly too much to qualify for FRP but still struggle to provide the essentials for their children. It is critical that local school districts have policies in place and access to the necessary resources to ensure that no student goes without a lunch or becomes the target of shaming tactics because of factors outside his or her control.

In national KIDS COUNT rankings, Michigan is 38th in educational outcomes while our neighbors in the Great Lakes region all fall within the top 16 states. Hungry children suffer from health problems that interfere with school attendance and learning. Numerous studies have found that expanding access to school meals boosts academic achievement, growing opportunity for our kids as they enter adulthood.

We can all agree that all Michigan children should have the fuel they need to stay healthy and do their best in school; that's why your colleagues on both sides of the aisle have chosen to co-sponsor Senate Bill 1078. We understand that many important issues demand your attention with few days remaining in the legislative session. We urge you to prioritize public discussion of this bill to help children reach their full potential so they may grow into productive members of the state's workforce and provide for their own families in the future. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gilda".

Gilda Z. Jacobs
President and CEO

cc: Senator Jim Ananich