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Peterson for Governor Campaign Delivers Petition calling on State to Accept Already Allocated Emergency Food Aid Funding for Hungry Children During Pandemic

More than 1,600 People from 125 different Utah cities and towns signed the petition

June 29, 2020—Salt Lake City, Utah Today Democratic Candidate for Governor Chris Peterson delivered to Governor Herbert and Lt. Governor Cox a petition calling on the state of Utah to immediately accept approximately \$50 million of temporary emergency food benefits. 1,650 Utahns signed the petition demanding the Governor protect Utah’s hungry children by applying for funding available under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020.

Under the act, states may apply for and receive temporary food benefits for at-risk families during the coronavirus pandemic. Thousands of Utahns are currently out of work and many families are struggling to buy groceries. Unfortunately, Utah has decided not to request approximately \$50 million of this available money to feed Utah’s at-risk children.

[While 46 states and the District of Columbia](#) are now operating a Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) emergency food aid program for hungry kids, Utah continues to refuse to apply for the funding. Unlike Utah—Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Wyoming have now all implemented Pandemic EBT programs to help their families facing hunger.

“While other states are stepping up to distribute these funds, in Utah our state leaders are turning their backs on funding to feed kids during a time of extraordinary economic hardship,” Peterson said. “The same leaders who tried to increase taxes on food last year are now refusing to implement a plan to accept \$50 million in food benefits for hungry kids.”

The Pandemic EBT program provides more than \$1 billion in grants for states to provide prepaid food benefit cards to hungry families to buy food from grocery stores for their children. The program provides food aid in addition to similar SNAP program benefits, but was intended to

reach more families struggling during the economic recession caused by the Coronavirus pandemic

The petition included Utahns from 150 different Utah cities, towns, or counties. In addition, hundreds of petitioners included comments explaining their support for accepting Pandemic EBT funding. These comments included:

- Children's wellbeing must be a priority. We are all better off if the children among us are well cared for.
- In rural UT most families have to travel 2-3 miles to shop for groceries once a month & hope food last for a month. With the virus it has been a hardship & many have resorted to nearby food banks as well as donations. Parents are going hungry just to feed their children.
- Many Utah children rely on schools for the meals each day and then the backpack food program to bridge the school gaps. Access to food is not something we should even consider as an option. We have a responsibility to ensure our children have access to food and do not experience food insecurity.
- Being largely hospitality industry dependent, Grand County Utah has been the hardest hit job loss area of Utah. With an employee low wage demographic, many with children, the need is here now. We call on you to immediately apply for and administer the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer funds without further delay.
- It seems like so many families fall through the cracks because of so many rules. Food is not a luxury!
- Why would these officials deny food to our hungry children?! I've worked with abused and neglected children my entire career if 30 years as an attorney. This action defies all conscience for this underserved population-But then, children don't vote, do they?
- I drive a school bus and I see those children that need food.
- I've lived with food insecurity before. It's inexcusable that any child in Utah, the greatest state in the nation, should have to do the same.
- I use to be a lunch lady. I saw how many kids went hungry and how much food we threw away. Why are we letting children go hungry? Take the money and feed these children.
- People are digging up their gardens from fear of starvation. Shame.
- Many of these children's parents employment had ended either furloughed or terminated. Don't be lazy file the paperwork and get it done!
- Elected officials who tread on the backs of the poor, young, hungry people of our country need to be humbled by removal from office. If they were the hungry ones, they would not object to Federal involvement. Too many of us in UT do not know the secret handshake that gets the "more equal people" whatever they need to get by.
- Food security is an important issue in Utah and ALL resources available should be levered.

- My daughter is a 4th grade school teacher in Hurricane, Utah. She has told us on multiple occasions that her estimate is 30% of her students are food deficient. Why are we turning down Federal Funding to provide resources for these kids?
- I cannot begin to imagine why you reject the funds that could assist many of Utah's children who are going hungry. ... Matthew 25:35 says: For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me", and 25:41 says 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' By the way, these passages appear under the heading "Judgment of the nations" in my scriptures.
- The demand on food banks has been overwhelming. Children are going hungry. In the time of a budget deficit, we should not be turning away federal funds.
- Among all the issues we face in today's world, children going hungry should not be one of them.

“We should not play politics with hungry families during a time of crisis,” Peterson said. “Instead, we should use this emergency funding to help feed needy families and at the same time spark our struggling economy.”

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June 29, 2020

Governor Herbert and Lt. Governor Cox,

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 provides the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture authority to approve state agency plans for temporary emergency food benefits during the coronavirus pandemic. Right now thousands of Utahns are out of work and many families are struggling to buy groceries. Unfortunately, Utah has decided NOT to request approximately 50 million dollars of this available money to feed our at-risk children.

We are calling on you to immediately apply for and administer the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer funds without further delay.

Thank you for your public service.

COMMENTS FROM PETITION SIGNERS:

- *This is really a new low for our state government. Please stop thinking about yourself and petty politics and feed these children. I am disgusted by your actions.*
- *I have a younger brother with Down Syndrome. He has a weak immune system and hole in his heart. I have another brother with pectus excavatum, he can hardly breathe as it is. My mother is a doctor and doing all she can to keep us safe, but it's scary to see how our neighbors and people around us haven't social distanced or taken this seriously, continually putting us at risk.*
- *In rural UT most families have to travel 2 - 3 miles to shop for groceries once a month & hope food last for a month. With the virus it has been it has been a hardship & many have resorted to nearby food banks as well as donations. Parents are going hungry just to feed their children*
- *I know there are a lot of kids in our small community and in our county that needs food.*
- *I teach at a Title 1 school and I see on a daily basis how much these funds are needed!*
- *Many Utah children rely on schools for the meals each day and then the backpack food program to bridge the school gaps. Access to food is not something we should even consider as an option. We have a responsibility to ensure our children have access to food and do not experience food insecurity.*

- *Children's wellbeing must be a priority. We are all better off if the children among us are well cared for.*
- *Public educator for 39 years in Utah...I know, I know: the longevity of my career doesn't come close to matching Utah's disrespect for teachers.*
- *I am fortunate. Not everyone is.*
- *Being largely hospitality industry dependent, Grand County Utah has been the hardest hit job loss area of Utah. With an employee low wage demographic, many with children, the need is here now. We call on you to immediately apply for and administer the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer funds without further delay.*
- *Governor Herbert and Lt. Governor Cox, Our family was long time recipients of SNAP benefits when my husband and I were both in college, and during the few years after graduation. Because of this aid, our family was always able to provide food for our children and never had to worry about where our next meal was going to come from. As you are well aware, many children and families in Utah suffer from food insecurity. Food insecurity is a trauma that has long term effects on children.
<https://www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/indicator/2012/06/household-food-insecurities>
Do not choose political ideologies over the health and security of Utah families. Kind Regards,*
- *Why would these officials deny food to our hungry children?! I've worked with abused and neglected children my entire career if 30 years as an attorney. This action defies all conscience for this underserved population-But then, children don't vote, do they?*
- *Being laid off with one out of my two jobs and the job I do have doesn't pay enough to cover cost of living and food. I cannot get unemployment because I still work at my other job 40 hrs a week. Again, the wages in Utah do not measure up to the cost of living. \$14/hr is NOT a livable wage.*
- *It seems like so many families fall through the cracks because of so many rules. Food is not a luxury!*
- *No child should go hungry. We can afford to help them and if we choose not to, we cannot call ourselves caring human beings.*
- *Can't believe the republicans would let our kids go hungry over their enormous egos. Incredibly selfish and disgusting.*
- *It's a shame that Utah, so full of alleged religiosity, has these shameless political leaders. We must take care of the needy or we will be in deep trouble.*
- *I applied for pandemic unemployment 6 weeks ago. Still no benefits or word when or if it'll be approved! My husband is an essential worker so we still have food on the table but things are tight and uncomfortable. My heart breaks for those who aren't so lucky!*
- *I teach in the Salt Lake City school district. I see the way these kids live and the disparities they face because of their circumstances. Their parents are left no other*

option but to go to work every day and risk contracting the virus. Many have shared with me that their family tested positive. These kids need all the help they can get.

- *Food insecurity should not be an issue Utah families should have to deal with.*
- *As an unemployed single mom, I understand first-hand how scary it can be when food runs out but your kids are still hungry. It's heart-breaking. And it's wrong for a first-world country to let ANY of its citizens go hungry, especially the children. They didn't ask to be here. NOW ASK FOR THE MONEY TO FEED THEM.*
- *Get serious. Don't let children go hungry. This is Utah, not Mali.*
- *Children should not suffer needlessly in the wealthiest nation in the world.*
- *As a teacher of a Westside school, I worry about my students and their families.*
- *Feed the children. This should be without a doubt the highest priority.*
- *Why does Utah continue to reject federal tax funds that could bring economic security and benefit to our states food suppliers? now is not the time to increase hunger with our families. school lunch is not 7 days a week.*
- *Communities NEED more support than the state's budget allows. Please help our hungry kids!*
- *No child in our state should have to go hungry, especially if there are funds set aside for the express purpose of feeding our most vulnerable citizens. It's not a matter of politics - it's a matter of compassion.*
- *Concerned for children being able to eat.*
- *Utah is supposed to support families.*
- *Please rethink the stance that it's "too complicated" to implement federal programming to ensure children of vulnerable populations get food until school reopens. It's worth the effort.*
- *I have worked with many families who have lost income during the pandemic. The food banks are running out of food and I don't have good places to refer people to to get them the food that they need.*
- *I teach school. Many students at the alternative high school where I work have significant food insecurity. I bought food to give to the school because our pantry there was empty.*
- *Thanks for bringing this important issue to the forefront. Feeding children should never be a question.*
- *Not everyone in the state of Utah is fortunate enough to be from a privileged family. Do your job!!*
- *Please help! Children do not know inequality, race, discomfort or politics. All they know is their hungry and need comfort!*
- *Food is a basic need. Children are the future. Feed the children so we can have a future.*

- *I have seen first-hand the devastating effects of food insecurity families. It negatively affects children for the rest of their lives. I do not understand why Utah leadership would choose to reject this opportunity to help our Utah families in this darkest of times. It demonstrates a lack of humanity.*
- *My daughter tried working, paying for child care, and caring responsibly for her 2 young boys, with an absentee father, failing to support in any way. They need all the help they can get*
- *As a social worker, I'm concerned that vulnerable children experiencing food insecurity are being put at further risk by funds being rejected by state leaders.*
- *For once why don't Mr. Herbert and Mr. Cox help distressed families in Utah? To not follow through on this effort is a disgrace. Do your job!*
- *There is absolutely enough money in this state, no reason anyone, especially kids, have to go hungry just because of some racist bitches*
- *There are far too many innocent, hungry children. I know there is money to help them so please open your hearts and do it! The children are our biggest investment opportunity for a better future for us all.*
- *Why should the children be suffering for government mistakes?*
- *They are children... enough said*
- *Why ever would you reject money for hungry children? Especially while the state budget is being slashed? How do you sleep at night?*
- *Our community has been working hard to keep the good banks full. To know that our kids could have the help they need and Utah turned it down is deeply upsetting. You need to do better.*
- *If the state is proposing 832 million in education budget cuts, it is clear they need the money to feed those students who will be losing good teachers, and services. We cannot allow children to be the casualties of the pandemic.*
- *If you have not lived through traumatic and life changing events like abuse, neglect, divorce, job loss, addiction, etc., or witnessed children who come to school hungry, not being fed at home because of situations like these, you may not see the true need for funding benefiting food security for children in Utah. The need is there. I understand the need for being fiscally conservative on state and federal level, but feeding, educating, and care of children in this state is not where we should be making cuts.*
- *Feed our most vulnerable. Do your job! Use the funds set aside for this purpose s don't drain the local community of it's limited resources!*
- *As a teacher in a Title 1 school, I know that many families need additional help. Please provide funds to help them have the food that they need.*
- *All children should not go hungry during this pandemic, or any time. I hope there comes a time when nobody goes to bed hungry, and I will work towards this.*

- *I live in Kearns which is a pretty poor but proud community and I live across the street from an elementary school and it is incredible the cars that line my street waiting for food. Btw, 2 things that shouldn't be taxed is medicine and food.*
- *Children needs to know that there is a caring society filled with great folks.*
- *My kids are grown up already, but I see many families struggling with this issue due to the situation in this country. They are working people, and I think that those kids deserve a plate of food on their tables*
- *Living in Kearns, I see the families who live right on the edge. They work so hard but right now they need help to feed their kids. Please, don't turn down money that was set aside to help those kids.*
- *Too many Utah children are going hungry. It is irresponsible not to accept the Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer!*
- *With such a young population facing economic insecurity, it is absurd and horrifying that GOP leader would deny our future their food.*
- *When families are struggling to feed their children, we do not turn our backs on them!*
- *We grow a community garden, in a very affluent neighborhood. The produced not used by our growers is donated to the local foodbank, those working there say it is so good to get fresh produce. It saddens me to know that UT children are going without. We need to use any resources available to protect our children .*
- *Feeding children should be a no brainer. Apply and administer the funding now!*
- *The elementary school near me has so many children that will not be eating breakfast or lunch if not for a free lunch or help that we all provide for weekends/holidays via mass donations and making of food kits. Gov. Herbert MUST FUND the FOOD For children to not be hungry. I came from a poor family that depended on a possible meal from neighbor's leftovers & I'm 66 now. I swore I would never do this to my child & would help wherever I can.*
- *I have 7 kids between me and my wife life can get hard sometimes, I work very hard at my job to take care of them but sometimes I need a little help, and I know there are others like me that need help.*
- *Have you been to these schools, have you seen or talked to these kids who have parents in jail, prison or are out of work, Immigrants.. kids living in cars! They are in Davis County, they are in SL county, Cache and Utah County! Help our kids DAMNIT! Take the Federal money, FEED OUR KIDS!*
- *I believe we will someday be held accountable for how we treated those in our society who are marginalized, oppressed, or otherwise in need of help -- the "least of these..." as it were.*
- *In times of national crisis, Americans have always come together. In times of war or depression and even in times of pandemic we have hung together. In times of uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, our Utah community must rally around those who are at*

greatest risk and are most susceptible to the damaging effects of malnutrition and poverty. Now more than ever we must hang together so that all Utahns can make it through to the other side of this crisis.

- *No child should go hungry*
- *This is shameful to not accept money for children. The schools shouldn't have to provide everything for these kids. Let the families participate in feeding their own kids!*
- *How are others getting aid and we're not? Is it because having EBT is embarrassing?? There is nothing embarrassing about making sure my family gets fed!!!*
- *My wife works at Woodruff Elementary school here in Logan. It has one of the poorer demographics of students. She also helps run the "back pack" program that is supplied with food from the local Food Bank and provides extra food and meals to the kids, filled into backpacks for the kids to take home once each week. They continued to do this program even after the school went online due to the pandemic. Handing out backpacks at the weekly school lunch handout or sometimes my wife driving door to door to deliver backpacks. Because there are so many of these kids who do not have or get enough to eat. How can we expect them to learn and study and pay attention and be motivated to achieve all the things that I would hope we ALL want them to achieve when their most basic needs of hunger and nutrition are not being met. There are more of these kids than most would like to admit or recognize and that is just here in our sleepy little Cache Valley. Very respectfully.*
- *Children are starving....that should be enough of a drive! It's bad enough that people are starving in general, but children and families how have to choose which of their child gets food....it is unacceptable. Times right now are hard enough, we don't need to add lack of nutrition too.*
- *We did not receive any Utah election ballots and it is 2 days away from June 30. We are 3 adults who are all registered Democrat voters! No ballots sent to us!*
- *Many families living at the poverty cannot afford to purchase food for their families. Even Utahns above the poverty level cannot afford to feed their families. Numerous Utah Residents have lost their jobs due to Coronavirus and have no income to pay bills and feed their children. Many live paycheck to paycheck and are never able to put money aside. My mother raised 4 children as a single mother. Poverty and hunger causes children and parents undue stress. Help our most needy.*
- *Utah children should not be worried where their next meal is coming from.*
- *We see so many hungry kids in Magna. This is crucial*
- *Vote away the hate full Republicans in Nov.*
- *A majority of the kids in our school district qualify for free or reduced school lunches. During the school year, a number of them also get backpacks of food so they won't go hungry over the weekends. But, the backpack program relies on private donations, which are drying up. Utah families need this help.*

- *Because so many families have lost employment, there is a great need for food help for children and the school lunch program that EBT provides is the main healthy meal for those children. It is a shame that Utah is not taking advantage of this program. Governor, what are you providing in its place?*
- *Many elementary and secondary students rely on school meals during the year. They have had enough traumas this year without having to worry about their own hunger.*
- *Funding needs to be prioritized here.*
- *We have no income to supplement our food stamps. Please help.*
- *Shouldn't family values that our state espouses actually be supported by actions that support caring for our families?*
- *Providing food to those in need is a pillar of humanity.*
- *We are talking about Children*
- *Our schools have kept feeding children while schools closed. I hope these funds can provide the same kids some meals over the summer!*
- *In a country with the resources to fund the largest military in the world, we should be able to ensure that no child go without food.*
- *I have donated, organized, and done all I can as an individual to help those who are in need of food here in Utah. The government is much better equipped for this sort of thing than private individuals such as myself. Please accept the help. Thank you.*
- *Makes Utah donors to food banks, who make personal sacrifices, feel like fools. Memories of being young and hungry still haunt me after 70 years. Being hungry in America changes attitudes.*
- *In this "family friendly" state, it is particularly troubling that money to feed hungry children has been turned down, just as millions in Medicaid dollar were. Where is the moral conscience of our supposedly religious state leaders?*
- *The school closure has illustrated how much we expect schools to do to make up for the gaps in the social safety net. We need to be doing everything we can to support families in Utah. We cannot expect the schools to do everything!*
- *Please consider this petition and put your support behind Chris Peterson for Governor of Utah.*
- *I know many families rely on the program that provides lunches for kids during the summer. During the pandemic that program is unavailable. Furthermore, we are seeing record numbers of families relying upon the food Bank during the pandemic. Our legislature is turning away money to help solve the food crisis for kids because it is too difficult? Figure it out and do the right thing for Utah's kids!*
- *Many families throughout Utah have been impacted by COVID and decreased access to resources, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized.*
- *If Michigan and Rhode Island can do this, surely Utah can handle the logistics.*

- *They're predicting that deaths from hunger/starvation in the US will double this year. We should be doing everything we can to protect the most vulnerable of our population, our children. I don't understand how you could ever deny children access to food. I used to live in Granite School District where access to food for kids/families is the highest in the state. We need to be there for these kids more than ever.*
- *What on earth could drive the decision to not apply for food aid. Kids deserve meals!*
- *It's a huge issue, quality and affordable housing, education and healthcare are human basic rights. Those most vulnerable in particular need help now during these difficult times.*
- *Thanks for setting up this petition. Signing it is almost the least I can do.*
- *It is imperative that we have a solid program to feed the children. Have you also given thought to solve the homeless problem by housing them in abandoned warehouses that have been converted into shelters? It seems to me that instead of empty buildings rotting in the sun, the State could acquire them, spend a "little" money to change them into a decent shelter where the homeless can live and eventually return to "normal life". I would love to speak with you about this but I am just a 67-year old woman who is pretty much housebound due to the pandemic.*
- *As someone who has received benefits for my family in years past, I cannot tell you how a small amount of assistance can greatly improve the physical, mental, and emotional state of an entire family unit.*
- *My greatest concerns focus on those most vulnerable: the homeless, the hungry and those without health insurance. These groups should also be the first concerns of all who claim "Utah values."*
- *I've watched siblings with children use these programs and have them pre-emptively taken away only to continue to struggle in poverty. Unfunding these programs is cruel.*
- *How dare Herbert and Cox refuse gov't money to help feed people - a POX on them both. Certainly will not get my vote!!*
- *I recently found out that Woodstock Elementary is ending its free lunch program at the end of the month while on a walk in my neighborhood. The crossing guard told me that she asked one of the children what they were going to do for lunch after that and he said he didn't know. The boy's brother had fallen off his bike on the way to get their lunches for the day, and the boy said "he keeps getting hurt." I'm wondering if he's too weak from hunger and is having accidents. The crossing guard said there are 3,800 food insecure children in this area. That's unacceptable and if there's money to help with this, we need to use it to help these children.*
- *I lived with insecurity in my teenage years and relied on programs like this to fill the gap. It's the least we can do to make sure kids are getting the nutrition they need.*
- *Voting against Extended Medicaid and now turning down millions in aid for struggling families shows a serious lack of compassion. Goodbye Gary H.. Won't miss you.*

- *I use to be a lunch lady. I saw how many kids went hungry and how much food we threw away. Why are we letting children go hungry? Take the money and feed these children.*
- *I've lived with food insecurity before. It's inexcusable that any child in Utah, the greatest state in the nation, should have to do the same.*
- *I drive school bus and I see those children that need food.*
- *We have a moral and humane responsibility to care for each child. It is disgusting and inhumane to not do all we can to feed our children.*
- *The issue of food insecurity for children in Utah is REAL. And the urgency is there more so with a pandemic, families experiencing job losses, and schools are closed. It's heartbreaking to see the lines at schools handing out lunches for so many children. Also, in North Ogden, Pleasant View, and Harrisville cities, there are regular food drives and free food supplies for many local families in need. The Pandemic EBT is another government resource to assist Utahns. We in Utah can and should use this program.*
- *My wife and I are serving an LDS Inner City Ogden Service Mission. The need in these communities for those who cannot participate in Bishop Storehouse Food Orders is critical. Parents who work 2 full time minimum wage jobs to support their families are hardest hit as their jobs were the first to go. This suffering is heartbreaking and Utah's refusal of assistance for the Working Poor and the Lower Middle Income Families is an embarrassment. Go Chris...*
- *Every child should have access to nutritious food. Why deny the monetary source? Explain it to the children.*
- *I've been hungry. An empty belly affects everything in life. C'mon people. These are kids!*
- *My children attend schools that are extremely reliant on the free and reduced lunch program. They have food banks at school on top of that. Several students are homeless. The majority live below the poverty line. The kids are hungry.*
- *People are digging up their gardens from fear of starvation. Shame.*
- *If we are a state that truly values its children, then we need to start with meeting the most basic needs of life.*
- *I've seen homeless encampments where the only food containers were sardine cans, and I know a child was living there because there was also some carefully arranged doll furniture too. No child should be forced to be homeless and face food insecurity.*
- *There is a large group of lower socio economic population in Ogden. Many of these kids eat their meals at school, even when there is not an additional economic crisis caused by COVID-19. This population is probably the most impacted by job losses or furloughs due the virus. A double whammy. I worked for over 20 years with at-risk kids in Dallas before moving here. I worked with at-risk children in a STEM program for 8 years here in Utah. Almost my entire career has been with at-risk kids. Give them the support they need.*

- *Many of these children's parents employment had ended either furloughed or terminated. Don't be lazy file the paperwork and get it done!*
- *Every child deserves to be feed!*
- *Kids hungry. Mom hungry.*
- *I spent 30 years serving Utah children at risk. How do we justify the refusal of aid? How does that make sense?*
- *They need it*
- *This Utah refusal of Federal dollars for food for children sounds way too much like Utah's previous refusal to claim Affordable Care Act dollars for healthcare for Utah's residents. It is wrong to care more about independence from the federal government than about the well-being of our citizens.*
- *This is appalling....hungry children don't vote*
- *Poor people need help. Children need help.*
- *Elected officials who tread on the backs of the poor, young, hungry people of our country need to humbled by removal from office. If they were the hungry ones, they would not object to Federal involvement. Too many of us in UT do not know the secret handshake that gets the "more equal people" whatever they need to get by.*
- *I really have no words about what is going on right now but things need to change.*
- *Feed the people.*
- *Food security is an important issue in Utah and ALL resources available should be levered.*
- *I am the BOT chair for OWCAP. We have extended our food pantry service, but only to the pint of food availability. The need is there and it's not being met. We could open up more days, if we had more food.*
- *I hope that we can make it better for our children now, rather than later.*
- *Being poor is not a choice. Poor kids aren't lazy.*
- *Where is the money from the fed going where - is Utah diverting that money*
- *I cannot begin to imagine why you reject the funds that could assist many of Utah's children who are going hungry. In my Catholic bible, Matthew 25:35 says: For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me", and 25:41 says 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' By the way, these passages appear under the heading "Judgment of the nations" in my scriptures.*
- *I am a crossing guard and see many children that depend of the breakfast and lunch programs at school. I worry about them on weekends as they have a food shortage in their homes. How can we say we are followers of Jesus when we do not feed the hungry or give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless? We are hypocrites!!!!!!!!!!!!*

- *You cannot be "pro-life" and be against providing healthful nourishment to our young children at the time in their life that they most need it to build healthy bodies and minds.*
- *Even Ronald Reagan would have offered free cheese and dairy.*
- *This is heartless governance.*
- *Children need healthy, nourishing food in order to flourish, grow and learn which I believe is a basic right.*
- *I'm only looking out for the most vulnerable in our communities. I have no personal need for this support at this time but I see how bottom up economic works and if our lowest paid workers are suffering we are all suffering.*
- *It's the right thing to do. We are doing a disservice to our children and to their families by denying the extra help.*
- *Administrative issues are a poor excuse for refusing \$50M in federal funding earmarked for Utah children and families. Governor Herbert must accept this funding and work harder in support of Utah's most vulnerable. Food security is critical to raising healthy and well-adjusted children.*
- *I called the Governor's constituent services phone and left a message when I read about Utah declining children's food aid on May 27. I received a call back and a very nice person suggested I donate to Utah food bank! I said, you are missing the point! We already donate to more than one food non-profit. The point is the Federal Government is trying to help children and our Utah State Government turned it down because they couldn't figure out how to administer the moneys! We can organize 20,000 volunteers for the Olympics but we cannot figure out how to share food aid with hungry children?! For heaven's sake use the school districts! Thanks for taking up this cause. You have my vote!*
- *We called SL Tribune to inform them of this issue. No response. Thanks for organizing the petition. You have my vote*
- *Children need food it is critical for their development!*
- *Not allowing access to this food aid funded by our tax dollars for needy families/hungry children in Utah is heartless, cruel, and hypocritical, especially when the LDS Church amasses a \$100 billion armageddon end of days slush fund from families and does nothing to help with hunger. We voters will not forget.*
- *Taking care of Utah's most vulnerable, as well as its children, MUST be of top priority, otherwise it is a damn lie to say that Utah cares about children.*
- *As a single mother I am fortunate to be able to participate in unemployment benefits during covid-19. Those who are unable and cannot afford to feed their children should have resources to do so.*
- *Refusing this support is evil. It is literally anti-scripture and anti-Christian.*
- *Children in Utah should never hungry for the sake of Politics in Utah.*

- *If money is available from the Federal Government for food for children it should be accepted. There are many economically disadvantaged children in the Utah County area!. It seems ill advised to not accept the money!*
- *I live in Carbon County; nearly 70% of all students qualify for free and reduced lunch in our county; extra money for food in the area will go a long way with the budget deficit as it is.*
- *Our state's public education is already so underfunded. Children do not learn well if they are hungry. Feed the children, support education.*
- *I have two little kids that I am responsible for. Feeding them can be costly. I would very much appreciate it if our government would help us all with feeding our children during these tough times. For that matter, help us always.*
- *I was one of these children and am now a successful law abiding tax payer who does not need to rely on any state or federal support programs. The free/subsidized lunches I got at school were my main source of nutrition. Fail our children in this time of need and I'll look for a new leader who cares more about our future.*
- *No one should go hungry, there is enough for everyone.*
- *I've labored to assist Utah's poor for 40 years with personal donations of money, expertise and time. My wife and I have made generous contributions to help hungry children because of the state's lack of concern, especially being unwilling to strengthen schools and a better education. We've even given 100 percent of the proceeds from our tax returns to assist local schools and teachers since 1982. I have been working for 3 decades to assist Middle Easterners, Latinos, Africans and other migrants and refugees obtain jobs or start their own microenterprises in Utah Valley with lots of grassroots funding, entrepreneurial training, that yield big impacts. I've lobbied with religious leaders of multiple faiths to push for low-income housing for needy Utahns. I've rallied my friends and neighbors to push for more Medicare/Medicaid for those Utahns who suffer, including the need to cover healthcare for impoverished families. I've seen the governor's arrogance, prodded by the state legislature, to reject federal funding for a number of key programs, resulting in the fact that instead of some of our taxes coming back to assist Utahns who struggle, our money gets relegated to other states. I have been continually amazed how our officials accept the realities of not securing appropriate help for Utah's most vulnerable families which means our churches have to step in to fill the gap. Yes, many in state government are Latter-day Saints, at least in name, maybe for political reasons so they can keep getting re-elected as card-carrying Mormons. Meanwhile, their church is pressed to fill the funding gaps when it comes to nutrition, medical assistance, and other necessities of life that Utah continually neglects. I've watched how Utah's upper class constantly pushes for lower taxes on themselves which means others of us pay more of our incomes. The wealthier segment of Utah's economy lobby to give tax breaks to large established corporations, etc., while raising*

taxes on food and other basic necessities for families that struggle. In a small bit of success, we recently succeeded in forcing a reversal of last year's state house and senate debacle by state officials so that a modicum of justice was restored earlier this past legislative season. But we had to drag state officials dragging and screaming to right the terrible wrong they had perpetrated. What we've seen for decades is a huge failure of leadership, especially during the Herbert/Cox era. So now, finally, maybe we can generate some justice for Utah's Have-Nots. You know, our region's most vulnerable little citizens, poor kids. But will these arrogant officials listen? Or do they really just not care?

- *Why would anyone turn away funding for any hungry children? If this is one of those GOP 'messages,' the only thing we voters hear is that Republicans are heartless.*
- *Take care of the children!*
- *I am a teacher in a title 1 school. Many families struggled prior to the COVID19 pandemic. Now is not the time to withhold important funding to social causes such as this.*
- *Please don't make children in Utah starve! Frankly, a balanced state budget isn't worth it when children are going hungry. The current scenario is unique. Please respond in a unique way to it.*
- *Feed the kids.*
- *I am a mom having a hard time feeding my kids*
- *No child in America should go hungry.*
- *At the end of the day, I know I will be taken care of. Because I am white, and I enjoy white privilege as does Herbert/Cox. I however know that others don't have that same privilege and in part its due to the fact that our politicians play games.*
- *I have so many friends & neighbors who are struggling.*
- *All this is bullshit. No one should ever go hungry.*
- *I am a single mother of two who has not been working for months and this would greatly benefit me and many others.*
- *I worked for the food bank for a few years; sometimes recipients would come back and volunteer to give back. Just normal people who wanted to be self-sufficient but felt on hard times relied on food donations. If there is a way to help people go through this crisis we should try and use it. You might be more motivated if you haven't eaten in a few days.*
- *No child should go hungry ever. Right now there is so much uncertainty and fear; children shouldn't have to also worry about where their next meal comes from.*
- *This is just another example of Herbert turning his back on children. Also Why the Hell did he send OUR NATIONAL GUARD to W DC for the illegitimate Putin Puppet? The racist pig is a DISGRACE on the World Stage.*

- *With the schools closed, kids are not able to get the meals they normally receive during the school year. Our organization, Neighborhood Connection, a 501(c) 3 charity, provides weekend food for elementary kiddos who often go hungry on Saturday and Sunday. Today I helped pack food boxes at the Utah Food Bank for families in need. I know all too well that children are hungry. It is unconscionable that a state that claims to prioritize families would let little ones go without adequate nutrition to make some kind of political point. Please take this help for our children*
- *I believe that every child should not have to worry about where their next meal is coming from. Children should be happy and healthy and not have to worry about things like that. The only things they should have to worry about is their games, play dates, schoolwork, etc.*
- *What reason does the governor assert for declining this money?*
- *Herbert and his administration adore the Psychopath in Chief, and similarly have no problem endangering / sickening / exterminating people they cannot exploit for profit.*
- *My daughter is a 4th grade school teacher in Hurricane, Utah. She has told us on multiple occasions that her estimate is 30% of her students are food deficient. Why are we turning down Federal Funding to provide resources for these kids?*
- *Let the next generation know that we care.*
- *It is an unbelievable slight to the marginalized communities of Utah to ignore these funds. While accepting federal funds pose a seemingly big risk on the autonomy of our state, that risk pales in comparison to the immediate needs we see in this state. Refusal of these federal funds is a clear indication that our current public leaders value power more than the lives of their constituents.*
- *I live in downtown Salt Lake in a Chapter 42 building. Living here by choice and paying market rates. This choice is unfathomable!! My neighbor children absolutely need this resource. What political agenda is served by this decision at the expense of our children? We have not heard.*
- *I am low-income, but technically make too much money to receive EBT services. While I am surviving, I cannot imagine a household with even less income than mine doing so without assistance. Children are the most vulnerable members of our society, and our highest duty is to ensure their care, protection, and prioritization. Anything less is unacceptable and shameful.*
- *When my children were in school, there was a time that they qualified for free lunches, and it was a great help. I can see that many people are in great need, and the Pandemic EBT allowance would be a significant help.*
- *There are many children that cannot help their parent's employment situation. They need this help.*
- *I'm a senior at the University of Utah studying to become an English Teacher – my student teaching year at West High in Salt Lake City will start this fall. As someone who*

works with children and teenagers experiencing food insecurity, it's baffling and horrifying to me that Governor Herbert would turn down an opportunity to alleviate that anxiety and trauma. I hope he and Lt. Gov. Cox change their minds.

- *Constantly disappointed how republicans don't care about children, poverty and education. I Vote!*
- *People need the food.*
- *When my grandmother was a little girl back in Texas, she had to quit school in third grade to help support her family, as her sharecropper father died of tuberculosis. She begged at the back doors of restaurants for food. She told me, "Never turn away the hungry. Always give." We MUST give help, and we must accept it. That is good living.*
- *Utah Republican leaders are constant in their efforts to prevent, withhold, water down aid to the poor. Disgusting. Merrily on to the net no-bid contract for some legislator's friend.*
- *As a teacher in Rose Park, I have seen on a daily basis, under normal circumstances, how food insecurity negatively affects my first grade students. It's completely unacceptable that you, Governor Herbert, conscientiously and purposefully undermine our most vulnerable populations so that you can politically and religiously grandstand. Shame on you and your Lt. governor, who most assuredly will not be receiving my vote.*
- *It's shameful that we have children and families in need going hungry in our state. Take the federal money and put it to good use!*
- *Sentry Financial has sponsored a program through Pulp Lifestyle Kitchen to provide 300+ meals a week to families that are members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Salt Lake. We are trying to expand this program with business and local government participants to help alleviate food insecurity for Utah children and families. I don't understand how Utah government can turn a blind eye.*
- *Our tax dollars ought to go to feed hungry children, not the Inland Port to support private business and a dying fossil fuel industry.*
- *I can't understand how Republicans can argue against this.*
- *The demand on food banks has been overwhelming. Children are going hungry. In the time of a budget deficit, we should not be turning away federal funds.*
- *Having once been in a position of food insecurity with three little children, it is vital for their brain and body development to have adequate nutrition.*
- *The Utah government owes at least this much to its much-deserving people.*
- *Governor Herbert lacks a soul.*
- *Too many children go to be hungry. Refusing federal funds, which originally came from us, is foolish. Accepting the funds would be a gesture of taking care of our own, as the governor put it.*
- *As a resident of Salt Lake City's west side, I am constantly reminded of the struggles that many lower-income families have endured over the past four months. Not only are there*

more cases of COVID-19 infection in my zip codes of 84116 and 84104, but families have lost their jobs or are forced to continue to work even when they are sick. Many of these families are barely surviving from paycheck to paycheck, and this pandemic has been devastating, both physically and economically. It is imperative that the basic necessity of food security be met for these families during this time of emergency.

- *Among all the issues we face in today's world, children going hungry should not be one of them.*
- *We have to provide unlimited EBT funding to ensure that all people on planet earth have access to the basic necessities of life... don't give people money... give them a card that will purchase basic products that perpetuate human life. Nutritious food, basic safe housing, water, basic clothing, education, and healthcare... it's a no brainer! =) Not doing so will lead to domestic terrorism and violence like this world has not yet seen.*
- *My grandchild lives in poverty. Raised by a single parent with a disability.*
- *This is the time to help our children, this is ridiculous.*
- *It is morally wrong to not take every possible step to helping our communities most in need during this pandemic.*
- *Our children need these funds. The refusal by Herbert and Cox is a political ploy and should be overruled by the people.*
- *Please do not reject this money. There are children going hungry and you can help them. I am appalled that you made this decision, but it's not too late. Apply for the program now and help the citizens you are meant to serve.*
- *We are all the same. We need to help.*
- *So.... they can starve if not MORMON and get it from the church????? POS!!!! They're representing ALL Utahns. FEED THE CHILDREN.*
- *I teach at a public school in the granite district and I am seeing firsthand the way COVID19 is affecting food security. I can name my 5th and 6th graders who I worry about every day. I see them waiting in line for food at school, but there are many who can't or don't come. We routinely have over 100 meals served daily at our school site, but I know that kids who need it aren't always able to come to school midday. Nor should we require Utah families to queue up every day for food distribution on top of going to the grocery store. It's an additional infection risk we're asking our most vulnerable families to take on for no good reason when we could add benefits to EBT directly and feed a much greater percentage of our kids. And we're passing up free money to do so.*
- *When every high school has a Food Bank, when so many families depend on school breakfasts and lunches, I can't imagine why you would reject this aid. The excuse that you couldn't organize the implementation is ridiculous. It's your job and if you can't do it, turn it over to those who can.*
- *Kids shouldn't go hungry because their parents are unemployed...ever. Accept the money.*
- *I spent my entire childhood with my single mother receiving SNAP benefits.*

- *What kind of person makes children jump through hoops to get food?*
- *This is not the time to cut down on EBT benefits, especially for those with children under 18 and or have special needs!*
- *Unacceptable, food should never be "too burdensome" for government to provide to ANY people, let alone children. This isn't even greed; it's just plain lazy to let kids go hungry when the food and the money are available.*
- *Time to put citizens before political party.*
- *Please take the money to feed the children in Utah Gov. Herbert. It is the compassionate thing to do.*
- *During this terrible stressful time Children need our help to get the basics and food is one thing basic!*
- *My kids and I NEED the additional help! Please do your job. Thanks.*
- *School age children need support outside of their school support*
- *I have volunteered for Utah Children and 4th Street Clinic and have witnessed the need for food for roughly 20% of children in Utah. These children rely on school provided meals and need this food to grow and learn and avoid health problems.*
- *I teach school at Redwood Elementary school where most if not all of the children qualify for free lunch. We have had 350 - 400 families a day come to pick up lunch and breakfast for their children. Food is a basic necessity of life that we need to provide if families are in situations where they can't provide for it themselves. Please get help from the government to meet basic needs for our families.*
- *No person should go hungry in this country!*
- *People are suffering in our state. There is money available to help. Please use it.*
- *I volunteer with Utah foster kids through the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program. I am shocked and amazed by how many families are homeless and need food. Please help people eat, especially with so many millions now unemployed. I've also seen businesses fire minority workers and hire white male return missionaries, this increases the likelihood of unemployment especially for minority women and their children,*
- *Stop politicizing people's lives. Provide AVAILABLE resources -- INCLUDING FOOD - - to those in need.*
- *In 2018, 12% of Utah children were "food insecure", meaning they are in danger of being hungry or lacking nutritious food. Clearly the Dominating Party, the GOP, doesn't care about Utah children - just it's very own. Or maybe only the ones that attend their church. It's hard to interpret this action any other way, Gov. and GOP legislators.*
- *At the very least we ought to be feeding the most vulnerable in our population!*
- *Although our family currently has jobs and food, we see the long lines of cars at public schools picking up food. We watch the news and understand the terribly high levels of unemployment that we are currently facing. We do not have a lot of extra money, but we*

are contributing our part to help others not be hungry. Please except this money for the good of our communities.

- *Most of Utah's hungry children get to eat breakfast or lunch at school. What are they going to do now? What is wrong with you supposed Christians?*
- *Why would the current governor and Lt. gov. reject food aid for children during this time of uncertainty and need??? Republicans have no hearts and they seem to worship the GOD of Money only. LAME - I'm voting for Chris Peterson*
- *Gov. Herbert, why do you claim there will be a revenue problem because of Covid. You should gladly accept these monies to feed Utah children. Please.*
- *We need to protect our children and provide to those that are struggle. This should not be something we need to discuss, helping to provide food to those impacted by this pandemic should be supported by everyone. Please show some empathy to these struggling families and their children. Thank you.*
- *Children should not have to worry where their next meal is coming from.*
- *1/3 of Utahns don't have enough food to eat. We need to feed our citizens!!!*
- *Other than being a sadist, there is absolutely NO REASON for an elected official to reject available aid in providing food sustenance to the minor children of Their State! FEED.UTAH'S.FOOD INSECURE.CHILDREN.NOW!!!*
- *I am fortunate enough to not be experiencing this, but that doesn't mean the problem doesn't exist, I sometimes hear from people in Salt Lake is that they are struggling to put food on the table for their extensive family. It's sad... I want to be a part of the change*
- *Denying food to children is not an option.*
- *My sister in law takes care of 4 kids and takes them to the school for breakfast and lunch and she is concerned about summer since she is already struggling to make ends meet.*
- *I work in Rose Park where many students reported not having enough food at home during the pandemic 'quarantine'. They should be given resources if they are available*
- *I don't have a direct personal story, but to refuse even to apply for the funding is cruel, heartless, and belies a fundamentally rich white supremacist agenda. It is wisely know that brown and black communities are suffering the most from the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- *Want a strong economy? Please make sure our most vulnerable children are fed. They are our future.*
- *I'm tired of Utah making bad decisions for our poor. Stop with the 'welfare queen' mentality of the Reagan years, and get with it man. People are hungry and need help. Don't be a jerk, Herbert.*
- *I live in Rose Park and kids are that well off in my area. They need help. Schools and food banks are what feed them. Do better, Utah!*
- *In my neighborhood of Rose Park, I see a lot of my neighbors depend on the food pantries and school lunches being handed out.*

- *I used to work in an after school program for at risk youth here in Salt Lake City and I can attest that food insecurity and food deserts are real problem in this city and state. We must not spare on this issue.*
- *There is simply no viable reason to not do everything possible to secure federal funds that will help provide food for hungry children in Utah. Food is a basic necessity for life! No political ideology should be touted as reason to deny a way to help feed children! Apply to bring funds to Utah families in need!*
- *Children should have food! Shame on Republican politicians who put financials over people.*
- *1/3 of Utah families are struggling with food security. This is a basic human right. We demand you provide services to your people NOW.*
- *It is so important to take care of each other during these times.*
- *I have volunteered the last 12 years for the Assistance League of Salt Lake. Through Operation School Bell and other of our philanthropic programs and working with the public schools, I have seen firsthand the problem and the sad results of food insecurity for many Utah children. Our elected leaders must do whatever they can to help these children. It is their moral and ethical duty!*
- *We have thousands of children going hungry in Utah, daily and this money could be used to help them*
- *I grew up food insecure. Single mother of four on welfare and full time job. I understand the struggles and want politicians that tout their prolife stances to actually care about children in need.*
- *I am a teacher and see the food insecurities. It is irresponsible to see money be turned away for the health and safety of our vulnerable populations.*
- *I am not personally suffering from food insecurity but I served in the Salt Lake Inner City Mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the Glendale area for 5 years and saw first-hand and came to know and love many people there who do. The need for food in this state is great and it seems unconscionable to turn down federal dollars in this time of coronavirus crisis. There are unlimited volunteers who would gladly help to distribute food. Thank you*
- *My motto has always been, if we are entitled to it, we should take it. If we are not entitled to it, then moooove on and do something good!!!*
- *No one should be hungry in this state or in the US.*
- *I am a retired social worker and psychotherapist. It is very important that we take care of children in need. They need ample food to grow into healthy adulthood*
- *30% of Utahns experiencing hunger. Need more infrastructures permanently to be sure people's needs are met.*
- *Good heavens. Food for children. We don't ever have enough money for this. Refusing this Federal money for the reasons always given is irrational.*

- *I have worked with low income families in the school system before. Trying to improve their life circumstances while also getting food on the table everyday can make them feel like they are moving one step forward, and two steps back. Please help provide some relief in an already stressful situation.*
- *As a senior that has never felt any insecurity but grew up in a family that could have, I always worry about those that can't get food or shelter or a job.*
- *Substitute teacher here who sees this every single day with hundreds of children. And as a single mom now out of a job experiencing food insecurity myself. This is not okay. Do better Utah*
- *We live in a country with too much wealth to have starving children. It is unacceptable with the trillions of tax payers dollars currently being spent in response to the CV19 pandemic that children are still wondering where their next meal will come from.*
- *No Child should go Hungry in the Country ... WHY is this an issue? Just FEED Them*
- *I live in a high end privileged neighborhood yet within two miles of my home are many children who would starve to death if they didn't get help with food. Thank makes me sick.*
- *This is something that happens in a third world country, not in an industrialized nation.*
- *Children should not go hungry!*
- *I was once hungry.*
- *My wife is a retired teacher after 35 years and my daughter is 12 years, they know what a hungry child looks like. Give me a break, such stupidity.*
- *Keeping money from hungry children? What is more to say?*
- *I have a real problem with our governor and legislature patting themselves on the back saying they have created the most prosperous state in the union when there are homeless people and children that go to bed hungry or parents that don't eat so their children can. Something has to be changed!*
- *During a pandemic, I would think refusing to feed hungry children is barbaric*
- *What kind of monster takes food from a hungry child? A Republican.*
- *All families need to feel safe and give food.*
- *As a former school administrator, I saw daily children whose ability to learn was impacted by food insecurity. At the height of this pandemic, tens of thousands of school-age children have been added to their number. Refusing federal funds to ameliorate this need seems foolish and short sighted.*
- *All children should have food.*
- *I know what it is like going to bed and crying because you and your children are hungry. Nothing is worse than you are doing all you can do and still no one cares. Please help the hungry children! Thank you for taking this into consideration. Sincerely,*

- *I have 3 kids and I don't qualify for food stamps And I didn't get a stimulus Either I really needed that help to feed my kids.*
- *I have 3 children and only my spouse works sometimes we don't have enough for my kids to have lunch or dinner. With them now being in dimmer vacation they seem to get hungrier and we don't have for them to snack on.*
- *In addition to paying tax on Social Security and food, I have given money to schools and food banks so children can eat. Not taking this money is condemning children to food insecurity and retirees to triple taxation.*
- *I give as much as I am able as a retired person to many organizations that feed children and families. I also pay taxes on my Social Security income in Utah, as well as sales tax on my food. Utah hates children and old people.*
- *People need food. Period!!*
- *Kids need to be fed!*
- *Too many times I have gone without food to feed my daughters.*
- *I don't understand why we are in a supposed budget crisis, can't spend money on education, clean air, or transportation, but we are the only state in the country that wouldn't take money to feed children. I'm so tired of hearing about Utah family values because I never see them in action.*
- *I was amazed to see the number of kids that only have access to decent food through the Utah Public School system. Why would this state reject the money?*
- ***THIS AFFECTS MY 4 GRAND CHILDREN AND THEIR MOTHER WHO HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED FOR 2 MONTHS WITH CANCER.***
- *I just think that kids should be fed?*
- *It breaks my heart to think that officials in our State of Utah aren't take advantage of EVERY opportunity and strategy to help those dealing with food insecurity in our state.*
- *In Sanpete County, where I live and where Spencer Cox is from, there is great food insecurity. The schools here even give out lunches in the summer time, when school is not in session. I would like to see Utah get every available dollar to help feed children.*
- *I am concerned about children in single parent households where the parent must work. This pandemic has been an extra burden for these parents and their children. Why are you not considering this? Is it because your family is feeling comfortable? Well, others are not. We must all do what is necessary to help and this is an important part of the solution.*
- *As far as I am concerned there is NEVER a reason to deny funding so that our state can provide assistance to those who have so little.*
- *How dare you not approve this!!!! For the people of your state! The people are hungry and although businesses are opening that doesn't mean people are working/employed!!!! Get to work.*

- *Children should not suffer because of political expediency or as hostages to political wrangling*
- *Please keep your politics out of the lives of the poor. If there is money available to provide food and other necessities to children, don't be so proud or stubborn that you can't be bothered to assist others in acquiring it.*
- *I think the funds should make it out to all families that are waiting for it to feed their kids*
- *We have so many homeless and food insecure children in our community. The fact that it would take more work is no excuse. When a school needed help feeding kids on weekends, four of us (including two of us with full-time jobs), created a nonprofit in four months and started feeding kids. Just two years later, our small group feeds 500. If we can do that while juggling raising our own kids and working full-time, the state could figure out how to use this money to feed kids. This is a national embarrassment for a state that supposed values families and children.*
- *It is incumbent on all who profess to be followers of the predominant religion in our state to do all in their power to feed the hungry, thereby giving a measure of human dignity to all those in need.*
- *I do not have any children now but when I was I child I remember having to skip meals because we did not have food. When I was 16, I started working in the food industry because at least I got a meal. The money I made had to go to other expenses.*
- *Mr. Herbert, Show us that you are as "Christian" as you claim. FEED THE KIDS! I find it quite pathetic that we have to beg you to do the right thing.*
- *I am a single mother who is currently one of those Utah families that's struggling to provide for my son the way I need to, I have reached out to the local churches however, with the bishop's warehouse closed I haven't been able to get the help I need . I fully support this petition, Utahns are resilient. We bounce back and welcome ALL with open arms. It's because of that exact reason me and my son have made it this far. So THANK you to all and I pray this helps*
- *Healthy eating is a basic right that all children need if we have any hope for the future!*
- *For my middle and high-school years of my life my family struggled with affording food and the fee waiver and summer lunch programs accounted for most of our meals.*
- *I serve the marginalized communities and refugees. I have witnessed and impacted by both fundings and services provided to these children to give them path forward, away from poverty. Volunteers like me can continue to provide personal, equitable services when State and Federal government due their parts.*
- *Obviously, if we have been paying crossing guards for the last several months to walk kids back-and-forth to school so they can get their lunch, their parents need help feeding them for the entire summer. Until you can figure out how to make sure that people earn a living wage, you need to help the kids get enough to eat.*

- *Ever since the pandemic started I've been donating to the Utah Food Bank to help those in need of the very basics to survive. My husband took a pay cut at work, yet we still make sure to donate to those who need it more. What the hell?! If we could take this money from the feds to help children be fed, why would we ever decline it?! I'm appalled!*
- *Children going hungry are unacceptable!*
- *No child should go hungry-especially while parents are away for the day*
- *I am a Father of 3. Working in manufacturing and production has giving me the ability to let my wife stay at home and raise our children. I have been lucky or unlucky enough to be considered an essential worker. But I can only imagine fathers and mothers whose income has been interrupted by this pandemic*
- *I teach school. Life is expensive. Families need all the help they can get*
- *There is a proper context for standing up to what you see as an "overreach" of the federal government, but NOW is not the time, nor our hungry children shouldn't be the victims of a political statement you think you are making by this grossly inappropriate refusal to accept aid for Utah families and children!*
- *The cost of food is astronomical right now. Going to the store costs at least \$100. Knock it off. I thought you were pro-life.*
- *Especially concern for those on reservations.*
- *Very big problem for families who are still not working*
- *We need that money for our kids now.*
- *As a school social worker, I saw child hunger first hand. Every child deserves to eat. Our society needs & deserves well fed & well educated children. They are our future.*
- *It's just what's right*
- *As a maternity social worker in a large hospital, I meet with patients and families every day. I try to provide education and resources to them about what is available in the community. Given all the current stresses of COVID-19, recent earthquakes, and major changes in how children attend school, I can understand how families who depend on the school lunch/breakfast programs may need extra help. In addition, we know that economic stress can contribute to discord at home. Please accept these benefits on behalf of our state's children!*
- *I'm afraid there are too many kids going hungry right now. There are over 30 million people unemployed right now. Republicans have no sense of right and wrong anymore. They're all for stopping an abortion but once you are born they could care less if you have health care or food to live. You can't pull yourself up by the bootstraps if you don't have any.*
- *My cousin has been furloughed; they cannot meet basic living costs, and were rejected for food stamps for 5 kids.*

- *While Utah May be weathering the pandemic storm better than most states no child in a state as prosperous as ours should be going hungry.*
- *My family has depended on food stamps to provide healthy nutritious food during financial hardships.*
- *No child should be hungry when there are so many fat people in our state.*
- *We are helpers, one to another.*
- *Quit being a cheap o gov.*
- *We didn't accept this because they didn't want to to the work? How lazy can you be? God forbid you're not born wealthy in this state, you'll go hungry and homeless and the state/church will turn the other cheek. So damn sad.*
- *The Utah Legislature only likes to raise taxes on the poor.*
- *People must be free to make appropriate health choices given the pandemic. Yes, we may be reopening the community and economy, but the risk of contracting the virus is still high. We do not have measures in place to assist people if they become ill and must pay for care. We do not have measures in place for most contingencies. If people can be fed then they will have a little more freedom to make proper choices for their health and not be FORCED back to work when it is unhealthy or unsafe. Protect Utah children. Protect Utah Families*
- *A society should be judged by how well it takes care of those within it that might struggle.*
- *Too many parents I know are struggling to put food on the table. Too many children close to me are going to bed hungry. The people need help*
- *It breaks my heart for so many children here to go hungry. Apply for this for all of our children.*
- *Utah loves to talk about being a family oriented state, but when we have an opportunity to demonstrate that by supporting policy thar help families, our state far too frequently falls short. Utah children need this to be healthy, and Utah family need healthy children.*
- *It's sad the amount of people & children going without proper nutrition*
- *Governor, please think! This is for feeding children.*
- *It is very heart wrenching to hear of the hungry children all over the world. Please help take care of as many as we can. LET'S START WITH THE ONES IN OUR STATE!*
- *I work in a preschool and sometimes the breakfast and lunches we serve at school are the only food some of the kids get. Children as young as three and four should never have to go hungry. I'm terrified for what the pandemic and summer vacation will mean for those kids.*
- *Yes, let's do the right thing!*
- *I'm a teacher primarily at West side schools and I have seen hungry kids daily try to function in school while their parents are at work. I can't even imagine how some kids*

are able to eat now that many parents can't work due to Covid 19. More Utahns struggle to feed their families than most people know.

- *I just can't believe that they are always so willing to take money from education instead of something else. Some of the kids only get 1 meal a day. We live in a nation where none of our kids should go hungry.*
- *My husband is an essential worker and we haven't been able to qualify for food assistance because our 18 year old's income was considered and they we furloughed. Now our child is back at work and we're waiting for a paycheck stub to qualify. We just found out yesterday that people on unemployment throughout the country are receiving and extra \$600 a week and my husband isn't receiving even hazard pay! The least our government can do is help us feed our kids.*
- *Please help our kids! They deserve it!*
- *Why would we forgo federal money that would support our local grocers and keep families fed? There is no excuse for rejecting these funds. Utah families need this assistance and our local grocers and farmers need this support.*
- *Health and well-being of Utah's children should be our state's #1 priority.*
- *I teach in Ogden. Many of those struggling students are my students.*

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