

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
FIFTY-FIRST SENATE
24th SESSION**

6 APRIL 2022

BILL #5112

Continuing Support for Rams Against Hunger Food Pantries

SPONSORED BY: Evan Welch, Chair, University Affairs Committee, ASCSU; John Williamson, Director of Campus Engagement, ASCSU; Jackson Hunter, Speaker of the Senate, ASCSU;

WRITTEN BY: Benton Roesler, Director of Housing Security, ASCSU; Julia Dickey, Food Security Specialist, ASCSU;

COLLABORATED WITH: Michael Buttram, Rams Against Hunger Coordinator; Alejandra Quesada-Stoner, Director of Health, ASCSU; Kylee Weiss, Deputy Director of Health, ASCSU; Ariadne Athey, Internal Affairs Committee Chair, ASCSU; Brandon Baum, Speaker Pro Tempore, ASCSU;

ENDORSED BY: Food Security Advisory Committee, Rams Against Hunger; Anya Kaplan-Hartnett, Director of Governmental, ASCSU; Noah Burge, Senator for College of Business, ASCSU; Ben Torres-Doxey, Recruitment and Retention Officer, ASCSU; Elijah Sandoval, Senator of First Generation Collaborative Board, ASCSU; Christian Dykson, ASCSU President, ASCSU; Kevin Clark, Parliamentarian, ASCSU; Emily Baller, Director of Finance, ASCSU; Joslyn Orji, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, ASCSU; Haydyn Deason, Senator, Warner College of Natural Resources, ASCSU; Rob Long, Senator, College of Business, ASCSU; Isabelle Weber Alatorre, Intern to Director of Diversity and Inclusion, ASCSU; Merry Gebretsadik, ASCSU Vice President; Jesse Marcelo, CSU Student; Hashem Esfahani, CSU Graduate Student; Kathryn Conrad, RAH Student Coordinator; Ryan Huerta, RAH Student Coordinator; University Affairs Committee

ABSTRACT: This bill will allocate \$36,000 from the ASCSU General Discretionary Fund account over two years in \$12,000 per year increments towards maintaining the success of the Rams Against Hunger Pocket Pantries that were created and originally funded by ASCSU in 2018.

WHEREAS

The Associated Students of Colorado State University have actively supported and funded Rams Against Hunger and their efforts for many years, creating the pocket pantries and heavily

funding the incoming permanent grocery store style pantry that will be finished and running by January, 2022; and,

WHEREAS

The 2018 pocket pantry bill (Bill #4831) written by then Director of Health is set to sunset spring 2022 and it was requested “that the success and viability of the Pocket Pantry Program be considered by the fifty-first Senate to determine if funding through the ASCSU General Fund should continue;” and,

WHEREAS

The previous pocket pantry bill named that:

“Results of a Spring 2018 CSU student survey indicate with 95% confidence that:

- 40.6% of students state that at some time in the last 12 months, the food that they bought just didn't last, and they didn't have money to get more
- 58.1% of students state that they could not afford to eat balanced meals at some time in the last 12 months
- 47.31% of students state that they cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food at some time in the last 12 months
- 34.8% of students state that they were hungry but did not eat because there was not enough money for food at some time in the last 12 months
- 19.4% of students state that they did not eat for a whole day because there was not enough money for food at some time in the last 12 months;” and,

WHEREAS

More recently, a multi-institutional survey administered by the Center for the Study of Student Life and College of Education and Human Ecology at Ohio State University found that 78% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they feel stressed about their personal finances in general, 48% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed they worry about being able to pay their current monthly expenses, and 63% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed they worry about having enough money to pay for school; and

WHEREAS

The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University administered a survey known as the #REALCOLLEGE survey where they reported that in 2020:

- 55% of respondents experienced at least one form of basic needs security, including:
 - 29% of students experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days
 - 43% of students experienced housing insecurity in the previous year
 - 17% of students experienced homelessness in the previous year

- 55% of respondents experiencing basic needs insecurity did not apply for campus support because they did not know how; and,

WHEREAS

A multi-institutional survey administered by the American College Health Association found that food insecurity is significantly *higher* for marginalized populations, where it was reported that in the following demographic groups, the following groups identified themselves as having low or very low food security:

- Latinx: 63%
- Black/African American: 60%
- Native American/Native Alaskan: 53%
- LGTBQ: 49%
- First-gen: 57%
- Off-campus: 53%

WHEREAS

There is a clear need to continue our pocket pantry efforts, which support hundreds of students weekly, and ensure those pantries are stocked with nutritious food options for our students; and,

WHEREAS

Food security is an issue of social justice, where one report found that food insecurity is a result of the "inequitable distribution of resources and uneven relations of power," and the factors that perpetuate food insecurity and hunger include structural racism and classism, land rights and sovereignty, and labor and workers' rights¹; and,

WHEREAS

"The decision to attend Colorado State University and pay all related expenses undoubtedly accounts for some of the financial conditions which cause food insecurity for students on campus," and "collecting student fees from students who cannot afford to eat balanced, consistent meals without attempting to alleviate their situation is against the spirit of Colorado State University and the principle of 'Rams take care of Rams'"; and,

WHEREAS

ASCSU should firmly stands in support of student success by ensuring students have access to healthy foods necessary to reach greater levels of food security which lead to academic and personal success; so,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ENACTED

That the Fifty-First ASCSU Senate allocates \$36,000 from the ASCSU General Discretionary Fund towards the Rams Against Hunger Pocket Pantries over the course of 3 years, with \$12,000 allocated from the fund each year starting June 2022 and ending May 31, 2025; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the \$36,000 allocated from the ASCSU General Discretionary Fund will be translocated to the ASCSU Fund Balance as a new line item for the Pocket Pantry; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the expenditure of these funds by Rams Against Hunger shall be overseen by the Food Security Advisory Committee, ASCSU Food Security Specialist, and an ASCSU Senate liaison, all in the Food Security Advisory Committee space; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That any remaining money for BILL #5112 in the ASCSU Fund Balance, be returned to the Fund Balance as a whole. The remaining money will be returned by the end of the Fiscal Year 2025; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the unspent amount shall be reported to the Fifty-Fourth ASCSU Senate, Director of Health, and Food Security Specialist by the ASCSU Accountant and/or the ASCSU Financial Advisor; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the 54th Senate of ASCSU will review the impact of the pocket pantries in collaboration with the Basic Needs Coordinator and reallocate more funding to pocket pantries at the time if determined necessary; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

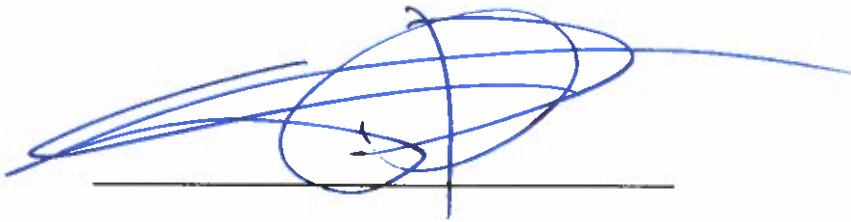
That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Michael Buttram, Basic Needs Coordinator, SLiCE; Joyce McConnell, CSU President; Dr. Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs; Tony Frank, Chancellor of Colorado State System; Julia Dickey, Food Security Specialist; Alejandra Quesada-Stoner, Director of Health; Ariadne Athey, Food Security Committee Senate Liaison; Jessica Sholts; ASCSU Advisor; and Uriel Diaz, Student Accountant for ASCSU.

23-0-0

4/6/2022

PASSAGE

DATE



April 8, 2022

PRESIDENT CHRISTIAN DYKSON

DATE

TAGS: Basic Needs, Rams Against Hunger, RAH,

Citations for any external references:

1. Cadieux R.V. & Slocum, R., (2015). What does it mean to do food justice?. *Journal of Political Ecology*, 22, pp. 2-26)