

Dear Senator Krawiec,

I'm writing to you as the director of Faithfully Feeding Forsyth, a church-based hunger relief nonprofit, to appeal to you for help in fulfilling our Christian mission of ensuring all God's children have access to nutritious food. I read in the *Winston-Salem Journal* that the General Assembly would be talking about additional COVID relief and wanted to ask your help to make sure hunger relief agencies like ours receive supplemental funding to meet the spike in need for our services.

Our agency relies heavily on congregational support in the form of donations and volunteer hours to meet the needs of individuals and families across our county who struggle to afford nutritious food. In January alone, we had 812 volunteers deliver one hot meal and four frozen meals a week to 1459 clients, including 435 in Clemmons, Kernersville, and Walkertown, 682 in Winston-Salem, and 342 in the rest of the county. *That's an 18% increase from the number of people we were serving this time last year – and we have a waitlist of 89 more households seeking support.*

In response to increased need since the start of the pandemic, our nine congregational partners have stepped up to supplement our food delivery by hosting an on-site food distribution event at each church once a month. This has allowed us to provide families with fresh produce, milk, and meat along with shelf-stable foods twice a week. It's been wonderful to see so many good souls step up and help! But since July, we have run out of food at every distribution event except the one right before Thanksgiving and two leading up to Christmas.

My husband and I help out with food distribution at our church. This past Thursday evening, we ran out with twelve more families left in line. Right up front was this beautiful blue-eyed boy and his father, Luke, who told my husband he got there as fast as he could after his custodial job, but that he had to pick up his son first so his wife could pick up a substitute CNA shift for a nursing home resident. My husband is a stoic man, Senator Krawiec, but when that little boy asked if he could please have more of the granola bars in the green box, he turned away to wipe his eye and take a deep breath before telling him, "I'm sorry, son, we're all out."

**Senator Krawiec, every night I've prayed for that family, and all the other families whose needs go beyond what our agency and others in the area can do to meet the demand for food.** We refer those we can to other hunger relief organizations where they may be eligible for assistance, but we're finding that demand for assistance is up at every food program. We need help.

Please, will you do all in your power to make sure that additional COVID relief legislation includes dedicated funding to help nonprofits like ours meet the surge in demand for food we've experienced since the start of the pandemic almost a year ago?

Thank you and may God bless you,

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