



NEW YORK

Memo of Support for S64 / A1524

No Kid Hungry New York is a campaign of Share Our Strength, a national anti-hunger organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty. Using proven, practical strategies, our No Kid Hungry campaign builds public-private partnerships with the goal of ensuring children have access to the healthy food they need, every day. In response to the coronavirus pandemic, No Kid Hungry has provided emergency grants across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico to help school districts, food banks and other community organizations feed kids during this crisis. In addition to our grant-making, we have advocated for policies to address the unique barriers and unprecedented level of need brought on by this crisis while offering strategic assistance to hundreds of local organizations. No Kid Hungry also launched a text line and website to help families locate meals.

S64/A1524 would establish a statewide Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) as part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in New York. This is a federal option available to all states through SNAP and New York has not yet participated in the program. Traditionally, SNAP assistance can only be used to purchase non-prepared grocery items. Through the RMP, this bill would allow homeless, disabled, and/or elderly residents who can't prepare meals for themselves due to physical or other impairments or do not have the place to cook and store food to use their SNAP benefits to purchase lower-cost hot or prepared food at approved restaurants and retailers statewide.

As vulnerable New Yorkers struggle to regularly access food, this would, most importantly, provide a new option to support them during this devastating time. It also represents a smart, policy for New York at a time when governmental resources have been stretched thin by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it would provide much needed economic support to restaurants which have struggled throughout the pandemic.

No Kid Hungry supports S64/A1524. With food insecurity continuing to rise across the state, New York must take advantage of every opportunity available, including establishing a Restaurant Meals Program. We kindly ask for your support as a cosponsor and to help pass this into law.

For more information, please contact Rachel Sabella, Director of No Kid Hungry New York, at rsabella@strength.org or 646.517.3657.