

Tips for Creating an Impactful Statement Supporting LB 1201

Thank you for being willing to contact your Senator and advocate for LB 1201. It will take all our voices together to ensure our elected representatives understand the full extent of food insecurity and hunger in Nebraska. This sheet contains tips to help you have the greatest impact when communicating with your Senator, whether you choose to call, email, or send a letter.

While statistics are great, the organizations and senators supporting LB 1201 have been working hard to make senators aware of the food insecurity statistics. You can have the greatest impact by sharing personal experience or perspective.

General Tips:

- Clearly state who you are and if you live in the Senator's district.
- Clearly state that you want them to support LB 1201.
- Share with them why food security is an important issue for you. See the next sections for tips on developing this part of your statement.
- Stay concise and to the point when talking on the phone but be ready with more information if the staff member taking your call has questions about your experience or perspective.
- If sending an email, letter, or submitting a written comment, make sure you share your most important point first, provide supporting details (see the next section for tips on that), and close with a clear summary. Your writing will be more credible if you use proper spelling and grammar, so be sure you structure your sentences clearly and spell everything correctly.

Creating a Lived Experience Narrative:

- Did the pandemic cause you or your family to change your eating or grocery shopping habits because of economic hardship?
- Did you use a food pantry during the pandemic?
- Did your children need free or reduced lunch at school?
- Did you volunteer at a food pantry or other food distribution site?
- Do you work in education or social services and have seen firsthand those struggling to meet their nutrition needs?
- Are you a medical professional who can speak to the effects of the lack of a nutritious diet on adults and children?
- Are you a grocer convenience store operator or otherwise involved in selling food? What have you noticed? How has your business been impacted as food security increased?
- Do you provide goods or services and have had customers cut back due to a tight budget?

Creating a Personal Perspective Narrative:

- You likely believe that everyone should have access to nutritious food and not be going hungry. To offer a more impactful perspective, think deeper about what leads you to feel this way. Perhaps it is an experience you had growing up or as an adult, or maybe it is informed by your faith, or maybe it is something else. Whatever it is, when sharing your personal perspective with your Senator, discuss what has led you to feel this way.

Example Phone Call / Voicemail Script for a Senator on the Appropriations Committee

Hello, my name is _____. I live in Senator _____'s district at your address . I am calling to ask Senator _____ to support LB 1201 to improve the food security of all Nebraskans.

Even though things are getting back to normal, my hours have been reduced and I'm not able to afford the fresh produce I want my kids to have. If it weren't for our local food pantry, I wouldn't be able to have fresh fruits and vegetables for my kids. LB 1201 supports the food banks and the local pantry. Until my hours get back to where they were before COVID-19, I'll need the support of the food pantry.

Thank you for taking my call, and please let Senator _____ know that would like **him/her** to support LB 1201.

Example Email for a Senator on the Appropriations Committee

Senator _____,

My name is _____, and I am a constituent who lives in your district at your address .

I am asking you to support LB 1201 to improve the food security system in Nebraska. *COVID-19 has put significant stress on my family's budget. I lost my job at the beginning of the pandemic, and my current job pays less than the job I had before COVID. There have been months when there wasn't enough money to cover all our family's costs, and we've had to turn to the food pantry to get healthy food. While many are acting like the pandemic is over, our family still hasn't recovered financially. I know we're not the only family living paycheck to paycheck. Supporting LB 1201 will give me peace of mind that our family won't go hungry while the economy gets back to normal.*

Sincerely,

Example Call / Voicemail Script for a Senator not on the Appropriations Committee

Hello, my name is _____. I live in Senator _____'s district at your address . I am calling to ask Senator _____ to let **his/her** colleagues on the Appropriations Committee know that advancing LB 1201 is important for Nebraska.

I volunteer at the food pantry in Lynch, and even though the economy is strong, people in our part of the state are still reliant on our pantry. Some need pantry because their jobs don't pay as well, or they aren't getting as many hours as before COVID started. Others lost a family member to COVID and now have to stretch a single income to cover all of their family's expenses. These folks don't want to come to the pantry, but they don't have a choice, and I fear there are more who go hungry because they're ashamed to ask for help. Please let your colleagues know that food assistance is greatly needed and that the full Legislature should be able to vote on this bill.

➔ Remember to replace the yellow italic text with your own experience or perspective ←