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## STATEMENT FROM HOUSE DEMOCRATS ON GOVERNOR'S FOOD ASSISTANCE PLAN

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### Statement from House Democrats on Governor's Food Assistance Plan

*Rep. Sami Scheetz, D-Cedar Rapids*

***"Governor Reynolds has sidestepped a vital lifeline for Iowa's most vulnerable children under the guise of improvement and local control. This alternative proposal is not only a labyrinth of red tape but a clear downgrade from the direct and accessible aid provided by Summer EBT. Instead of ensuring that every child in need receives \$40 monthly for food, the Governor's program forces families to navigate a patchwork system of meal sites, which may not even be within practical reach for many.***

***The new grant program introduced by the Governor is a convoluted mess that sets up unnecessary barriers for access to food. It relies heavily on local organizations to step up and fill gaps, demanding that they jump through hoops for funding that still might not meet all logistical needs, especially in rural or underserved areas. The plan ostensibly aims to use local farms and vendors, but this adds another layer of complexity and fails to guarantee that children will actually receive the meals they need. It's a classic example of bureaucracy at its worst — lots of promises with little potential for real-world effectiveness. We're trading a direct, proven method for fighting hunger with a scattered approach that leaves too much to chance and too many children behind.***

***Governor Reynolds' decision to decline federal funds, which would directly provide \$40 per child for food each month, in favor of this grant scheme will result in Iowa kids going hungry this summer. This ill-conceived program is much less likely to reach all the children who need help. It's an irresponsible gamble with the well-being of our most vulnerable populations.***

***The children of Iowa cannot afford the Governor's political experiment with their meals and their futures. We need reliable, effective solutions, not bureaucratic experiments that serve***

***political interests over public good. It is imperative that we call out this program for what it is — a deeply flawed and inadequate response to a critical problem.***

***I urge a re-evaluation of this decision and advocates for the immediate adoption of the federal Summer EBT program to ensure that no child in Iowa goes hungry this summer.”***

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