

January 6, 2022

Testimony in support of the Vermont Foodbank's request for an appropriation of \$6million for the FY2022 budget adjustment.

Sarah Livingstone, Grants and Communication Specialist

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Good morning and thank you for having me. My name is Sarah Livingstone, I am the Grants and Communication Specialist at Sunrise Family Resource Center, the Parent Child Center for Bennington County. We are asking you all to please support the Vermont Foodbank with an appropriation of \$6 million dollars for the FY2022 budget adjustment, to address the ongoing increased food security needs. No family in Vermont should have to struggle with food insecurity. There is an urgent and important need, right now, and we look to our state leaders to fund solutions to address hunger. By partnering with the Vermont Foodbank, Sunrise is able to offer more fresh, frozen, and nonperishable food in our Pantry. This support is greatly needed by our program participants and is a necessary concrete support that we offer as a Parent Child Center. Sunrise opened our Pantry at the end of May 2021, and to date we have had over 200 visits. As food prices have steadily increased over the past few months, we expect to see an increase in the number of families accessing our Pantry. Proper nutrition is paramount to the wellbeing of the children and families we work with, and this funding has a direct, positive impact on their lives. This year we were also awarded grants through the Vermont Foodbank to help with the cost of our Community Share Agriculture program, to expand our fresh and local produce offerings, and to create engaging displays and recipe kits. Again, please support the Vermont Foodbank with an appropriation of \$6 million dollars for the fiscal year 2022, to address the ongoing increased food security needs. Thank you for your time and consideration!