

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 7-038

**A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TO INVEST
RESOURCES INTO ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY**

- WHEREAS,** The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food;¹ **AND**
- WHEREAS,** 41.4% of respondents living on-campus in a University of Michigan survey reported they experience food insecurity,² meaning they are unsure of how to afford their next meal (Appendix A); **AND**
- WHEREAS,** In Ann Arbor, Michigan, excluding off-campus college students from U.S. Census statistics dropped the poverty rate for the City of Ann Arbor in half;³ **AND**
- WHEREAS,** The University of Michigan campus is a food desert, which is an area devoid of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful whole foods, largely due to a lack of grocery stores, farmers' markets, and healthy food providers;⁴ **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Students need improved access to nutritious, affordable, and healthy food; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** The University of Michigan Central Student Government aims to address food insecurity on campus; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Student organizations, such as Student Food Co and Maize & Blue Cupboard, have been organizing small-scale stop-gap measures for a few years, but lack the resources to address large-scale food insecurity on campus;⁵ **AND**
- WHEREAS,** The University of Michigan School of Public Health's (SPH) Office for Student Engagement and Practice (OSEP) has recently started a new

¹ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security/>

² *Campus groups work to combat off-campus students' food insecurity with an emergency meal program*, Rhea Cheeti, March 7, 2017

³ Bishaw, A. U. S. Census Bureau, Social, Economic, & Housing Division, Poverty Statistics Branch

⁴ <https://maizepages.umich.edu/organization/studentfoodco>

⁵ <https://offcampus.umich.edu/article/fighting-food-insecurity-campus>

project called the SPH Cupboard, which is a pilot food cupboard for SPH students;⁶ **AND**

WHEREAS, Students experiencing food insecurity are two times more likely to report poor health, two times more likely to report depression/anxiety, and 70% more likely to have an eating disorder, and students experiencing food insecurity are less likely to graduate from college/university;⁷

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, University of Michigan Central Student Government, in partnership with 11 school/college governments, calls upon the University of Michigan's leadership to identify and earmark adequate initial funding in the next two years in order to start and continuously support a Campus-Wide Food Bank; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, The Campus-Wide Food Bank should offer free fresh produce and other groceries to University of Michigan students; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, Central Student Government also calls upon the University of Michigan to invest resources into long term measures, such as food insecurity-specific financial aid programs and acceptance of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits both on and near campus; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, Central Student Government will work with relevant university units in the development and maintenance of the Campus-Wide Food Bank; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, Central Student Government will work with relevant university units in the development and execution of long term measures addressing food insecurity.

Authors

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⁶ https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchEdl5HUwUHvoyu2LfqrR6QRQFTzibJyzA-l_yksRbEB1qFg/viewform

⁷ <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00091383.2016.1121081?scroll=top&needAccess=true&https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/14/opinion/hunger-college-food-insecurity.html>

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Attest

Alexandra Contis
Speaker of the Assembly

Isabel Baer
Vice Speaker of the Assembly

President's Approval

Anushka Sarkar

Presented to the Assembly for *First Reads* on _____

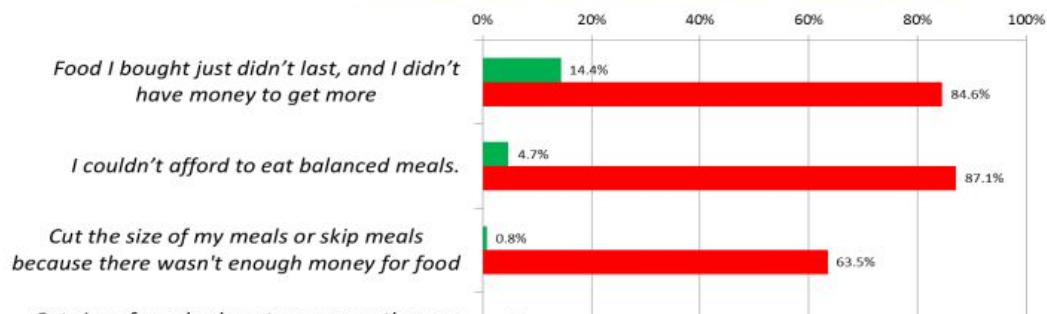
Presented to the Assembly for *Second Reads* on _____

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abs: _____ Date: _____

Signature Necessary: _____ Signature Received By _____: _____

USDA 6 Item Food Insecurity Screener

* Results from previous 2012 survey in UM students



Appendix A

USDA 6 Item Food Insecurity Screener * Results from previous 2012 survey in UM students
Compiled by U-M Professor Nicole Kasper

FULL U-M FOOD INSECURITY REPORT VIEWABLE HERE:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wRsIrSSzS9v10KRX4PboQHtSzluukKEV>

MAIZE & BLUE CUPBOARD USAGE DATA VIEWABLE HERE:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kTyfffNABKpiQOubCbvwj5vqvgKOUDTohe-RVGoZiMg/edit>

