

Ideas for church announcements to **Support Ending Food Tax**, from Bread for the World-SD

NOTE TO CHURCH STAFF

Testimony is needed. If you could relate situations you are familiar with (no names, of course), that would be very helpful. I could let you know when this bill is scheduled and how to call in. Thanks.

A couple SAMPLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Note: Where it says "Bread for the World-South Dakota", feel free to replace that with the name of your own denomination or congregation council or board or committee, if that is the case. Thanks.

South Dakota's grocery tax is making hungry households hungrier. The tax on even \$100 of food could have bought milk and bread or fruits for children. Senate Bill 104 would phase out the state's portion of the grocery tax in small steps over 5 years. Bread for the World-South Dakota urges you to ask state legislators to support SB104. To find them: sdlegislature.gov/Legislators

A message from the Bread for the World-South Dakota:

"No other tax so directly takes food off tables" as SD's grocery tax, says Matt Gassen, director of Feeding South Dakota. Many families have limited budgets for food, so we feel called to speak up to support Senate Bill 104, to end the state's portion of the grocery tax by a 5-year phase down. Please contact your state legislators: sdlegislature.gov/Legislators

ADDITIONAL INFO: (See also www.breadSD.org)

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- Taxing groceries is only one of the causes of hunger in our state, but it is one.
 - The grocery tax is unfair because it hits lower-income homes harder than higher incomes.
 - It is contributing to hunger in homes with limited budgets for food, even homes with children.
 - The total tax you pay on your food over a year could buy all your food for over 3 weeks.
 - Revenue is expected to continue to grow, even with this tax reduction, so that revenue growth will cover for ending this unfair tax without affecting current state programs.
 - Most states do not tax groceries. SD is one of only 4 imposing the full rate with no offset. No SD neighbor state taxes food, so we lose businesses and tax revenue due to shopping outside our borders.
 - Several other states have used this phase down method to end or reduce their food tax.
 - Senate Bill 104 would leave the tax on pop, candy and prepared food.
 - With SB104, groceries would still be taxed by cities. (2% in most towns)
 - Food is a big expense for nursing homes. They need this tax relief.
 - Hunger in South Dakota: According to Feeding South Dakota, One out of every nine South Dakotans is food insecure. Worse, for children it's one in six. These are our neighbors who do not have enough food to make it through the month. Part of their scarce income goes for the tax.
 - As people of faith and as citizens, surely we are called to respond to our neighbors in need. No one should have to pay a tax before they can eat.
 - Also, thousands of low-income South Dakota workers need Medicaid expansion. The governor and state legislators are holding it in their hands. Let's ask them to open their hands to the needy in our land. (Deuteronomy 15:11)

Thank you for all the ways you work to end hunger in South Dakota and the world.

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