



**WEST  
HAVEN  
EMERGENCY  
ASSISTANCE  
TASK FORCE**

**WHEAT, Inc.**

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**674 Washington Avenue West Haven, Connecticut 06516 (203) 931-9877**

February 25, 2008

Members of the Human Services Committee:

I am writing to urge you to support Bill 415, increasing SSNAP funding to 2 million dollars and provide funds to purchase coolers and/or freezers in order to increase food distribution amongst agencies like ours.

The West Haven Emergency Taskforce has been in existence for 35 years and is the only food pantry in the City. SSNAP is a vital source of quality protein food to our agency, now distributing food to almost 3,000 West Haven households annually who are in crisis. Because of higher food prices, combined with current SSNAP funding levels, reduction in food stamps and the number of agencies receiving SSNAP funds, our agency, like many others, was only able to order half of what we ordered last year. The result has been using significant amounts of money earmarked for other budget items, as well as giving out less food to families in need.

I also support the proposal to acquire coolers and/or freezers in order for us to increase the amount of food we distribute. To date, we have not been able to take advantage of the produce and refrigerated items available at the Connecticut Food Bank because of a lack of coolers. We would welcome the opportunity to be able to distribute these types of products to our clients.

Lastly, I ask you to keep in mind that your committee and our legislature can have an important impact in helping to alleviate poverty for the thousands of Connecticut residents, especially the working poor, who struggle every day to remain productive members of our communities but cannot feed their families.

I respectfully request that Bill 415 be passed immediately.

Sincerely,

Rose Majestic  
Executive Director

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