

Testimony to the Human Services Committee concerning SB 1145

March 17, 2011

I am Dale Doll, Director of Food Services at MACC Charities (the Manchester Area Conference of Churches, Inc.). MACC has a homeless shelter, community kitchen and food pantry in Manchester. MACC staff and volunteers have been doing SNAP outreach with End Hunger Connecticut! for six years. We serve the Manchester and Bolton area. We attend local health and education fairs, reach out to our churches and schools, and reach out to our shelter, kitchen and pantry guests with information on SNAP benefits.

Our efforts have been very successful increasing SNAP participation and awareness. We have a relationship with the Manchester and Hartford regional offices and are able to help the people we talk to navigate the bureaucracy. As subcontractors of End Hunger Connecticut!, we are a part of the statewide outreach plan administered by DSS and funded by the USDA.

SB 1145 An Act Concerning Outreach by Community Action Agencies for SNAP applicants seems to be an unnecessary bill mandating what is already being done very effectively by many community organizations. We already work together and meet regularly with the Department of Social Services. It does not make sense to mandate one organization over another as the "official" SNAP outreach contractors.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.