

Heather Hole Strout, Executive Director
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center
20 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Boulevard
Newport, RI 02840
April 28, 2026

Senate Finance Committee

Re: In support of S2237

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Committee;

I'm writing in support of Sen. Mack's bill to allocate \$3 million to the RI Community Food Bank.

I am Heather Hole Strout and I work at The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. I also am a constituent of Middletown, RI.

In my role we have seen the increased demand for food (or our services). At the MLK center, we saw a more than 20% rise in food distributed in 2025, compared to 2024 and that number continues to rise in 2026.

We are concerned that we will see an even greater need once the full impact of HR 1

We urge you to increase the state funding to the Food Bank so that organizations like mine can meet the growing need. Please pass **S2237**

Thank you for support of the Food Bank and all you do to reduce food insecurity in Rhode Island

Signed,

Heather Hole Strout