

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1051

By: Inman, Proctor, Scott and
Virgin

7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution recognizing and commending the Regional
9 Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community Food Bank of
10 Eastern Oklahoma; encouraging Oklahoma residents to
devote time to food banks; designating April 23,
11 2012, as Hold Out for Hunger Day; and directing
distribution.

12
13 WHEREAS, the current, fervent discussion of the economy is
14 counterproductive if Oklahoma remains the hungriest state in the
15 nation; and

16 WHEREAS, if one in four children goes to bed hungry each night,
17 we are failing to invest in our future workforce and our future
18 security forces; and

19 WHEREAS, if one-third of working families are seeking emergency
20 food assistance each month, we are failing to invest in a growing,
21 healthy Oklahoma; and

22 WHEREAS, if one in eight seniors must choose between medicine
23 and food, we are failing to invest in health-care-deficit reduction;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, as long as hundreds of Oklahoma veterans are homeless,
2 we are failing to invest in patriotic service; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2010, 16.9 percent of Oklahomans lived below the
4 national poverty line, which was set at just \$22,050 for a family of
5 four; and

6 WHEREAS, over half of all infants in Oklahoma are enrolled in
7 the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and
8 Children (WIC) and nearly 52,000 of Oklahoma's children are
9 participants in the program; and

10 WHEREAS, currently, 9.8 percent of Oklahoma's seniors are living
11 in poverty, and poor health indicators within Oklahoma's senior
12 population, the high number of older adults who are rural dwellers,
13 and the fact that Oklahoma is one of the leading states for
14 grandparents raising children are additional risk factors for food
15 insecurity within the aging population; and

16 WHEREAS, in October 2011, the Center for American Progress
17 released a comprehensive report on Hunger in America, whose research
18 determined that, nationwide in 2010, hunger cost the U.S. at least
19 \$167.5 billion - a 33-percent increase just since 2007 - due to
20 hunger-induced illnesses, poor educational outcomes and undermined
21 lifetime earnings, and the cost of charity to feed millions of needy
22 families; and

23 WHEREAS, government-supported food assistance programs are an
24 intermediate response to hunger, not a long-term solution, but these

1 programs are vital to the stability of thousands of working poor
2 families in Oklahoma; and

3 WHEREAS, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community
4 Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, which together provide food to more
5 than 1,250 programs and schools, continue to strive to meet
6 increasing demands for emergency food assistance; and

7 WHEREAS, food and shelter are deemed basic human necessities for
8 survival; and

9 WHEREAS, our public policies should reflect our strong state
10 values that respect families, seniors, children and veterans; and

11 WHEREAS, to honor those values, citizens of this state should
12 pledge that all of our families deserve a seat at our table and that
13 no one's plate should ever be empty; and

14 WHEREAS, people in Oklahoma are encouraged to forego one meal on
15 this day and donate the money they would have spent on their missed
16 meal to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma or the Community Food
17 Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
19 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 53RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

20 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives recognizes and
21 commends the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community Food
22 Bank of Eastern Oklahoma for their commitment to feed the hungry in
23 our state and engage our communities in ending hunger.

24

1 THAT all residents of Oklahoma are encouraged to devote some
2 time to local food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, community
3 gardens or other related efforts that promote food security in
4 communities across the state.

5 THAT April 23, 2012, be designated as "Hold Out for Hunger Day"
6 to encourage individuals (young and old) to skip one meal on this
7 day to recognize the plight of hunger in Oklahoma, and contribute
8 the savings from that meal to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma or
9 the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.

10 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Regional
11 Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community Food Bank of Eastern
12 Oklahoma.

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14 53-2-10057 AM 03/20/12

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