

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1028

By: Inman

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8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Resolution recognizing and commending the Regional
10 Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community Food Bank of
11 Eastern Oklahoma; encouraging Oklahoma residents to
12 devote time to food banks; designating May 14, 2013,
13 as Hold Out for Hunger Day; and directing
14 distribution.

15 WHEREAS, the current, fervent discussion of the economy is
16 counterproductive if Oklahoma remains one of the hungriest states in
17 the nation; and

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

21 WHEREAS, if one-third of families seeking emergency food
22 assistance are the working-poor, we are failing to invest in a
23 growing, healthy Oklahoma; and

24 WHEREAS, if 31 percent of Oklahoma's food bank clients are
forced to choose between paying for food and medicine or medical

1 expenses, we are failing to invest in health-care-deficit reduction;
2 and

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

5 WHEREAS, in 2011, 17.3 percent of Oklahomans lived below the
6 national poverty line, which was set at just \$22,350 for a family of
7 four; and

8 WHEREAS, half of all infants in Oklahoma are enrolled in the
9 Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and
10 Children (WIC) and more than 63,000 of Oklahoma's children are
11 participants in the program; and

12 WHEREAS, currently, 9.5 percent of Oklahoma's seniors are living
13 in poverty, and poor health indicators within Oklahoma's senior
14 population, the high number of older adults who are rural dwellers,
15 and the fact that Oklahoma is one of the leading states for
16 grandparents raising children are additional risk factors for food
17 insecurity within the aging population; and

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

1 WHEREAS, government-supported food assistance programs are an
2 intermediate response to hunger, not a long-term solution, but these
3 programs are vital to the stability of thousands of working poor
4 families in Oklahoma; and

5 WHEREAS, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community
6 Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, which together provide food to more
7 than 1,400 programs and schools, continue to struggle to meet
8 increasing demands for emergency food assistance; and

9 WHEREAS, food and shelter are deemed basic human necessities for
10 survival; and

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

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

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

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
21 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

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

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

7 THAT May 14, 2013, be designated as "Hold Out for Hunger Day" to
8 encourage individuals (young and old) to skip one meal on this day
9 to recognize the plight of hunger in Oklahoma, and contribute the
10 savings from that meal to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma or the
11 Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.

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

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16 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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