



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND URGES LAWMAKERS TO “VOTE NO” ON FEDERAL TAX BILL

**SAINT PAUL, Minn. (December 12, 2017)** – Today, Second Harvest Heartland joined Minnesota’s nonprofit community, a sector that employs nearly 12 percent of Minnesota’s workforce, in its opposition to the federal tax bill awaiting passage in Congress.

The proposed legislation would add more than \$1 trillion to the federal deficit that would, according to congressional leadership, be paid for through deep cuts to health care and nutrition safety net programs in 2018. Hundreds of thousands of low- and middle-income Minnesotans rely on these investments each year, which include Medicaid, Medicare and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

“Our state’s hunger relief system is not prepared to meet the increased demand expected from massive cuts to the federal safety net,” said Second Harvest Heartland CEO Rob Zeaske. “Our facilities, resources and volunteers are already strained, and if billions of dollars are eliminated from Medicaid and food stamps, more Minnesotans will go hungry. This legislation isn’t aligned with Minnesota values and it certainly doesn’t match our values at Second Harvest Heartland.”

Second Harvest Heartland is one of the nation’s largest, most efficient and most innovative hunger relief organizations, helping provide more than 81 million meals in 2017 alone. Second Harvest Heartland believes no one should ever go hungry, as our region produces more than enough food for everyone. Since 2001, we have worked to help provide meals for the one in 10 individuals in Minnesota and western Wisconsin who experience hunger by strengthening the hunger relief network, working with nearly 1,000 partnering food shelves, food pantries and other meal programs. Every year, Second Harvest Heartland creates new partnerships with schools, hospitals and clinics and advocate for programs and policies that will improve the lives of the people we serve. We leverage our unique position in the emergency food chain to make a difference.