



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# CALLOUS CUTS TO ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAMS OUT OF TOUCH WITH MINNESOTA VALUES

**SAINT PAUL, Minn. (February 13, 2018)** – Today, Second Harvest Heartland’s CEO Rob Zeaske issued the following statement in response to President Trump’s 2018 budget proposal, which calls for a 30 percent reduction in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) over the next 10 years.

“The President’s proposed budget is deeply concerning and fails to acknowledge the reality that far too many Minnesotans don’t have enough food to eat,” said Second Harvest Heartland CEO Rob Zeaske. “Massive cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the elimination of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) will overwhelm our state’s network of food banks and food shelves. We are neither equipped nor prepared to meet the increased demand expected from these callous cuts – our hunger relief community of facilities, resources and volunteers are already strained. Most importantly, the seniors and children relying on this critical food assistance will go hungry. This proposal doesn’t align with Minnesota values and it certainly doesn’t match our values at Second Harvest Heartland.”

SNAP, more commonly referred to as food stamps, is the United States’ largest and most effective food assistance program, serving more than 500,000 hungry Minnesotans last year alone. One in 10 Minnesotans does not have enough food to eat, including one in six Minnesota children. SNAP provided direct food assistance to nearly 211,000 Minnesota children in 2016. CSFP is a food assistance program that targets low-income seniors by providing them with nutritious foods through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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.