

WHAT'S WRONG WITH TAXING FOOD?

Meals at the family table should not be taxable events.

- **Taxing food is the wrong way to fund state government.**
- Taxing food **takes food off people's tables.**

A family's yearly total food tax could buy all their groceries for 3 weeks.

- Most states either do not tax food at all or have taken steps toward phasing their food tax down or out. **Not one of South Dakota's bordering states taxes food.**
- South Dakota is one of ten states **RECOGNIZED AS** having the most **UNFAIR** tax systems, with taxes proportionately harder on those least able to pay and easier on those most able to pay. Taxing food is part of this problem.
- **LOW-WAGES** -South Dakota's average hourly wage is one of the nation's lowest. Recent improvements in average S.D. incomes left out the lowest income ranges.
- South Dakota taxes formula and food for **BABIES** (not food for horses and pigs), about 90 cents a can on basic powdered formula; over \$2 a can for an allergic baby. Pregnant mothers' food, so critical for human development, is taxed in South Dakota.
- We have too much hunger among **CHILDREN** in our state.
- **CHARITIES** are having to stretch their limited dollars to cover for these food losses.
- **HEALTH.** Buying cheaper food contributes to **obesity** and other serious **diet-related conditions** all too prevalent in the lower income range. Diabetes is a prime example.
- According to the AARP, every day more than 1 in 10 **SENIORS** wonder where their next meal will come from. The buying power of their food dollar is reduced by the tax.
- **NURSING HOMES** pay tax on all their food, adding up to a major budget expense.
- Because tribal tax agreements match the state sales taxes, **people in the economically poorest counties in the nation are paying tax on their food!**
- SD's 8-year attempt at food tax refunds was unsuccessful, missing an est. 99.7% of low-income households. SD'ans have **NO REDRESS** for the problem of taxing food.
- SD could **end or phase out** the food tax. Sales tax rules allow for rates on food and utilities to be lower than the general tax rate.
- As **FOOD PRICES** rise, the state reaps more from the tax. Food prices are expected to rise further. Now is a good time to start to reduce the food tax in South Dakota.

**Ask the governor and state legislators
to end the food tax or at least start phasing it out.**

You shouldn't have to pay a tax before you can eat!