

"A sales tax on groceries is the cruelest tax that any government can impose." Senator Alan Nunnelee, R-Tupelo MS

**Food prices - up!
Economy - down!**

**Increasingly, families feel the pinch
when grocery dollars go for TAX instead of food.**

But here is some

GOOD NEWS from Pierre! SB199

What Senate Bill 199 does:

- Ends the WHOLE cruel food tax
- Has bi-partisan leadership (Senator Merchant & Representative Cutler)
- Shifts taxes to fully maintain state, city and tribal revenues formerly raised by taxing food. (The revenue is replaced simply by shifting 1/2% more tax to all non-food sales. Check below to see how this fairer method works.)
- Wisely provides a revenue cushion in case non-food sales slump with the economy. (The cushion is provided by leaving the tax on pop and candy.)
- Saves state dollars by ending a current state program -- The food tax refund program will no longer be needed. It never did reach enough people.

YOU CAN HELP! Get the word out.

Tell your friends, church members, groups, newspapers & blogs.

Urge state legislators to support SB199.

- Right when we need it most, this helps while more people worry about putting food on the table.
- It works like this: You save 12 cents when you spend \$2 on food, but you pay one cent more when you spend \$2 on non-food. That's why middle- and low-income families would come out ahead.
- The tax on just \$100 of food could buy two gallons of milk. -- Welcome news to a home with teenagers!
- South Dakotans who now cross to neighboring states to get tax-free groceries will bring their purchasing power back home. (None of our neighbors tax food. Most states do not.)
- The food tax should be ended because 41% of South Dakota children live in low-income families. (2007, Kids Count Data Center)
- The food tax refund program misses most low-income families. Of the many millions collected in food tax, only 3.8% gets returned to stressed South Dakota homes. You know there is more need than that!
- "No other tax so directly takes food off people's tables." [Food Bank director] In most of the state, the food tax equals over 3 weeks worth of food out of a year.
- "People can buy used clothes, but you cannot buy used food." -Trina Miller. With food, you can only economize so much before degrading the health of the family and the children's ability to learn.
- Ending food tax is the morally right thing to do. "The time is always right to do what is right" - Martin Luther King, Jr

