

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



## **NOW IS THE TIME** to **END THE FOOD TAX**

- ▶ ***Grocery prices are higher than ever!*** The state can't undo the high prices, but it could help by getting the tax off. 41% of South Dakota's children live in low-income families. These stressed families and others, including nursing homes, with limited food budgets are struggling under the high prices. **Does it matter? *You bet!***
- ▶ ***Times are tough!*** The state can't stop the recession, but it could help with basic needs. Does this matter? ***You bet!***
- ▶ ***A simple solution is available!*** The whole cruel food tax could end with NO loss of state revenue by ½ percent more on non-food sales. AND cities and tribes could be fully reimbursed. Would it help struggling South Dakotans? ***You bet!*** The tax on just \$100 food could buy two gallons of milk. Think of the impact in a home with teenagers!
- ▶ ***The food tax refund program misses most low-income families.*** It returns only 3.8% of the food tax to stressed South Dakota homes, despite much more need. These types of programs are inherently ineffective. Would ending the food tax be better? ***You bet!***
- ▶ ***It's the right thing to do.*** Taxing food contributes to hunger. "The time is always right to do what is right" - Martin Luther King, Jr

South Dakotans ended the tax on medical services  
and outlawed paying to use toilets.  
You don't pay a tax before you can vote or before you can breathe.  
No one should have to pay a tax before they can eat.

**What to do?** You have influence! **Ask your state legislators to stop taxing food by passing SB199** (the bi-partisan Merchant-Cutler bill). Let them know we need this good news. And help inform the public.