

2021 Montana Legislative Priorities



**VETOED: State Investment in
Double SNAP Dollars**

The Double SNAP Dollars bill, House Bill 235, would have provided just \$95,000 to expand Montana's Double SNAP Dollars program. This program doubles the buying power of SNAP for customers shopping at participating farmers markets, helping them afford more fruits and vegetables and directly supports Montana farmers. Learn more about this program on the Double SNAP Dollars [website](#).

HB235 passed the Legislature with bi-partisan support, only to be vetoed by Governor Gianforte. Fortunately, the Double SNAP Dollars program will continue to operate at locations across the state. [Click here to learn more about HB235](#).



**TABLED: Barriers to
Assistance Programs**

Senate Bill 100 would have created a costly new verification system, making it more difficult for eligible Montanans to access SNAP, Medicaid and other public assistance programs.

Thanks to strong opposition from advocates and community members across the state, this bill was tabled in the House Human Services Committee. [Click here to learn more about SB100](#).



**TABLED: Formal Child Support
Compliance for SNAP Eligibility**

House Bill 339 would have required single parents to be in compliance with a formal child support enforcement order to be eligible for SNAP benefits, increasing hunger for Montana families and children.

A strong showing of opposition at the hearing, as well as many calls and emails to the committee members help table this bill in the House Human Services Committee. [Click here to learn more about HB339](#).



**TABLED: Family & Medical
Leave Insurance (FAMLI)**

House Bill 228, the FAMLI Act, would have allowed employees the ability to take paid time off of work for significant health events through employee and employer contributions. Access to paid leave keeps people on their feet and connected to the workforce during hard times.

Despite a strong showing of support by advocates and community members across the state, HB228 was tabled in the House Business and Labor Committee. [Click here to learn more about HB228.](#)



**TABLED: Strengthen School
Meals by Eliminating Co-Pays**

House Bill 69 would have eliminated the co-pay for families qualifying for reduced-price school meals. Eliminating the co-pay would have improved access to school breakfast and lunch for families with low-income, and reduced unpaid meal debt and simplified administration for schools.

HB69 was tabled in the House Education Committee. [Click here to learn more about HB69.](#)



**OPPOSE: Personal Income
Tax Relief Act**

The Personal Income Tax Relief Act, Senate Bill 159, reduced the top income tax rate, primarily benefitting the highest income Montanans. We opposed this bill because it will cost the state over \$30 million in general fund revenue per year, putting essential services and programs at risk.

SB159 stalled in the House Taxation Committee but ended up passing the Legislature and was signed by Governor Gianforte. [Click here to learn more about SB159.](#)