Every night, people in nearly 590,000 North Carolina households don’t have enough to eat. North Carolina has the 10th highest rate of food insecurity in the nation. The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, is responsible for lifting more than 160,000 people out of poverty each year. Additionally, more than 9,700 grocers and retailers participate in the program, pumping $2.14 billion in the NC economy last year.

Since peaking at 17.3 percent in 2013, North Carolina’s food insecurity rate has slowly declined, yet still remains well above pre-recession levels of 12.6 percent. Today, 5.6 percent, or 229,000 households, report missing meals. That’s almost twice the number of all households in Durham, NC.

Here are a few things policy makers can do to help fight hunger:

- Support policies that support SNAP by ensuring all eligible North Carolinians have access to the program and rejecting burdensome benefit restrictions
- Expanding Breakfast in the Classroom
- Ensuring workers earn enough to be able to place food on the table by raising the minimum wage

For more information, contact Brian Kennedy II at briank@ncjustice.org or visit www.ncjustice.org/SNAP