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Congressional Candidate Dalia Al-Aqidi on Feeding Our Future Sentencing: “Six Months for Stealing Half a Million Dollars. Minnesotans Deserve Better.”

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA — Two Feeding Our Future defendants were sentenced this week. One fabricated 1.5 million meals that were never served. The other owes nearly half a million dollars in restitution to American taxpayers. Neither will spend more than a year and a day behind bars.

“These weren’t mistakes. These were deliberate schemes that stole from children’s food programs and from every taxpayer who funded them. When cheating a federal program costs you six months, it stops being a risk and starts being a business model for bad actors. Someone, somewhere, is doing that math right now.”

Al-Aqidi said the sentences reflect a failure of accountability that dishonors every Minnesotan who pays their taxes honestly, plays by the rules, and expects the same from their government.

The Feeding Our Future case, she said, is precisely the kind of systemic failure her anti-fraud platform was built to stop. Al-Aqidi’s Opportunity First Agenda includes a five-point plan to end fraud in government programs by using technology to verify eligibility before payments are issued, conducting independent public audits of federal assistance programs, imposing stiffer criminal penalties for fraud, establishing better oversight of third-party program administrators, and strengthening protections and incentives for whistleblowers.

“The courtroom handed down two verdicts this week. But there is another verdict still owed to the state officials who saw this coming and looked away, and to a system that allowed it to happen while hardworking Minnesotans paid the price. This chapter is far from closed.”

By some estimates, the Feeding Our Future scandal cost American taxpayers more than \$300 million. Of the 63 individuals convicted so far, only a handful have been sentenced, including the two defendants this week.

About Dalia Al-Aqidi

Dalia Al-Aqidi is a Republican candidate for Minnesota's 5th Congressional District. A legal immigrant who fled Iraq and built a distinguished career as a television journalist and anchor, including as a White House correspondent for Alhurra, the U.S.-sponsored satellite network broadcasting to 22 countries across the Middle East. She lives in Minneapolis and is running on her Opportunity First Agenda. For more information, visit daliaforcongress.org.

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