

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4084

To amend the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 to establish a  
Community Gardens Pilot Program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. CONNOLLY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 to  
establish a Community Gardens Pilot Program, and for  
other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Community Gardening  
5 and Nutrition Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) A community garden improves the quality  
2 of life, encourages self-reliance, produces highly nu-  
3 tritious food, reduces family food budgets, and cre-  
4 ates opportunities for recreation, social interaction,  
5 exercise, education, and economic development for  
6 people participating in the garden.

7           (2) The creation of community gardens has  
8 been an effective approach to cleaning up and main-  
9 taining abandoned vacant lots.

10           (3) Many community gardens donate fresh  
11 fruits and vegetables to local food pantries, coopera-  
12 tives, and homeless members of the community, and  
13 provide for a source of fresh fruits and vegetables  
14 for participants of the gardens.

15           (4) An August 2013 report by the Union of  
16 Concerned Scientists entitled “The \$11 Trillion Re-  
17 ward” concluded that if Americans were to eat 2.5  
18 cups of vegetables and 2 cups of fruit daily, as rec-  
19 ommended by Federal dietary guidelines, nearly  
20 130,000 deaths could be prevented and \$17 billion  
21 could be saved in medical costs.

22           (5) The Department of Health and Human  
23 Services recommends eating more dark green vegeta-  
24 bles, legumes, and fruits; and eating fewer refined  
25 grains, less fat, and fewer calories.

1           (6) A 2010 review of the Nutritional Implica-  
2           tions of Farmers’ Markets and Community Gardens  
3           published by the Journal of the American Dietetic  
4           Association found that community gardens promote  
5           healthy behaviors.

6           (7) A 2011 pilot study entitled “LA Sprouts”  
7           published by the Journal of the American Dietetic  
8           Association found that teaching gardening and nu-  
9           trition improved the dietary intakes of children and  
10          reduced childhood obesity.

11 **SEC. 3. COMMUNITY GARDEN PILOT PROGRAM.**

12          (a) PURPOSE.—Section 103(a) of the Domestic Vol-  
13          unteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4953(a)) is amend-  
14          ed—

15                (1) in paragraph (12) by striking “and” at the  
16          end;

17                (2) in paragraph (13) by striking the period  
18          and inserting “; and”; and

19                (3) by adding at the end the following:

20                    “(14) in establishing initiatives that address the  
21          health and nutrition of individuals in low-income and  
22          underserved communities, including by—

23                            “(A) creating new community gardens and  
24                            supporting and expanding existing community  
25                            gardens;

1           “(B) recruiting local community members  
2           to actively engage in community gardens and  
3           gardening projects;

4           “(C) transforming vacant places into com-  
5           munity garden plots;

6           “(D) increasing access for community  
7           members to healthy foods and local foods while  
8           also encouraging community members to stay  
9           active;

10           “(E) expanding anti-poverty efforts by  
11           teaching basic nutrition and self-reliance  
12           through community gardening programs; and

13           “(F) developing initiatives that increase  
14           access to healthy, locally grown foods for the  
15           community at large.”.

16           (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Part A of title I of such Act  
17           (42 U.S.C. 4951 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
18           the following:

19           **“SEC. 110. COMMUNITY GARDEN PILOT PROGRAM.**

20           “(a) The Director shall establish a Community Gar-  
21           den Pilot Program for the purpose of carrying out the  
22           work described under section 103(a)(14). In conducting  
23           the Program, the Director shall carry out no less than 40  
24           projects.

1 “(b) In carrying out the Program established under  
2 subsection (a), the Director shall give priority to—

3 “(1) volunteers with experience in health, nutri-  
4 tion, and gardening;

5 “(2) projects located in varied geographic re-  
6 gions; and

7 “(3) selecting a balance of urban and rural  
8 projects.”.

9 (c) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 501(a) of such Act  
10 (42 U.S.C. 5081(a)) is amended by—

11 (1) redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph  
12 (4); and

13 (2) inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

14 “(3) COMMUNITY GARDEN PILOT PROGRAM.—  
15 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
16 section 110 of part A of title I \$4,000,000 for fiscal  
17 year 2014 and such sums shall remain available  
18 until expended.”.

19 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
20 in section 1(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 4950) is amended  
21 by adding after the item relating to section 109 the fol-  
22 lowing new item:

“Sec. 110. Community Garden Pilot Program.”.

23 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

24 Not later than 90 days after the completion of the  
25 Community Garden Pilot Program established under sec-

1 tion 110(a) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973  
2 (42 U.S.C. 4951(a)), the Assistant Director appointed  
3 pursuant to section 194(d)(1)(A) of the National and  
4 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
5 12651e(d)(1)(A)), shall submit to Congress a report con-  
6 taining—

7 (1) a description of the projects and volunteer  
8 placements under the Program;

9 (2) results and analysis of completed projects  
10 under the Program; and

11 (3) any recommendations for continuation of  
12 the Program.

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