

House Resolution 1106

By: Representatives Frazier of the 126th, Dawkins-Haigler of the 91st, Scott of the 76th, Jones of the 53rd, Williams of the 87th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Advocating for the elimination of food deserts; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture defines food desert as any census
3 district where at least 20 percent of inhabitants are below the poverty line and 33 percent live
4 over a mile from the nearest supermarket, or if in a rural area over 10 miles; and
- 5 WHEREAS, approximately 23.5 million Americans live in a food desert, in both rural and
6 urban areas; and
- 7 WHEREAS, food deserts are one of the main contributing factors to the obesity epidemic in
8 the United States, by forcing poor people to rely on processed and fast food, instead of fresh
9 vegetables, fruit, and proteins; and
- 10 WHEREAS, adult obesity rates are 51 percent higher for African Americans than whites, and
11 21 percent higher than Latinos; and
- 12 WHEREAS, African American children are more likely to become obese than white children
13 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and
- 14 WHEREAS, food deserts frequently exist due to economic stagnation and disinvestment.
- 15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
16 the members of this body call for access to healthy, fresh, and affordable food in these rural
17 and urban areas to improve overall health by combating obesity, diabetes, heart disease,
18 cancer, and other health-related problems that can be aided by a healthy diet.
- 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution affirms Georgia's commitment to
20 wellness (mind, body, and spirit) and our demand for the placement of supermarkets, farmer's

21 markets, fast food restaurants that sell healthy menu choices, and local convenience stores
22 within these communities lacking access.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives supports policy solutions
24 encouraging grocers and other store owners to sell healthy food options in underserved
25 communities, including food trusts and programs to help small stores carry fresh food for
26 purchase.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives requests that the United
28 States Department of Agriculture, Congress, and agencies work together for the elimination
29 of food deserts in the communities where low-income people travel at least a mile to buy
30 fresh produce and proteins as a result of grocery stores and affordable fresh food
31 disappearing from their communities.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives applauds the actions
33 already taken and requests that Congress increase allocations to the Healthy Food Financing
34 Initiative, which is a collaborative effort by the Departments of Agriculture, Health and
35 Human Services, and Treasury to bring grocery stores and other healthy food retailers to
36 underserved urban and rural communities in America.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the President of the United
39 States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States House of
40 Representatives and the United States Senate, and other federal and state government
41 officials as appropriate.