

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1023

By Faison

A RESOLUTION relative to the coverage of almond milk and unfortified soy milk under the WIC program.

WHEREAS, some children have an allergy to milk or are lactose intolerant; and

WHEREAS, a milk allergy or lactose intolerance requires parents to work closely with their healthcare provider to determine the appropriate non-dairy beverage to replace milk in their children's diets; and

WHEREAS, fortified soy milk is currently the only milk alternative that may be purchased with federal WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) benefits; other plant-based beverages, such as almond milk, cannot be purchased with WIC benefits, even if prescribed by a physician; and

WHEREAS, children should have access to a wide range of milk alternatives as part of a healthy diet; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture to permit WIC benefits to be used for the purchase of almond milk and unfortified soy milk in the interest of providing a suitable milk alternative for every American child's diet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health.