

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7185

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a weekend and holiday feeding program to provide nutritious food to at-risk school children on weekends and during extended school holidays throughout the year.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

Ms. TITUS (for herself, Ms. MOORE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. VELA, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GALLEG0, and Mr. YARMUTH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a weekend and holiday feeding program to provide nutritious food to at-risk school children on weekends and during extended school holidays throughout the year.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Weekends Without
3 Hunger Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS WITHOUT HUNGER.**

5 Section 18 of the Richard B. Russell National School
6 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769) is amended by adding at the
7 end the following:

8 “(1) WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS WITHOUT HUN-
9 GER.—

10 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

11 “(A) AT-RISK SCHOOL CHILD.—The term
12 ‘at-risk school child’ means a child who is eligi-
13 ble to receive free or reduced price meals under
14 this Act or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
15 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.).

16 “(B) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible
18 institution’ means a public or private non-
19 profit institution that is determined by the
20 Secretary to be able to meet safe food stor-
21 age, handling, and delivery standards es-
22 tablished by the Secretary.

23 “(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘eligible
24 institution’ includes—

25 “(I) an elementary or secondary
26 school or school food service authority;

1 “(II) a food bank or food pantry;

2 “(III) a homeless shelter;

3 “(IV) an institution participating
4 in the program under section 13;

5 “(V) an institution participating
6 in the program under section 17; and

7 “(VI) such other type of emer-
8 gency feeding agency as is approved
9 by the Secretary.

10 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the avail-
11 ability of appropriations provided in advance in an
12 appropriations Act specifically for the purpose of
13 carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall es-
14 tablish a program under which the Secretary shall
15 provide commodities, on a competitive basis, to eligi-
16 ble institutions to provide nutritious food to at-risk
17 children on weekends and during extended school
18 holidays throughout the year.

19 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-
21 ceive commodities under this subsection, an eli-
22 gible institution shall submit an application to
23 the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
24 and containing such information as the Sec-
25 retary may determine.

1 “(B) PLAN.—An application under sub-
2 paragraph (A) shall include the plan of the eli-
3 gible institution for the distribution of nutri-
4 tious foods to at-risk school children, includ-
5 ing—

6 “(i) methods of food service delivery
7 that will allow at-risk school children to
8 leave the premises of the institution with
9 commodities provided under the project;

10 “(ii) assurances that children receiv-
11 ing foods under the project will not be pub-
12 licly separated or overtly identified;

13 “(iii) lists of the types of food to be
14 provided under the project and provisions
15 to ensure food quality and safety;

16 “(iv) information on the number of
17 at-risk school children to be served and the
18 per-child cost of providing the children
19 with food; and

20 “(v) such other information as the
21 Secretary determines to be necessary to as-
22 sist the Secretary in evaluating projects
23 that receive commodities under this sub-
24 section.

1 “(4) PRIORITY.—In selecting applications under
2 this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to
3 eligible institutions that—

4 “(A) have on-going programs and experi-
5 ence serving populations with significant pro-
6 portions of at-risk school children;

7 “(B) have a good record of experience in
8 food delivery and food safety systems;

9 “(C) maintain high-quality control, ac-
10 countability, and recordkeeping standards;

11 “(D) provide children with readily consum-
12 able food of high nutrient content and quality;

13 “(E) demonstrate cost efficiencies and the
14 potential for obtaining supplemental funding
15 from non-Federal sources to carry out projects;
16 and

17 “(F) demonstrate the ability to continue
18 projects for the full approved term of the pilot
19 project period.

20 “(5) GUIDELINES.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
22 issue guidelines containing the criteria for
23 projects to receive commodities under this sec-
24 tion.

1 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The guidelines shall,
2 to the maximum extent practicable within the
3 funds available and applications submitted, take
4 into account—

5 “(i) geographical variations in project
6 locations to include qualifying projects in
7 rural, urban, and suburban areas with high
8 proportions of families with at-risk school
9 children;

10 “(ii) different types of projects that
11 offer nutritious foods on weekends and
12 during school holidays to at-risk school
13 children; and

14 “(iii) institutional capacity to collect,
15 maintain, and provide statistically valid in-
16 formation necessary for the Secretary—

17 “(I) to analyze and evaluate the
18 results of the pilot project; and

19 “(II) to make recommendations
20 to Congress.

21 “(6) EVALUATION.—

22 “(A) INTERIM EVALUATION.—Not later
23 than November 30, 2021, the Secretary shall
24 complete an interim evaluation of the pilot pro-
25 gram carried out under this subsection.

1 “(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than De-
2 cember 31, 2023, the Secretary shall submit to
3 Congress a final report that contains—

4 “(i) an evaluation of the pilot pro-
5 gram carried out under this subsection;
6 and

7 “(ii) any recommendations of the Sec-
8 retary for legislative action.

9 “(7) FUNDING.—

10 “(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
11 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
12 to carry out this section such sums as are nec-
13 essary, to remain available until expended.

14 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Not more
15 than 3 percent of the funds made available
16 under subparagraph (A) may be used by the
17 Secretary for expenses associated with review of
18 the operations and evaluation of the projects
19 carried out under this subsection.”.

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