



HR0861

LRB097 20787 GRL 67400 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, No resident of Illinois should have to be
3 food-insecure; and

4 WHEREAS, 1,873,010, or 1 in 7 residents of the State of
5 Illinois are experiencing food insecurity, meaning they lack
6 access to adequate nutritious food for a healthy lifestyle; and

7 WHEREAS, 745,310, or just under 1 in 4 children in the
8 State of Illinois are experiencing food insecurity; and

9 WHEREAS, Food insecurity is experienced in every county in
10 the State of Illinois; and

11 WHEREAS, Feeding Illinois food banks have seen a 73%
12 increase in requests for emergency food assistance over the
13 past 3 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Hunger increases health care costs, lowers
15 workers' productivity, harms children's development, and
16 diminishes children's educational performance; and

17 WHEREAS, Fighting hunger is a public-private partnership;
18 in Illinois, a strong private network exists that has provided
19 1.4 million people in Illinois with more than 127 million

1 pounds of food in 2010; however, private charity cannot do it
2 alone and a strong federal hunger relief safety net is
3 required; and

4 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly established the
5 Commission to End Hunger in 2010 in recognition of the need to
6 end food insecurity in the State of Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, The Commission to End Hunger acknowledges in its
8 recommendations the critical importance of federal programs
9 that address food and nutrition; and

10 WHEREAS, The federal Farm Bill establishes the funding and
11 policy for vital food and nutrition programs, such as the
12 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), The
13 Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Commodity
14 Supplemental Food Program (CSFP); and

15 WHEREAS, SNAP is the cornerstone of the nutrition safety
16 net, with 1.9 million, or 1 in 6, Illinois residents enrolled
17 in the program; just under half of those utilizing the program
18 are children; and

19 WHEREAS, Any reduction in funding of the SNAP Program will
20 increase the number of food-insecure people in Illinois; and

1 WHEREAS, Maintaining the current model of 100% federal
2 funding of SNAP assistance is essential to retaining the
3 program's effectiveness in fighting hunger; and

4 WHEREAS, TEFAP is a means-tested federal program that
5 provides food commodities at no cost to Illinoisans in need of
6 short-term hunger relief through organizations like food
7 banks, pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters; and

8 WHEREAS, CSFP leverages government buying power to provide
9 nutritious food packages to 17,473 vulnerable individuals in
10 Illinois in Fiscal Year 2011, nearly 97% of which are seniors;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The decisions made in developing the next Farm
13 Bill will impact the ability of food-insecure Illinoisans to
14 access the food and nutrition safety they need; therefore, be
15 it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we urge Congress to develop the 2012 Farm Bill with a strong
19 Title IV that protects and strengthens federal food and
20 nutrition programs; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That we state our belief that the 2012 Farm Bill

1 must oppose proposals to cap or reduce funding for SNAP,
2 restrict eligibility, or reduce benefits; support proposals to
3 increase benefit adequacy to ensure that households have the
4 resources to purchase a nutritionally adequate diet; support
5 proposals that would make mandatory funding for TEFAP food more
6 responsive to changes in need; enhance the United States
7 Secretary of Agriculture's authority to purchase bonus
8 commodities in times of high need for emergency food relief in
9 addition to times of low commodity prices; reauthorize funding
10 for TEFAP Storage and Distribution and TEFAP Infrastructure
11 grants; and protect funding for CSFP while transitioning the
12 program to a senior-only program and grandfathering in current
13 participants; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 delivered to the members of the Illinois congressional
16 delegation, the President of the United States, and the United
17 States Secretary of Agriculture.