



HR0858

LRB097 20778 GRL 67380 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); SNAP is the cornerstone of
15 the nutrition safety net, with 1.9 million, or 1 in 6, Illinois
16 residents enrolled in the program; just under half of those
17 utilizing the program are children; and

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

20 WHEREAS, Maintaining the current model of 100% federal
21 funding of SNAP assistance is essential to retaining the

1 program's effectiveness in fighting hunger; and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, The decisions made in developing the next Farm
11 Bill will impact the ability of food-insecure Illinoisans to
12 access the food and nutrition safety they need; and

13 WHEREAS, The City of Chicago, in partnership with the
14 Greater Chicago Food Depository and other anti-hunger
15 advocates, wants to fully support addressing food insecurity in
16 the City of Chicago; therefore, be it

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

1 RESOLVED, That we state our belief that the 2012 Farm Bill
2 must oppose proposals to cap or reduce funding for SNAP; oppose
3 proposals to restrict eligibility or reduce benefits; support
4 proposals to increase benefit adequacy to ensure that
5 households have the resources to purchase a nutritionally
6 adequate diet; support proposals that would make mandatory
7 funding for TEFAP food more responsive to changes in need;
8 enhance the United States Secretary of Agriculture's authority
9 to purchase bonus commodities in times of high need for
10 emergency food relief in addition to times of low commodity
11 prices; reauthorize funding for TEFAP Storage and Distribution
12 and TEFAP Infrastructure grants; and protect funding for CSFP
13 while transitioning the program to a senior-only program and
14 grandfathering in current participants; and be it further

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