



SR0665

LRB097 20804 KTG 67457 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Fighting hunger is a public-private partnership,
19 and Illinois has a strong private network that has provided 1.4

1 million people in the State with more than 127 million pounds
2 of food in 2010, but private charity cannot do it alone,
3 Illinois needs a strong federal hunger relief safety net; 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 one in 6, Illinois residents enrolled
17 in the program and just under half of those utilizing the
18 program are children; and

19 WHEREAS, Any reduction in funding to 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 State Fiscal Year 2011, nearly 97% of whom are
11 seniors; 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; therefore, be it

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

20 RESOLVED, That we believe the 2012 Farm Bill must:

1 (1) Oppose proposals to cap or reduce funding for SNAP,
2 restrict eligibility, or reduce benefits, and instead
3 support proposals to increase benefit adequacy to ensure
4 that households have the resources to purchase a
5 nutritionally adequate diet; and

6 (2) Support proposals that would make mandatory
7 funding for TEFAP food more responsive to changes in need;
8 and

9 (3) Enhance the Secretary of Agriculture's authority
10 to purchase bonus commodities in times of high need for
11 emergency food relief in addition to times of low commodity
12 prices; and

13 (4) Reauthorize funding for TEFAP Storage and
14 Distribution and TEFAP Infrastructure grants; and

15 (5) Protect funding for CSFP while transitioning the
16 program to a senior-only program and grandfathering in
17 current participants; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 delivered to the members of the Illinois Congressional
20 delegation, the President of the United States, and the United
21 States Secretary of Agriculture.