

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5219

To amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to permit participating households to use food stamp benefits to purchase nutritional supplements of vitamins, minerals, or vitamins and minerals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 1994

Mr. EMERSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to permit participating households to use food stamp benefits to purchase nutritional supplements of vitamins, minerals, or vitamins and minerals.

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

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The dietary patterns of Americans do not
6 result in nutrient intakes that fully meet Rec-
7 ommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs) of vitamins
8 and minerals.

1 (2) The elderly often fail to achieve adequate
2 nutrient intakes from diet alone.

3 (3) Pregnant women have particularly high nu-
4 trient needs, which they often fail to meet through
5 dietary means alone.

6 (4) Many scientific studies have shown that nu-
7 tritional supplements contain folic acid (a B vita-
8 min) can prevent a large proportion (as many as 70
9 to 80 percent) of neural tube birth defects and the
10 Public Health Service, in September 1992, rec-
11 ommended that “all women of childbearing age in
12 the United States who are capable of becoming preg-
13 nant should consume 0.4 mg of folic acid per day for
14 the purpose of reducing their risk of having a preg-
15 nancy affected with spina bifida or other neural tube
16 birth defects.”

17 (5) Infants who fail to receive adequate intakes
18 of iron may be somewhat impaired in their mental
19 and behavioral development.

20 (6) Children in low-income families often fail to
21 achieve nutritional goals from diet alone.

22 (7) A massive volume of evidence strongly sug-
23 gests that increasing intake of specific nutrients over
24 an extended period of time may be helpful in pro-

1 tecting against diseases or conditions such as
2 osteoporosis, cataracts, cancer, and heart disease.

3 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT.**

4 Section 3(g)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
5 U.S.C. 2012(g)(1)) is amended by striking “or food prod-
6 uct” and inserting “food product, or nutritional supple-
7 ments of vitamins, minerals, or vitamins and minerals.”

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