

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2832

To promote improved nutrition for students by expanding the Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (for himself, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. OTTER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. FARR, Mr. ROSS, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. NUNES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To promote improved nutrition for students by expanding the Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be referred to as the “Healthy Nutri-
5 tion for America’s Children Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The United States faces a continuing chal-
2 lenge in improving the quality of the Nation's diet
3 as the economic costs of poor nutrition, which con-
4 tributes to coronary heart disease, cancer, stroke,
5 and diabetes, 4 of the 10 leading causes of death,
6 is significant.

7 (2) Consumption of a healthy diet including nu-
8 tritionally rich fruit and vegetables is essential for
9 normal growth and development, and critical to pro-
10 moting health and preventing an array of chronic
11 diseases, as an estimated $\frac{1}{3}$ of cancer deaths could
12 be prevented by healthy diets.

13 (3) Most children do not meet the minimum
14 recommended guidelines of 5 servings a day of fruit
15 and vegetables, with only 15 percent of elementary
16 students consuming the recommended requirement,
17 and $\frac{1}{4}$ of adults.

18 (4) Among needy students, school nutrition pro-
19 grams often provide the primary opportunity for
20 consumption of nutritionally valuable foods.

21 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are:

22 (1) To extend, expand, and enhance Federal
23 nutrition policies that recognize and directly encour-
24 age consumption of fruits and vegetables as critical

1 to promoting health and preventing an array of
2 chronic diseases.

3 (2) To develop nutrition policies that increase
4 awareness and understanding of the benefits pro-
5 vided by fruits and vegetables with respect to disease
6 prevention and health promotion, as fruit and vege-
7 table consumption is an important component of a
8 balanced diet.

9 (3) To elevate the Federal government's invest-
10 ment in nutrition program priorities to better ad-
11 dress the significant role fruit and vegetables play in
12 health promotion and disease prevention for the
13 neediest Americans.

14 **SEC. 3. FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PILOT PROGRAM.**

15 Section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National
16 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)) is amended to read
17 as follows:

18 “(g) **FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PILOT PROGRAM.**—

19 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In the school year begin-
20 ning July 2004 and for each subsequent school year
21 through 2009, the Secretary shall carry out a pilot
22 program to make available to students in 25 elemen-
23 tary or secondary schools in each of 50 States, and
24 in elementary or secondary schools on 10 Indian res-
25 ervations, free fresh and dried fruits and fresh vege-

1 tables throughout the school day in 1 or more areas
2 designated by the school.

3 “(2) PUBLICITY.—A school that participates in
4 the pilot program shall widely publicize within the
5 school the availability of free fruits and vegetables
6 under the pilot program.

7 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than May 1, 2007,
8 the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of
9 the Economic Research Service, shall report to the
10 Committee on Education and the Workforce of the
11 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-
12 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on
13 the results of the pilot program.

14 “(4) ADMINISTRATIVE COST.—A participating
15 school may use no more than 20 percent of the allo-
16 cated funding for administrative expenses during the
17 first year of the program. In subsequent years of the
18 program schools may expend no more than 10 per-
19 cent of the funding on administrative expenses.

20 “(5) FUNDING.—Of the amount specified in
21 section 10603(a) of the Farm Security and Rural
22 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 612c–4(a)) (made
23 available under section 32 of the Act of August 24,
24 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c)), the Secretary shall use not
25 more than \$75,000,000 for each year of the pro-

1 gram to carry out this subsection. The Secretary
2 shall ensure that carrying out this subsection does
3 not reduce the level of commodity assistance pro-
4 vided under section 6.”.

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