

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2876

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to cancel existing school meal debt.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to cancel existing school meal debt.

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 cited as the “School Lunch Debt
5 Cancellation Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. CANCELLATION OF SCHOOL MEAL DEBT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture
9 shall cancel and eliminate all debts owed by households

1 as of the date of enactment of this Act for school meals
2 under—

3 (1) the school lunch program established under
4 the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.); and

6 (2) the school breakfast program under section
7 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.
8 1773).

9 (b) PAYMENT OF CANCELLED DEBT.—The Secretary
10 shall use the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation
11 to pay the amount of debt cancelled under subsection (a)
12 to each local educational authority to which the debt is
13 owed by the applicable households.

○