



HR0543

LRB104 16116 MST 29437 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) served an average of 41 million Americans per month, more than 12 percent of the U.S. population, in 2024; and

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WHEREAS, In the State of Illinois, almost 1.9 million people in over one million households rely on SNAP in order to access adequate nutrition; and

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WHEREAS, Of the households receiving SNAP benefits, 45 percent include at least one child, 37 percent include an elderly adult, and 44 percent include a person with a disability; and

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WHEREAS, A total of 44,217 Illinois veterans depend on SNAP benefits to access adequate nutrition; and

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WHEREAS, Administration of SNAP benefits supports 18,254 Illinois jobs and \$966 million in Illinois wages; and

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WHEREAS, SNAP benefits have a \$7.2 billion annual impact on Illinois' gross domestic product (GDP); and

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WHEREAS, Assistance via the SNAP program alleviates poverty, particularly among children, who experience poverty

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1 in the United States at higher rates than the population at
2 large, and has been shown to improve overall food budgeting;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, People affected by food insecurity are at
5 heightened risk of chronic dietary illnesses such as diabetes
6 and hypertension; and

7 WHEREAS, Food insecurity is particularly harmful to
8 children, whose physical and mental health, educational
9 achievement, and future prospects can be permanently stunted
10 by lack of access to sufficient nutrition; and

11 WHEREAS, President Donald Trump's third federal government
12 shutdown began on October 1, 2025 and has now exceeded 28 days
13 in length; and

14 WHEREAS, The Department of Agriculture, which administers
15 SNAP, has announced that if the shutdown is not ended by
16 November 1, 2025, then SNAP benefits will cease to be paid to
17 beneficiaries; and

18 WHEREAS, The Department of Agriculture has \$6 billion in
19 reserve specifically earmarked for SNAP funding in the event
20 of it being needed; and

1 WHEREAS, Six billion dollars is enough to cover the
2 average SNAP benefits of more than 31 million Americans; and

3 WHEREAS, The Trump Administration has refused to draw on
4 this reserve to feed Americans, many of whom are at risk of
5 malnutrition if their benefits stop; and

6 WHEREAS, The Trump Administration's refusal is based on
7 the falsehood that the reserve is not legally available for
8 normal SNAP operations, a categorical lie disproven by a plain
9 reading of the appropriation; and

10 WHEREAS, The monthly cost to replace SNAP payments in
11 Illinois would be in excess of \$350 million per month, more
12 than any state can possibly absorb; and

13 WHEREAS, It is unconscionable for the Trump
14 Administration, or any administration, to use hunger as a
15 cudgel and a political lever; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we call upon the Trump Administration to end this government
19 shutdown and restore funding to SNAP and other critical
20 federal government programs rather than continuing to put
21 partisan politics before their obligation to the American

1 people; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That if an expedient end to the shutdown cannot
3 or will not be achieved, then we urge the Trump Administration
4 to release the reserve funds held by the United States
5 Department of Agriculture specifically for just this
6 eventuality, thereby enabling SNAP beneficiaries to retain
7 access to adequate nutrition while negotiations continue; and
8 be it further

9 RESOLVED, That using hunger as a weapon to obtain a
10 desired political outcome is reprehensible, and we
11 unequivocally condemn the Trump Administration's actions in
12 this regard; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
14 delivered to President Donald Trump, Vice President J.D.
15 Vance, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
16 Mike Johnson, United States Senate Majority Leader John Thune,
17 and United States Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, and
18 each member of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.