

By: Lucio

S.C.R. No. 9

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program helps
2 millions of our nation's families during difficult times, and in
3 the present economy, more than one in seven Americans relies on this
4 aid, historically known as food stamps; and

5 WHEREAS, The primary goal of the program is to ensure that
6 households can obtain supplemental nutritious food; when the food
7 stamp program was introduced in 1939, it met the combined goals of
8 subsidizing nutritious food purchases for victims of the Great
9 Depression while reducing agricultural surplus and allowed food
10 stamp recipients to buy fresh fruits and vegetables as well as eggs,
11 dairy products, and other items produced in abundance by farmers;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Today, nearly seven percent of food stamp funds are
14 spent on soft drinks and other sweetened beverages defined by the
15 United States Department of Agriculture, which administers the
16 program, as having "minimal nutritious value"; these beverages are
17 the single greatest source of added sugar in the American diet, and
18 the Centers for Disease Control has called for reductions in
19 soft-drink consumption, as have numerous other organizations; it is
20 estimated that the federal government will spend \$4 billion on soft
21 drinks through SNAP in 2011; and

22 WHEREAS, Program recipients can also use benefits to pay for
23 candy, doughnuts, potato chips, and other snacks that are high in
24 fat or sugar or both but very low in nutrients; instead of improving

1 health, such products contribute to the growing epidemic of
2 obesity, which has brought about increased rates of diabetes and
3 other chronic diseases; pediatricians report seeing more obese
4 children suffering from diseases that once affected only adults,
5 including hip problems, high blood pressure, hardening of the
6 arteries, and gallstones; and

7 WHEREAS, The foundations for good health are established in
8 childhood, a fact recognized by the Special Supplemental Nutrition
9 Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), likewise
10 administered by the USDA; WIC bans sugary drinks, pastries, snack
11 foods, and other unhealthy items from its list of eligible foods;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The majority of households receiving funds from the
14 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program include children, yet
15 this program permits the purchase of high-calorie, low-nutrition
16 products that contribute to childhood obesity, and youths
17 struggling with obesity are very likely to become adults facing
18 serious health problems; as a rising number of families become
19 dependent on food stamps, it is imperative that the nation ensure
20 that the program is supporting good nutrition, rather than
21 subsidizing the purchase of products that will, ultimately, lead to
22 ever-higher health care costs; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to amend the
25 list of allowable foods under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
26 Program to eliminate sweetened drinks and snack foods of minimal
27 nutritional value; and, be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
2 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
3 the president of the Senate and speaker of the House of
4 Representatives of the United States Congress, to the secretary of
5 the United States Department of Agriculture, and to all the members
6 of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this
7 resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to
8 the Congress of the United States of America.