

By: Metcalf

H.C.R. No. 35

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The United States Congress established the
2 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program with the expressed goals
3 of alleviating hunger and malnutrition and safeguarding the health
4 and well-being of members of low-income households; and

5 WHEREAS, Food stamp benefits are administered in Texas
6 through the Lone Star Card; and

7 WHEREAS, During fiscal year 2015, the Texas Health and Human
8 Services Commission recorded a monthly average of 3.78 million
9 recipients for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; and

10 WHEREAS, Total benefits awarded through the Supplemental
11 Nutrition Assistance Program in Texas were worth \$5.2 billion
12 during fiscal year 2015; and

13 WHEREAS, Section 3(k) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008,
14 which authorized the program and changed the name of the benefits
15 from food stamps, defines "food" in broad and expansive terms, and
16 as a result, SNAP participants are able to purchase nutritionally
17 deficient food items as well as unnecessarily expensive or
18 luxurious products; the allowance of these expenditures directly
19 contradicts the program's mission; and

20 WHEREAS, Each year, public funding goes to cover SNAP
21 purchases of soda and other sugar-sweetened beverages that the U.S.
22 Department of Agriculture has labeled as having "minimal
23 nutritional value," and SNAP participants can use their benefits to
24 buy candy, cookies, ice cream, chips, and other items that are high

1 in fat or sugar but very low in nutrients; such beverages and snacks
2 contribute to obesity, cause increased rates of diabetes and other
3 chronic diseases, and lead to higher medical costs; with millions
4 of SNAP participants also enrolled in Medicaid, these health issues
5 further contribute to growing costs for the federal government; and

6 WHEREAS, Today, 45.8 million Americans participate in SNAP,
7 and the program costs about \$70 billion annually; many citizens are
8 becoming increasingly concerned that their tax dollars are being
9 subjected to inefficient and wasteful spending; and

10 WHEREAS, With the large number of families dependent on SNAP,
11 it is imperative that the program support good nutrition, rather
12 than subsidize the purchase of products that negatively affect
13 public health; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to amend
16 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to limit the types of food items
17 eligible for purchase under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
18 Program; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
20 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
21 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
22 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
23 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
24 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
25 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.