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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To modify the eligibility standards applicable to low-income college students under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 during COVID–19 public health emergency.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. FUDGE (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To modify the eligibility standards applicable to low-income college students under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 during COVID–19 public health emergency.

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 “End Pandemic Hunger
5 for College Students Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. SNAP ELIGIBILITY FOR LOW-INCOME COLLEGE STU-**
2 **DENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
4 sion of law, not later than 20 days after the date of the
5 enactment of this Act, eligibility for supplemental nutri-
6 tion assistance program benefits shall not be limited under
7 section 6(e) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
8 U.S.C. 2015(e)) for an individual who as of March 1, 2020
9 or anytime in the prior 30 days was—

10 (1) enrolled at least half-time in an institution
11 of higher education; and

12 (2) participating in the supplemental nutrition
13 assistance program.

14 (b) STATE OPTION.—

15 (1) AUTHORITY TO ADJUST ADDITIONAL ELIGI-
16 BILITY STANDARDS.—In addition to the application
17 of subsection (a) and if requested by a State agency
18 or issued by nationwide guidance by the Secretary,
19 the Secretary may adjust the eligibility standards
20 under section 6(e) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
21 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(e)) for individuals who are en-
22 rolled in an institution of higher education in any
23 State affected by the outbreak of COVID–19. In
24 making an adjustment authorized by this paragraph,
25 the Secretary shall consider closures of facilities at
26 institutions of higher education and any other factor

1 that affects the ability of such individuals to meet
2 such standards.

3 (2) READILY APPROVABLE ADJUSTMENT RE-
4 QUESTS.—The Secretary shall approve a request of
5 a State agency to adjust the eligibility standards
6 under section 6(e) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
7 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(e)) for individuals who are en-
8 rolled at least half-time in an institution of higher
9 education and—

10 (A) are members of households, as de-
11 scribed in section 3(m)(2) of such Act (7
12 U.S.C. 2012(m)(2)), who are otherwise eligible
13 to participate in the supplemental nutrition as-
14 sistance program; or

15 (B) in the most recent academic year, had
16 an expected family contribution of \$0 as deter-
17 mined in accordance with part F of title IV of
18 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
19 1087kk et seq.).

20 (c) SUNSET.—

21 (1) INITIAL APPLICATIONS.—The eligibility
22 standards authorized under subsections (a) and (b)
23 shall be in effect for initial applications for the sup-
24 plemental nutrition assistance program until 90 days

1 after the COVID–19 public health emergency is lift-
2 ed.

3 (2) RECERTIFICATIONS.—The eligibility stand-
4 ards authorized under subsections (a) and (b) shall
5 be in effect until the first recertification of a house-
6 hold beginning no earlier than 90 days after the
7 COVID–19 public health emergency is lifted.

8 (d) GUIDANCE.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 days after
10 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
11 shall issue guidance to State agencies on the tem-
12 porary student eligibility requirements, and State
13 options, established under this section.

14 (2) COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
15 EDUCATION.—The Secretary of Education, in con-
16 sultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and insti-
17 tutions of higher education, shall carry out activities
18 to inform applicants for Federal student financial
19 aid under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) and students at institutions of
21 higher education of the temporary student eligibility
22 requirements established under this section.

23 (e) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 10 days
24 after the date of the receipt or issuance of each document
25 listed in paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection, the

1 Secretary shall make publicly available on the website of
2 the Department of Agriculture the following documents:

3 (1) Any request submitted by State agencies
4 under subsection (b).

5 (2) The Secretary's approval or denial of each
6 such request.

7 (3) Any guidance issued by the Secretary to
8 carry out this section.

9 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) COVID-19.—The term “COVID-19” has
11 the meaning given such term in section 2102 of the
12 CARES Act (Public Law 116-136).

13 (2) COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—
14 The term “COVID-19 public health emergency” has
15 the meaning given such term in section 2102 of the
16 CARES Act (Public Law 116-136).

17 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of Agriculture.

19 (4) STATE AGENCY.—The term “State agency”
20 has the meaning given such term in section 3(s) of
21 the Food and Nutrition Act (7 U.S.C. 2012(s)).

22 (5) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
23 PROGRAM.—The term “supplemental nutrition as-
24 sistance program” has the meaning given such term

1 in section 3(t) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
2 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(t)).