To allow the Secretary of Agriculture to grant certain waivers under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to address school closures due to COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Omar introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _________________________

A BILL

To allow the Secretary of Agriculture to grant certain waivers under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to address school closures due to COVID–19, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre- sentatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the “Maintaining Essential

4 Access to Lunch for Students Act” or the “MEALS Act”.

5
SEC. 2. WAIVER EXCEPTION FOR SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO COVID–19.


(b) Allowable Increase in Federal Costs.—Notwithstanding paragraph (4) of section 12(l) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(l)), the Secretary of Agriculture may grant a qualified COVID–19 waiver that increases Federal costs.

(c) Termination After Periodic Review.—The requirements under section 12(l)(5) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(l)(5)) shall not apply to a qualified COVID–19 waiver.

(d) Qualified COVID–19 Waiver.—In this section, the term “qualified COVID–19 waiver” means a waiver—

   (1) requested by a State (as defined in section 12(d)(8) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(d)(8))) or eligible service provider under section 12(l) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(l)); and

   (2) to waive any requirement under such Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) or the Child Nutrition Act...
of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), or any regulation issued under either such Act, for purposes of providing meals and meal supplements under such Acts during a school closure due to COVID–19.