

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1307

To amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to permit participating households to use food stamp benefits to purchase nutritional supplements providing vitamins or minerals, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 30, 1999

Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. McCONNELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to permit participating households to use food stamp benefits to purchase nutritional supplements providing vitamins or minerals, and for other purposes.

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 “Food Stamp Vitamin
5 and Mineral Improvement Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the dietary patterns of Americans do not re-
2 sult in nutrient intakes that fully meet recommended
3 dietary allowances of vitamins and minerals;

4 (2) children in low-income families and the el-
5 derly often fail to achieve adequate nutrient intakes
6 from diet alone;

7 (3) pregnant women have particularly high nu-
8 trient needs, which they often fail to meet through
9 diet alone;

10 (4)(A) scientific studies show that nutritional
11 supplements that contain folic acid (a B vitamin)
12 can prevent as many as 60 to 80 percent of neural
13 tube birth defects;

14 (B) the Public Health Service, in September
15 1992, recommended that all women of childbearing
16 age who are capable of becoming pregnant should
17 consume at least 0.4 of a milligram of folic acid per
18 day for the purpose of reducing the risk of having
19 a pregnancy affected with spina bifida or other neu-
20 ral tube birth defects; and

21 (C) the Food and Drug Administration has ap-
22 proved a health claim for folic acid to reduce the
23 risk of neural tube birth defects;

1 (5) infants who do not receive adequate intakes
2 of iron may be somewhat impaired in mental and be-
3 havioral development; and

4 (6) scientific evidence indicates that increasing
5 intake of specific nutrients over an extended period
6 of time protects against diseases or conditions such
7 as osteoporosis, cataracts, cancer, and heart disease.

8 **SEC. 3. USE OF FOOD STAMPS TO PURCHASE VITAMINS**
9 **AND MINERALS.**

10 Section 3(g)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
11 U.S.C. 2012(g)(1)) is amended by striking “or food prod-
12 uct” and inserting “, food product, or nutritional supple-
13 ment providing a vitamin or mineral”.

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