

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2129

To strengthen the Food Stamp Act of 1977.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself and Mrs. EMERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To strengthen the Food Stamp Act of 1977.

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 “Feeding America’s
5 Families Act of 2007”.

1 **TITLE I—IMPROVING BENEFIT**
2 **ADEQUACY**

3 **SEC. 101. ADJUSTING BENEFITS TO RESPOND TO FOOD IN-**
4 **FLATION.**

5 Section 3(o) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
6 U.S.C. 2012(o)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (3) by striking “and” at the
8 end; and

9 (2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(4) on October 1, 2007, adjust the cost of the
12 diet to reflect 101.5 percent of the cost of the diet
13 in the preceding June, and round the result to the
14 nearest lower dollar increment for each household
15 size, except that the Secretary may not reduce the
16 cost of the diet in effect on September 30, 2007;

17 “(5) on October 1, 2008 and October 1, 2009,
18 adjust the cost of the diet to reflect 102 percent of
19 the cost of the diet in the preceding June, and round
20 the result to the nearest lower dollar increment for
21 each household size, except that the Secretary may
22 not reduce the cost of the diet in effect during the
23 immediately preceding fiscal year;

24 “(6) on October 1, 2010, adjust the cost of the
25 diet to reflect 102.5 percent of the cost of the diet

1 in the preceding June, and round the result to the
2 nearest lower dollar increment for each household
3 size, except that the Secretary may not reduce the
4 cost of the diet in effect on September 30, 2010; and
5 “(7) on October 1, 2011, and each October 1
6 thereafter, adjust the cost of the diet to reflect 103
7 percent of the cost of the diet in the preceding June,
8 and round the result to the nearest lower dollar in-
9 crement for each household size, except that the Sec-
10 retary may not reduce the cost of the diet in effect
11 during the immediately preceding fiscal year.”.

12 **SEC. 102. STRENGTHENING THE FOOD PURCHASING**
13 **POWER OF LOW-INCOME AMERICANS.**

14 Section 5(e)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
15 U.S.C. 2014(e)(1)) is amended—

16 (1) in subparagraph (A)(ii) by striking “not
17 less than \$134” and all that follows to the end of
18 the clause and inserting the following: “not less
19 than—

20 “(I) for fiscal year 2008, \$150,
21 \$256, \$212, and \$132, respectively;

22 “(II) for fiscal year 2009, \$170,
23 \$291, \$240, and \$150, respectively;

24 “(III) for fiscal year 2010, \$180,
25 \$308, \$254, and \$159, respectively;

1 “(IV) for fiscal year 2011, \$201,
2 \$344, \$284, and \$177, respectively;
3 and

4 “(V) for each fiscal year there-
5 after, an amount that is equal to the
6 amount from the previous fiscal year
7 adjusted to the nearest lower dollar
8 increment to reflect changes in the
9 Consumer Price Index for all urban
10 consumers published by the Bureau of
11 Labor Statistics, for items other than
12 food, for the twelve months ending the
13 preceding June 30.”; and

14 (2) in subparagraph (B)(ii) by striking “not
15 less than \$269.” and inserting the following: “not
16 less than—

17 “(I) for fiscal year 2008, \$301;
18 “(II) for fiscal year 2009, \$341;
19 “(III) for fiscal year 2010, \$361;
20 “(IV) for fiscal year 2011, \$404;
21 and

22 “(V) for each fiscal year there-
23 after, an amount that is equal to the
24 amount from the previous fiscal year
25 adjusted to the nearest lower dollar

1 increment to reflect changes in the
2 Consumer Price Index for all urban
3 consumers published by the Bureau of
4 Labor Statistics, for items other than
5 food, for the twelve months ending the
6 preceding June 30.”.

7 **SEC. 103. SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES WITH CHILD**
8 **CARE EXPENSES.**

9 Section 5(e)(3)(A) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977
10 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “, the
11 maximum allowable level of which shall be \$200 per month
12 for each dependent child under 2 years of age and \$175
13 per month for each other dependent,”.

14 **SEC. 104. EXCLUSION OF COMBAT-RELATED MILITARY PAY**
15 **FROM COUNTABLE INCOME.**

16 Section 5(d) of the Food Stamp Act of 2007 (7
17 U.S.C. 2014(d)) is amended—

18 (1) by striking “and (18)” and inserting
19 “(18)”; and

20 (2) by inserting before the period at the end the
21 following:

22 “, and (19) any additional payment received under
23 chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, by a mem-
24 ber of the United States Armed Forces deployed to
25 a designated combat zone for the duration of the

1 member’s deployment if the additional pay is the re-
 2 sult of deployment to or while serving in a combat
 3 zone, and it was not received immediately prior to
 4 serving in the combat zone”.

5 **SEC. 105. INCREASING THE MINIMUM BENEFIT.**

6 Section 8(a) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
 7 U.S.C. 2017(a)) is amended by striking “\$10 per month.”
 8 and inserting “20 percent of the thrifty food plan for a
 9 household containing one member, as determined by the
 10 Secretary under section 3(o).”.

11 **TITLE II—IMPROVING FOOD SE-**
 12 **CURITY AND SIMPLIFYING**
 13 **PROGRAM OPERATIONS**

14 **SEC. 201. ALLOWABLE COUNTABLE RESOURCES.**

15 Section 5(g) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
 16 U.S.C. 2014(g)) is amended —

17 (1) by striking “(g)(1) The Secretary” and in-
 18 sserting the following:

19 “(g) ALLOWABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES.—

20 “(1) TOTAL AMOUNT.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

22 (2) in subsection (g)(1)(A) (as designated by
 23 paragraph (1)—

1 (A) by striking “\$2,000” and inserting
2 “\$3,700 (as adjusted in accordance with sub-
3 paragraph (B))”; and

4 (B) by striking “\$3,000” and inserting
5 “\$5,500 (as adjusted in accordance with sub-
6 paragraph (B)),”; and

7 (3) in subsection (g)(1) by adding at the end
8 the following:

9 “(B) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on Oc-
11 tober 1, 2008, and each October 1 there-
12 after, the amounts in subparagraph (A)
13 shall be adjusted to the nearest \$100 in-
14 crement to reflect changes for the 12-
15 month period ending the preceding June in
16 the Consumer Price Index for All Urban
17 Consumers published by the Bureau of
18 Labor Statistics of the Department of
19 Labor.

20 “(ii) REQUIREMENT.—Each adjust-
21 ment under clause (i) shall be based on the
22 unrounded amount for the prior 12-month
23 period.”.

1 **SEC. 202. EXCLUSION OF RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS FROM**
2 **COUNTABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES.**

3 (a) Section 5(g)(2)(B)(v) of the Food Stamp Act of
4 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2014(g)(2)(B)(v)) is amended by striking
5 “or retirement account (including an individual account)”
6 and inserting “account”.

7 (b) **MANDATORY AND DISCRETIONARY EXCLU-**
8 **SIONS.**—Section 5(g) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
9 U.S.C. 2014(g)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(7) **EXCLUSION OF RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS**
12 **FROM COUNTABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES.**—

13 “(A) **MANDATORY EXCLUSIONS.**—The Sec-
14 retary shall exclude from financial resources
15 under this subsection the value of any funds in
16 a plan, contract, or account, described in sec-
17 tions 401(a), 403(a), 403(b), 408, 408A,
18 457(b), and 501(c)(18) of the Internal Revenue
19 Code of 1986 and the value of funds in a Fed-
20 eral Thrift Savings Plan account as provided in
21 section 8439 of title 5, United States Code.

22 “(B) **DISCRETIONARY EXCLUSIONS.**—The
23 Secretary may exclude from financial resources
24 under this subsection the value of any other re-
25 tirement plans, contracts, or accounts (as deter-
26 mined by the Secretary through regulation).”.

1 **SEC. 203. EXCLUSION OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTS FROM**
2 **COUNTABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES.**

3 Section 5(g) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
4 U.S.C. 2014(g) (as amended by section 202) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 “(8) EXCLUSION OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTS
7 FROM COUNTABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES.—

8 “(A) MANDATORY EXCLUSIONS.—The Sec-
9 retary shall exclude from financial resources
10 under this subsection the value of any funds in
11 a qualified tuition program described in section
12 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or
13 in a Coverdell education savings account under
14 section 530 of that Code.

15 “(B) DISCRETIONAL EXCLUSIONS.—The
16 Secretary may exclude from financial resources
17 under this subsection the value of any other
18 education programs, contracts, or accounts (as
19 determined by the Secretary through regula-
20 tion).”.

21 **SEC. 204. SIMPLIFYING WORK REQUIREMENT.**

22 (a) Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
23 U.S.C. 2015) is amended by striking subsection (o).

24 (b) Section 16(h)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977
25 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)(1)) is amended—

26 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

- 1 (A) in clause (vi)(II) by striking “and”;
- 2 (B) in clause (vii) by striking the period at
- 3 the end and inserting “; and”; and
- 4 (C) by adding at the end the following:
- 5 “(viii) for each of the fiscal years
- 6 2008 through 2012, \$110,000,000.”; and
- 7 (2) by striking subparagraph (E).

8 **SEC. 205. FAIRNESS FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS.**

9 Notwithstanding sections 401(a), 402(a), and 403(a)

10 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Rec-

11 onciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1611(a), 1612(a),

12 1613(a)) and section 6(f) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977

13 (7 U.S.A. 2015(f)), persons who are lawfully residing in

14 the United States shall be not be ineligible for food stamps

15 on the basis of their immigration status or date of entry

16 into the United States.

17 **SEC. 206. CLARIFYING ELIGIBILITY.**

18 Section 421 of the Personal Responsibility and Work

19 Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C.

20 1631(d)(3)) is amended—

- 21 (1) by striking “to the extent that a qualified
- 22 alien is eligible under section 1612(a)(2)(J) of this
- 23 title.” and
- 24 (2) inserting, “to the extent that a child is a
- 25 member of the food stamp household.”.

1 **SEC. 207. ENSURING PROPER SCREENING.**

2 Section 11(e)(2)(B) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977
3 (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)(2)(B)) is amended—

4 (1) by inserting after clause (v):

5 “(vi) shall provide a method for imple-
6 menting 8 U.S.C. 1631 that does not re-
7 quire any unnecessary information from
8 persons who may be exempt from that pro-
9 vision;” and

10 (2) by redesignating clauses (vi) and (vii) as
11 clauses (vii) and (viii).

12 **SEC. 208. CLARIFICATION OF SIMPLIFIED ADMINISTRATIVE**
13 **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

14 Section 11(a) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
15 U.S.C. 2020(a)) is amended by adding the following at
16 the end: “The administrative reporting requirement under
17 8 U.S.C. 1631(e)(2) shall be satisfied by the submission
18 of an aggregate report on the numbers of such exceptions
19 granted each year.”.

20 **SEC. 209. STATE OPTION TO PROVIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE**
21 **TO FOSTER COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6 of the Food Stamp Act
23 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2015) is amended by adding at the end
24 the following:

25 “(p) STATE OPTION TO PROVIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE
26 TO FOSTER COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
2 115 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Oppor-
3 tunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (21 U.S.C. 862a),
4 except as provided in paragraph (2), section 115 of
5 that Act shall not apply in the case of benefits under
6 the food stamp program or any State program car-
7 ried out under this Act.

8 “(2) PROHIBITION ON RECEIVING FOOD STAMP
9 BENEFITS.—In the case of benefits under the food
10 stamp program or any State program carried out
11 under this Act:

12 “(A) A State may, by specific reference in
13 a law enacted on or after the enactment date of
14 this subsection, elect to apply section 115 of
15 that Act to any or all individuals domiciled in
16 a State, effective beginning on the date of en-
17 actment of that law. Section 115 of that Act
18 shall apply to any or all individuals domiciled in
19 the State in accordance with that law.

20 “(B) If, prior to enactment of this sub-
21 section, a State exempted any or all individuals
22 domiciled in the State from the application of
23 section 115(a) by specific reference in a law in
24 accordance with section 115(d)(1) of that Act,

1 the State may continue to apply section 115 of
2 that Act in accordance with that law.”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
4 subsection (a) takes effect on the date that is 180 days
5 after the date of enactment of this Act.

6 **TITLE III—CONNECTING ELIGI-**
7 **BLE FAMILIES AND INDIVID-**
8 **UALS TO FOOD STAMPS**

9 **SEC. 301. FACILITATING SIMPLIFIED REPORTING.**

10 Section 6(c) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
11 U.S.C. 2015(c)(1)(A)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by—

13 (A) striking “reporting by” and inserting
14 “reporting”;

15 (B) inserting “for periods shorter than
16 four months by” after the clause designations
17 in clauses (i) and (ii); and

18 (C) inserting “by” after the clause des-
19 ignation in clause (iii);

20 (2) in paragraph (3), by—

21 (A) striking “Reports required to be filed
22 monthly under paragraph (1)” and inserting
23 “Except as provided in paragraph (1)(D)(ii),
24 periodic reports filed under paragraph (1)”;

1 (B) striking “required to be filed month-
2 ly”;

3 (C) striking “subject matter included in
4 such reports” and inserting “such households”;
5 and

6 (D) inserting after the third sentence:

7 “The State agency shall not be required to act on
8 information about such household received from any
9 source between such periodic reports unless the in-
10 formation clearly indicates that the household is not
11 eligible, subject to standards established by the Sec-
12 retary, or the household requests an increase in ben-
13 efits.”.

14 **SEC. 302. ACCESS TO BENEFITS.**

15 Section 7 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
16 2016) is amended by adding at the end the following:

17 “(k) No State agency shall establish any additional
18 requirements or conditions on households to receive
19 benefits other than the requirements or conditions speci-
20 fied in this section.”.

21 **SEC. 303. ACCOUNTABLE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.**

22 (a) PROHIBITION.—Section 11(e)(6)(B) of the Food
23 and Nutrition Assistance Act of 2007 (7 U.S.C.
24 2020(e)(6)(B)) is amended to read:

1 “(B) only State employees employed in ac-
2 cordance with the current standards for a Merit
3 System of Personnel Administration, or any
4 standards later prescribed by the Office of Per-
5 sonnel Management pursuant to section 208 of
6 the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970
7 (42 U.S.C. 4728) modifying or superseding
8 such standards relating to the establishment
9 and maintenance of personnel standards on a
10 merit basis, shall—

11 “(i) represent the State agency in any
12 communications with a prospective appli-
13 cant, applicant, or recipient household;

14 “(ii) participate in making any deter-
15 minations relating to a household’s sub-
16 stantive or procedural compliance with the
17 requirements of this Act or implementing
18 regulations, including the adequacy of the
19 household’s application or of verification or
20 other information the household has sub-
21 mitted in support of that application; or

22 “(iii) perform any other acts or par-
23 ticipate in making any other determina-
24 tions required under this subsection;”.

1 (b) WAIVERS.—Section 17(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(ff) of the
2 Food and Nutrition Assistance Act of 2007 (7 U.S.C.
3 2026(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(ff)) is amended in inserting “or
4 11(e)(6)(B)” before the semicolon.

5 (c) PROJECTS.—Section 26(f)(3)(E) of the Food and
6 Nutrition Assistance Act of 2007 (7 U.S.C.
7 2035(f)(3)(E)) is amended in inserting “(6)(B)” after
8 “paragraphs”.

9 **SEC. 304. REAUTHORIZATION OF FOOD STAMP PROGRAM**
10 **AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON IN-**
11 **DIAN RESERVATIONS.**

12 (a) REDUCTIONS IN PAYMENTS FOR ADMINISTRA-
13 TIVE COSTS.—Section 16(k)(3) of the Food Stamp Act
14 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2025(k)(3)) is amended—

15 (1) in the first sentence of subparagraph (A),
16 by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”; and

17 (2) in subparagraph (B)(ii) by striking “2007”
18 and inserting “2012”.

19 (b) CASH PAYMENT PILOT PROJECTS.—Section
20 17(b)(1)(B)(vi) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
21 2026(b)(1)(B)(vi)) is amended by striking “2007” and in-
22 serting “2012”.

23 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
24 18(a)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
25 2027(a)(1)) is amended in the first sentence by striking

1 “2003 through 2007” and inserting “2008 through
2 2012”.

3 (d) CONSOLIDATED BLOCK GRANTS FOR PUERTO
4 RICO AND AMERICAN SAMOA.—Section 19(a)(2) of the
5 Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2028(a)(2)) is amend-
6 ed in subparagraph (A)(ii) by striking “2007” and insert-
7 ing “2012”.

8 **SEC. 305. PREVENTING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.**

9 Section 16(a) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
10 U.S.C. 2025(a)) is amended by inserting “directly or indi-
11 rectly” before “receive or benefit” in the final sentence.

12 **SEC. 306. LIMITATION ON CONTRACTING.**

13 Section 16(a) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
14 U.S.C. 2025(a)) is amended by inserting at the end: “The
15 Secretary shall not make any payments for administrative
16 costs under this or any other section of law relating to
17 a contract that a State agency concluded in violation of
18 this Act or the Secretary’s regulations, whether or not the
19 Secretary may approve the contract subsequent to its let-
20 ting, or for any personnel costs to carry out functions
21 specified under section 11(e)(3) except by persons de-
22 scribed under section 11(e)(6)(B).”.

23 **SEC. 307. OUTREACH GRANTS.**

24 Section 11(t)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 2007 (7
25 U.S.C. 2020(t)(1)) is amended by striking “For each of

1 fiscal years” and all that follows through “\$5,000,000”
 2 and inserting “For each of the fiscal years 2008 through
 3 2012, the Secretary shall use not more than
 4 \$45,000,000”.

5 **SEC. 308. FUNDS TO STATES FOR IMPROVING AND INNO-**
 6 **VATING PROGRAM ACCESS AND INTEGRITY.**

7 Section 16 of the Food Stamp Act of 2007 (7 U.S.C.
 8 2025), as amended by section 304, is amended by adding
 9 at the end the following:

10 “(m) FUNDS TO STATES FOR IMPROVING AND INNO-
 11 VATING PROGRAM ACCESS AND INTEGRITY.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)
 13 and (3), the Secretary shall provide that with re-
 14 spect to administrative expenditures described in
 15 paragraph (2) the percent specified in (a) shall be
 16 increased to such percentage as the Secretary speci-
 17 fies.

18 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES DE-
 19 SCRIBED.—The administrative expenditures de-
 20 scribed in this paragraph are expenditures described
 21 in (a) that a State demonstrates to the satisfaction
 22 of the Secretary are attributable to a program inno-
 23 vation that—

24 “(A) improves access to the food stamp
 25 program;

1 “(B) improves the efficiency and effective-
2 ness of program operations; or

3 “(C) improves program integrity.

4 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—The total amount of addi-
5 tional Federal funds that are made available under
6 this subsection shall not exceed \$80,000,000 in each
7 of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012. In applying
8 this paragraph, the Secretary shall use discretion in
9 determining the State innovations that have the
10 greatest likelihood of meeting the goals described in
11 paragraph (2). The Secretary shall only make funds
12 available under paragraph (2) that will result in new
13 activities or operations.”.

14 **SEC. 309. IMPROVING PROGRAM OPERATIONS AND PRO-**
15 **GRAM EFFECTIVENESS.**

16 Section 17 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
17 2026) is amended by adding at the end—

18 “(k) RESEARCH TO IMPROVE PROGRAM OPERATION
19 EFFECTIVENESS.—

20 “(1) For each of the fiscal years 2008 through
21 2010, the Secretary shall use no less than
22 \$9,000,000 of funds made available under section
23 18(a)(1) to conduct research and demonstration
24 projects in support of this Act.

1 “(2) Of the funds provided in paragraph (1), no
2 less than \$4,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be
3 used to conduct research and studies on how to im-
4 prove the effectiveness of food stamp program oper-
5 ations by increasing access for eligible households,
6 reducing State agency and household administrative
7 burdens, and improving program integrity. Such
8 studies may evaluate the most effective—

9 “(A) use of verification;

10 “(B) telephonic and internet applications;

11 “(C) call centers;

12 “(D) efforts to retain eligible households at
13 recertification; and

14 “(E) methods of providing food stamp ben-
15 efits to working households, seniors, legal immi-
16 grants, and households with limited English
17 proficient households, particularly in areas and
18 States that have experienced rapid growth in
19 their non-English speaking populations.”.

20 **SEC. 310. IMPROVING PERFORMANCE BONUSES FOR**
21 **STATES.**

22 Section 16(d)(2)(B)(ii) of the Food Stamp Act of
23 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2025(d)) is amended by—

24 (1) inserting “through fiscal year 2007” after
25 “each fiscal year”;

1 (2) inserting at the end “For fiscal years 2008
2 and thereafter, \$68 million shall be available under
3 this clause for performance bonus payments.”.

4 **SEC. 311. SUPPORTING STATE EFFORTS DURING NATURAL**
5 **DISASTERS.**

6 Section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
7 U.S.C. 2014(h)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(4) In lieu of the payments section 16(a) would oth-
10 erwise require, the Secretary shall pay each State agency
11 an amount equal to 90 percent of administrative costs al-
12 lowable under section 16(a) for costs related to planning
13 and operating disaster food stamp programs under this
14 subsection.”.

15 **SEC. 312. EXPANDING THE USE OF FOOD STAMPS AT FARM-**
16 **ERS’ MARKETS.**

17 Section 25 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
18 2034) is amended by adding at the end:

19 “(i) GRANTS TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF FARM-
20 ERS’ MARKETS THAT ACCEPT FOOD STAMP BENEFITS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For each of the fiscal years
22 2008 through 2010, the Secretary shall use not
23 more than \$5 million of funds made available under
24 section 18(a)(1) to make grants to pay 100 percent
25 of the costs of eligible entities approved by the Sec-

1 retary to carry out projects to expand the number
2 of farmers' markets that accept food stamp benefits
3 by—

4 “(A) providing equipment and training
5 necessary for markets to accept food stamp
6 benefits;

7 “(B) educating and providing technical as-
8 sistance to farmers and farmers' market opera-
9 tors about the process and benefits of accepting
10 food stamp benefits; or

11 “(C) other activities deemed appropriate
12 by the Secretary.

13 “(2) LIMITATION.—A grant made under this
14 subsection shall not be made for the cost of the on-
15 going cost of carrying out any project.

16 “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to re-
17 ceive a grant under this subsection, an entity shall
18 be—

19 “(A) a State agency administering the
20 Food Stamp Program;

21 “(B) a State or local government; or

22 “(C) a private nonprofit entity that coordi-
23 nates farmers' markets in or within a State and
24 that operates in cooperation with State or local
25 government.

1 “(4) SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The
2 Secretary—

3 “(A) shall develop criteria for the selection
4 of eligible entities to receive grants under this
5 subsection; and

6 “(B) may give preference to any eligible
7 entity that consists of a partnership between a
8 government entity and a nongovernmental enti-
9 ty.”.

10 **TITLE IV—SUPPORTING THE**
11 **EMERGENCY FOOD BANK**
12 **NETWORK AND OTHER COM-**
13 **MUNITY PARTNERS**

14 **SEC. 401. ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS.**

15 Section 25(b)(2) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
16 U.S.C. 2034(b)(2)) is amended—

17 (1) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and” at
18 the end;

19 (2) in subparagraph (B) by striking the period
20 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

21 (3) by inserting at the end:

22 “(C) for each of the fiscal years 2008
23 through 2012, the amount available in the im-
24 mediately preceding fiscal year adjusted to re-
25 flect changes in the Consumer Price Index for

1 All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau
2 of Labor Statistics for the twelve months end-
3 ing the preceding June 30.”.

4 **SEC. 402. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDI-**
5 **TIONAL COMMODITIES UNDER THE FOOD**
6 **STAMP ACT.**

7 (a) Section 27(a) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
8 U.S.C. 2011–2036a) is amended to read as follows:

9 (1) by striking “(a) PURCHASE OF COMMOD-
10 ITIES.—” and all that follows through “2007” and
11 inserting the following:

12 “(a) PURCHASE OF COMMODITIES.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—As provided in paragraph
14 (2), for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012”;
15 and

16 (2) by striking “\$140,000,000 of”; and

17 (3) by inserting at the end:

18 “(2) AMOUNTS.—The following amounts are
19 made available to carry out this subsection:

20 “(A) for fiscal year 2008, \$250,000,000;

21 “(B) for each of the fiscal years 2009
22 through 2012, the dollar amount of commod-
23 ities available in the immediately preceding fis-
24 cal year adjusted by the percentage by which
25 the thrifty food plan has been adjusted under

1 section 3(o)(4) between June 30, 2007 and
2 June 30 of the immediately preceding fiscal
3 year.”.

4 (b) Section 204(a) of the Emergency Food Assistance
5 Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 612C note) is amended in subpara-
6 graph (1) by striking “\$60,000,000” and inserting
7 “\$100,000,000.”.

8 **SEC. 403. COMMUNITY FOOD ASSISTANCE AND FOOD BANK**
9 **INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS UNDER THE**
10 **FOOD STAMP ACT.**

11 The Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)
12 is amended by adding at the end the following:

13 **“SEC. 28. COMMUNITY FOOD ASSISTANCE AND FOOD BANK**
14 **INFRASTRUCTURE COMPETITIVE GRANTS.**

15 “(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-
16 tion, the term eligible entity means an emergency feeding
17 organization (as defined in Section 201A(4) of the Emer-
18 gency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501(4))).

19 “(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-
21 able to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall make
22 available not less than \$5,000,000 for fiscal year
23 2008 and for the each of the fiscal years 2009
24 through 2012, the amount available in the imme-
25 diately preceding fiscal year adjusted to reflect

1 changes in the Consumer Price Index for all urban
2 consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statis-
3 tics for the twelve months ending the preceding June
4 30 for the purposes of making grants to eligible en-
5 tities to support the work of food banks and similar
6 nonprofit emergency feeding organizations.

7 “(c) APPLICATION.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under
9 this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-
10 cation to the Secretary at the time and manner and
11 accompanied by any information the Secretary may
12 require.

13 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
14 under paragraph (1) shall—

15 “(A) identify the activity described in sub-
16 section (d) that the grant will be used to fund;
17 and

18 “(B) describe the means by which an activ-
19 ity identified under subparagraph (A) will re-
20 duce hunger in the community or support the
21 efforts of food banks or other nonprofit emer-
22 gency feeding organizations as defined in Sec-
23 tion (a) to reduce hunger or food insecurity in
24 their communities.

1 “(3) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this
2 section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible
3 entities the applications of which demonstrate two of
4 the following criteria:

5 “(A) The eligible entity serves a predomi-
6 nantly rural and geographically underserved
7 area.

8 “(B) The eligible entity serves a commu-
9 nity in which the rates of food insecurity, very
10 low food insecurity, hunger, poverty, or unem-
11 ployment are demonstrably higher than national
12 average rates.

13 “(C) The eligible entity serves a commu-
14 nity that provides demonstrable public support
15 for the efforts of the eligible entity through the
16 direct provision of private sector food assistance
17 to low-income individuals.

18 “(D) The eligible entity can show that the
19 grant will assist in the support of rural commu-
20 nities, small or mid-size farms, and the con-
21 sumption of locally produced agricultural prod-
22 ucts by low-income people in need of temporary
23 food assistance.

1 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall use a
2 grant received under this section for fiscal year to carry
3 out activities of the eligible entity, including—

4 “(1) constructing, expanding, or repairing a fa-
5 cility or equipment to support hunger relief agencies
6 in the community;

7 “(2) assisting an emergency feeding organiza-
8 tion in the community in obtaining locally-grown or
9 raised produce, dairy or protein products; and

10 “(3) assisting an emergency feeding organiza-
11 tion in the community for the procurement, storage,
12 handling and distribution of locally produced agricul-
13 tural products.”.

14 **SEC. 404. FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY TRANSPORTATION**
15 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

17 (1) to authorize the creation of the National
18 Food for the Hungry Transportation, Self-Help, and
19 Job Training Fund to facilitate the procurement and
20 transportation of highly perishable, healthy food to
21 low-income individuals in the United States;

22 (2) to establish a competitive mechanism in the
23 Department of Agriculture by which appropriations
24 made available from the Fund would be allocated;

1 (3) to ensure the direct involvement of the pri-
2 vate carrier trucking fleet of the United States in
3 carrying out this section;

4 (4) to increase the quantity of nutritious food
5 available to low-income individuals in the United
6 States by supporting the procurement and distribu-
7 tion of highly perishable food, such as fresh produce
8 and protein products, to the low-income individuals;

9 (5) to offer job training and employment oppor-
10 tunities in the food transportation and distribution
11 systems;

12 (6) to better identify potential providers of do-
13 nated foods and enhance the nonprofit food donation
14 system; and

15 (7) to provide adequate funding to carry out
16 this section.

17 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Na-
19 tional Food for the Hungry Transportation, Self-
20 Help, and Job Training Fund established under sub-
21 section (c).

22 (2) NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.—The
23 term “nongovernmental organization” means a na-
24 tional nonprofit charitable organization that—

1 (A) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the
2 Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

3 (B) is capable of, and has at least 10 years
4 experience in, procuring donated food and other
5 services from major domestic food manufactur-
6 ers and processors, grocery wholesalers and re-
7 tailers, food warehouse operations, agricultural
8 producer organizations, fishing interests com-
9 mercial transport providers (such as trucking
10 companies), and Federal and State food assist-
11 ance agencies;

12 (C) is capable of, and has shown pro-
13 ficiency in, the national distribution of highly
14 perishable food through contracts with member
15 emergency feeding organizations (as defined in
16 section 201A of the Emergency Food Assist-
17 ance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501));

18 (D) has at least 10 years experience in
19 procuring commercial freight for the distribu-
20 tion of time-sensitive food products through a
21 network of emergency food assistance organiza-
22 tions;

23 (E) has at least 10 years experience in
24 working with transport providers in creating,
25 coordinating, and maintaining transfer systems

1 designed to assist, at the national level, the de-
2 livery of time-sensitive food products, for dis-
3 tribution to emergency food assistance organi-
4 zations in all 50 States and the District of Co-
5 lumbia;

6 (F) does not operate any commercial, pri-
7 vate, or public subsidiary trucking or freight
8 operations for the purposes of transporting
9 food; and

10 (G) agrees—

11 (i) to contribute in-kind resources to
12 help carry out this section;

13 (ii) to provide to eligible emergency
14 food assistance organizations services and
15 information free of charge; and

16 (iii) to regularly certify and inspect
17 any member emergency feeding organiza-
18 tion with which the nongovernmental orga-
19 nization entered into a contract to carry
20 out an activity described in subparagraph
21 (B).

22 (3) PRIMARY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZA-
23 TION.—The term “primary nongovernmental organi-
24 zation” means a nongovernmental organization se-

1 lected by the Secretary on a competitive basis from
2 among nongovernmental organizations.

3 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Transportation.

5 (5) TIME-SENSITIVE FOOD PRODUCT.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “time-sen-
7 sitive food product” means a fresh, raw, or
8 processed food with a short time limitation for
9 safe and acceptable consumption, as determined
10 by the Secretary.

11 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “time-sen-
12 sitive food product” includes fruits, vegetables,
13 dairy products, meat, fish, and poultry.

14 (c) NATIONAL FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY TRANSPOR-
15 TATION FUND.—The Secretary shall offer to enter into
16 a contract or grant agreement with a primary nongovern-
17 mental organization to establish the National Food for the
18 Hungry Transportation Fund to track, collect, and deliver
19 time-sensitive food products.

20 (d) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall
21 ensure that funds made available under this Act are used
22 for

23 (1) the development and maintenance of a com-
24 puterized system for the tracking of time-sensitive
25 food products;

1 (2) capital and operating costs associated with
2 the collection and transportation of time-sensitive
3 food products;

4 (3) capital and operating costs associated with
5 the storage and distribution of time-sensitive food
6 products;

7 (4) job training opportunities in trucking, food
8 handling, food recovery, and related industries;

9 (5) improving the security and diversity of the
10 food distribution and recovery systems of the United
11 States with the use of—

12 (A) family-sized farms; and

13 (B) donations from entities of food prod-
14 ucts to persons in need;

15 (6) providing recovered healthy foods to non-
16 profit emergency food providers to reduce hunger in
17 the United States; and

18 (7) improving the identification of—

19 (A) potential providers of donated foods;

20 (B) potential nonprofit emergency food
21 providers; and

22 (C) persons in need of emergency food as-
23 sistance throughout the United States.

24 (e) ADDITIONAL NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZA-
25 TIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The primary nongovern-
2 mental organization may enter into one or more con-
3 tracts with, and provide funds to, not more than two
4 additional nongovernmental organizations that the
5 Secretary determines meet the requirements in para-
6 graph (2) to carry out some of the functions re-
7 quired by this section.

8 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—An additional nongovern-
9 mental organization selected under paragraph (1)
10 shall—

11 (A) have expertise in operating for several
12 years a national information clearinghouse re-
13 lating to anti-hunger activities;

14 (B) have extensive experience in working
15 with other anti-hunger organizations through-
16 out the United States;

17 (C) have significant experience in working
18 with the Department of Agriculture; and

19 (D) operate, at a national level, a hotline
20 to provide information about—

21 (i) access to food for low-income fami-
22 lies;

23 (ii) programs in existence on the date
24 of enactment of this Act that transport
25 fresh produce to food pantries, homeless

1 shelters, and soup kitchens that could
2 serve as national models for replication in
3 other areas; and

4 (iii) ways low-income individuals and
5 families may become self-reliant.

6 (f) AUDITS.—The Secretary shall establish fair and
7 reasonable procedures to audit the expenditure of funds
8 made available to carry out this section.

9 (g) FUNDING.—From funds not otherwise appro-
10 priated from the Treasury, \$5,000,000 shall be made
11 available to the Secretary for fiscal year 2008 and for each
12 of the fiscal years 2009 through 2012, the amount appro-
13 priated for the immediately preceding fiscal year adjusted
14 to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All
15 Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Sta-
16 tistics for the twelve months ending the preceding June
17 30.

18 **SEC. 405. HUNGER-FREE COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE**

19 **GRANTS.**

20 Section 25 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
21 2034), as amended by section 312, is amended by adding
22 at the end the following:

23 “(j) HUNGER-FREE COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE
24 GRANTS.—

1 “(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In
2 this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a
3 public food program service provider or a nonprofit
4 organization, including but not limited to an emer-
5 gency feeding organization, that demonstrates the
6 organization has collaborated, or will collaborate,
7 with 1 or more local partner organizations to reduce
8 hunger in the community.

9 “(2) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
11 use not more than 50 percent of any funds
12 made available under this subsection to make
13 grants to eligible entities to pay the Federal
14 share of the costs of an activity described in
15 paragraph (3)(A).

16 “(B) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal
17 share of the cost of carrying out an activity
18 under this subsection shall not exceed 80 per-
19 cent.

20 “(C) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

21 “(i) CALCULATION.—The non-Federal
22 share of the cost of an activity under this
23 subsection may be provided in cash or in
24 kind, fairly evaluated, including facilities,
25 equipment, or services.

1 “(ii) SOURCES.—Any entity may pro-
2 vide the non-Federal share of the cost of
3 an activity under this subsection through a
4 State government, a local government, or a
5 private source.

6 “(3) APPLICATION.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant
8 under this subsection, an eligible entity shall
9 submit an application to the Secretary at the
10 time and in the manner and accompanied by
11 any information the Secretary may require.

12 “(B) PRIORITY.—In making grants under
13 this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority
14 to eligible entities that—

15 “(i) demonstrate in the application of
16 the eligible entity that the eligible entity
17 makes collaborative efforts to reduce hun-
18 ger in the community of the eligible entity;
19 and

20 “(ii)(I) serve a predominantly rural
21 and geographically underserved area;

22 “(II) serve communities in which the
23 rates of food insecurity, hunger, poverty,
24 or unemployment are demonstrably higher
25 than national average rates;

1 “(III) provide evidence of long-term
2 efforts to reduce hunger in the community;

3 or

4 “(IV) provide evidence of public sup-
5 port for the efforts of the eligible entity.

6 “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall
7 use a grant received under this subsection for any
8 fiscal year for activities of the eligible entity, includ-
9 ing—

10 “(A) meeting the immediate needs of peo-
11 ple in the community served by the eligible enti-
12 ty who experience hunger by—

13 “(i) distributing food;

14 “(ii) providing community outreach to
15 connect needy people with nutrition assist-
16 ance for which they may be eligible; or

17 “(iii) providing nutrition assistance
18 and food distribution as part of com-
19 prehensive services;

20 “(B) developing new resources and strate-
21 gies to help reduce hunger in the community;

22 “(C) establishing a program to prevent,
23 monitor, and treat children in the community
24 experiencing hunger or poor nutrition; and

1 “(D) providing community outreach to fos-
2 ter the involvement of community members and
3 organizations in local efforts that provide nutri-
4 tion assistance and food distribution;

5 “(E) establishing a program coordinating
6 community-based comprehensive services, in-
7 cluding food distribution or nutrition assistance,
8 or adding food distribution or nutrition assist-
9 ance or existing comprehensive service pro-
10 grams.

11 “(5) AMOUNTS.—The following amounts are
12 made available to carry out this subsection:

13 “(A) For fiscal year 2008, \$4,000,000.

14 “(B) For each of the fiscal years 2009
15 through 2012, the dollar amount of, the
16 amount appropriated to carry out this sub-
17 section for the immediately preceding fiscal year
18 adjusted to reflect changes in the Consumer
19 Price Index for All Urban Consumers published
20 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the twelve
21 months ending the preceding June 30.”.

22 **SEC. 406. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE COMMODITY SUPPLE-**
23 **MENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.**

24 Section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protec-
25 tion Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–

1 86) is amended in the first sentence by striking “2007”
2 and inserting “2012”.

3 **SEC. 407. BILL EMERSON NATIONAL HUNGER FELLOWS**
4 **AND MICKEY LELAND INTERNATIONAL HUN-**
5 **GER FELLOWS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), as amended by section 403, is
8 amended by adding at the end the following:

9 **“SEC. 29. BILL EMERSON NATIONAL HUNGER FELLOWS**
10 **AND MICKEY LELAND INTERNATIONAL HUN-**
11 **GER FELLOWS.**

12 “(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the
13 ‘Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows and Mickey Le-
14 land International Hunger Fellows Program Act of 2007’.

15 “(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

16 “(1) there is a critical need for compassionate
17 individuals who are committed to assisting people
18 who suffer from hunger to initiate and administer
19 solutions to the hunger problem;

20 “(2) Bill Emerson, the distinguished late Rep-
21 resentative from the 8th District of Missouri, dem-
22 onstrated—

23 “(A) his commitment to solving the prob-
24 lem of hunger in a bipartisan manner;

25 “(B) his commitment to public service; and

1 “(C) his great affection for the institution
2 and ideals of the United States Congress;

3 “(3) George T. (Mickey) Leland, the distin-
4 guished late Representative from the 18th District
5 of Texas, demonstrated—

6 “(A) his compassion for those in need;

7 “(B) his high regard for public service;
8 and

9 “(C) his lively exercise of political talents;

10 “(4) the special concern that Mr. Emerson and
11 Mr. Leland demonstrated during their lives for the
12 hungry and poor was an inspiration for others to
13 work toward the goals of equality and justice for all;

14 “(5) these 2 outstanding leaders maintained a
15 special bond of friendship regardless of political af-
16 filiation and worked together to encourage future
17 leaders to recognize and provide service to others;
18 and

19 “(6) it is especially appropriate to honor the
20 memory of Mr. Emerson and Mr. Leland by creating
21 a fellowship program to develop and train the future
22 leaders of the United States to pursue careers in hu-
23 manitarian service.

24 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-
2 trator’ means—

3 “(A) if the Secretary enters into a contract
4 described in subsection (d)(3), the head of the
5 Congressional Hunger Center; or

6 “(B) if the Secretary does not enter into
7 such a contract, the Secretary.

8 “(2) FELLOW.—The term ‘fellow’ means—

9 “(A) a Bill Emerson Hunger Fellow; or

10 “(B) Mickey Leland Hunger Fellow

11 “(3) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS.—The term ‘Fel-
12 lowship Programs’ means the Bill Emerson National
13 Hunger Fellowship Program and the Mickey Leland
14 International Hunger Fellowship Program estab-
15 lished under subsection (d)(1).

16 “(d) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the
18 Department of Agriculture the Bill Emerson Na-
19 tional Hunger Fellowship Program and the Mickey
20 Leland International Hunger Fellowship Program.

21 “(2) PURPOSES.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The purposes of the
23 Fellowship Programs are—

24 “(i) to encourage future leaders of the
25 United States—

1 “(I) to pursue careers in humani-
2 tarian and public service;

3 “(II) to recognize the needs of
4 low-income people and hungry people;

5 “(III) to provide assistance to
6 people in need; and

7 “(IV) to seek public policy solu-
8 tions to the challenges of hunger and
9 poverty;

10 “(ii) to provide training and develop-
11 ment opportunities for such leaders
12 through placement in programs operated
13 by appropriate organizations or entities;
14 and

15 “(iii) to increase awareness of the im-
16 portance of public service.

17 “(B) BILL EMERSON HUNGER FELLOW-
18 SHIP PROGRAM.—The purpose of the Bill Emer-
19 son Hunger Fellowship Program is to address
20 hunger and poverty in the United States.

21 “(C) MICKEY LELAND HUNGER FELLOW-
22 SHIP PROGRAM.—The purpose of the Mickey
23 Leland Hunger Fellowship Program is to ad-
24 dress international hunger and other humani-
25 tarian needs.

1 “(3) ADMINISTRATION.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
3 graph (B), the Secretary shall offer to enter
4 into a contract with the Congressional Hunger
5 Center to administer the Fellowship Programs.

6 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of a
7 contract described in subparagraph (A), the
8 Congressional Hunger Center shall agree to
9 submit to Congress each year the results of an
10 independent financial audit that demonstrates
11 that the Congressional Hunger Center uses ac-
12 counting procedures that conform to generally
13 accepted accounting principles and auditing
14 procedures that conform to chapter 75 of title
15 31, United States Code (commonly known as
16 the ‘Single Audit Act of 1984’).

17 “(e) FELLOWSHIPS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall
19 make available Bill Emerson Hunger Fellowships
20 and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships in accord-
21 ance with this subsection.

22 “(2) CURRICULUM.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Fellowship Pro-
24 grams shall provide experience and training to
25 develop the skills necessary to train fellows to

1 carry out the purposes described in subsection
2 (d)(2), including—

3 “(i) training in direct service pro-
4 grams for the hungry and other anti-hun-
5 ger programs in conjunction with commu-
6 nity-based organizations through a pro-
7 gram of field placement; and

8 “(ii) providing experience in policy de-
9 velopment through placement in a govern-
10 mental entity or nongovernmental, non-
11 profit, or private sector organization.

12 “(B) WORK PLAN.—To carry out subpara-
13 graph (A) and assist in the evaluation of the
14 fellowships under paragraph (6), the Adminis-
15 trator shall, for each fellow, approve a work
16 plan that identifies the target objectives for the
17 fellow in the fellowship, including specific duties
18 and responsibilities relating to those objectives.

19 “(3) PERIOD OF FELLOWSHIP.—

20 “(A) BILL EMERSON HUNGER FELLOW.—
21 A Bill Emerson Hunger Fellowship awarded
22 under this section shall be for not more than 15
23 months.

24 “(B) MICKEY LELAND HUNGER FEL-
25 LOW.—A Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowship

1 awarded under this section shall be for not
2 more than 2 years.

3 “(4) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Fellowships shall be
5 awarded pursuant to a nationwide competition
6 established by the Administrator.

7 “(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—A successful pro-
8 gram applicant shall be an individual who has
9 demonstrated—

10 “(i) an intent to pursue a career in
11 humanitarian services and outstanding po-
12 tential for such a career;

13 “(ii) leadership potential or actual
14 leadership experience;

15 “(iii) diverse life experience;

16 “(iv) proficient writing and speaking
17 skills;

18 “(v) an ability to live in poor or di-
19 verse communities; and

20 “(vi) such other attributes as are con-
21 sidered to be appropriate by the Adminis-
22 trator.

23 “(5) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A fellow shall re-
25 ceive—

1 “(i) a living allowance during the term
2 of the Fellowship; and

3 “(ii) subject to subparagraph (B), an
4 end-of-service award.

5 “(B) REQUIREMENT FOR SUCCESSFUL
6 COMPLETION OF FELLOWSHIP.—Each fellow
7 shall be entitled to receive an end-of-service
8 award at an appropriate rate for each month of
9 satisfactory service completed, as determined by
10 the Administrator.

11 “(C) TERMS OF FELLOWSHIP.—A fellow
12 shall not be considered an employee of—

13 “(i) the Department of Agriculture;

14 “(ii) the Congressional Hunger Cen-
15 ter; or

16 “(iii) a host agency in the field or pol-
17 icy placement of the fellow.

18 “(D) RECOGNITION OF FELLOWSHIP
19 AWARD.—

20 “(i) EMERSON FELLOW.—An indi-
21 vidual awarded a fellowship from the Bill
22 Emerson Hunger Fellowship shall be
23 known as an ‘Emerson Fellow’.

24 “(ii) LELAND FELLOW.—An indi-
25 vidual awarded a fellowship from the Mick-

1 ey Leland Hunger Fellowship shall be
2 known as a ‘Leland Fellow’.

3 “(6) EVALUATION.—The Administrator shall
4 conduct periodic evaluations of the Fellowship Pro-
5 grams.

6 “(f) AUTHORITY.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
8 in carrying out this section, the Administrator may
9 solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or
10 devises of services or property, both real and per-
11 sonal, for the purpose of facilitating the work of the
12 Fellowship Programs.

13 “(2) LIMITATION.—Gifts, bequests, or devises
14 of money and proceeds from sales of other property
15 received as gifts, bequests, or devises shall be used
16 exclusively for the purposes of the Fellowship Pro-
17 grams.

18 “(g) REPORT.—Each year, the Administrator shall
19 submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
20 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
21 tion, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes
22 the activities and expenditures of the Fellowship Programs
23 during the preceding fiscal year.

24 “(h) FUNDING.—To carry out this section,
25 \$3,000,000 shall be appropriated in fiscal year 2008 from

1 funds otherwise not appropriated from the Treasury and
2 in for each fiscal year thereafter, an amount that is equal
3 to the amount from the previous fiscal year adjusted to
4 the nearest lower dollar increment to reflect changes in
5 the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers pub-
6 lished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, for items other
7 than food, for the twelve months ending the preceding
8 June 30.”.

9 (b) REPEAL.—Section 4404 of the Farm Security
10 and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2 U.S.C. 1161) is re-
11 pealed.

○