

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3243

To direct the Bureau of the Census to publish improved annual measures of family income for use in more accurately determining the extent of poverty in the United States and the anti-poverty effectiveness of means-tested benefit and tax programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois (for himself and Mr. CAMP of Michigan) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To direct the Bureau of the Census to publish improved annual measures of family income for use in more accurately determining the extent of poverty in the United States and the anti-poverty effectiveness of means-tested benefit and tax programs, 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 “Poverty Measurement
5 Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVED MEASURES OF INCOME AND POVERTY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to more accurately deter-
3 mine the extent of poverty in the United States, and the
4 anti-poverty effectiveness of means-tested benefit and tax
5 programs, the Bureau of the Census shall publish annually
6 statistics on levels of family income in the United States.
7 Such statistics shall be based on at least each of the fol-
8 lowing:

9 (1) FULL BENEFITS POVERTY INCOME.—This
10 income measure shall be equal to the sum of partial
11 benefits poverty income and noncash benefits (in-
12 cluding food stamps, housing subsidies, the actuarial
13 value of health coverage, and any other State or
14 Federal means-tested benefits) attributable to the
15 members of the household involved, including non-re-
16 lated members.

17 (2) FULL BENEFITS AND TAXES POVERTY IN-
18 COME.—This income measure shall be equal to full
19 benefits poverty income, increased by State and Fed-
20 eral earned income tax credits, refundable child
21 credits, and any other refundable tax credit, and de-
22 creased by State and Federal income and payroll
23 taxes, attributable to the members of the household
24 involved, including non-related members.

25 (b) DEFINITION OF PARTIAL BENEFITS POVERTY
26 INCOME.—For purposes of this section, the term “partial

1 benefits poverty income” means money income, as defined
2 by the Bureau of the Census for purposes of any survey
3 relating to income or poverty in the United States.

4 (c) RATES AND OTHER DATA.—The Bureau of the
5 Census shall use the measures of income described in
6 paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) to produce cor-
7 responding tables and graphs showing for each year the
8 following (and related data):

- 9 (1) The partial benefits poverty rate.
- 10 (2) The full benefits poverty rate.
- 11 (3) The full benefits and taxes poverty rate.

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