

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 993

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to cancel existing school meal debt, to expand the authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation for use in nutrition assistance programming, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2025

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

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to cancel existing school meal debt, to expand the authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation for use in nutrition assistance programming, 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 “School Lunch Debt
5 Cancellation Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. CANCELLATION OF SCHOOL MEAL DEBT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture

1 shall cancel and eliminate all debts owed by households
2 as of the date of enactment of this Act for school meals
3 under—

4 (1) the school lunch program established under
5 the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act
6 (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), including through commu-
7 nity eligibility under section 11(a)(1)(F) of that Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 1759a(a)(1)(F)); and

9 (2) the school breakfast program under section
10 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.
11 1773).

12 (b) PAYMENT OF CANCELLED DEBT.—The Secretary
13 of Agriculture shall—

14 (1) use the funds of the Commodity Credit Cor-
15 poration to pay the amount of debt cancelled under
16 subsection (a) to each local educational authority to
17 which the debt is owed by the applicable households;
18 and

19 (2) provide confirmation of the cancelled debt
20 to each applicable household.

21 (c) CANCELLATION AUTHORITY.—Section 7 of the
22 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
23 1756) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(e) SCHOOL MEAL DEBT CANCELLATION AUTHOR-
2 ITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
3 Secretary—

4 “(1) may cancel and eliminate all debts owed by
5 households for school meals under the school lunch
6 program under this Act and the school breakfast
7 program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act
8 of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773); and

9 “(2) shall—

10 “(A) use the funds of the Commodity
11 Credit Corporation to pay the amount of debt
12 cancelled under paragraph (1) to each local
13 educational authority to which the debt is owed
14 by the applicable households; and

15 “(B) provide confirmation of the cancelled
16 debt to each applicable household.”.

17 **SEC. 3. USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUNDS**
18 **FOR OTHER NUTRITION PROGRAMS.**

19 (a) COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.—
20 Section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection
21 Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–86) is
22 amended, in the first sentence—

23 (1) by striking “2023” and inserting “2030”;
24 and

1 (2) by inserting “and funds of the Commodity
2 Credit Corporation” after “Treasury”.

3 (b) EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—
4 Section 204 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of
5 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7508) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “the funds”
7 and all that follows through “the States” and insert-
8 ing “any funds of the Commodity Credit Corpora-
9 tion used to carry out this Act”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(c) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUNDS.—In
12 addition to any other funds made available, of the funds
13 of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary may
14 use such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.”.

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