

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1143

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 9 (legislative day, JULY 10), 1995

Mr. HATCH 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, 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) the dietary patterns of Americans do not re-
6 sult in nutrient intakes that fully meet Rec-
7 ommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs) of vitamins
8 and minerals;

1 (2) the elderly often fail to achieve adequate
2 nutrient intakes from diet alone;

3 (3) pregnant women have particularly high nu-
4 trient needs, which they often fail to meet through
5 dietary means alone;

6 (4)(A) many scientific studies have shown that
7 nutritional supplements that contain folic acid (a B
8 vitamin) can prevent as many as 60 to 80 percent
9 of neural tube birth defects;

10 (B) the Public Health Service, in September
11 1992, recommended that all women of childbearing
12 age in the United States who are capable of becom-
13 ing pregnant should consume 0.4 mg of folic acid
14 per day for the purpose of reducing their risk of
15 having a pregnancy affected with spina bifida or
16 other neural tube birth defects; and

17 (C) the Food and Drug Administration has also
18 approved a health claim for folic acid to reduce the
19 risk of neural tube birth defects;

20 (5) infants who fail to receive adequate intakes
21 of iron may be somewhat impaired in their mental
22 and behavioral development; and

23 (6) a massive volume of credible scientific evi-
24 dence strongly suggests that increasing intake of
25 specific nutrients over an extended period of time

1 may be helpful in protecting against diseases or con-
2 ditions such as osteoporosis, cataracts, cancer, and
3 heart disease.

4 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF THE FOOD STAMP ACT OF 1977.**

5 Section 3(g)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
6 U.S.C. 2012(g)(1)) is amended by striking “or food prod-
7 uct” and inserting “, food product, or dietary supplement
8 (as defined in section 201(ff) of the Federal Food, Drug,
9 and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(ff)))”.

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