

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8798

To amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to make breakfasts and lunches free for all children, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2026

Ms. OMAR (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. AMO, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BELL, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CHU, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DEXTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MENEFEE, Ms. MENG, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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 amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to make breakfasts and lunches free for all children, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
 5 “Universal School Meals Program Act of 2026”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
 7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Effective date.

## TITLE I—SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Free school breakfast program.

## TITLE II—SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Sec. 201. Apportionment to States.

Sec. 202. Nutritional and other program requirements.

Sec. 203. Special assistance program.

Sec. 204. Price for a paid lunch.

Sec. 205. Summer food service program for children.

Sec. 206. Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program.

Sec. 207. Child and adult care food program.

Sec. 208. Meals and supplements for children in afterschool care.

Sec. 209. Pilot projects.

Sec. 210. Fresh fruit and vegetable program.

Sec. 211. Training, technical assistance, and Food Service Management Institute.

Sec. 212. Reimbursement of school meal delinquent debt program.

Sec. 213. Conforming amendments.

## TITLE III—ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION DATA

Sec. 301. Measure of poverty.

## TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO OTHER PROGRAMS AND LAWS

Sec. 401. Supplemental nutrition assistance program.

- Sec. 402. Higher Education Act of 1965.  
 Sec. 403. Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.  
 Sec. 404. America COMPETES Act.  
 Sec. 405. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.  
 Sec. 406. National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002.  
 Sec. 407. Child care and development block grant.  
 Sec. 408. Children’s Health Act of 2000.  
 Sec. 409. Juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.

1 **SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 Unless otherwise provided, this Act, and the amend-  
 3 ments made by this Act, shall take effect 1 year after the  
 4 date of enactment of this Act.

5 **TITLE I—SCHOOL BREAKFAST**  
 6 **PROGRAM**

7 **SEC. 101. FREE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(a) of the Child Nutri-  
 9 tion Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773(a)) is amended, in the  
 10 first sentence—

11 (1) by striking “is hereby” and inserting “are”;

12 and

13 (2) by inserting “to provide free breakfast to all  
 14 children enrolled at those schools” before “in accord-  
 15 ance”.

16 (b) APPORTIONMENT TO STATES.—Section 4(b) of  
 17 the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773(b)) is  
 18 amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (1)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking

21 subclause (II) and inserting the following:

1           “(II) the national average payment for free  
2 breakfasts, as specified in subparagraph (B).”;

3           (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-  
4 serting the following:

5           “(B) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—

6                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—The national aver-  
7 age payment for each free breakfast shall  
8 be \$3.28, adjusted annually for inflation in  
9 accordance with clause (ii) and rounded in  
10 accordance with clause (iii).

11                   “(ii) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

12                           “(I) IN GENERAL.—The annual  
13 inflation adjustment under clause (i)  
14 shall reflect changes in the cost of op-  
15 erating the free breakfast program  
16 under this section, as indicated by the  
17 change in the Consumer Price Index  
18 for food away from home for all urban  
19 consumers.

20                           “(II) BASIS.—Each inflation an-  
21 nual adjustment under clause (i) shall  
22 reflect the changes in the Consumer  
23 Price Index for food away from home  
24 for the most recent 12-month period  
25 for which that data is available.

1                   “(iii) ROUNDING.—On July 1, 2026,  
2                   and annually thereafter, the national aver-  
3                   age payment rate for free breakfast shall  
4                   be—

5                               “(I) adjusted to the nearest  
6                               lower-cent increment; and

7                               “(II) based on the unrounded  
8                               amounts for the preceding 12-month  
9                               period.”;

10                   (C) by striking subparagraphs (C) and  
11                   (E); and

12                   (D) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as  
13                   subparagraph (C);

14                   (2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3);

15                   (3) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as  
16                   paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

17                   (4) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by  
18                   striking “paragraph (3) or (4)” and inserting “para-  
19                   graph (2)”.

20                   (c) STATE DISBURSEMENT TO SCHOOLS.—Section 4  
21                   of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) is  
22                   amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the fol-  
23                   lowing:

24                   “(c) STATE DISBURSEMENT TO SCHOOLS.—Funds  
25                   apportioned and paid to any State for the purpose of this

1 section shall be disbursed by the State educational agency  
2 to schools selected by the State educational agency to as-  
3 sist those schools in operating a breakfast program.”.

4 (d) NO COLLECTION OF DEBT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
6 provision of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42  
7 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.) or any other provision of law,  
8 effective beginning on the date of enactment of this  
9 Act, as a condition of participation in the breakfast  
10 program under section 4 of that Act (42 U.S.C.  
11 1773), a school—

12 (A) shall not collect any debt owed to the  
13 school for unpaid meal charges; and

14 (B) shall continue to accrue debt for un-  
15 paid meal charges—

16 (i) for the purpose of receiving reim-  
17 bursment under section 212; and

18 (ii) until the effective date specified in  
19 section 2.

20 (2) CHILD NUTRITION ACT OF 1966.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Child  
22 Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) is  
23 amended by striking subsection (d) and insert-  
24 ing the following:

1       “(d) NO COLLECTION OF DEBT.—A school partici-  
2       pating in the free breakfast program under this section  
3       shall not collect any debt owed to the school for unpaid  
4       meal charges.”.

5               (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
6       23(a) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42  
7       U.S.C. 1793(a)) is amended by striking “school  
8       in severe need, as described in section 4(d)(1)”  
9       and inserting the following: “school—

10       “(1) that has a free breakfast program under  
11       section 4 or seeks to initiate a free breakfast pro-  
12       gram under that section; and

13       “(2) of which not less than 40 percent of the  
14       students are economically disadvantaged students  
15       (as identified under a measure described in section  
16       1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
17       cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5))).”.

18       (e) NUTRITIONAL AND OTHER PROGRAM REQUIRE-  
19       MENTS.—Section 4(e) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966  
20       (42 U.S.C. 1773(e)) is amended—

21       (1) in paragraph (1)(A), in the second sentence,  
22       by striking “free or” and all that follows through  
23       the period at the end and inserting “free to all chil-  
24       dren enrolled at a school participating in the school  
25       breakfast program.”; and

1           (2) in paragraph (2), in the second sentence, by  
2           striking “the full charge to the student for a break-  
3           fast meeting the requirements of this section or”.

4           (f) PROHIBITION ON BREAKFAST SHAMING, MEAL  
5 DENIAL.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning on the  
7           date of enactment of this Act, a school or school  
8           food authority—

9                   (A) shall not—

10                           (i) physically segregate for the pur-  
11                           pose of debt shaming or otherwise dis-  
12                           criminate against any child participating in  
13                           the breakfast program under section 4 of  
14                           the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42  
15                           U.S.C. 1773); or

16                           (ii) overtly identify a child described  
17                           in clause (i) by a special token or ticket,  
18                           an announced or published list of names,  
19                           or any other means; and

20                   (B) shall provide the program meal to any  
21                   child eligible under the program.

22           (2) CHILD NUTRITION ACT OF 1966.—Section 4  
23           of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)  
24           is amended by adding at the end the following:

1       “(f) PROHIBITION ON BREAKFAST SHAMING.—A  
2 school or school food authority shall not—

3           “(1) physically segregate for the purpose of  
4 debt shaming or otherwise discriminate against any  
5 child participating in the free breakfast program  
6 under this section; or

7           “(2) overtly identify a child described in para-  
8 graph (1) by a special token or ticket, an announced  
9 or published list of names, or any other means.”.

10       (g) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OVERSEAS DEPEND-  
11 ENTS’ SCHOOLS.—Section 20(b) of the Child Nutrition  
12 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1789(b)) is amended by striking  
13 “and shall determine” and all that follows through “under  
14 this section.”.

15       (h) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Child Nutri-  
16 tion Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.) is amended—

17           (1) by striking “or reduced price” each place it  
18 appears;

19           (2) by striking “and reduced price” each place  
20 it appears; and

21           (3) by striking “a reduced price” each place it  
22 appears.

1           **TITLE II—SCHOOL LUNCH**  
2                           **PROGRAM**

3   **SEC. 201. APPORTIONMENT TO STATES.**

4           Section 4(b) of the Richard B. Russell National  
5 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1753(b)) is amended—

6                   (1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the  
7 following:

8                   “(2) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—

9                           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The national average  
10 payment for each free lunch shall be \$5.42, ad-  
11 justed annually for inflation in accordance with  
12 subparagraph (C) and rounded in accordance  
13 with subparagraph (D).

14                   “(B) ADDITIONAL PAYMENT FOR LOCAL  
15 FOOD.—

16                           “(i) DEFINITION OF LOCALLY-  
17 SOURCED FARM PRODUCT.—In this sub-  
18 paragraph, the term ‘locally-sourced farm  
19 product’ means a farm product that—

20                                   “(I) is marketed to consumers—

21   “(aa) directly; or

22   “(bb) through intermediated  
23 channels (such as food hubs and  
24 cooperatives); and

1                   “(II) with respect to the school  
2                   food authority purchasing the farm  
3                   product, is produced and distrib-  
4                   uted—

5                   “(aa) in the State in which  
6                   the school food authority is lo-  
7                   cated; or

8                   “(bb) not more than 250  
9                   miles from the location of the  
10                  school food authority.

11                  “(ii) ADDITIONAL PAYMENT ELIGI-  
12                  BILITY.—During a school year, a school  
13                  food authority shall receive an additional  
14                  payment described in clause (iii) if the  
15                  State certifies that the school food author-  
16                  ity served meals (including breakfasts,  
17                  lunches, suppers, and supplements) during  
18                  the last school year of which not less than  
19                  25 percent were made with locally sourced  
20                  farm products.

21                  “(iii) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—

22                  “(I) IN GENERAL.—The addi-  
23                  tional payment amount under this  
24                  subparagraph shall be—

1                   “(aa) \$0.30 for each free  
2 lunch and supper;

3                   “(bb) \$0.21 for each free  
4 breakfast; and

5                   “(cc) \$0.08 for each free  
6 supplement.

7                   “(II) ADJUSTMENTS.—Each ad-  
8 ditional payment amount under sub-  
9 clause (I) shall be adjusted annually  
10 in accordance with subparagraph (C)  
11 and rounded in accordance with sub-  
12 paragraph (D).

13                   “(iv) DISBURSEMENT.—The State  
14 agency shall disburse funds made available  
15 under this clause to school food authorities  
16 eligible to receive additional reimburse-  
17 ment.

18                   “(C) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

19                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—The annual infla-  
20 tion adjustment under subparagraphs (A)  
21 and (B)(iii) shall reflect changes in the  
22 cost of operating the free lunch program  
23 under this Act, as indicated by the change  
24 in the Consumer Price Index for food away  
25 from home for all urban consumers.

1           “(ii) BASIS.—Each annual inflation  
2           adjustment under subparagraphs (A) and  
3           (B)(iii) shall reflect the changes in the  
4           Consumer Price Index for food away from  
5           home for the most recent 12-month period  
6           for which that data is available.

7           “(D) ROUNDING.—On July 1, 2026, and  
8           annually thereafter, the national average pay-  
9           ment rate for free lunch and the additional pay-  
10          ment amount for free breakfast, lunch, supper,  
11          and supplement under subparagraph (B) shall  
12          be—

13                   “(i) adjusted to the nearest lower-cent  
14                   increment; and

15                   “(ii) based on the unrounded amounts  
16                   for the preceding 12-month period.”; and

17           (2) by striking paragraph (3).

18 **SEC. 202. NUTRITIONAL AND OTHER PROGRAM REQUIRE-**  
19 **MENTS.**

20           (a) **ELIMINATION OF FREE LUNCH ELIGIBILITY RE-**  
21 **QUIREMENTS.—**

22                   (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Section 9 of the Richard B.  
23           Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.  
24           1758) is amended by striking subsection (b) and in-  
25           serting the following:

1       “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—All children enrolled in a school  
2 that participates in the school lunch program under this  
3 Act shall be eligible to receive free lunch under this Act.”.

4           (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

5           (A) Section 9 of the Richard B. Russell  
6 National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758) is  
7 amended—

8               (i) in subsection (e), in the third sen-  
9 tence, by striking “or at a reduced cost”;  
10 and

11               (ii) in subsection (e), by striking “, re-  
12 duced price,”.

13           (B) Section 28 of the Richard B. Russell  
14 National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769i)  
15 is amended—

16               (i) by striking subsection (b); and

17               (ii) by redesignating subsection (e) as  
18 subsection (b).

19           (C) Section 17(d)(2)(A) of the Child Nu-  
20 trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(d)(2)(A))  
21 is amended—

22               (i) by striking clause (i); and

23               (ii) by redesignating clauses (ii) and  
24 (iii) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively.

1 (D) Section 1902(a) of the Social Security  
2 Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)) is amended by strik-  
3 ing paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

4 “(7) provide safeguards which restrict the use  
5 or disclosure of information concerning applicants  
6 and recipients to purposes directly connected with  
7 the administration of the plan;”.

8 (E) Section 1154(a)(2)(A)(i) of title 10,  
9 United States Code, is amended by striking “in  
10 accordance with section 9(b)(1) of the Richard  
11 B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42  
12 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1))”.

13 (F) Section 4301 of the Food, Conserva-  
14 tion, and Energy Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C.  
15 1758a) is repealed.

16 (b) NO COLLECTION OF DEBT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
18 provision of the Richard B. Russell National School  
19 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) or any other  
20 provision of law, effective beginning on the date of  
21 enactment of this Act, as a condition of participation  
22 in the school lunch program under that Act, a  
23 school—

24 (A) shall not collect any debt owed to the  
25 school for unpaid meal charges; and

1 (B) shall continue to accrue debt for un-  
2 paid meal charges—

3 (i) for the purpose of receiving reim-  
4 bursement under section 212; and

5 (ii) until the effective date specified in  
6 section 2.

7 (2) NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT.—Section 9  
8 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch  
9 Act (42 U.S.C. 1758) is amended by striking sub-  
10 section (d) and inserting the following:

11 “(d) NO COLLECTION OF DEBT.—A school partici-  
12 pating in the school lunch program under this Act shall  
13 not collect any debt owed to the school for unpaid meal  
14 charges.”.

15 **SEC. 203. SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11 of the Richard B. Rus-  
17 sell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759a) is re-  
18 pealed.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

20 (1) Section 6 of the Richard B. Russell Na-  
21 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1755) is amend-  
22 ed—

23 (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “sec-  
24 tions 11 and 13” and inserting “section 13”;  
25 and

1 (B) in subsection (e)(1), in the matter pre-  
2 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “section  
3 4, this section, and section 11” and inserting  
4 “this section and section 4”.

5 (2) Section 7(d) of the Richard B. Russell Na-  
6 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1756(d)) is  
7 amended by striking “or 11”.

8 (3) Section 8(g) of the Richard B. Russell Na-  
9 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1757(g)) is  
10 amended by striking “and under section 11 of this  
11 Act”.

12 (4) Section 12(f) of the Richard B. Russell Na-  
13 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(f)) is  
14 amended by striking “11,”.

15 (5) Section 7(a) of the Child Nutrition Act of  
16 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1766(a)) is amended—

17 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “4,  
18 11, and 17” and inserting “4 and 17”; and

19 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “sec-  
20 tions 4 and 11” and inserting “section 4”.

21 (6) Section 1101(j)(3) of the Families First  
22 Coronavirus Response Act (7 U.S.C. 2011 note;  
23 Public Law 116–127) is amended—

24 (A) by striking “or served under section  
25 11(a)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National

1 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(d),  
2 1759(a)(1))” and inserting “of the Richard B.  
3 Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.  
4 1760(d))”; and

5 (B) by striking “or reduced price”.

6 **SEC. 204. PRICE FOR A PAID LUNCH.**

7 Section 12 of the Richard B. Russell National School  
8 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (l)(4)—

10 (A) by striking subparagraph (D); and

11 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)  
12 through (M) as subparagraphs (D) through  
13 (L), respectively;

14 (2) by striking subsection (p); and

15 (3) by redesignating subsections (q) and (r) as  
16 subsections (p) and (q), respectively.

17 **SEC. 205. SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHIL-**  
18 **DREN.**

19 Section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School  
20 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i)—

23 (i) in subclause (I), by striking “have  
24 been determined eligible for free or re-  
25 duced price school meals under this Act

1 and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42  
2 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)” and inserting “are  
3 economically disadvantaged students (as  
4 identified under a measure described in  
5 section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and  
6 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
7 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

8 (ii) in subclause (II), by striking “are  
9 eligible for free or reduced price school  
10 meals under this Act and the Child Nutri-  
11 tion Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)”  
12 and inserting “are economically disadvan-  
13 taged students (as identified under a meas-  
14 ure described in section 1113(a)(5) of the  
15 Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
16 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

17 (iii) in subclause (III)(bb), by striking  
18 “meet the income standards for free or re-  
19 duced price school meals under this Act  
20 and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42  
21 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)” and inserting “are  
22 economically disadvantaged students (as  
23 identified under a measure described in  
24 section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and

1 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
2 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

3 (iv) in subclause (IV), by striking  
4 “are eligible for free or reduced price  
5 school meals under this Act and the Child  
6 Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et  
7 seq.)” and inserting “are economically dis-  
8 advantaged students (as identified under a  
9 measure described in section 1113(a)(5) of  
10 the Elementary and Secondary Education  
11 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

12 (v) in subclause (V), by striking “are  
13 eligible for free or reduced price school  
14 meals under this Act and the Child Nutri-  
15 tion Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)”  
16 and inserting “are economically disadvan-  
17 tagged students (as identified under a meas-  
18 ure described in section 1113(a)(5) of the  
19 Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
20 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

21 (B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end  
22 the following:

23 “(C) WAIVER.—If the Secretary deter-  
24 mines that a program requirement under this  
25 section limits the access of children to meals

1 served under this section, the Secretary may  
2 waive that program requirement.

3 “(D) ELIGIBILITY.—All children shall be  
4 eligible to participate in the program under this  
5 section.”;

6 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “only  
7 for” and all that follows through the period at  
8 the end and inserting “for meals served to all  
9 children.”; and

10 (D) in paragraph (13)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by strik-  
12 ing “eligible for a free or reduced price  
13 lunch under this Act or a free or reduced  
14 price breakfast under section 4 of the  
15 Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.  
16 1773)” and inserting “an economically dis-  
17 advantaged student (as identified under a  
18 measure described in section 1113(a)(5) of  
19 the Elementary and Secondary Education  
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”; and

21 (ii) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by strik-  
22 ing “eligible for free or reduced price lunch  
23 under this Act or free or reduced price  
24 breakfast under section 4 of the Child Nu-  
25 trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)” and

1           inserting “economically disadvantaged stu-  
2           dents (as identified under a measure de-  
3           scribed in section 1113(a)(5) of the Ele-  
4           mentary and Secondary Education Act of  
5           1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5))”;

6           (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “may only  
7           serve” and all that follows through “migrant chil-  
8           dren”;

9           (3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
10          following:

11         “(c) PAYMENTS.—

12           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Payments shall be made to  
13          service institutions for meals served—

14           “(A) during the months of May through  
15          September;

16           “(B) during school vacation at any time  
17          during an academic school year;

18           “(C) during a teacher in-service day; and

19           “(D) on days that school is closed due to  
20          a natural disaster, building repair, court order,  
21          or similar cause, as determined by the Sec-  
22          retary.

23           “(2) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.—A service in-  
24          stitution shall receive payments under this section

1 for not more than 3 meals and 1 supplement per  
2 child per day.”; and

3 (4) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “, except  
4 that” and all that follows through “section”.

5 **SEC. 206. SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER FOR**  
6 **CHILDREN PROGRAM.**

7 Section 13A of the Richard B. Russell National  
8 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1762) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(A)—

10 (A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the  
11 end;

12 (B) in clause (ii)—

13 (i) by striking “and each year there-  
14 after”; and

15 (ii) by striking “and” at the end; and

16 (C) by inserting at the end the following:

17 “(iii) for calendar year 2026, in an  
18 amount equal to \$60, which may be pro-  
19 portionately higher consistent with the ad-  
20 justments established under section 12(f)  
21 for each eligible child in the eligible house-  
22 hold per month during the summer oper-  
23 ational period; and

24 “(iv) for calendar year 2027 and each  
25 year thereafter, in an amount equal to the

1 unrounded benefit amount from the prior  
2 year, adjusted to the nearest lower dollar  
3 increment to reflect changes to the cost of  
4 the diet described in section 3(u) of the  
5 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
6 2012(u)) for the 12-month period ending  
7 on November 30 of the preceding calendar  
8 year and rounded to the nearest lower dol-  
9 lar increment; and”;

10 (2) in subsection (c)(1)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “di-  
12 rectly certified” and all that follows through  
13 “this section” and inserting “an economically  
14 disadvantaged student (as identified under a  
15 measure described in section 1113(a)(5) of the  
16 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
17 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

18 (B) by striking subparagraph (B); and

19 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (C)  
20 through (E) as subparagraphs (B) through (D),  
21 respectively;

22 (3) in subsection (f)—

23 (A) in paragraph (3), in the matter pre-  
24 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “proc-  
25 esses—” and all that follows through “to reli-

1 ably” in subparagraph (B) and inserting “proc-  
2 esses to reliably”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (4), in the matter pre-  
4 ceeding subparagraph (A), by striking “by—”  
5 and all that follows through “establishing” in  
6 subparagraph (B) and inserting “by estab-  
7 lishing”; and

8 (4) in subsection (h), by striking paragraph (2)  
9 and inserting the following:

10 “(2) ELIGIBLE CHILD.—The term ‘eligible  
11 child’ means any child residing in a State or on land  
12 under the jurisdiction of a covered Indian Tribal or-  
13 ganization that participates in the program estab-  
14 lished under this section.”.

15 **SEC. 207. CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM.**

16 Section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School  
17 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking subpara-  
19 graph (B) and inserting the following:

20 “(B) any other private organization pro-  
21 viding nonresidential child care or day care out-  
22 side school hours for school children;”;

23 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
24 following:

1       “(c) FREE MEALS.—Notwithstanding any other pro-  
2 vision of law—

3           “(1) all meals and supplements served under  
4 the program authorized under this section shall be  
5 provided for free to participants of the program; and

6           “(2) an institution that serves those meals and  
7 supplements shall be reimbursed—

8           “(A) in the case of breakfast, at the rate  
9 established for free breakfast under section  
10 4(b)(1)(B)(i) of the Child Nutrition Act of  
11 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773(b)(1)(B)(i));

12           “(B) in the case of lunch, at the rate es-  
13 tablished for free lunch under section  
14 4(b)(2)(A); and

15           “(C) in the case of a supplemental meal,  
16 \$1.28, adjusted for inflation in accordance with  
17 section 4(b)(2)(C).”;

18           (3) in subsection (f)—

19           (A) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-  
20 graph (B) and inserting the following:

21           “(B) LIMITATION TO REIMBURSEMENTS.—  
22 An institution may claim reimbursement under  
23 this paragraph for not more than 3 meals and  
24 1 supplement per day per child.”;

25           (B) by striking paragraph (3); and

1 (C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as  
2 paragraph (3);

3 (4) in subsection (o)—

4 (A) by striking paragraph (4); and

5 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and  
6 (6) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and  
7 (5) in subsection (r)—

8 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
9 “Program for At-risk School Children” and in-  
10 sserting “Afterschool Meal and Snack Pro-  
11 gram”;

12 (B) by striking “at-risk school” each place  
13 it appears and inserting “eligible”;

14 (C) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-  
16 ing “at-risk school” and inserting “eligi-  
17 ble”; and

18 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
19 “operated” and all that follows through  
20 the period at the end and inserting a pe-  
21 riod; and

22 (D) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “only  
23 for” and all that follows through the period at  
24 the end and inserting the following: “for—

1                   “(i) not more than 1 meal and 1 sup-  
2                   plement per child per day served on a reg-  
3                   ular school day; and

4                   “(ii) not more than 3 meals and 1  
5                   supplement per child per day served on  
6                   any day other than a regular school day.”.

7 **SEC. 208. MEALS AND SUPPLEMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN**  
8 **AFTERSCHOOL CARE.**

9           Section 17A of the Richard B. Russell National  
10 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766a) is amended—

11           (1) in the section heading, by striking “Meal  
12           supplements” and inserting “Meals and supple-  
13           ments”;

14           (2) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “meal sup-  
15           plements” and inserting “free meals and supple-  
16           ments”;

17           (3) in subsection (b), by inserting “meals and”  
18           before “supplements”; and

19           (4) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
20           following:

21           “(c) REIMBURSEMENT.—

22           “(1) IN GENERAL.—

23           “(A) MEALS.—A free meal provided under  
24           this section to a child shall be reimbursed at a  
25           rate of \$5.42, adjusted annually for inflation in

1           accordance with paragraph (3)(A) and rounded  
2           in accordance with paragraph (3)(B).

3           “(B) SUPPLEMENTS.—A free supplement  
4           provided under this section to a child shall be  
5           reimbursed at the rate at which free supple-  
6           ments are reimbursed under section  
7           17(c)(2)(C).

8           “(2) LIMITATION TO REIMBURSEMENTS.—An  
9           institution may claim reimbursement under this sec-  
10          tion for not more than 1 meal and 1 supplement per  
11          day per child served on a regular school day.

12          “(3) INFLATION; ROUNDING.—

13                 “(A) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

14                         “(i) IN GENERAL.—The annual infla-  
15                         tion adjustment under paragraph (1)(A)  
16                         shall reflect changes in the cost of oper-  
17                         ating the program under this section, as  
18                         indicated by the change in the Consumer  
19                         Price Index for food away from home for  
20                         all urban consumers.

21                         “(ii) BASIS.—Each inflation annual  
22                         adjustment under paragraph (1)(A) shall  
23                         reflect the changes in the Consumer Price  
24                         Index for food away from home for the

1           most recent 12-month period for which  
2           that data is available.

3           “(B) ROUNDING.—On July 1, 2026, and  
4           annually thereafter, the reimbursement rate for  
5           a free meal under this section shall be—

6                   “(i) adjusted to the nearest lower-cent  
7                   increment; and

8                   “(ii) based on the unrounded amounts  
9                   for the preceding 12-month period.”.

10 **SEC. 209. PILOT PROJECTS.**

11           Section 18 of the Richard B. Russell National School  
12 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769) is amended—

13           (1) in subsection (g)(5), by striking subpara-  
14 graph (B) and inserting the following:

15                   “(B) serve a high proportion of economi-  
16 cally disadvantaged students (as identified  
17 under a measure described in section  
18 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary  
19 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
20 6313(a)(5)));”;

21           (2) in subsection (h)(1)(A)(ii), by striking “eli-  
22 gible for free or reduced price meals under this Act”  
23 and inserting “economically disadvantaged students  
24 (as identified under a measure described in section

1 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
2 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

3 (3) by striking subsection (j); and

4 (4) by redesignating subsection (k) as sub-  
5 section (j).

6 **SEC. 210. FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM.**

7 Section 19(d) of the Richard B. Russell National  
8 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769a(d)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1)—

10 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
11 (A), by striking “paragraph (2) of this sub-  
12 section and”;

13 (B) in subparagraph (A), in the matter  
14 preceding clause (i), by striking “school—” and  
15 all that follows through “submits” in clause (ii)  
16 and inserting “school that submits”;

17 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
18 “schools” and all that follows through “Act”  
19 and inserting “high-need schools (as defined in  
20 section 2211(b) of the Elementary and Sec-  
21 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
22 6631(b)))”; and

23 (D) in subparagraph (D)—

24 (i) by striking clause (i); and

1 (ii) by redesignating clauses (ii)  
2 through (iv) as clauses (i) through (iii), re-  
3 spectively; and

4 (2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and in-  
5 serting the following:

6 “(2) OUTREACH TO HIGH-NEED SCHOOLS.—  
7 Prior to making decisions regarding school participa-  
8 tion in the program, a State agency shall inform  
9 high-need schools (as defined in section 2211(b) of  
10 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
11 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6631(b))), including Tribal schools,  
12 of the eligibility of the schools for the program.”

13 **SEC. 211. TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND FOOD**  
14 **SERVICE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE.**

15 Section 21(a)(1)(B) of the Richard B. Russell Na-  
16 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769b–1(a)(1)(B)) is  
17 amended in the matter preceding clause (i) by striking  
18 “certified to receive free or reduced price meals” and in-  
19 serting “who are economically disadvantaged students (as  
20 identified under a measure described in section 1113(a)(5)  
21 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
22 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”.

23 **SEC. 212. REIMBURSEMENT OF SCHOOL MEAL DELIN-**  
24 **QUENT DEBT PROGRAM.**

25 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) DELINQUENT DEBT.—The term “delinquent  
2 debt” means the debt owed by a parent or guardian  
3 of a child to a school—

4           (A) as of the effective date specified in sec-  
5 tion 2; and

6           (B) for meals served by the school under—

7           (i) the school breakfast program  
8 under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act  
9 of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773);

10           (ii) the school lunch program estab-  
11 lished under the Richard B. Russell Na-  
12 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751  
13 et seq.); or

14           (iii) both of the programs described in  
15 clauses (i) and (ii).

16           (2) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
17 the program established under subsection (b)(1).

18           (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
19 the Secretary of Agriculture.

20           (b) REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM.—

21           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days  
22 after the effective date specified in section 2, the  
23 Secretary shall establish a program under which the  
24 Secretary shall reimburse each school participating

1 in a program described in clause (i) or (ii) of sub-  
2 section (a)(1)(B) for all delinquent debt.

3 (2) FORM FOR REIMBURSEMENT.—To carry out  
4 the program, the Secretary shall design and dis-  
5 tribute a form to State agencies to collect data on  
6 all delinquent debt in applicable schools in the State,  
7 grouped by school food authority.

8 (3) COMPLETION DATE.—The Secretary shall  
9 provide all reimbursements under the program not  
10 later than 180 days after the effective date specified  
11 in section 2.

12 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the effec-  
13 tive date specified in section 2, the Comptroller General  
14 of the United States shall submit to Congress and make  
15 publicly available a report that describes the successes and  
16 challenges of the program.

17 **SEC. 213. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

18 The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act  
19 (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) is amended—

20 (1) by striking “or reduced price” each place it  
21 appears;

22 (2) by striking “or a reduced price” each place  
23 it appears;

24 (3) by striking “and reduced price” each place  
25 it appears; and

1           (4) by striking “a reduced price” each place it  
2           appears.

3           **TITLE III—ELEMENTARY AND**  
4           **SECONDARY EDUCATION DATA**

5           **SEC. 301. MEASURE OF POVERTY.**

6           Section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary  
7           Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)) is amend-  
8           ed—

9           (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “the num-  
10          ber of children eligible for a free or reduced price  
11          lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School  
12          Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.)” and inserting  
13          “the number of children from low-income back-  
14          grounds, identified under subparagraph (D)”;

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

16                   “(D) IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN FROM  
17                   LOW-INCOME BACKGROUNDS.—

18                           “(i) IN GENERAL.—A local edu-  
19                           cational agency or State agency, for the  
20                           purpose of identifying children from low-in-  
21                           come backgrounds enrolled in a school  
22                           served by a local educational agency,  
23                           may—

24                                   “(I) maintain a record, with re-  
25                                   spect to each student for whom the

1 local educational agency provides a  
2 free public education that contains the  
3 information collected from the survey  
4 described in clause (iii);

5 “(II) distribute and collect a stu-  
6 dent survey based on the template de-  
7 veloped under clause (iii) to identify  
8 children from low-income back-  
9 grounds; and

10 “(III) utilize direct certification  
11 data described in clause (iv)(I) to  
12 identify children from low-income  
13 backgrounds.

14 “(ii) PRIVACY.—

15 “(I) IN GENERAL.—All individual  
16 data collected under this subpara-  
17 graph shall be protected by the local  
18 educational agency or State agency in  
19 a manner consistent with all applica-  
20 ble local, State, and Federal privacy  
21 laws.

22 “(II) REPORTING DATA.—Only  
23 aggregated data, which may include  
24 data disaggregated at the school, local  
25 educational agency, or State level,

1 shall be reported to the Secretary at  
2 such time and in such manner as the  
3 Secretary may reasonably require.

4 “(iii) SURVEY.—Not later than 180  
5 days after the date of enactment of the  
6 Universal School Meals Program Act of  
7 2026, the Secretary, in consultation with  
8 the Secretary of Agriculture, shall develop  
9 a template survey—

10 “(I) to identify children from  
11 low-income backgrounds that contains  
12 only the information necessary to  
13 identify a child as a child from a low-  
14 income background by using the cri-  
15 teria of eligibility for a free or reduced  
16 priced lunch under the Richard B.  
17 Russell National School Lunch Act, as  
18 such criteria were in effect on Sep-  
19 tember 30, 2022; and

20 “(II) that shall be designed to be  
21 easily accessible and in a user-friendly  
22 manner.

23 “(iv) TRANSITION AUTHORITY FROM  
24 FRPL TO ESEA MEASURES.—The Sec-  
25 retary, in coordination with the Secretary

1 of Agriculture, shall have the authority to  
2 take such steps as are necessary to provide  
3 for the orderly transition to, and imple-  
4 mentation of—

5 “(I) activities that are necessary  
6 for the continuity of direct certifi-  
7 cation carried out by local educational  
8 agencies and State agencies specified  
9 in paragraphs (4), (5), and (15) sec-  
10 tion 9(b) of the Richard B. Russell  
11 National School Lunch Act, as in ef-  
12 fect on September 30, 2022, for the  
13 purposes of identifying any child eligi-  
14 ble for free or reduced priced lunch  
15 under such Act, as in effect on such  
16 date, as a child from a low-income  
17 background;

18 “(II) procedures for verification  
19 of information collected under this  
20 subparagraph, which may include pro-  
21 cedures modeled on the requirement  
22 specified in section 9(b)(3) of the  
23 Richard B. Russell National School  
24 Lunch Act, as in effect on September  
25 30, 2022; and

1 “(III) data privacy provisions for  
2 information collected under this sub-  
3 paragraph, in accordance with the re-  
4 quirements specified in section 9(b)(6)  
5 of the Richard B. Russell National  
6 School Lunch Act, as in effect on Sep-  
7 tember 30, 2022.

8 “(v) SPECIAL RULE.—For the pur-  
9 poses of subparagraph (A), a local edu-  
10 cational agency may determine the number  
11 of children from low-income backgrounds  
12 enrolled in a school served by such agency  
13 using one or more of the following meth-  
14 ods:

15 “(I) Results from surveys speci-  
16 fied in clause (i)(II).

17 “(II) Direct certification data  
18 specified in clause (i)(III).

19 “(III) Utilization of both meth-  
20 ods described in subclauses (I) and  
21 (II).”.

1       **TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO**  
2       **OTHER PROGRAMS AND LAWS**

3       **SEC. 401. SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PRO-**  
4               **GRAM.**

5           (a) AGREEMENT FOR DIRECT CERTIFICATION.—

6               (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 11 of the Food and  
7               Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amend-  
8               ed—

9                       (A) by striking subsection (u); and

10                      (B) by redesignating subsections (v)  
11                      through (x) as subsections (u) through (w), re-  
12                      spectively.

13               (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 11(e)  
14               of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
15               2020(e)) is amended—

16                      (A) in paragraph (8)(F), by striking “or  
17                      subsection (u)”;

18                      (B) in paragraph (26)(B), by striking  
19                      “(x)” and inserting “(w)”.

20           (b) NUTRITION EDUCATION AND OBESITY PREVEN-  
21           TION GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 28(a) of the Food and  
22           Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036a(a)) is amended  
23           by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

24                      “(1) an individual eligible for benefits under  
25                      this Act;”.

1 **SEC. 402. HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.**

2 (a) **TEACHER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT.**—Subpara-  
3 graph (A) of section 200(11) of the Higher Education Act  
4 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021(11)) is amended to read as fol-  
5 lows:

6 “(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘high-need  
7 school’ means a school that is in the highest  
8 quartile of schools in a ranking of all schools  
9 served by a local educational agency, ranked in  
10 descending order by percentage of students  
11 from low-income families enrolled in such  
12 schools, as determined by the local educational  
13 agency based on one of the following measures  
14 of poverty:

15 “(i) The percentage of students aged  
16 5 through 17 in poverty counted in the  
17 most recent census data approved by the  
18 Secretary.

19 “(ii) The percentage of students in  
20 families receiving assistance under the  
21 State program funded under the program  
22 of block grants to States for temporary as-  
23 sistance for needy families established  
24 under part A of title IV of the Social Secu-  
25 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

1           “(iii) The percentage of students eligi-  
2           ble to receive medical assistance under the  
3           program of medical assistance established  
4           under title XIX of the Social Security Act  
5           (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

6           “(iv) A composite of two or more of  
7           the measures described in clauses (i)  
8           through (iii).”.

9           (b) GEAR UP.—Subparagraph (A) of section  
10          404B(d)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
11          U.S.C. 1070a–22(d)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

12           “(A) provide services under this chapter to  
13           at least one grade level of students, beginning  
14           not later than 7th grade, in a participating  
15           school—

16           “(i) that has a 7th grade; and

17           “(ii) in which—

18           “(I) at least 50 percent of the  
19           students enrolled are economically dis-  
20           advantaged students (as identified  
21           under a measure described in section  
22           1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and  
23           Secondary Education Act of 1965); or

24           “(II) if an eligible entity deter-  
25           mines that it would promote the effec-

1                   tiveness of a program, an entire grade  
2                   level of students, beginning not later  
3                   than the 7th grade, reside in public  
4                   housing, as defined in section 3(b)(1)  
5                   of the United States Housing Act of  
6                   1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(1)).”.

7           (c) EARLY FEDERAL PELL GRANT COMMITMENT  
8 DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—Section 894(b) of the  
9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1161y(b)) is  
10 amended—

11           (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “qualify  
12           for a free or reduced price school lunch under the  
13           Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42  
14           U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) or the Child Nutrition Act of  
15           1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)” and inserting “are  
16           economically disadvantaged students (as identified  
17           under a measure described in section 1113(a)(5) of  
18           the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
19           1965)”; and

20           (2) in paragraph (5), by striking “eligible for a  
21           free or reduced price school lunch under the Richard  
22           B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.  
23           1751 et seq.) or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42  
24           U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)” and inserting “economically  
25           disadvantaged students (as identified under a meas-

1 ure described in section 1113(a)(5) of the Elemen-  
2 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965)”.  
3

3 **SEC. 403. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT**  
4 **OF 1965.**

5 (a) LITERACY EDUCATION FOR ALL.—Section  
6 2221(b)(3)(B) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
7 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6641(b)(3)(B)) is amend-  
8 ed—

9 (1) by striking clause (i); and

10 (2) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as  
11 clauses (i) and (ii), respectively.

12 (b) GRANTS FOR EDUCATION INNOVATION AND RE-  
13 SEARCH.—Section 4611(d)(2) of the Elementary and Sec-  
14 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7261(d)(2)) is  
15 amended—

16 (1) by striking subparagraph (B); and

17 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and  
18 (D) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively.

19 (c) ELIGIBILITY FOR HEAVILY IMPACTED LOCAL  
20 EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Item (bb) of section  
21 7003(b)(2)(B)(i)(III) of the Elementary and Secondary  
22 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7703(b)(2)(B)(i)(III))  
23 is amended to read as follows:

24 “(bb) has an enrollment of children described in sub-  
25 section (a)(1) that constitutes a percentage of the total

1 student enrollment of the agency that is not less than 30  
2 percent; and”.

3 **SEC. 404. AMERICA COMPETES ACT.**

4 Section 6122(3) of the America COMPETES Act (20  
5 U.S.C. 9832(3)) is amended by striking “data on children  
6 eligible for free or reduced-price lunches under the Rich-  
7 ard B. Russell National School Lunch Act,”.

8 **SEC. 405. WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY**  
9 **ACT.**

10 Section 3(36)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and  
11 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(36)(A)) is amended—

12 (1) by striking clause (iv); and

13 (2) by redesignating clauses (v) and (vi) as  
14 clauses (iv) and (v), respectively.

15 **SEC. 406. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AUTHORIZA-**  
16 **TION ACT OF 2002.**

17 Section 4(8) of the National Science Foundation Au-  
18 thorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n note; Public  
19 Law 107–368) is amended—

20 (1) by striking subparagraph (A); and

21 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and  
22 (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively.

1 **SEC. 407. CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT.**

2 Section 6580(b) of the Child Care and Development  
3 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m(b)) is amend-  
4 ed—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “school  
6 lunch factor” and inserting “economically disadvan-  
7 taged students factor”; and

8 (2) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-  
9 lows:

10 “(3) **ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STU-**  
11 **DENTS FACTOR.**—In this subsection, the term ‘eco-  
12 nomically disadvantaged students factor’ means the  
13 ratio of the number of children in the State who are  
14 economically disadvantaged students (as identified  
15 under a measure described in section 1113(a)(5) of  
16 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
17 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5))) to the number of such  
18 children in all the States as determined annually by  
19 the Secretary of Education.”.

20 **SEC. 408. CHILDREN’S HEALTH ACT OF 2000.**

21 Section 1404(b) of the Children’s Health Act of 2000  
22 (42 U.S.C. 9859c(b)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “school  
24 lunch factor” and inserting “economically disadvan-  
25 taged students factor”; and



1           “(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after  
2           the date of the enactment of the Universal School  
3           Meals Program Act of 2026, the Attorney General,  
4           in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture,  
5           shall provide guidance to States relating to the op-  
6           tions for school food authorities in the States to  
7           apply for reimbursement for free lunches under the  
8           Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42  
9           U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) for juveniles who are incarcer-  
10          ated.

11           “(3) ELIGIBLE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER  
12          DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible ju-  
13          venile detention center’ does not include any private,  
14          for-profit detention center.”.

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