

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 83

Senators Anthony, Shink, McMorrow, Klinefelt, Geiss, Chang, Bayer and Cavanagh offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the United States federal government to
2 amend the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to
3 simplify the college student exemptions to make aid more accessible
4 for prospective and enrolled students who come from low-income
5 families.

6 Whereas, Postsecondary credentials are and will continue to be
7 essential for job seekers in the U.S. economy. The U.S. Bureau of
8 Labor and Statistics reports that almost forty percent of jobs in
9 the U.S. require education greater than a high school diploma, and
10 this number is increasing; and

11 Whereas, Studies have estimated that between twenty and
12 thirty-two percent of college students experience food insecurity

1 while enrolled. Food-insecure students are more likely to drop out
2 of college without completing a degree or certificate. In a 2020
3 study, a quarter of all students admitted that they had considered
4 dropping out due to difficulty affording food, and one third said
5 they knew someone who dropped out because of food insecurity; and

6 Whereas, SNAP is a federal program that provides resources for
7 individuals and families who would otherwise be unable to afford
8 enough food. Students are only eligible for SNAP if they are
9 enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education
10 and qualify for an exemption. Most students are not eligible for
11 SNAP's current exemptions. This prevents students from
12 participating in the program and receiving much needed food
13 assistance; and

14 Whereas, Changing the eligibility requirements and ensuring
15 SNAP's availability to food-insecure students would remove a
16 critical barrier to postsecondary education, both for currently
17 enrolled students and future students. Michigan's current
18 educational attainment rate is just above fifty percent.
19 Modernizing SNAP to remove food insecurity barriers to secondary
20 education supports Michigan's goal to increase the number of
21 Michigan residents with a postsecondary credential to sixty percent
22 by 2030; and

23 Whereas, The provision of food assistance could improve higher
24 education outcomes that lead to family-sustaining wages and a
25 strong economy. Given the demand from employers and state efforts
26 to create a skilled workforce, keeping the current SNAP eligibility
27 restrictions will continue to hamper college graduation rates and
28 economic growth; now, therefore, be it

29 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the United States federal

1 government to amend the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
2 (SNAP) to simplify the college student exemptions to make aid more
3 accessible for prospective and enrolled students who come from low-
4 income families; and be it further

5 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
6 President of the United States; Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman
7 of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry;
8 Senator Gary Peters; and the members of the Michigan congressional
9 delegation.