

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits be calculated using the value of the low-cost food plan, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. GILLIBRAND introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits be calculated using the value of the low-cost food plan, 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 “Closing the Meal Gap
5 Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. CALCULATION OF PROGRAM BENEFITS USING LOW-**
2 **COST FOOD PLAN.**

3 (a) DEFINITION OF LOW-COST FOOD PLAN.—Sec-
4 tion 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
5 2012) is amended—

6 (1) by striking subsection (u);

7 (2) by redesignating subsections (n) through (t)
8 as subsections (o) through (u), respectively; and

9 (3) by inserting after subsection (m) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(n) LOW-COST FOOD PLAN.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘low-cost food
13 plan’ means the diet, determined in accordance with
14 the calculations of the Secretary, required to feed a
15 4-person family that consists of—

16 “(A) a man and a woman who are each be-
17 tween 19 and 50 years of age;

18 “(B) a child who is between 6 and 8 years
19 of age; and

20 “(C) a child who is between 9 and 11
21 years of age.

22 “(2) REEVALUATION.—By December 31, 2031,
23 and at 5-year intervals thereafter, the Secretary
24 shall reevaluate and publish the market baskets of
25 the low-cost food plan, based on current food prices,

1 food composition data, consumption patterns, and
2 dietary guidance.

3 “(3) COST.—For purposes of paragraph (1),
4 the cost of the diet described in that paragraph shall
5 be the basis for uniform allotments for all house-
6 holds regardless of the actual composition of the
7 household, except that the Secretary shall—

8 “(A) make household-size adjustments
9 (based on the unrounded cost of that diet) tak-
10 ing into account economies of scale;

11 “(B) make cost adjustments in the low-
12 cost food plan for the State of Hawaii and the
13 urban and rural parts of the State of Alaska to
14 reflect the cost of food in Hawaii and urban
15 and rural Alaska, respectively; and

16 “(C) on October 1, 2025, and each Octo-
17 ber 1 thereafter, adjust the cost of the diet to
18 reflect the cost of the diet in the immediately
19 preceding June, and round the result to the
20 nearest lower-dollar increment for each house-
21 hold size.”.

22 (b) VALUE OF ALLOTMENT.—Section 8(a) of the
23 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2017(a)) is
24 amended—

1 (1) by striking “thrifty food plan” each place it
2 appears and inserting “low-cost food plan”; and

3 (2) in the proviso, by striking “8 percent” and
4 inserting “10 percent”.

5 (c) QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM.—Section
6 16(c)(1)(A)(ii) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
7 U.S.C. 2025(c)(1)(A)(ii)) is amended—

8 (1) in subclause (II)—

9 (A) by striking “thrifty food plan is ad-
10 justed under section 3(u)(4)” and inserting
11 “low-cost food plan is adjusted under section
12 3(n)(3)(D)”;

13 (B) by striking “2013” and inserting
14 “2025”;

15 (2) by redesignating subclause (II) as subclause
16 (III); and

17 (3) by striking subclause (I) and inserting the
18 following:

19 “(I) for fiscal year 2025, at an
20 amount not greater than \$50;

21 “(II) for fiscal year 2026, the
22 amount specified in subclause (I) ad-
23 justed by the difference between the
24 thrifty food plan (as defined in section
25 3 (as in effect on the day before the

1 date of enactment of the Closing the
2 Meal Gap Act of 2025)) and the low-
3 cost food plan; and”.

4 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

5 (1) Section 10 of the Food and Nutrition Act
6 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2019) is amended, in the first
7 sentence, by striking “3(o)(4)” and inserting
8 “3(p)(4)”.

9 (2) Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act
10 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended—

11 (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking
12 “3(s)(1)” and inserting “3(t)(1)”;

13 (B) in subsection (d)—

14 (i) by striking “3(s)(1)” each place it
15 appears and inserting “3(t)(1)”;

16 (ii) by striking “3(s)(2)” each place it
17 appears and inserting “3(t)(2)”;

18 (iii) by striking “Act (25 U.S.C.
19 450)” and inserting “and Education As-
20 sistance Act (25 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.)”;
21 and

22 (C) in subsection (e)(17), by striking
23 “3(s)(1)” and inserting “3(t)(1)”.

24 (3) Section 19(a)(2)(A)(ii) of the Food and Nu-
25 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028(a)(2)(A)(ii)) is

1 amended by striking “thrifty food plan has been ad-
2 justed under section 3(u)(4)” and inserting “low-
3 cost food plan has been adjusted under section
4 3(n)(3)(D)”.

5 (4) Section 27(a)(2) of the Food and Nutrition
6 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)(2)) is amended—

7 (A) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “(as
8 in effect on the day before the date of enact-
9 ment of the Closing the Meal Gap Act of
10 2025)” after “section 3(u)(4)”;

11 (B) in subparagraph (D)(ix), by striking
12 “and” at the end;

13 (C) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as
14 subparagraph (F);

15 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
16 the following:

17 “(E) for fiscal year 2025, the sum ob-
18 tained by adding—

19 “(i) the dollar amount of commodities
20 specified in subparagraph (B) adjusted by
21 the percentage by which the low-cost food
22 plan has been adjusted under section
23 3(u)(4) between June 30, 2025, and June
24 30 of the immediately preceding fiscal
25 year; and

1 “(ii) \$35,000,000; and”; and
2 (E) in subparagraph (F) (as so redesign-
3 nated), by striking “subparagraph (D)(ix) ad-
4 justed by the percentage by which the thrifty
5 food plan has been adjusted under section
6 3(u)(4)” and inserting “subparagraph (F) ad-
7 justed by the percentage by which the low-cost
8 food plan has been adjusted under section
9 3(n)(3)(D)”.

10 (5) Section 408(a)(12)(B)(i) of the Social Secu-
11 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 608(a)(12)(B)(i)) is amended by
12 striking “(r)” each place it appears.

13 **SEC. 3. DEDUCTIONS FROM INCOME.**

14 (a) STANDARD MEDICAL EXPENSE DEDUCTION.—
15 Section 5(e)(5) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
16 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(5)) is amended—

17 (1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “EX-
18 CESS MEDICAL” and inserting “MEDICAL”;

19 (2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “an excess
20 medical” and all that follows through the period at
21 the end and inserting “a standard medical deduction
22 or a medical expense deduction of actual costs for
23 the allowable medical expenses incurred by the elder-
24 ly or disabled member, exclusive of special diets.”;

1 (3) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “ex-
2 cess”; and

3 (4) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(D) STANDARD MEDICAL EXPENSE DE-
5 DUCTION AMOUNT.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
7 vided in clause (ii), the standard medical
8 expense deduction shall be—

9 “(I) for fiscal year 2025, \$140;
10 and

11 “(II) for each subsequent fiscal
12 year, equal to the applicable amount
13 for the immediately preceding fiscal
14 year as adjusted to reflect changes for
15 the 12-month period ending the pre-
16 ceding June 30 in the Consumer Price
17 Index for All Urban Consumers: Med-
18 ical Care published by the Bureau of
19 Labor Statistics of the Department of
20 Labor.

21 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—For any fiscal
22 year, a State agency may establish a great-
23 er standard medical expense deduction
24 than described in clause (i) if the greater
25 deduction satisfies cost neutrality stand-

1 ards established by the Secretary for that
2 fiscal year.”.

3 (b) **ELIMINATION OF CAP OF EXCESS SHELTER EX-**
4 **PENSES.—**

5 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Section 5(e)(6) of the Food
6 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(6)) is
7 amended—

8 (A) by striking subparagraph (B); and

9 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (C)
10 and (D) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respec-
11 tively.

12 (2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—**Section
13 2605(f)(2)(A) of the Low-Income Home Energy As-
14 sistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8624(f)(2)(A)) is
15 amended by striking “5(e)(6)(C)(iv)(I) of that Act
16 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(6)(C)(iv)(I))” and inserting
17 “5(e)(6)(B)(iv)(I) of that Act (7 U.S.C.
18 2014(e)(6)(B)(iv)(I))”.

19 **SEC. 4. ELIMINATION OF TIME LIMIT.**

20 (a) **IN GENERAL.—**Section 6 of the Food and Nutri-
21 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015) is amended—

22 (1) by striking subsection (o); and

23 (2) by redesignating subsections (p) through (s)
24 as subsections (o) through (r), respectively.

25 (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—**

1 (1) Section 5(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act
2 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(a)) is amended, in the sec-
3 ond sentence, by striking “(r)” and inserting “(q)”.

4 (2) Section 6(d)(4) of the Food and Nutrition
5 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4)) is amended—

6 (A) in subparagraph (B)(ii)(I)(bb)(DD),
7 by striking “or subsection (o)”;

8 (B) in subparagraph (N), by striking “or
9 subsection (o)” each place it appears.

10 (3) Section 7(i)(1) of the Food and Nutrition
11 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(i)(1)) is amended by
12 striking “section 6(o)(2) of this Act or”.

13 (4) Section 16(h) of the Food and Nutrition
14 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)) is amended—

15 (A) in paragraph (1)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (B), in the matter
17 preceding clause (i), by striking “that—”
18 and all that follows through the period at
19 the end of clause (ii) and inserting “that
20 is determined and adjusted by the Sec-
21 retary.”;

22 (ii) by striking subparagraph (E);

23 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
24 (F) as subparagraph (E); and

1 (iv) in clause (ii)(III)(ee)(AA) of sub-
2 paragraph (E) (as so redesignated), by
3 striking “, individuals subject to the re-
4 quirements under section 6(o),”; and
5 (B) in paragraph (5)(C)—

6 (i) in clause (ii), by adding “and” at
7 the end;

8 (ii) in clause (iii), by striking “; and”
9 and inserting a period; and

10 (iii) by striking clause (iv).

11 (5) Section 51(d)(8)(A)(ii) of the Internal Rev-
12 enue Code of 1986 is amended—

13 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “, or” at
14 the end and inserting a period;

15 (B) in the matter preceding subclause (I),
16 by striking “family—” and all that follows
17 through “receiving” in subclause (I) and insert-
18 ing “family receiving”; and

19 (C) by striking subclause (II).

20 (6) Section 103(a)(2) of the Workforce Innova-
21 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3113) is
22 amended—

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

1 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)
2 through (K) as subparagraphs (D) through (J),
3 respectively.

4 (7) Section 121(b)(2)(B) of the Workforce In-
5 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3151) is
6 amended—

7 (A) by striking clause (iv); and

8 (B) by redesignating clauses (v) through
9 (vii) as clauses (iv) through (vi), respectively.