

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

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.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KIM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

---

**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”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
 2 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.

3 **SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

1     **TITLE I—SCHOOL BREAKFAST**  
2                     **PROGRAM**

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

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

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

9                     (2) by inserting “to provide free breakfast to all  
10     children enrolled at those schools” before “in accord-  
11     ance”.

12             (b) APPORTIONMENT TO STATES.—Section 4(b) of  
13     the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773(b)) is  
14     amended—

15                     (1) in paragraph (1)—

16                             (A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking  
17     subclause (II) and inserting the following:

18                                     “(II) the national average pay-  
19                                     ment for free breakfasts, as specified  
20                                     in subparagraph (B).”;

21                             (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-  
22     serting the following:

23                             “(B) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—

24                                     “(i) IN GENERAL.—The national aver-  
25                                     age payment for each free breakfast shall

1 be \$3.28, adjusted annually for inflation in  
2 accordance with clause (ii) and rounded in  
3 accordance with clause (iii).

4 “(ii) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

5 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The annual  
6 inflation adjustment under clause (i)  
7 shall reflect changes in the cost of op-  
8 erating the free breakfast program  
9 under this section, as indicated by the  
10 change in the Consumer Price Index  
11 for food away from home for all urban  
12 consumers.

13 “(II) BASIS.—Each inflation an-  
14 nual adjustment under clause (i) shall  
15 reflect the changes in the Consumer  
16 Price Index for food away from home  
17 for the most recent 12-month period  
18 for which that data is available.

19 “(iii) ROUNDING.—On July 1, 2026,  
20 and annually thereafter, the national aver-  
21 age payment rate for free breakfast shall  
22 be—

23 “(I) adjusted to the nearest  
24 lower-cent increment; and

1                                   “(II) based on the unrounded  
2                                   amounts for the preceding 12-month  
3                                   period.”;

4                                   (C) by striking subparagraphs (C) and  
5                                   (E); and

6                                   (D) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as  
7                                   subparagraph (C);

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

9                                   (3) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as  
10                                  paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

11                                  (4) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by  
12                                  striking “paragraph (3) or (4)” and inserting “para-  
13                                  graph (2)”.

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

18                                  “(c) STATE DISBURSEMENT TO SCHOOLS.—Funds  
19                                  apportioned and paid to any State for the purpose of this  
20                                  section shall be disbursed by the State educational agency  
21                                  to schools selected by the State educational agency to as-  
22                                  sist those schools in operating a breakfast program.”.

23                                  (d) NO COLLECTION OF DEBT.—

24                                  (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
25                                  provision of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42

1 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.) or any other provision of law,  
2 effective beginning on the date of enactment of this  
3 Act, as a condition of participation in the breakfast  
4 program under section 4 of that Act (42 U.S.C.  
5 1773), a school—

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

8 (B) shall continue to accrue debt for un-  
9 paid meal charges—

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

12 (ii) until the effective date specified in  
13 section 2.

14 (2) CHILD NUTRITION ACT OF 1966.—

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

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

23 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
24 23(a) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42  
25 U.S.C. 1793(a)) is amended by striking “school

1 in severe need, as described in section 4(d)(1)”

2 and inserting the following: “school—

3 “(1) that has a free breakfast program under

4 section 4 or seeks to initiate a free breakfast pro-

5 gram under that section; and

6 “(2) of which not less than 40 percent of the

7 students are economically disadvantaged students

8 (as identified under a measure described in section

9 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-

10 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”.

11 (e) NUTRITIONAL AND OTHER PROGRAM REQUIRE-

12 MENTS.—Section 4(e) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966

13 (42 U.S.C. 1773(e)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), in the second sentence,

15 by striking “free or” and all that follows through

16 the period at the end and inserting “free to all chil-

17 dren enrolled at a school participating in the school

18 breakfast program.”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (2), in the second sentence, by

20 striking “the full charge to the student for a break-

21 fast meeting the requirements of this section or”.

22 (f) PROHIBITION ON BREAKFAST SHAMING, MEAL

23 DENIAL.—

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

4                   (A) shall not—

5                           (i) physically segregate for the pur-  
6                           pose of debt shaming or otherwise dis-  
7                           criminate against any child participating in  
8                           the breakfast program under section 4 of  
9                           the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42  
10                          U.S.C. 1773); or

11                           (ii) overtly identify a child described  
12                           in clause (i) by a special token or ticket,  
13                           an announced or published list of names,  
14                           or any other means; and

15                          (B) shall provide the program meal to any  
16           child eligible under the program.

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

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

22                          “(1) physically segregate for the purpose of  
23                          debt shaming or otherwise discriminate against any  
24                          child participating in the free breakfast program  
25                          under this section; or

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

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

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

11           (1) by striking “or reduced price” each place it  
12          appears;

13           (2) by striking “and reduced price” each place  
14          it appears; and

15           (3) by striking “a reduced price” each place it  
16          appears.

17           **TITLE II—SCHOOL LUNCH**  
18           **PROGRAM**

19          **SEC. 201. APPORTIONMENT TO STATES.**

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

22           (1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the  
23          following:

24           “(2) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The national average  
2 payment for each free lunch shall be \$5.42, ad-  
3 justed annually for inflation in accordance with  
4 subparagraph (C) and rounded in accordance  
5 with subparagraph (D).

6           “(B) ADDITIONAL PAYMENT FOR LOCAL  
7 FOOD.—

8           “(i) DEFINITION OF LOCALLY-  
9 SOURCED FARM PRODUCT.—In this sub-  
10 paragraph, the term ‘locally-sourced farm  
11 product’ means a farm product that—

12                   “(I) is marketed to consumers—

13                           “(aa) directly; or

14                           “(bb) through intermediated  
15 channels (such as food hubs and  
16 cooperatives); and

17                   “(II) with respect to the school  
18 food authority purchasing the farm  
19 product, is produced and distrib-  
20 uted—

21                           “(aa) in the State in which  
22 the school food authority is lo-  
23 cated; or

1                   “(bb) not more than 250  
2                   miles from the location of the  
3                   school food authority.

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

14                  “(iii) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—

15                  “(I) IN GENERAL.—The addi-  
16                  tional payment amount under this  
17                  subparagraph shall be—

18                         “(aa) \$0.30 for each free  
19                         lunch and supper;

20                         “(bb) \$0.21 for each free  
21                         breakfast; and

22                         “(cc) \$0.08 for each free  
23                         supplement.

24                  “(II) ADJUSTMENTS.—Each ad-  
25                  ditional payment amount under sub-

1 clause (I) shall be adjusted annually  
2 in accordance with subparagraph (C)  
3 and rounded in accordance with sub-  
4 paragraph (D).

5 “(iv) DISBURSEMENT.—The State  
6 agency shall disburse funds made available  
7 under this clause to school food authorities  
8 eligible to receive additional reimburse-  
9 ment.

10 “(C) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The annual infla-  
12 tion adjustment under subparagraphs (A)  
13 and (B)(iii) shall reflect changes in the  
14 cost of operating the free lunch program  
15 under this Act, as indicated by the change  
16 in the Consumer Price Index for food away  
17 from home for all urban consumers.

18 “(ii) BASIS.—Each annual inflation  
19 adjustment under subparagraphs (A) and  
20 (B)(iii) shall reflect the changes in the  
21 Consumer Price Index for food away from  
22 home for the most recent 12-month period  
23 for which that data is available.

24 “(D) ROUNDING.—On July 1, 2026, and  
25 annually thereafter, the national average pay-

1           ment rate for free lunch and the additional pay-  
2           ment amount for free breakfast, lunch, supper,  
3           and supplement under subparagraph (B) shall  
4           be—

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

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

9           (2) by striking paragraph (3).

10 **SEC. 202. NUTRITIONAL AND OTHER PROGRAM REQUIRE-**  
11 **MENTS.**

12           (a) **ELIMINATION OF FREE LUNCH ELIGIBILITY RE-**  
13 **QUIREMENTS.—**

14                       (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Section 9 of the Richard B.  
15           Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.  
16           1758) is amended by striking subsection (b) and in-  
17           serting the following:

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

21                       (2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—**

22                       (A) Section 9 of the Richard B. Russell  
23           National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758) is  
24           amended—

1 (i) in subsection (e), in the third sen-  
2 tence, by striking “or at a reduced cost”;  
3 and

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

6 (B) Section 28 of the Richard B. Russell  
7 National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769i)  
8 is amended—

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

10 (ii) by redesignating subsection (c) as  
11 subsection (b).

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

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

16 (ii) by redesignating clauses (ii) and  
17 (iii) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively.

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

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

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

6 (F) Section 4301 of the Food, Conserva-  
7 tion, and Energy Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C.  
8 1758a) is repealed.

9 (b) NO COLLECTION OF DEBT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
11 provision of the Richard B. Russell National School  
12 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) or any other  
13 provision of law, effective beginning on the date of  
14 enactment of this Act, as a condition of participation  
15 in the school lunch program under that Act, a  
16 school—

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

19 (B) shall continue to accrue debt for un-  
20 paid meal charges—

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

23 (ii) until the effective date specified in  
24 section 2.

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

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

9           **SEC. 203. SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

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

13          (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

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

17                         (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “sec-  
18                         tions 11 and 13” and inserting “section 13”;  
19                         and

20                         (B) in subsection (e)(1), in the matter pre-  
21                         ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “section  
22                         4, this section, and section 11” and inserting  
23                         “this section and section 4”.

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

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

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

11          (5) Section 7(a) of the Child Nutrition Act of  
12          1966 (42 U.S.C. 1766(a)) is amended—

13               (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “4,  
14               11, and 17” and inserting “4 and 17”; and

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

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

20               (A) by striking “or served under section  
21               11(a)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National  
22               School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(d),  
23               1759(a)(1))” and inserting “of the Richard B.  
24               Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.  
25               1760(d))”; and

1 (B) by striking “or reduced price”.

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

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

5 (1) in subsection (l)(4)—

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

7 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)  
8 through (M) as subparagraphs (D) through  
9 (L), respectively;

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

11 (3) by redesignating subsections (q) and (r) as  
12 subsections (p) and (q), respectively.

13 **SEC. 205. SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHIL-**  
14 **DREN.**

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

17 (1) in subsection (a)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i)—

19 (i) in subclause (I), by striking “have  
20 been determined eligible for free or re-  
21 duced price school meals under this Act  
22 and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42  
23 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)” and inserting “are  
24 economically disadvantaged students (as  
25 identified under a measure described in

1 section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and  
2 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
3 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

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

13 (iii) in subclause (III)(bb), by striking  
14 “meet the income standards for free or re-  
15 duced price school meals under this Act  
16 and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42  
17 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)” and inserting “are  
18 economically disadvantaged students (as  
19 identified under a measure described in  
20 section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and  
21 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
22 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

23 (iv) in subclause (IV), by striking  
24 “are eligible for free or reduced price  
25 school meals under this Act and the Child

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

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

16 (B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end  
17 the following:

18 “(C) WAIVER.—If the Secretary deter-  
19 mines that a program requirement under this  
20 section limits the access of children to meals  
21 served under this section, the Secretary may  
22 waive that program requirement.

23 “(D) ELIGIBILITY.—All children shall be  
24 eligible to participate in the program under this  
25 section.”;

1 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “only  
2 for” and all that follows through the period at  
3 the end and inserting “for meals served to all  
4 children.”; and

5 (D) in paragraph (13)—

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

16 (ii) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by strik-  
17 ing “eligible for free or reduced price lunch  
18 under this Act or free or reduced price  
19 breakfast under section 4 of the Child Nu-  
20 trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)” and  
21 inserting “economically disadvantaged stu-  
22 dents (as identified under a measure de-  
23 scribed in section 1113(a)(5) of the Ele-  
24 mentary and Secondary Education Act of  
25 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

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

4           (3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
5           following:

6           “(c) PAYMENTS.—

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

9           “(A) during the months of May through  
10          September;

11          “(B) during school vacation at any time  
12          during an academic school year;

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

14          “(D) on days that school is closed due to  
15          a natural disaster, building repair, court order,  
16          or similar cause, as determined by the Sec-  
17          retary.

18          “(2) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.—A service in-  
19          stitution shall receive payments under this section  
20          for not more than 3 meals and 1 supplement per  
21          child per day.”; and

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

1 **SEC. 206. SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER FOR**  
2 **CHILDREN PROGRAM.**

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

5 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(A)—

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

8 (B) in clause (ii)—

9 (i) by striking “and each year there-  
10 after”; and

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

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

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

20 “(iii) for calendar year 2027 and each  
21 year thereafter, in an amount equal to the  
22 unrounded benefit amount from the prior  
23 year, adjusted to the nearest lower dollar  
24 increment to reflect changes to the cost of  
25 the diet described in section 3(u) of the  
26 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.

1           2012(u)) for the 12-month period ending  
2           on November 30 of the preceding calendar  
3           year and rounded to the nearest lower dol-  
4           lar increment; and”;

5           (2) in subsection (c)(1)—

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

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

14          (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (C)  
15          through (E) as subparagraphs (B) through (D),  
16          respectively;

17          (3) in subsection (f)—

18          (A) in paragraph (3), in the matter pre-  
19          ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “proc-  
20          esses—” and all that follows through “to reli-  
21          ably” in subparagraph (B) and inserting “proc-  
22          esses to reliably”; and

23          (B) in paragraph (4), in the matter pre-  
24          ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “by—”  
25          and all that follows through “establishing” in

1           subparagraph (B) and inserting “by estab-  
2           lishing”; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

18           (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
19           following:

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

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

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

3           “(A) in the case of breakfast, at the rate  
4 established for free breakfast under section  
5 4(b)(1)(B)(i) of the Child Nutrition Act of  
6 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773(b)(1)(B)(i));

7           “(B) in the case of lunch, at the rate es-  
8 tablished for free lunch under section  
9 4(b)(2)(A); and

10           “(C) in the case of a supplemental meal,  
11 \$1.28, adjusted for inflation in accordance with  
12 section 4(b)(2)(C).”;

13 (3) in subsection (f)—

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

16           “(B) LIMITATION TO REIMBURSEMENTS.—  
17 An institution may claim reimbursement under  
18 this paragraph for not more than 3 meals and  
19 1 supplement per day per child.”;

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

21           (C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as  
22 paragraph (3);

23 (4) in subsection (o)—

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

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

4 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
5 “PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK SCHOOL CHILDREN”  
6 and inserting “AFTERSCHOOL MEAL AND  
7 SNACK PROGRAM”;

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

10 (C) in paragraph (1)—

11 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-  
12 ing “AT-RISK SCHOOL” and inserting “ELI-  
13 GIBLE”; and

14 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
15 “operated” and all that follows through  
16 the period at the end and inserting a pe-  
17 riod; and

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

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

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

4 **SEC. 208. MEALS AND SUPPLEMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN**  
5 **AFTERSCHOOL CARE.**

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

8           (1) in the section heading, by striking “**MEAL**  
9 **SUPPLEMENTS**” and inserting “**MEALS AND SUP-**  
10 **PLEMENTS**”;

11           (2) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “meal sup-  
12 plements” and inserting “free meals and supple-  
13 ments”;

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

16           (4) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
17 following:

18           “(c) REIMBURSEMENT.—

19           “(1) IN GENERAL.—

20           “(A) MEALS.—A free meal provided under  
21 this section to a child shall be reimbursed at a  
22 rate of \$5.42, adjusted annually for inflation in  
23 accordance with paragraph (3)(A) and rounded  
24 in accordance with paragraph (3)(B).

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

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

10          “(3) INFLATION; ROUNDING.—

11           “(A) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

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

19           “(ii) BASIS.—Each inflation annual  
20           adjustment under paragraph (1)(A) shall  
21           reflect the changes in the Consumer Price  
22           Index for food away from home for the  
23           most recent 12-month period for which  
24           that data is available.

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

4                               “(i) adjusted to the nearest lower-cent  
5                   increment; and

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

8   **SEC. 209. PILOT PROJECTS.**

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

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

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

19                   (2) in subsection (h)(1)(A)(ii), by striking “eli-  
20                   gible for free or reduced price meals under this Act”  
21                   and inserting “economically disadvantaged students  
22                   (as identified under a measure described in section  
23                   1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
24                   cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(a)(5)))”;

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

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

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

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

6           (1) in paragraph (1)—

7                 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
8                 (A), by striking “paragraph (2) of this sub-  
9                 section and”;

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

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

20                (D) in subparagraph (D)—

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

22                         (ii) by redesignating clauses (ii)  
23                         through (iv) as clauses (i) through (iii), re-  
24                         spectively; and

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

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

10 **SEC. 211. TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND FOOD**  
11 **SERVICE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE.**

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

20 **SEC. 212. REIMBURSEMENT OF SCHOOL MEAL DELIN-**  
21 **QUENT DEBT PROGRAM.**

22           (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

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

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

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

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

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

11 (iii) both of the programs described in  
12 clauses (i) and (ii).

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

15 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
16 the Secretary of Agriculture.

17 (b) REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM.—

18 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days  
19 after the effective date specified in section 2, the  
20 Secretary shall establish a program under which the  
21 Secretary shall reimburse each school participating  
22 in a program described in clause (i) or (ii) of sub-  
23 section (a)(1)(B) for all delinquent debt.

24 (2) FORM FOR REIMBURSEMENT.—To carry out  
25 the program, the Secretary shall design and dis-

1       tribute a form to State agencies to collect data on  
2       all delinquent debt in applicable schools in the State,  
3       grouped by school food authority.

4           (3) COMPLETION DATE.—The Secretary shall  
5       provide all reimbursements under the program not  
6       later than 180 days after the effective date specified  
7       in section 2.

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

13   **SEC. 213. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

14       The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act  
15      (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) is amended—

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

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

20           (3) by striking “and reduced price” each place  
21      it appears; and

22           (4) by striking “a reduced price” each place it  
23      appears.

1       **TITLE III—ELEMENTARY AND**  
2       **SECONDARY EDUCATION DATA**

3       **SEC. 301. MEASURE OF POVERTY.**

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

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

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

14           “(D) IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN FROM  
15      LOW-INCOME BACKGROUNDS.—

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

22           “(I) maintain a record, with re-  
23      spect to each student for whom the  
24      local educational agency provides a  
25      free public education that contains the

1 information collected from the survey  
2 described in clause (iii);

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

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

12 “(ii) PRIVACY.—

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

20 “(II) REPORTING DATA.—Only  
21 aggregated data, which may include  
22 data disaggregated at the school, local  
23 educational agency, or State level,  
24 shall be reported to the Secretary at

1 such time and in such manner as the  
2 Secretary may reasonably require.

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

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

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

22 “(iv) TRANSITION AUTHORITY FROM  
23 FRPL TO ESEA MEASURES.—The Sec-  
24 retary, in coordination with the Secretary  
25 of Agriculture, shall have the authority to

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

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

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

1 (a)(1) that constitutes a percent-  
2 age of the total student enroll-  
3 ment of the agency that is not  
4 less than 30 percent; and”.

5 **SEC. 404. AMERICA COMPETES ACT.**

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

10 **SEC. 405. WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY**  
11 **ACT.**

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

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

15 (2) by redesignating clauses (v) and (vi) as  
16 clauses (iv) and (v), respectively.

17 **SEC. 406. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AUTHORIZA-**  
18 **TION ACT OF 2002.**

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

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

23 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and  
24 (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.”.