

# Senate Memorial 1

Sponsored by Senator CARTER

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to pass legislation directing federal agency to establish accurate measure of poverty for determination of eligibility for federal programs. Urges Secretary of United States Department of Agriculture to issue guidelines to implement section 4141 of Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

## SENATE MEMORIAL

1  
2 To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress as-  
3 sembled, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture:

4 We, your memorialists, the Senate of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, re-  
5 spectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas the federal poverty guidelines published by the United States Department of Health  
7 and Human Services rely upon a measure of poverty formulated on the basis of 1963 household  
8 consumption patterns and budgets, adjusted only by increases in the cost of living; and

9 Whereas the federal poverty guidelines do not account for the enormous growth in the cost of  
10 housing, energy and health care or for the costs of households with two working adults, including  
11 the cost of child care; and

12 Whereas the federal poverty guidelines do not measure the effectiveness of noncash public ben-  
13 efit programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid, in meeting the  
14 needs of low-income families; and

15 Whereas there is widespread agreement that the federal poverty guidelines do not accurately  
16 measure economic deprivation in these times; and

17 Whereas federal agencies that administer public benefits programs have developed alternative  
18 measures of well-being which are regularly updated and improved, such as the United States De-  
19 partment of Agriculture's measure of food insecurity, the United States Department of Health and  
20 Human Services' measures of child well-being and rates of uninsurance and the United States De-  
21 partment of Housing and Urban Development's measure of housing quality; and

22 Whereas despite Oregon's high Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participation rate  
23 of 79 percent of all eligible households, the United States Department of Agriculture rates food in-  
24 security in Oregon higher than the national average, with Oregon being the third hungriest state  
25 in the nation; and

26 Whereas Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits are based on a Thrifty Food Plan  
27 that meets the most basic nutritional requirements but does not adequately account for the higher  
28 costs of fresh fruits, vegetables and healthful food; and

29 Whereas the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246) authorizes the Secretary  
30 of the United States Department of Agriculture to carry out pilot projects to provide incentives to

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 encourage households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to purchase  
2 fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthful foods, but the secretary has not yet issued guidance for  
3 the pilot projects; now, therefore,

4 **Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Oregon:**

5 That the Congress of the United States of America is urged to pass legislation directing an  
6 agency of the federal government to establish a measure of poverty for use in the determination of  
7 eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and other federal anti-poverty pro-  
8 grams that truly reflects economic deprivation based on current costs for housing and basic needs,  
9 current patterns of household consumption and the prevalence of families with two parents working  
10 outside of the home; and be it further

11 Resolved, That the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture is urged to issue  
12 guidelines for the implementation of pilot projects under section 4141 of the Food, Conservation, and  
13 Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246) and specifically to approve projects that encourage households to  
14 purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthful foods; and be it further

15 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the Senate Majority Leader, to the  
16 Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and to  
17 each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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