

HM 847

2018

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to prohibit the use of Supplemental
4 Nutrition Assistance Program benefits to purchase soft
5 drinks.

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7 WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
8 (SNAP) offers nutrition assistance to eligible, low-income
9 individuals and families in the form of funds to purchase
10 eligible food, and

11 WHEREAS, the Food and Nutrition Service, under the United
12 States Department of Agriculture (USDA), administers SNAP, and
13 the Florida Department of Children and Families distributes the
14 benefits, and

15 WHEREAS, SNAP benefits may be used to purchase any food or
16 food product intended for human consumption, including soft
17 drinks, but may not be used to purchase alcoholic beverages,
18 tobacco, hot foods, and hot food products prepared for immediate
19 consumption, and

20 WHEREAS, soft drinks are nutrient poor but rich in calories
21 and can lead to nutritional deficiencies and health disorders
22 including obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and
23 diabetes, and

24 WHEREAS, state and local governments have requested
25 permission from the USDA for waivers to prohibit SNAP

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26 participants from purchasing soft drinks with their benefits as
27 a way to promote healthy choices, and

28 WHEREAS, the USDA has denied every such request, NOW,
29 THEREFORE,

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31 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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33 That the United States Congress is requested to prohibit
34 recipients of benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition
35 Assistance Program (SNAP), 7 U.S.C. ss. 2011 et seq., from using
36 SNAP benefits to purchase flavored carbonated beverages
37 sweetened with natural or artificial sweeteners, also known as
38 "soft drinks."

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
40 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
41 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
42 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
43 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.