

House Memorial

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, state and local governments have requested
 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 the Secretary of State dispatch
 40 copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,
 41 to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of
 42 the United States House of Representatives, and to each member
 43 of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.