

By Senator Gruters

22-01247-23

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

WHEREAS, the USDA has denied every such request, NOW,  
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 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
42 United States House of Representatives, and each member of the  
43 Florida delegation to the United States Congress.