

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 and noncarbonated beverages with equivalent  
 nutritional value.

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

25 WHEREAS, state and local governments have requested  
 26 permission from the USDA for waivers to prohibit SNAP  
 27 participants from purchasing soft drinks with their benefits as  
 28 a way to promote healthy choices, and

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

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

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

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch  
 42 copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,  
 43 to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of  
 44 the United States House of Representatives, and to each member  
 45 of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.