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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To prevent the changing of regulations governing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, to provide for expanded food security, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. DELAURO (for herself and \_\_\_\_ ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To prevent the changing of regulations governing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, to provide for expanded food security, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ensuring Emergency  
5 Food Security Now Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTING RULE**  
2 **CHANGES FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRI-**  
3 **TION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

4 No Federal funds (including fees) made available for  
5 any fiscal year may be used to finalize, implement, admin-  
6 ister, enforce, carry out, or otherwise give effect to any  
7 proposed rule that would decrease program benefits or im-  
8 pact program eligibility under the Food and Nutrition Act  
9 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

10 **SEC. 3. TEMPORARY INCREASE IN BENEFITS UNDER THE**  
11 **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**  
12 **PROGRAM.**

13 (a) PUERTO RICO AND AMERICAN SAMOA MAXIMUM  
14 BENEFIT INCREASE.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning the first month  
16 that begins not less than 25 days after the date of  
17 enactment of this Act, the value of benefits deter-  
18 mined under section 8(a) of the Food and Nutrition  
19 Act of 2008, and consolidated block grants for Puer-  
20 to Rico and American Samoa determined under sec-  
21 tion 19(a) of such Act, shall be calculated using  
22 113.6 percent of the June 2019 value of the thrifty  
23 food plan as specified under section 3(o) of such  
24 Act.

25 (2) TERMINATION.—

1           (A) The authority provided by this sub-  
2           section shall terminate after September 30,  
3           2020.

4           (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A),  
5           the Secretary of Agriculture may not reduce the  
6           value of the maximum allotments, minimum al-  
7           lotments or consolidated block grants for Puer-  
8           to Rico and American Samoa below the level in  
9           effect for fiscal year 2020 as a result of para-  
10          graph (1).

11          (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SECRETARY.—In car-  
12          rying out this section, the Secretary shall—

13           (1) consider the benefit increases described in  
14           subsection (a) to be a “mass change”;

15           (2) require a simple process for States to notify  
16           households of the increase in benefits;

17           (3) consider section 16(c)(3)(A) of the Food  
18           and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)(3)(A))  
19           to apply to any errors in the implementation of this  
20           section, without regard to the 120-day limit de-  
21           scribed in that section;

22           (4) disregard the additional amount of benefits  
23           that a household receives as a result of this section  
24           in determining the amount of over issuances under

1 section 13 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008  
2 (7 U.S.C. 2022); and

3 (5) set the tolerance level for excluding small  
4 errors for the purposes of section 16(c) of the Food  
5 and Nutrition Act of (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)) at \$50  
6 through September 30, 2020.

7 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—For the costs of State ad-  
9 ministrative expenses associated with carrying out  
10 this section and administering the supplemental nu-  
11 trition assistance program established under the  
12 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et  
13 seq.), the Secretary shall make available  
14 \$145,000,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$150,000,000  
15 in fiscal year 2021 of which \$4,500,000 is for nec-  
16 essary expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service  
17 for management and oversight of the program and  
18 for monitoring the integrity and evaluating the ef-  
19 fects of the payments made under this section.

20 (2) TIMING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.—Not later  
21 than 60 days after the date of enactment of this  
22 Act, the Secretary shall make available to States  
23 amounts for fiscal year 2020 under paragraph (1).

24 (3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Except as pro-  
25 vided for management and oversight, funds de-

1 scribed in paragraph (1) shall be made available as  
2 grants to State agencies for each fiscal year as fol-  
3 lows:

4 (A) 75 percent of the amounts available  
5 for each fiscal year shall be allocated to States  
6 based on the share of each State of households  
7 that participate in the supplemental nutrition  
8 assistance program as reported to the Depart-  
9 ment of Agriculture for the most recent 12-  
10 month period for which data are available, ad-  
11 justed by the Secretary (as of the date of enact-  
12 ment) for participation in disaster programs  
13 under section 5(h) of the Food and Nutrition  
14 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)); and

15 (B) 25 percent of the amounts available  
16 for each fiscal year shall be allocated to States  
17 based on the increase in the number of house-  
18 holds that participate in the supplemental nu-  
19 trition assistance program as reported to the  
20 Department of Agriculture over the most recent  
21 12-month period for which data are available,  
22 adjusted by the Secretary (as of the date of en-  
23 actment) for participation in disaster programs  
24 under section 5(h) of the Food and Nutrition  
25 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).

1 (e) FUNDING.—There are appropriated to the Sec-  
2 retary out of funds of the Treasury not otherwise appro-  
3 priated such sums as are necessary to carry out this sec-  
4 tion.

5 **SEC. 4. PROVIDING FOR THE TREATMENT OF JOBLESS**  
6 **WORKERS.**

7 (a) REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 THROUGH  
8 FISCAL YEAR 2022.—Beginning with the first month that  
9 begins not less than days after the date of enactment of  
10 this Act and for each subsequent month through Sep-  
11 tember 30, 2022 eligibility for supplemental nutrition as-  
12 sistance program benefits shall not be limited under sec-  
13 tion 6(o)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act (7 U.S.C.  
14 2015(o)(2)) of unless an individual does not comply with  
15 the requirements of a program offered by the State agency  
16 that meets the standards of subparagraphs (B) or (C) of  
17 that section.

18 (b) FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND THEREAFTER.—Begin-  
19 ning on October 1, 2022, for the purposes of section 6(o)  
20 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
21 2015(o)), a State agency shall disregard any period during  
22 which an individual received benefits under the supple-  
23 mental nutrition assistance program prior to October 1,  
24 2022.

1 **SEC. 5. EXPANSION OF THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM**  
2 **ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS.**

3 For the costs relating to facility improvements and  
4 equipment upgrades associated with the food distribution  
5 program on Indian reservations, as established under sec-  
6 tion 4(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
7 (b)), the Secretary shall make available \$5,000,000: *Pro-*  
8 *vided*, That administrative cost-sharing requirements are  
9 not applicable to funds provided in accordance with this  
10 section.