

94TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 429

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 8, 1976

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. DOLE, and Mr. TALMADGE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

RESOLUTION

Relating to the President's proposal to reform the food stamp program by regulation.

Whereas the purpose of the Food Stamp Act is to provide needy Americans access to nutritional adequacy and not intended to provide Federal food assistance to households that are not currently needy; and

Whereas the Senate on February 5, 1975, adopted S. Res. 58 directing the Department of Agriculture to study the food stamp program and submit legislative recommendations not later than June 30, 1975; and

Whereas the President did not submit to Congress substantive legislative proposals to reform the food stamp program until October 20, 1975; and

Whereas only four months thereafter the President proposed regulation changes that would implement his proposals before

Congress had a reasonable opportunity to complete its legislative deliberations, possibly creating statutory authority for some or all of these changes; and

Whereas the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry has held two weeks of hearings on the various reform proposals before the Congress and has reported a bill to the United States Senate; and

Whereas the United States Senate has modified and passed the food stamp legislative reform bill reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry; and

Whereas sweeping changes in the food stamp program are best made through the legislative process if they are to withstand legal challenges in the courts; and

Whereas the administration's reform proposal, if implemented as submitted to Congress, would reduce benefits to, or eliminate from the food stamp program, millions of Americans, including persons recently unemployed: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the goal of the food stamp program, as stated

3 in the Act authorizing the program, to provide low-

4 income households with the opportunity to purchase a

5 nutritionally adequate diet, represents sound public policy

6 and should not be thwarted by the precipitous administra-

7 tive action proposed by the Agriculture Department;

8 (2) the President's action on February 19, 1976,

9 in directing the Secretary of Agriculture without con-

10 gressional authorization to issue amendments to the regu-

1 lations governing the food stamp program to significantly
2 alter the program when Congress is actively considering
3 amendments to the Food Stamp Act, is untimely and
4 could jeopardize the chances of achieving the passage of
5 meaningful legislation to eliminate abuses and improve
6 the administration of the program; and

7 (3) the issuance of any amendments to the regula-
8 tions governing the food stamp program that significantly
9 alter the program and otherwise affect the present
10 eligibility of participants would be unwise and contrary
11 to the public interest.

12 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a
13 copy of this resolution to the President of the United States.

RESOLUTION
2. RES. 453

RESOLUTION

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By Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. DOLE, and Mr.
TALMADGE

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