

# HJR171 INTRODUCED



1 HJR171  
2 XD1UKZZ-1  
3 By Representative Hall  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 24-Feb-26



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HJR\_\_\_ URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY, ACCESS, AND EQUITY, SUPPORT BLACK FARMERS, AND EXPAND SNAP ELIGIBILITY IN ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated, has a rich and documented legacy of promoting and engaging in educational, civic, and intercultural activities that enrich the lives of members of the Black community at large; and

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated, has five programming facets, Services to Youth, The Arts, National Trends and Services, International Trends and Services, and Health and Human Services, as the cornerstone of its community service; and

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated, implements programs and initiatives that address the most critical needs of underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated, is comprised of 83 chapters across seven states and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 5,000 members of the Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated, who hail from the Deep South states of Mississippi and Alabama; the French traditions and Creole culture of Louisiana; the coastal wonders of North and South Carolina; the southern charm of Georgia; the Emerald Coast and sugar beaches of sunny



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29 Florida; and the sun-drenched tropical beauty of the  
30 Bahamas; and

31 WHEREAS, the Southern Area of The Links,  
32 Incorporated, is committed to strengthening families and  
33 communities through intentional civic engagement and  
34 impactful service, and the Southern Area faces persistent  
35 food insecurity that disproportionately affects Black,  
36 rural, and low-income households located in our communities;  
37 and

38 WHEREAS, the Southern Area of The Links,  
39 Incorporated, has implemented the Emerald Plate Initiative  
40 to enhance food access, justice, and sovereignty throughout  
41 the Southeastern United States; and

42 WHEREAS, reliable, nutritious food access is  
43 foundational to good health, educational attainment, and  
44 economic stability; and

45 WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
46 Program (SNAP) is the nation's most effective anti-hunger  
47 program, supports local economies, and can be strengthened  
48 by state action on eligibility, access, and outreach; and

49 WHEREAS, farmers are central to the South's  
50 agricultural heritage, but Black farmers remain  
51 underrepresented and face systemic barriers in land  
52 retention, market access, and capital; and

53 WHEREAS, In Alabama, 12-13.1 percent of households  
54 were food insecure between 2019-2021; over 2.3 million  
55 people faced food insecurity in 2021; SNAP supported 756,768  
56 individuals in Fiscal Year 2024, bringing \$1.734 billion



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57 into the state; Feeding Alabama network distributes nearly  
58 75 million meals annually, supporting 880,000 food-insecure  
59 residents; now therefore,

60 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
61 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Southern Area of The  
62 Links, Incorporated, urges the Legislature of Alabama to do  
63 all of the following:

64 (a) Strengthen SNAP access and eligibility by  
65 maintaining broad-based eligibility, raising income  
66 thresholds, and reducing administrative barriers.

67 (b) Invest in expanding nutrition incentive programs  
68 such as Double Bucks, Fresh Access Bucks, or Healthy Bucks  
69 that boost fresh produce access and support local farms.

70 (c) Accept Summer EBT funds as a means to reduce  
71 childhood hunger, boost the local economy, and improve  
72 health and academic outcomes.

73 (d) Support Black farmers by expanding equitable  
74 access to land, credit, procurement opportunities, and  
75 heirs' property resolution support.

76 (e) Build sustainable food networks, improve  
77 infrastructure in rural and underserved areas, and  
78 coordinate disaster nutrition programs.

79 (f) Incentivize community and school-based gardens to  
80 enhance public health and wellness, benefit the local  
81 economy, and provide community and educational  
82 opportunities.

83 (g) Pass and fund Healthy School Meals for All  
84 legislation to reduce childhood hunger by providing



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85 breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost, regardless  
86 of the student's household income.

87 (h) Establish a Food Security & Equity Task Force to  
88 monitor progress and ensure accountability.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Southern Area of The  
90 Links, Incorporated, stands ready to partner with  
91 policymakers, agencies, and community organizations to  
92 advance a vision of food equity, health, and justice for all  
93 residents of Alabama.