

HR173 INTRODUCED



1 HR173
2 3P12CEV-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 24-Feb-26



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HR_____ URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
61 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the Southern Area of The Links,
62 Incorporated, urges the Legislature of Alabama to do all of
63 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.