

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4795

To direct the President to establish a national program to provide for coordination between Federal, State and local agencies, voluntary organizations, and private enterprise in order to encourage the public to eat a healthy diet.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 1994

Mr. TOWNS introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To direct the President to establish a national program to provide for coordination between Federal, State and local agencies, voluntary organizations, and private enterprise in order to encourage the public to eat a healthy diet.

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 “Act to Improve the  
5        American Diet”.

6        **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        The Congress finds as follows:

1           (1) The Surgeon General of the Public Health  
2           Service has stated that dietary patterns with exces-  
3           sive intake of foods high in fat (especially saturated  
4           fat), calories, cholesterol and sodium, contribute to  
5           the high rates of chronic diseases among Americans.  
6           Reversing such dietary patterns should decrease the  
7           incidence of these chronic diseases.

8           (2) Currently, diet plays a major role in the de-  
9           velopment of 4 of the top 7 diseases that are killers  
10          in the United States: heart disease, cancer, stroke,  
11          and diabetes.

12          (3) According to the Department of Health and  
13          Human Services, America's poor diet and sedentary  
14          lifestyle contribute to 300,000 to 580,000 deaths  
15          each year.

16          (4) To make significant strides toward improv-  
17          ing the health of Americans, greater attention must  
18          be made to nutrition education. The President could  
19          provide leadership by giving a higher profile to the  
20          importance of a healthy diet.

21          (5) Good nutrition is one of the most important  
22          factors in determining long-term health.

23          (6) Improvements in the diet of Americans can  
24          reduce the health care cost of treating dietary-relat-

1 ed diseases and produce a savings of up to  
2 \$200,000,000,000.

3 (7) The Department of Health and Human  
4 Services and the Preventive Services Task Force  
5 have recommended that health care programs for in-  
6 dividuals of all ages should include dietary counsel-  
7 ling.

8 (8) Efforts must be made to identify and to re-  
9 move the barriers to optimal health and nutritional  
10 status in high-risk groups, including minority and  
11 low-income population groups (using methods that  
12 take into consideration their diverse cultural, ethnic  
13 and economic backgrounds); and special attention  
14 should also be made to pregnant and lactating  
15 women, to children, and to the elderly, who have  
16 special nutritional needs.

17 **SEC. 3. COORDINATION BETWEEN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT,**  
18 **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, VOL-**  
19 **UNTARY ORGANIZATIONS, AND PRIVATE EN-**  
20 **TERPRISE REGARDING THE NATIONAL PRO-**  
21 **GRAM FOR A HEALTHY DIET.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish a  
23 national program for diet and health in accordance with  
24 the purpose described in subsection (b).

1           (b) PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.—The purpose of the Na-  
2 tional Program is to help coordinate, support, and assist  
3 nutrition education activities and programs by State and  
4 local governments and by private entities, including edu-  
5 cational institutions, voluntary organizations, civic groups,  
6 professional associations, business organizations, and  
7 other private entities.

8           (c) COORDINATION REGARDING INTERGOVERN-  
9 MENTAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EN-  
10 TITIES.—

11           (1) COORDINATION IN FEDERAL ACTIVITIES.—  
12       The National Program shall assess the extent to  
13 which the purpose described in subsection (b) is  
14 being carried out by the various departments and  
15 agencies of the Federal Government, and shall carry  
16 out the activities of the Program in coordination  
17 with the departments and agencies involved.

18           (2) INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS.—  
19       The National Program shall assess the nutrition  
20 education activities and programs being carried out  
21 by State and local governments and by private enti-  
22 ties, and shall help coordinate, support, and assist  
23 the activities and programs.

1 (d) CERTAIN PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The activities  
2 of the National Program shall include (but are not limited  
3 to) the following:

4 (1) Promoting the health of Americans by fa-  
5 cilitating and collaborating with Federal, State,  
6 local, and private strategies to encourage the Amer-  
7 ican people to eat a healthy diet.

8 (2) Initiating programs to inform the general  
9 public of the importance of a healthy diet and its  
10 link to good health and disease prevention.

11 (3) Enlisting the active support and assistance  
12 of individual citizens, civic groups, private enter-  
13 prise, voluntary organizations and others in efforts  
14 to promote and improve the health of all Americans  
15 through healthy eating habits.

16 (4) Inviting appropriate Federal health agencies  
17 to participate in the National Program.

18 (5) Seeking to improve the diets of children,  
19 youth, adults, minorities, senior citizens, and low-in-  
20 come individuals by encouraging the development of  
21 community-wellness programs and health education  
22 programs.

23 (6) Working with State and local government to  
24 develop and implement nutrition education pro-  
25 grams.

1           (7) Assisting health educational agencies at all  
2 levels in developing high quality, innovative health  
3 programs which emphasize the importance of diet to  
4 good health.

5           (8) Developing cooperative programs with medi-  
6 cal, dental, social workers and other similar profes-  
7 sional schools and educational associations to en-  
8 courage the implementation of sound nutrition prac-  
9 tices in medical services and education.

10          (9) Assisting business, industry, government,  
11 and labor organizations, and other workplace organi-  
12 zations or groups, in developing and implementing  
13 sound nutrition programs to elevate employee health  
14 and reduce the financial and human costs resulting  
15 from a poor diet.

16          (10) Increasing awareness among the American  
17 people about the importance of producing healthy  
18 food and of the availability of healthy food in the su-  
19 permarkets, food establishments, and food programs,  
20 and to encourage food providers to provide and serve  
21 healthy meals and products.

22          (e) AUTHORITY REGARDING NON-FEDERAL CON-  
23 TRIBUTIONS.—In carrying out activities under the Na-  
24 tional Program in a community (or other geographic  
25 area), the National Program may require that, as a condi-

1 tion of carrying out the Federal activities, non-Federal  
2 contributions be provided toward the costs of the activi-  
3 ties.

4 (f) REQUIREMENT REGARDING PARTICIPATION OF  
5 PRIVATE ENTITIES.—A private entity may be permitted  
6 to sponsor or otherwise participate in a particular activity  
7 of the National Program only if the entity does not pro-  
8 mote, directly or indirectly, any health-related behavior  
9 that is inconsistent with the purpose of such activity.

10 **SEC. 4. PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON DIET AND HEALTH.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall provide for  
12 the establishment and operation of a council to be known  
13 as the President's Council on Diet and Health.

14 (b) DUTIES.—The Council shall provide advice to the  
15 President regarding the National Program, including ad-  
16 vice on the extent of progress being made toward achieving  
17 the goals of the Program, and shall recommend, as nec-  
18 essary, actions to accelerate progress. The Council shall  
19 assist in carrying out the Program, as necessary, and pro-  
20 vide advice and guidance to State and local public health  
21 officials, and to private entities (including educational, vol-  
22 untary, and civic groups), on how to promote diet and  
23 health.

24 (c) COMPOSITION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be com-  
2 posed of—

3 (A) such Federal officials or employees as  
4 the President may designate to serve as mem-  
5 bers of the Council; and

6 (B) 20 members appointed to the Council  
7 by the President from among individuals who  
8 are not officers or employees of the Federal  
9 Government and who possess appropriate exper-  
10 tise or experience regarding nutrition and  
11 health.

12 (2) CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—Of the members  
13 of the Council appointed under paragraph (1)(B)—

14 (A) not fewer than 3 shall be individuals  
15 representing a national organization concerned  
16 with nutrition and health; and

17 (B) not fewer than 7 shall be individuals  
18 who possess professional credentials dem-  
19 onstrating particular expertise regarding food,  
20 nutrition, or health, of which 3 individuals shall  
21 be knowledgeable on nutrition and health  
22 among low-income populations or among one or  
23 more racial or ethnic minority groups.

24 (d) CHAIR.—The President shall designate an indi-  
25 vidual or individuals who are not officers or employees of

1 the Federal Government to serve as the chair or chairs  
2 of the Council. A Chair shall serve at the pleasure of the  
3 President. The President shall seek to ensure that the  
4 Chair of the Council is an individual who is well-known  
5 by the public and who will be an appropriate advocate  
6 among the public with respect to obtaining the goals of  
7 the National Program.

8 (e) TERMS.—Each of the members of the Council ap-  
9 pointed under paragraph (1)(B) shall be appointed for a  
10 term of 4 years, except that up to half of the initial ap-  
11 pointments, when the Council is first created, may be for  
12 2 years, and may upon the expiration of a term be  
13 reappointed by the President. A member of the Council  
14 may continue to serve after the expiration of his or her  
15 term until a successor is appointed. The President may  
16 at any time terminate the membership on the Council of  
17 any individual for cause.

18 (f) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the membership of the  
19 Council does not affect the power of the remaining mem-  
20 bers to execute the duties of the Council.

21 (g) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet not less than  
22 once each fiscal year.

23 (h) COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EX-  
24 PENSES.—Members of the Council may not receive com-  
25 pensation for service on the Council. The members may,

1 in accordance with chapter 57 of title 5, United States  
2 Code, be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other nec-  
3 essary expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of the  
4 Council.

5 (i) STAFF; ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall furnish  
7 the Council with such staff, quarters, supplies, facili-  
8 ties, and other administrative support as may be  
9 necessary to carry out the duties of the Council and  
10 assist in carrying out the National Program.

11 (2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—To carry out the  
12 National Program, the President shall appoint an  
13 executive director for the Council, who shall serve  
14 until a new one is appointed.

15 (j) SEAL OF PROGRAM.—The President shall provide  
16 for the development and use of a seal for the National  
17 Program.

18 (k) TERMINATION.—For purposes of section  
19 14(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the  
20 Council shall continue in existence until otherwise pro-  
21 vided by law after the date of the enactment of this Act.

22 **SEC. 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

23 (a) REQUESTS FOR FEDERAL INFORMATION AND AS-  
24 SISTANCE.—The National Program and the Council may  
25 upon request receive from Federal agencies such informa-

1 tion and other assistance as may otherwise be permitted  
2 by law, subject to the availability of funds to comply with  
3 the request.

4 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

5 (1) The term “Council” means the council es-  
6 tablished under section 4(a).

7 (2) The term “National Program” means the  
8 program established under section 3(a).

9 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 In addition to any other authorizations of appropria-  
11 tions that are available for the purpose of carrying out  
12 this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated to the  
13 National Program and the Council for such purpose  
14 \$300,000 for fiscal year 1995, \$500,000 for fiscal year  
15 1996, and \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 1997 and each subse-  
16 quent fiscal year.

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