

104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# S. 1133

To amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to permit participating households to use food stamp benefits to purchase nutritional supplements of vitamins, minerals, or vitamins and minerals, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 9 (legislative day, JULY 10), 1995

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. HATCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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## A BILL

To amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to permit participating households to use food stamp benefits to purchase nutritional supplements of vitamins, minerals, or vitamins and minerals, 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) the dietary patterns of Americans do not re-  
6 sult in nutrient intakes that fully meet Rec-  
7 ommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs) of vitamins  
8 and minerals;

1           (2) children in low-income families and the el-  
2           derly often fail to achieve adequate nutrient intakes  
3           from diet alone;

4           (3) pregnant women have particularly high nu-  
5           trient needs, which they often fail to meet through  
6           dietary means alone;

7           (4)(A) many scientific studies have shown that  
8           nutritional supplements that contain folic acid (a B  
9           vitamin) can prevent as many as 60 to 80 percent  
10          of neural tube birth defects;

11          (B) the Public Health Service, in September  
12          1992, recommended that all women of childbearing  
13          age in the United States who are capable of becom-  
14          ing pregnant should consume 0.4 mg of folic acid  
15          per day for the purpose of reducing their risk of  
16          having a pregnancy affected with spina bifida or  
17          other neural tube birth defects; and

18          (C) the Food and Drug Administration has also  
19          approved a health claim for folic acid to reduce the  
20          risk of neural tube birth defects;

21          (5) infants who fail to receive adequate intakes  
22          of iron may be somewhat impaired in their mental  
23          and behavioral development; and

24          (6) a massive volume of credible scientific evi-  
25          dence strongly suggests that increasing intake of

1 specific nutrients over an extended period of time  
2 may be helpful in protecting against diseases or con-  
3 ditions such as osteoporosis, cataracts, cancer, and  
4 heart disease.

5 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF THE FOOD STAMP ACT OF 1977.**

6 Section 3(g)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7  
7 U.S.C. 2012(g)(1)) is amended by striking “or food prod-  
8 uct” and inserting “, food product, or nutritional supple-  
9 ment of a vitamin, mineral, or a vitamin and a mineral”.

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