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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To require the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Director of the Census Bureau, to maintain an interagency food security measurement program to coordinate the annual collection, analysis, and reporting of data on food insecurity and hunger.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Director of the Census Bureau, to maintain an interagency food security measurement program to coordinate the annual collection, analysis, and reporting of data on food insecurity and hunger.

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 “Food Assurance and
5 Security Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY FOOD SECURITY MEASUREMENT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) INTERAGENCY FOOD SECURITY MEASUREMENT
4 PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination
5 with the Director of the Census Bureau, shall establish
6 and maintain an interagency food security measurement
7 program to coordinate the annual collection, analysis, and
8 reporting of data on food insecurity and hunger.

9 (b) REPORTING.—

10 (1) POPULATION SURVEY.—The Current Popu-
11 lation Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Cen-
12 sus shall include a food security supplement con-
13 sistent with the questionnaire issued in 2023 that
14 includes the questions described in paragraph (3) for
15 the years 2026 through 2028 and continuing there-
16 after with questions substantially similar to those
17 described in paragraph (3) with any amendments to
18 the questions predicated upon robust testing, and
19 thorough review, public input, and Office of Manage-
20 ment and Budget clearance.

21 (2) AGRICULTURE ANNUAL REPORTS.—The
22 Secretary of Agriculture shall, with respect to the
23 annual report issued pursuant to subsection (a)—

24 (A) include the findings related to the
25 questions described in paragraph (3);

1 (B) make the report publicly available on
2 the website of the Department; and

3 (C) submit such report to Congress.

4 (3) QUESTIONS DESCRIBED.—The questions de-
5 scribed in this paragraph are as follows:

6 (A) Was the answer often, sometimes, or
7 never true for you in the last 12 months for
8 each of the following:

9 (i) We worried whether our food
10 would run out before we got money to buy
11 more.

12 (ii) The food that we bought just
13 didn't last and we didn't have money to
14 get more.

15 (iii) We couldn't afford to eat bal-
16 anced meals.

17 (B) In the last 12 months, did you or
18 other adults in the household ever cut the size
19 of your meals or skip meals because there
20 wasn't enough money for food?

21 (C) If the answer is yes with respect to
22 subparagraph (B), how often did this happen—
23 almost every month, some months but not every
24 month, or in only 1 or 2 months?

1 (D) In the last 12 months, did you ever
2 eat less than you felt you should because there
3 wasn't enough money for food?

4 (E) In the last 12 months, were you ever
5 hungry, but didn't eat, because there wasn't
6 enough money for food?

7 (F) In the last 12 months, did you lose
8 weight because there wasn't enough money for
9 food?

10 (G) In the last 12 months, did you or
11 other adults in your household ever not eat for
12 a whole day because there wasn't enough money
13 for food?

14 (H) If the answer is yes to subparagraph
15 (G), how often did this happen—almost every
16 month, some months but not every month, or in
17 only 1 or 2 months?

18 (I) In the case of a household that includes
19 children ages 0 to 17, the following additional
20 questions:

21 (i) Was the answer often, sometimes,
22 or never true for you in the last 12 months
23 for each of the following:

24 (I) We relied on only a few kinds
25 of low-cost food to feed our children

1 because we were running out of
2 money to buy food.

3 (II) We couldn't feed our chil-
4 dren a balanced meal, because we
5 couldn't afford that.

6 (III) The children were not eat-
7 ing enough because there wasn't
8 enough money for food.

9 (ii) In the last 12 months, did you
10 ever cut the size of any of the children's
11 meals because there wasn't enough money
12 for food?

13 (iii) In the last 12 months, were the
14 children ever hungry because there wasn't
15 enough money for food?

16 (iv) In the last 12 months, did any of
17 the children ever skip a meal because there
18 wasn't enough money for food?

19 (v) If the answer is yes to clause (iv),
20 how often did this happen—almost every
21 month, some months but not every month,
22 or in only 1 or 2 months?

23 (vi) In the last 12 months, did any of
24 the children ever not eat for a whole day

1 because there wasn't enough money for
2 food?

3 (c) FUNDING.—

4 (1) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated to
5 the Secretary of Agriculture such sums as may be
6 necessary to carry out this section.

7 (2) TRANSFER.—Of the funds appropriated
8 under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Agriculture
9 shall provide funding for the costs incurred by the
10 Census Bureau in conducting the annual food secu-
11 rity supplement.