

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. _____

To require the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Director of the Bureau of the Census, to establish an interagency food security measurement program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Director of the Bureau of the Census, to establish an interagency food security measurement program, 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. 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) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (re-
4 ferred to in this section as the “Secretary”), in coordina-
5 tion with the Director of the Bureau of the Census, shall
6 establish an interagency food security measurement pro-
7 gram, under which the Secretary shall coordinate the an-
8 nual collection, analysis, and reporting of data on food in-
9 security and hunger, including the food security supple-
10 ment required under subsection (b).

11 (b) FOOD SECURITY SUPPLEMENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Current Population
13 Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census shall
14 include a food security supplement consistent with
15 the Current Population Survey Food Security Sup-
16 plement questionnaire issued in 2023 by the Bureau
17 of the Census for the Economic Research Service
18 that—

19 (A) includes the questions described in
20 paragraph (2) for each Current Population Sur-
21 vey conducted during calendar years 2026
22 through 2028; and

23 (B) as of January 1, 2029, may contain
24 those questions or substantially similar ques-
25 tions, subject to the condition that any amend-
26 ments to the questions are predicated on robust

1 testing, public input, and clearance from the
2 Office of Management and Budget.

3 (2) QUESTIONS DESCRIBED.—The questions re-
4 ferred to in paragraph (1)(A) are the following:

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

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

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

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

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

20 (C) If the answer is yes to the previous
21 question, how often did this happen—almost
22 every month, some months but not every
23 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 the previous
15 question, how often did this happen—almost
16 every month, some months but not every
17 month, or in 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 the pre-
20 vious question, how often did this hap-
21 pen—almost every month, some months
22 but not every month, or in only 1 or 2
23 months?

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

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

3 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to
4 Congress, and make publicly available on the website of
5 the Department of Agriculture, an annual report of the
6 data collected under the program established under sub-
7 section (a), including the findings related to the food secu-
8 rity supplement required under subsection (b).

9 (d) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appro-
10 priated such sums as are necessary to carry out this sec-
11 tion.