

**AMENDMENT**

**OFFERED BY Ms. Adams**

At the end of subtitle A of title IV, add the following  
(and make such technical and conforming changes as  
may be appropriate):

**1 SEC. 4114. CLOSING THE MEAL GAP.**

2 (a) CALCULATION OF PROGRAM BENEFITS USING  
3 LOW-COST FOOD PLAN.—

4 (1) DEFINITION OF LOW-COST FOOD PLAN.—

5 Section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7  
6 U.S.C. 2012) is amended—

7 (A) by striking subsection (u);

8 (B) by redesignating subsections (n)  
9 through (t) as subsections (o) through (u), re-  
10 spectively; and

11 (C) by inserting after subsection (m) the  
12 following:

13 “(n) LOW-COST FOOD PLAN.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘low-cost food  
15 plan’ means the diet, determined in accordance with  
16 the calculations of the Secretary, required to feed a  
17 4-person family that consists of—

1           “(A) a man and a woman who are each be-  
2           tween 19 and 50 years of age;

3           “(B) a child who is between 6 and 8 years  
4           of age; and

5           “(C) a child who is between 9 and 11  
6           years of age.

7           “(2) REEVALUATION.—By December 31, 2029,  
8           and at 5-year intervals thereafter, the Secretary  
9           shall reevaluate and publish the market baskets of  
10          the low-cost food plan, based on current food prices,  
11          food composition data, consumption patterns, and  
12          dietary guidance.

13          “(3) COST.—For purposes of paragraph (1),  
14          the cost of the diet described in that paragraph shall  
15          be the basis for uniform allotments for all house-  
16          holds regardless of the actual composition of the  
17          household, except that the Secretary shall—

18                 “(A) make household-size adjustments  
19                 (based on the unrounded cost of that diet) tak-  
20                 ing into account economies of scale;

21                 “(B) make cost adjustments in the low-  
22                 cost food plan for the State of Hawaii and the  
23                 urban and rural parts of the State of Alaska to  
24                 reflect the cost of food in Hawaii and urban  
25                 and rural Alaska, respectively; and

1           “(C) on October 1, 2026, and each Octo-  
2           ber 1 thereafter, adjust the cost of the diet to  
3           reflect the cost of the diet in the immediately  
4           preceding June, and round the result to the  
5           nearest lower-dollar increment for each house-  
6           hold size.”.

7           (2) VALUE OF ALLOTMENT.—Section 8(a) of  
8           the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
9           2017(a)) is amended—

10           (A) by striking “thrifty food plan” each  
11           place it appears and inserting “low-cost food  
12           plan”; and

13           (B) in the proviso, by striking “8 percent”  
14           and inserting “10 percent”.

15           (3) QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM.—Section  
16           16(c)(1)(A)(ii) of the Food and Nutrition Act of  
17           2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)(1)(A)(ii)) is amended—

18           (A) in subclause (II)—

19           (i) by striking “thrifty food plan is  
20           adjusted under section 3(u)(4)” and insert-  
21           ing “low-cost food plan is adjusted under  
22           section 3(n)(3)(D)”;

23           (ii) by striking “2013” and inserting  
24           “2026”;

1 (B) by redesignating subclause (II) as sub-  
2 clause (III); and

3 (C) by striking subclause (I) and inserting  
4 the following:

5 “(I) for fiscal year 2026, at an  
6 amount not greater than \$50;

7 “(II) for fiscal year 2027, the  
8 amount specified in subclause (I) ad-  
9 justed by the difference between the  
10 thrifty food plan (as defined in section  
11 3 (as in effect on the day before the  
12 date of enactment of the Farm, Food,  
13 and National Security Act of 2026))  
14 and the low-cost food plan; and”.

15 (4) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

16 (A) Section 10 of the Food and Nutrition  
17 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2019) is amended, in the  
18 first sentence, by striking “3(o)(4)” and insert-  
19 ing “3(p)(4)”.

20 (B) Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition  
21 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended—

22 (i) in subsection (a)(2), by striking  
23 “3(s)(1)” and inserting “3(t)(1)”;

24 (ii) in subsection (d)—

1 (I) by striking “3(s)(1)” each  
2 place it appears and inserting  
3 “3(t)(1)”;

4 (II) by striking “3(s)(2)” each  
5 place it appears and inserting  
6 “3(t)(2)”;

7 (III) by striking “Act (25 U.S.C.  
8 450)” and inserting “and Education  
9 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 3501 et  
10 seq.)”; and

11 (iii) in subsection (e)(17), by striking  
12 “3(s)(1)” and inserting “3(t)(1)”.

13 (C) Section 19(a)(2)(A)(ii) of the Food  
14 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
15 2028(a)(2)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking  
16 “thrifty food plan has been adjusted under sec-  
17 tion 3(u)(4)” and inserting “low-cost food plan  
18 has been adjusted under section 3(n)(3)(D)”.

19 (D) Section 27(a)(2) of the Food and Nu-  
20 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)(2)) is  
21 amended—

22 (i) in subparagraph (C), by inserting  
23 “(as in effect on the day before the date of  
24 enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-

1 tional Security Act of 2026” after “section  
2 3(u)(4)”;

3 (ii) in subparagraph (D)(ix), by strik-  
4 ing “and” at the end;

5 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph  
6 (E) as subparagraph (F);

7 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph  
8 (D) the following:

9 “(E) for fiscal year 2026, the sum ob-  
10 tained by adding—

11 “(i) the dollar amount of commodities  
12 specified in subparagraph (B) adjusted by  
13 the percentage by which the low-cost food  
14 plan has been adjusted under section  
15 3(u)(4) between June 30, 2021, and June  
16 30 of the immediately preceding fiscal  
17 year; and

18 “(ii) \$35,000,000; and”;

19 (v) in subparagraph (F) (as so redesi-  
20 gnated), by striking “subparagraph  
21 (D)(ix) adjusted by the percentage by  
22 which the thrifty food plan has been ad-  
23 justed under section 3(u)(4)” and inserting  
24 “subparagraph (F) adjusted by the per-  
25 centage by which the low-cost food plan

1           has been adjusted under section  
2           3(n)(3)(D)”.

3           (E) Section 408(a)(12)(B)(i) of the Social  
4           Security Act (42 U.S.C. 608(a)(12)(B)(i)) is  
5           amended by striking “(r)” each place it ap-  
6           pears.

7           (b) DEDUCTIONS FROM INCOME.—

8           (1) STANDARD MEDICAL EXPENSE DEDUC-  
9           TION.—Section 5(e)(5) of the Food and Nutrition  
10          Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(5)) is amended—

11          (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking  
12          “EXCESS MEDICAL” and inserting “MEDICAL”;

13          (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “an  
14          excess medical” and all that follows through the  
15          period at the end and inserting “a standard  
16          medical deduction or a medical expense deduc-  
17          tion of actual costs for the allowable medical ex-  
18          penses incurred by the elderly or disabled mem-  
19          ber, exclusive of special diets.”;

20          (C) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking  
21          “excess”; and

22          (D) by adding at the end the following:

23          “(D) STANDARD MEDICAL EXPENSE DE-  
24          DUCTION AMOUNT.—

1                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-  
2                   vided in clause (ii), the standard medical  
3                   expense deduction shall be—

4                               “(I) for fiscal year 2026, \$140;  
5                               and

6                               “(II) for each subsequent fiscal  
7                               year, equal to the applicable amount  
8                               for the immediately preceding fiscal  
9                               year as adjusted to reflect changes for  
10                              the 12-month period ending the pre-  
11                              ceding June 30 in the Consumer Price  
12                              Index for All Urban Consumers: Med-  
13                              ical Care published by the Bureau of  
14                              Labor Statistics of the Department of  
15                              Labor.

16                             “(ii) EXCEPTION.—For any fiscal  
17                             year, a State agency may establish a great-  
18                             er standard medical expense deduction  
19                             than described in clause (i) if the greater  
20                             deduction satisfies cost neutrality stand-  
21                             ards established by the Secretary for that  
22                             fiscal year.”.

23                             (2) ELIMINATION OF CAP OF EXCESS SHELTER  
24                             EXPENSES.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(e)(6) of the  
2 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
3 2014(e)(6)) is amended—

4 (i) by striking subparagraph (B); and  
5 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs  
6 (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (B) and  
7 (C), respectively.

8 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
9 2605(f)(2)(A) of the Low-Income Home Energy  
10 Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C.  
11 8624(f)(2)(A)) is amended by striking  
12 “5(e)(6)(C)(iv)(I) of that Act (7 U.S.C.  
13 2014(e)(6)(C)(iv)(I))” and inserting  
14 “5(e)(6)(B)(iv)(I) of that Act (7 U.S.C.  
15 2014(e)(6)(B)(iv)(I))”.

16 (c) ELIMINATION OF TIME LIMIT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6 of the Food and  
18 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015) is amend-  
19 ed—

20 (A) by striking subsection (o); and

21 (B) by redesignating subsections (p)  
22 through (s) as subsections (o) through (r), re-  
23 spectively.

24 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (A) Section 5(a) of the Food and Nutrition  
2 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(a)) is amended, in  
3 the second sentence, by striking “(r)” and in-  
4 serting “(q)”.

5 (B) Section 6(d)(4) of the Food and Nutri-  
6 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4)) is  
7 amended—

8 (i) in subparagraph  
9 (B)(ii)(I)(bb)(DD), by striking “or sub-  
10 section (o)”;

11 (ii) in subparagraph (N), by striking  
12 “or subsection (o)” each place it appears.

13 (C) Section 7(i)(1) of the Food and Nutri-  
14 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(i)(1)) is  
15 amended by striking “section 6(o)(2) of this  
16 Act or”.

17 (D) Section 16(h) of the Food and Nutri-  
18 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)) is amend-  
19 ed—

20 (i) in paragraph (1)—

21 (I) in subparagraph (B), in the  
22 matter preceding clause (i), by strik-  
23 ing “that—” and all that follows  
24 through the period at the end of  
25 clause (ii) and inserting “that is de-

1 terminated and adjusted by the Sec-  
2 retary.”;

3 (II) by striking subparagraph  
4 (E);

5 (III) by redesignating subpara-  
6 graph (F) as subparagraph (E); and

7 (IV) in clause (ii)(III)(ee)(AA) of  
8 subparagraph (E) (as so redesign-  
9 nated), by striking “, individuals sub-  
10 ject to the requirements under section  
11 6(o),”; and

12 (ii) in paragraph (5)(C)—

13 (I) in clause (ii), by adding  
14 “and” at the end;

15 (II) in clause (iii), by striking “;  
16 and” and inserting a period; and

17 (III) by striking clause (iv).

18 (E) Section 51(d)(8)(A)(ii) of the Internal  
19 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

20 (i) in subclause (I), by striking “, or”  
21 at the end and inserting a period;

22 (ii) in the matter preceding subclause  
23 (I), by striking “family—” and all that fol-  
24 lows through “receiving” in subclause (I)  
25 and inserting “family receiving”; and

1 (iii) by striking subclause (II).

2 (F) Section 103(a)(2) of the Workforce In-  
3 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3113)  
4 is amended—

5 (i) by striking subparagraph (D); and

6 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs  
7 (E) through (K) as subparagraphs (D)  
8 through (J), respectively.

9 (G) Section 121(b)(2)(B) of the Workforce  
10 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.  
11 3151) is amended—

12 (i) by striking clause (iv); and

13 (ii) by redesignating clauses (v)  
14 through (vii) as clauses (iv) through (vi),  
15 respectively.

