

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 113-14, H.R. 1947
FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK
MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013
OFFERED BY MS. MOORE OF WISCONSIN

At the end of subtitle A of title IV, insert the following:

1 SEC. 4033. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
4 gram (SNAP) is a vital nutrition program that
5 serves as a lifeline for millions of Americans, includ-
6 ing the elderly, disabled, and children.

7 (2) The primary purpose of SNAP is to allevi-
8 ate food insecurity and hunger among low-income
9 Americans.

10 (3) It helps millions of responsible, hardworking
11 Americans put food on the table for their families
12 including its ability to alleviate the effects of poverty
13 on children.

14 (4) Federal law establishes the sole restrictions
15 on the types of products that can be purchased
16 under SNAP, reflecting Congress' intent that only

1 the Federal Government should set restrictions on
2 the types of foods that can be purchased using the
3 100 percent federally- funded benefit.

4 (5) Studies have consistently shown that par-
5 ticipation in federal anti-hunger programs, including
6 SNAP, increases the access of households to quality
7 foods overall. According to the Center for Budget
8 and Policy Priorities, fruits and vegetables, grain
9 products, meats, and dairy products comprise almost
10 90 percent of the food that SNAP households buy.

11 (6) SNAP participation has also been found to
12 reduce food insecurity for households. Food insecu-
13 rity has been found to have many negative impacts
14 on the health of individuals, including higher rates
15 of diabetes, heart disease, and depression.

16 (7) Congress has defined the foods that cannot
17 be purchased under SNAP and should solely retain
18 the ability to change the benefit package.

19 (8) Some States are seeking the ability to iden-
20 tify specific or categories of foods and beverages that
21 “do not have sufficient nutritional value” in order to
22 ban the use of SNAP benefits for those foods and
23 beverages, undermining the goal and purpose of
24 Congress in creating a uniform, national benefit.

1 (9) The Secretary of Agriculture has already
2 cited some of the additional costs and complexity, to
3 be borne by the Federal Government, that come
4 from allowing each State to set different food pack-
5 age requirements including in trying to determine
6 which food and beverages, out of the many varieties
7 in the marketplace, are sufficiently healthy.

8 (10) The Secretary continues to support other
9 equally effective strategies, such as incentives to en-
10 courage consumers to make “healthy choices,” rath-
11 er than making it harder for those who already suf-
12 fer from food hardship to access nutrition.

13 (11) Improving access to farmers markets is
14 one such promising practice. From 2011 to 2012,
15 the Food and Nutrition Service Midwest Region re-
16 ported that 65 percent more farmers’ markets and
17 individual farmers accepted SNAP benefits resulting
18 in an 89 percent increase in SNAP dollars redeemed
19 at farmers’ markets

20 (12) This trend is further proof that when
21 given the choice and assisted by innovative incen-
22 tives, low-income households, like any other house-
23 holds, will make healthy food choices.

24 (13) Congress authorized a Healthy Incentives
25 Initiative based on this incentive based approach in

1 the 2008 farm bill and believes it is a promising and
2 effective approach to help improve nutritional out-
3 comes and improve low-income households access to
4 quality and affordable healthy foods.

5 (14) The Healthy Incentives Pilot project will
6 provide financial incentives at the point of purchase
7 to encourage SNAP households to purchase fruits,
8 vegetables, or other healthful foods. This project will
9 provide useful information about the role that finan-
10 cial incentives can play in helping SNAP recipients
11 increase their purchases of fruits and vegetables

12 (b) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
13 the Congress that—

14 (1) The Secretary of Agriculture should reject
15 waiver requests that allow individual States to im-
16 pose food restrictions other than those enacted into
17 law by Congress;

18 (2) the Congress strongly supports the Sec-
19 retary's longstanding tradition of supporting and
20 promoting incentive-based solutions to promote con-
21 sumption of fruits and vegetables and other more
22 costly healthy foods for working families, the elderly,
23 and other low-income individuals, instead of food re-
24 strictions that further stigmatize the poor; and.

1 (3) the Congress calls for any requests for waiv-
2 ers to restrict food choices to be evaluated on wheth-
3 er they interfere with achieving the goal of the sup-
4 plemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP)—
5 ensuring that low-income households have access to
6 adequate nutrition.

