

Legislative Updates June 2009

These are the latest food policy and obesity bills filed in state legislatures and Congress. For more information on any of them, contact Roberta Friedman, Director of Public Policy at the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University, by email (roberta.friedman@yale.edu) or phone (203-432-4717).

HB=House Bill; SB=Senate Bill; AB=Assembly Bill

Federal Bills

HR 2297 The White House Conference on Food and Nutrition

Would require the President to call a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition whose purpose is to:

- (1) Identify viable solutions for ending hunger in the United States;
- (2) Review the current structure, scope, and effectiveness of existing legislation and programs at the Federal, State, and local levels that provide for the nutritional needs of food-insecure people living in the United States;
- (3) Determine the extent to which current Federal, State, and local programs that provide for the nutritional health of Americans can better use available resources and ensure greater coordination among such programs;
- (4) Identify new ways to utilize the abundant agricultural resources of the United States to meet the nutritional needs of all Americans;
- (5) Highlight emerging and innovative programs from the public and private sectors, including community-based and faith-based organizations that effectively address the nutrition needs of vulnerable Americans and recommend such programs as can be reasonably and cost-effectively replicated;
- (6) Identify opportunities for effective partnerships between the Government, industry, labor, healthcare, and the nonprofit sectors to fight hunger in the United States;
- (7) Explore the possibility of creating a Federal office within the Department of Agriculture to oversee the Nation's response to persistent and widespread hunger and food insecurity, to include the oversight and coordination of all Federal, State, and local anti-hunger programs;
- (8) Bring public attention to the more than 35,500,000 people living in the United States that face a constant struggle against hunger, food insecurity, and inadequate nutrition;
- (9) Illustrate the medical, developmental, and educational impact of hunger, food insecurity, and inadequate nutrition, and the potential savings to the United States health care system, educational system, and other sectors when appropriate food is available to the critically and chronically ill;
- (10) Build understanding of the true cost of hunger in the United States, to include lost wages, diminished stamina, reduced capacity to learn, and the impact of despair; and
- (11) Build understanding that the ever-burgeoning dual epidemic of hunger and undernutrition is a matter of national security.

Sponsor: Representative James McGovern (D-MA)

S. 990 The Afterschool Flexibility to Expand Reimbursement for School Meals Act of 2009

Would expand access to healthy after-school meals for school children in working families.

Sponsor: Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)