

Gillibrand #3

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate regarding cuts to Federal food assistance programs.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—112th Cong., 2d Sess.**

**(no.)** \_\_\_\_\_

To reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. BENNET)

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place in title IV, insert the following:  
2

3 **SEC. 4** \_\_\_\_\_. **SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING CUTS TO**  
4 **FEDERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

6 (1) the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act  
7 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) is the first line of  
8 defense in the United States against hunger and  
9 food insecurity, providing nutrition assistance for  
10

1 over 46,000,000 people, including 23,000,000 chil-  
2 dren in the United States;

3 (2) 71 percent of benefits under the supple-  
4 mental nutrition assistance program, over  
5 \$45,000,000,000 in 2010, are provided to families  
6 with children, making the program the most impor-  
7 tant form of nutrition assistance for children in the  
8 United States;

9 (3) hunger and food insecurity in the United  
10 States are rising, with a recent study by the Depart-  
11 ment of Agriculture finding that—

12 (A) 48,800,000 people in the United  
13 States live in households that were food inse-  
14 cure in 2010;

15 (B) the number of food insecure individ-  
16 uals increased by nearly 12, 600, 000 between  
17 2007 and 2010; and

18 (C) since 2000, the number of individuals  
19 classified by Department of Agriculture as food  
20 insecure doubled;

21 (4) the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-  
22 gram has provided emergency food assistance in  
23 2011 and already in 2012 to more than 2,000,000  
24 individuals in more than ½ of all States in response

1 to severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and  
2 hurricanes;

3 (5) the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-  
4 gram operates efficiently and effectively, with the  
5 error rate for the program at an all-time low;

6 (6) reductions in funding for the supplemental  
7 nutrition assistance program would constitute cuts  
8 in or loss of benefits to currently eligible individuals  
9 and families and would not come out of fraud,  
10 waste, or abuse; and

11 (7) the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-  
12 gram offers a 1.79 multiplier effect, meaning that  
13 for every dollar spent there is a \$1.79 return on in-  
14 vestment.

15 (b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the  
16 Senate that, under this Act—

17 (1) there should not be a reduction in food as-  
18 sistance to children; and

19 (2) if a reduction in the amount of food assist-  
20 ance provided prior to the date of enactment of this  
21 Act occurs due to this Act or an amendment made  
22 by this Act, the difference should be made up by re-  
23 ducing the total amount made available to carry out  
24 this Act.