

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 461 Session of  
2013

INTRODUCED BY THOMAS, BISHOP, PASHINSKI, SCHLOSSBERG,  
YOUNGBLOOD, J. HARRIS, PARKER, HARKINS, MIRANDA, SCHREIBER,  
D. MILLER, BROWNLEE, KINSEY, CALTAGIRONE AND COHEN,  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

## A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to retain the  
2 boost in benefits as part of the American Recovery and  
3 Reinvestment Act of 2009.

4 WHEREAS, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009  
5 boosted the benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
6 Program (SNAP); and

7 WHEREAS, The increased benefit is scheduled to end on  
8 November 1, 2013; and

9 WHEREAS, The reduction nationally is expected to be \$5  
10 billion dollars in fiscal year 2014; and

11 WHEREAS, For a household of three, the proposed reduction  
12 will amount to a decrease of \$29 per month; and

13 WHEREAS, Without keeping the funding stable, benefits will  
14 average less than \$1.40 per person per meal in 2014; and

15 WHEREAS, SNAP has never experienced a reduction in benefit  
16 levels that affected all participants; and

17 WHEREAS, The reduction will likely cause great hardship for

1 SNAP participants, which is expected to include 22 million  
2 children nationally in 2014; and

3 WHEREAS, Ten million of the children participating in SNAP  
4 nationally live in "deep poverty"; and

5 WHEREAS, Nine million SNAP participants are elderly or have a  
6 serious disability; and

7 WHEREAS, The cuts are equivalent to taking away 21 meals per  
8 month for a family of four; and

9 WHEREAS, The benefit boost in 2009 reduced the number of  
10 households where one or more individuals had to skip meals or  
11 otherwise eat less by 500,000 because they lacked money; and

12 WHEREAS, Beginning November 2013 through November 2014, the  
13 Commonwealth will experience a reduction of \$183 million in  
14 program support; and

15 WHEREAS, One million seven hundred seventy nine thousand  
16 SNAP participants of this Commonwealth will be affected, which  
17 is 14% of our population; and

18 WHEREAS, SNAP is our nation's first line of defense against  
19 hunger and a powerful tool in keeping families out of deep  
20 poverty; and

21 WHEREAS, Many residents of this Commonwealth are still  
22 suffering greatly from the economic downturn; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives memorialize the  
24 Congress of the United States to preserve current SNAP funding  
25 levels because failure to do so will significantly increase the  
26 number of poor households that have difficulty affording  
27 adequate food; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
29 need to preserve current SNAP funding levels because our economy  
30 is only beginning to regain its vitality and unemployment

1 remains at a troubling high; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
3 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each  
4 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.