

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to reform the restaurant meals program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. ERNST introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to reform the restaurant meals program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “McStopping Chains
5 from Using SNAP EBT to Make Entrees Act of 2025”
6 or the “McSCUSE ME Act of 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM.**

8 Section 9(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
9 (7 U.S.C. 2018(h)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) by striking “determines that the par-
2 ticipation” and inserting the following: “deter-
3 mines that—

4 “(A) the private establishment is a retail
5 food store that—

6 “(i) operates a prepared food section,
7 hot bar, or deli counter that offers for sale
8 meals—

9 “(I) intended for immediate con-
10 sumption; and

11 “(II) that include at least 1 fruit,
12 vegetable, and protein, as defined by
13 the Secretary;

14 “(ii) is not primarily engaged in the
15 sale of quick-service or fast-food items, as
16 determined by the Secretary; and

17 “(iii) meets all State and local food
18 safety and health standards applicable to
19 grocery stores or supermarkets; and

20 “(B) the participation”;

21 (2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
22 graph (4);

23 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(3) SPOUSAL EXCLUSION.—Notwithstanding
2 any other provision of this Act, a spouse of an indi-
3 vidual eligible for benefits under the supplemental
4 nutrition assistance program shall not be eligible to
5 participate in the program under this subsection.”;
6 and

7 (4) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated), by
8 striking “Senate a report on the effectiveness of a”
9 and inserting the following: “Senate, and make pub-
10 licly available, a report describing—

11 “(A) the number of private establishments
12 participating in the program under this sub-
13 section;

14 “(B) for each private establishment par-
15 ticipating in the program under this sub-
16 section—

17 “(i) the name and location of the pri-
18 vate establishment; and

19 “(ii) the amount of benefits redeemed
20 at the private establishment;

21 “(C) the number of individuals receiving
22 benefits under the program under this sub-
23 section;

24 “(D) the costs of the program under this
25 subsection;

- 1 “(E) a list of the most popular menu items
- 2 purchased with benefits under the program
- 3 under this subsection; and
- 4 “(F) the effectiveness of the”.