

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 169

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Urges President and Congress to enact “CARE for Kids Act of 2019.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/10/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the President and Congress of
2 the United States to enact the “CARE for Kids Act of 2019.”

3
4 **WHEREAS**, School meals are critical to children’s health and well-
5 being and ensures that children have the nutrition they need to
6 effectively learn throughout the school day; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Research shows that receiving free school meals reduces
8 food insecurity, obesity rates, and poor health among children; and

9 **WHEREAS**, The federal School Breakfast Program (SBP) and the
10 federal National School Lunch Program (NSLP) provide
11 nutritionally balanced, free school meals to millions of American
12 children each school day; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Under SBP and NSLP, children may be determined
14 categorically eligible for free school meals through participation in
15 certain federal assistance programs, such as the Supplemental
16 Nutrition Assistance Program, or based on the child’s status as a
17 homeless, migrant, runaway, or foster child; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Under SBP and NSLP, children from families with
19 incomes at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level are
20 eligible for free school meals; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Many children are excluded from categorical eligibility to
22 receive free school meals because they have moved out of the foster
23 care system and are in the care of grandparents or other relatives
24 who have adopted them or have become their legal guardians; and

25 **WHEREAS**, More than 7.8 million children under the age of 18 live in
26 homes where the householders are grandparents or relatives other
27 their parents; and

28 **WHEREAS**, The federal “Caregivers Access and Responsible
29 Expansion (CARE) for Kids Act of 2019,” introduced by United
30 States Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), provides automatic eligibility for
31 free school meals to children being raised by a relative who
32 receives adoption or guardianship assistance; to children being
33 raised by grandparents or other relatives due to placement by a state
34 or tribal welfare agency; and to children living in “grandfamily”
35 housing or receiving housing assistance under the “Native
36 American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 1996”; and

37 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper to urge the President and
38 Congress of the United States to enact the “CARE for Kids Act of
39 2019,” to automatically provide free school meals to American
40 children who are being raised by grandparents or relatives other
41 than their parents; now, therefore,

42
43 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
44 *Jersey:*

45
46 1. This House urges the President and Congress of the United
47 States to enact the “CARE for Kids Act of 2019,” to provide
48 automatic eligibility for free school meals to American children

1 who are being raised by grandparents or relatives other than their
2 parents.

3

4 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
5 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
6 President of the United States, Majority and Minority Leaders of the
7 United States Senate, to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the
8 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the
9 United States Congress elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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14 This resolution urges the President and Congress of the United
15 States to enact the “CARE for Kids Act of 2019,” to provide
16 automatic eligibility for free school meals to American children
17 who are being raised by grandparents or relatives other than their
18 parents.

19 The federal School Breakfast Program (SBP) and the federal
20 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) provide nutritionally
21 balanced, free meals to millions of American children each school
22 day. Under SBP and NSLP, children may be determined
23 categorically eligible for free school meals through participation in
24 certain federal assistance programs, such as the Supplemental
25 Nutrition Assistance Program, or based on the child’s status as a
26 homeless, migrant, runaway, or foster child. Additionally, children
27 from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the federal
28 poverty level are eligible for free school meals.

29 Many children are excluded from categorical eligibility to
30 receive free school meals because they have moved out of the foster
31 care system and are in the care of grandparents or other relatives
32 who have adopted them or have become their legal guardians. This
33 is the case for more than 7.8 million children under the age of 18
34 who live in homes where the householders are grandparents or
35 relatives other their parents.

36 The federal “Caregivers Access and Responsible Expansion
37 (CARE) for Kids Act of 2019,” introduced by United States Senator
38 Bob Casey (D-PA), provides automatic eligibility for free school
39 meals to children being raised by a relative who receives adoption
40 or guardianship assistance; to children being raised by grandparents
41 or other relatives due to placement by a state or tribal welfare
42 agency; and to children living in “grandfamily” housing or
43 receiving housing assistance under the “Native American Housing
44 and Self-Determination Act of 1996.”