

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 84

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator NELLIE POU
District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



SR84 POU

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

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4 **WHEREAS**, School meals are critical to children’s health and well-
5 being and ensure 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 the 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 the 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 than 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,

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43 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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

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

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4 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
5 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President
6 of the United States, Majority and Minority Leaders of the United
7 States Senate, to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United
8 States House of Representatives, and to each member of the United
9 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 automatic
16 eligibility for free school meals to American children who are being
17 raised by grandparents or relatives other than their parents.

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

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

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