

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 102

BY JUDICIARY AND RULES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-  
3 TIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, TO THE CONGRESSIONAL  
4 DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED  
5 STATES, TO THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
6 AND THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
7 SERVICES.

8 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of  
9 the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-second  
10 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

11 WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) is ad-  
12 ministered by the states on behalf of the United States Department of Agri-  
13 culture, and the states are subject to the rules promulgated by the United  
14 States Department of Agriculture and Congress; and

15 WHEREAS, the health and welfare of the citizens of Idaho can be affected  
16 by their consumption of food items purchased with SNAP benefits; and

17 WHEREAS, a comprehensive healthy Supplemental Nutritional Assistance  
18 Program (SNAP) for Idaho citizens would include Idaho grown and produced  
19 products; and

20 WHEREAS, individuals who participate in healthy eating choices have  
21 less chance of developing chronic diseases and therefore, are able to be more  
22 productive employees and involved in their families' lives; and

23 WHEREAS, our children's futures and consequently the future of our na-  
24 tion are directly impacted by the food choices that are made for our chil-  
25 dren; and

26 WHEREAS, SNAP recipients should be encouraged to increase consumption  
27 of whole grains, fat-free and low-fat milk and fruits and vegetables; and

28 WHEREAS, the citizens of Idaho may at this time purchase items with SNAP  
29 benefits that are not beneficial to their health and welfare; and

30 WHEREAS, taxpayers have a right to expect that their tax dollars will  
31 purchase fresh, healthy food that meets nutritional standards that will not  
32 contribute to health issues and higher medical costs; and

33 WHEREAS, unhealthy food items include, but are not limited to, energy  
34 drinks defined as a beverage containing at least sixty-five milligrams of  
35 caffeine per eight fluid ounces that is advertised as being specifically  
36 designed to provide metabolic stimulation or an increase to the consumer's  
37 mental or physical energy; a sweetened beverage or "soft drink" defined  
38 as any nonalcoholic beverage to which a natural or artificial sweetener is  
39 added; packaged cookies, candy, chips and other "junk food" with no nutri-  
40 tional value; and

41 WHEREAS, it is important that citizens receiving SNAP benefits be en-  
42 couraged to spread their food dollars throughout the month through the use of  
43 coupons and sales and wise shopping habits; and

1           WHEREAS, numerous community organizations are eager to partner with  
2 low-income families and offer skills that could lead to permanent jobs and  
3 less dependency on taxpayer funded benefits; and

4           WHEREAS, Idaho is experiencing increasing medical costs that could be  
5 lessened through proper nutrition.

6           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
7 sion of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-  
8 resentatives concurring therein, that the Legislature calls upon the Presi-  
9 dent of the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture and Congress to give  
10 Idaho the flexibility to prohibit the purchase of unhealthy food items with  
11 Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and to encour-  
12 age healthy eating and lifestyle choices.

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Idaho should be given the flexibility to  
14 determine the best methods of helping our citizens create a comprehensive  
15 state-based approach to promote physical activity, nutritional food selec-  
16 tions and healthy lifestyle choices.

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she  
18 is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to  
19 the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the  
20 Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, to the congressional  
21 delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United  
22 States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and  
23 the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.