

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4065

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a pilot program for serving meals in community colleges, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. COX of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. PORTER, and Mrs. TORRES of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a pilot program for serving meals in community colleges, 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 “Food for Thought Act
5 of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. SCHOOL LUNCH IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE PILOT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 Section 18 of the Richard B. Russell National School
4 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769) is amended by inserting be-
5 fore subsection (b) the following:

6 “(a) SCHOOL LUNCH IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
7 PILOT PROGRAM.—

8 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
10 through the Administrator of the Food and Nu-
11 trition Service, shall carry out a program to
12 make grants to community colleges to provide
13 free meals, including snacks, to eligible stu-
14 dents, as determined by the Secretary.

15 “(B) AWARD REQUIREMENTS.—In award-
16 ing grants under this subsection, the Secretary
17 shall make grants to community colleges that
18 reflect varying student body size, full-time stu-
19 dent enrollment, geographic location, including
20 urban, rural, or suburban campuses, minority
21 serving institutions, residential character, in-
22 cluding race and ethnicity, and socioeconomic
23 status.

24 “(C) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—A grant under
25 this subsection may not be in an amount great-
26 er than \$200,000.

1 “(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants
2 under this subsection, the Secretary may give
3 priority to community colleges—

4 “(i) with prepared food infrastructure
5 or can identify an outside source of sup-
6 port to develop such infrastructure;

7 “(ii) that serve more than 300 stu-
8 dents who are eligible for Federal Pell
9 Grants; or

10 “(iii) that are located within proximity
11 of a school that elects to receive special as-
12 sistance payments under section
13 11(a)(1)(F) of the Richard B. Russell Na-
14 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
15 1759a(a)(1)(F)).

16 “(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a
17 grant under this subsection, a community college
18 shall submit an application to the Secretary, at such
19 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
20 tion as the Secretary may require, including the
21 number of students such community college will
22 serve under the grant.

23 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A community college
2 that receives a grant under this subsection shall
3 use the grant to—

4 “(i) provide free meals, including
5 snacks, to eligible students;

6 “(ii) conduct outreach to students to
7 encourage participation in the free meal
8 program;

9 “(iii) prepare meals;

10 “(iv) purchase meals from vendors;

11 and

12 “(v) provide information to students
13 regarding eligibility for assistance under
14 Federal food assistance programs.

15 “(B) LIMITATION ON PURCHASE OF
16 EQUIPMENT.—A community college that re-
17 ceives a grant under this subsection may use
18 not more than 20 percent of such grant to pur-
19 chase equipment to carry out the activities de-
20 scribed in clauses (i) through (iv) of subpara-
21 graph (A).

22 “(4) REQUIREMENTS.—Meals served by a com-
23 munity college pursuant to a grant under this sub-
24 section shall meet the requirements developed under

1 the dietary guidelines required under paragraph
2 (5)(C).

3 “(5) REPORT.—Each community college that
4 receives a grant under this section shall, not later
5 than 18 months after receiving such a grant, submit
6 a report to the Secretary of Education that in-
7 cludes—

8 “(A) the prevalence of food insecurity with
9 respect to students enrolled in such community
10 college; and

11 “(B) an evaluation of the use of grant
12 finds by such community college in addressing
13 such food insecurity.

14 “(6) DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES.—

15 “(A) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the
16 grant program under this subsection, the Sec-
17 retary shall consult with community colleges,
18 State educational agencies, and State boards of
19 higher education.

20 “(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Not later
21 than 120 days after the date of the enactment
22 of this subsection, the Secretary, acting through
23 the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition
24 Service, shall provide technical assistance to
25 community colleges to—

1 “(i) as applicable, develop prepared
2 meal infrastructure;

3 “(ii) carry out the activities described
4 in paragraph (3), including training the
5 employees of the community college to
6 carry out such activities; and

7 “(iii) develop outreach to students
8 with respect to such activities.

9 “(C) DIETARY GUIDELINES.—Not later
10 than 120 days after the date of the enactment
11 of this subsection, the Secretary shall develop
12 nutritional requirements for meals served pur-
13 suant to a grant under this subsection that are
14 consistent with the goals of the most recent Di-
15 etary Guidelines for Americans published under
16 section 301 of the National Nutrition Moni-
17 toring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7
18 U.S.C. 5341).

19 “(D) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after
20 the date of the enactment of this subsection,
21 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
22 that includes—

23 “(i) an evaluation of the pilot pro-
24 gram under this subsection; and

1 “(ii) recommendations with respect to
2 expanding the pilot program under this
3 subsection.

4 “(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
5 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
6 this subsection \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 and
7 each of the succeeding 3 fiscal years.

8 “(8) COMMUNITY COLLEGE DEFINED.—In this
9 subsection, the term ‘community college’ means a
10 public institution of higher education as defined in
11 section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
12 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)) that—

13 “(A) does not provide an educational pro-
14 gram for which the institution awards a bach-
15 elor’s degree (or an equivalent degree); and

16 “(B) predominately awards associate’s de-
17 grees.”.

○