



(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

to provide increased financial assistance for farmers markets and farmers market nutrition programs, to increase local agricultural production through food bank in-house production and local farmer contracting; and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. KAPTUR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

to provide increased financial assistance for farmers markets and farmers market nutrition programs, to increase local agricultural production through food bank in-house production and local farmer contracting; 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 "Farmers Market and Food  
5 Bank Local Revitalization Act of 2022".

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Food insecurity, epidemic levels of obesity,  
4 hypertension, diabetes, and youth osteoporosis are  
5 caused by improper nutrition yielded by lack of nu-  
6 tritious, reliable, and locally available healthy food  
7 options.

8 (2) The American Diabetes Association esti-  
9 mated a 41 percent increase in costs of diagnosed  
10 diabetes from 2007 (\$174,000,000,000) to 2012  
11 (\$245,000,000,000) with most of these costs (62  
12 percent) coming from senior health programs such  
13 as Medicare and Medicaid.

14 (3) Since sequestration in 2008, there has been  
15 no funding increase for the Senior Farmers Market  
16 Nutrition Program.

17 (4) From 2008 to 2020, the moderate at home  
18 food cost for a family of 2 (aged 51-70 years old)  
19 increased by an average of \$70 a month. Senior  
20 Farmers' Market Nutrition Program funding has  
21 not kept pace with such inflation.

22 (5) According to the Department of agriculture,  
23 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program has a  
24 total program funding backlog of \$20,065,021 and  
25 a season benefit level backlog of \$16,120,741 across

1 all participating States, territories, and Native  
2 American Tribes.

3 (6) Roughly 1 in 10 United States senior citi-  
4 zens (about 5,146,000) are forced to live well below  
5 the Federal poverty level, and the Senior Farmers'  
6 Market Nutrition Program is only able to reach  
7 about 725,000 due to inadequate funding.

8 (7) Since sequestration in 2008, funding for  
9 farmers market nutrition program has fallen by over  
10 \$6,000,000 and never rebounded.

11 (8) The farmers market nutrition program is a  
12 vital safeguard for the nearly 1 in 7 children who  
13 will be born into poverty in the United States and  
14 will be at nutritional risk.

15 (9) According to the Department of agriculture,  
16 farmers market nutrition program has a total pro-  
17 gram and seasonal benefit funding backlog of  
18 \$6,198,432 across all participating States, terri-  
19 tories, and Native American Tribes.

20 (10) In the United States , food banks will pro-  
21 vide meals to 1 in 7 people.

22 (11) Many food banks share special relation-  
23 ships with local farmers who often donate their  
24 crops to food banks. The partnership allows for

1 more efficient and sustainable procurement for food  
2 banks.

3 (12) Assisting food banks to grow their own  
4 food will aid local procurement and allow food banks  
5 to serve as farming resources to their communities,  
6 especially to those who are food insecure.

7 (13) The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018  
8 specifically required looking at ways to incorporate  
9 local goods to reduce food waste.

10 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

11 (1) to increase and enhance funding for farmers  
12 market nutrition programs to support seniors, food  
13 insecure families, and to increase market capacity  
14 for local farmers;

15 (2) to provide funding assistance for the expan-  
16 sion and construction of farmers markets in both  
17 rural and urban food desert areas;

18 (3) to increase local food production through  
19 partnership with food banks by local farmer con-  
20 tracting and funding assistance to food banks to  
21 grow necessary produce through traditional or con-  
22 trolled environment agricultural farming.

1 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**  
2 **TO EXPAND PARTICIPATION IN THE SENIORS**  
3 **FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM.**

4 (a) INCREASED AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
5 TIONS.—To expand and address season benefit level and  
6 total backlogs of the seniors farmers' market nutrition  
7 program, there is authorized to be appropriated—

8 (1) for fiscal year 2022, an increase to  
9 \$60,000,000;

10 (2) for fiscal year 2023, an increase to  
11 \$70,000,000; and

12 (3) for each of the fiscal years 2024 through  
13 2028, and increase to \$100,000,000.

14 (b) BENEFIT ENHANCEMENT.—For the purpose of  
15 expanding access to the seniors farmers' market nutrition  
16 program, funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be  
17 used for the following purposes:

18 (1) Program eligibility income limit shall in-  
19 crease to 200 percent of the Federal poverty guide-  
20 line.

21 (2) The minimum individual benefit shall be in-  
22 creased to \$35.

23 (3) The maximum individual benefit shall be in-  
24 creased to \$80.

1 **SEC. 4. MINIMUM INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT INCREASE UNDER**  
2 **WIC FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PRO-**  
3 **GRAM.**

4 Section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42  
5 U.S.C. 1786(m)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “paragraph (10)” both places it  
7 appears and inserting “paragraph (9)”;

8 (2) in paragraph (5)(C)—

9 (A) by striking “\$10” and inserting  
10 “\$35”; and

11 (B) by striking “\$30” and inserting  
12 “\$60”; and

13 (3) in paragraph (9)(A), by striking “2015”  
14 and inserting “2025”.

15 **SEC. 5. INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR FARMERS MAR-**  
16 **KETS.**

17 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall  
18 make loans, loan guarantees, and grants to public agencies  
19 and nonprofit organizations for—

20 (1) the construction of new farmers markets; or

21 (2) the improvement or rehabilitation of exist-  
22 ing farmers markets, including by adding or improv-  
23 ing payment technologies used in such farmers mar-  
24 kets.

25 (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive a loan,  
26 loan guarantee, or grant under subsection (a) with respect

1 to a farmers market the public agency or nonprofit organi-  
2 zation involved shall—

3 (1) demonstrate financial need as determined  
4 by the Secretary; and

5 (2) commit to reserving at least 50 percent of  
6 the floor area of the farmers market for the sale of  
7 products that are produced locally, as determined by  
8 the Secretary, by farmers, ranchers, or aquaculture,  
9 mariculture, or fisheries operators, or by associa-  
10 tions of farmers, ranchers, or such operators.

11 (c) COST SHARING.—

12 (1) GRANTS.—The amount of a grant under  
13 this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the cost  
14 of the activity for which the grant is made.

15 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The combined amount  
16 of a grant made and loan made or guaranteed under  
17 this section shall not exceed 80 percent of the cost  
18 of the activity for which the grant or loan is made  
19 or guaranteed.

20 (d) INTEREST RATE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—A loan made by the Sec-  
22 retary under subsection (a) shall bear interest at the  
23 rate equivalent to the rate of interest charged on  
24 Treasury securities of comparable maturity on the  
25 date the loan is approved.

1           (2) DURATION.—The interest rate referred to  
2           in paragraph (1) with respect to a loan referred to  
3           in such paragraph shall remain in effect for the term  
4           of the loan.

5           (e) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-  
6           it Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry  
7           out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022  
8           through 2027.

9           **SEC. 6. PILOT PROGRAM FOR FOOD BANKS AND LOCAL**  
10                           **FARMER CONTRACTING FOR LOCAL PRO-**  
11                           **CUREMENT.**

12           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture  
13           shall establish a pilot grant program in which food banks  
14           may voluntarily contract with their local farmers for them  
15           to grow produce for food bank programs to promote local  
16           procurement of produce. Food banks in economically de-  
17           pressed or food dessert areas shall be given priority to re-  
18           ceive grants under this section.

19           (b) METHODS.—Under contracts made by food banks  
20           with grants received under subsection (a), local farmers  
21           may grow produce through traditional or controlled envi-  
22           ronmental agriculture farming.

23           (c) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-  
24           it Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry



1 out this section \$250,000 for the fiscal years of 2022 and  
2 2023.

3 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR SEN-**  
4 **IORS FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PRO-**  
5 **GRAM.**

6       Section 4402(a) of the Farm Security and Rural In-  
7 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007(a)) is amended by  
8 striking "2023" and inserting "2028".

9 **SEC. 8. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

10       Not later than 180 days after effective date of this  
11 Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit a report to  
12 the Congress that contains a review of the effect of this  
13 Act on local procurement of food, local farmers, and the  
14 communities involved.

15 **SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16       This Act shall take effect 120 days after the date of  
17 the enactment of this Act.