

# Support The Stop Child Summer Hunger Act of 2014

The Stop Child Summer Hunger Act of 2014, S.2366, introduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), would provide low-income families with children an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card, for the summer to purchase food. This bill would offer another food resource for low-income children in addition to the Summer Nutrition Programs. This bill is intended to provide an additional support for children during the summer months, and does not replace the existing Summer Nutrition Programs.

## ***What is a Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card?***

The Summer EBT card is similar to a debit card and would provide extra nutritional resources to families with children qualified to receive free or reduced price school meals. Families would use the Summer EBT card to purchase food at retail stores during the summer break. The Summer EBT card is modeled after existing EBT systems used by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

## ***What does the bill propose?***

### **Provides a Summer EBT Card to families with children.**

Families with one or more children who qualify for free and reduced price school meals would receive an EBT card with funds for purchasing food at retail stores.

### **Targets low-income children.**

Children who qualify for free or reduced-prices school meals during the school year would receive a Summer EBT card.

### **Offers benefits of \$150 per summer to each eligible child.**

The amount will be adjusted annually based on inflation.

## ***How will The Stop Child Summer Hunger Act benefit my community?***

### **Combat childhood hunger.**

The Summer EBT will help to replace the school breakfasts and lunches and after school meals, and snacks that children receive during the school year, giving low-income families additional resources to buy food that children would otherwise receive at school.

### **Support low-income families.**

The bill will provide additional resources for low-income families who rely on the school breakfasts and lunches during the school year to provide nutritious meals to their children and to stretch their food dollars. It is meant to be a resource in addition to the existing Summer Nutrition Programs.

## ***USDA Summer EBT Pilot Project***

This bill is based on a USDA pilot project that was launched in 14 demonstration sites in 10 States and Indian Tribal Organizations in 2011 and 2012. Families received monthly benefits of 60 dollars per child. In the summer of 2012, very low food insecurity decreased by 33 percent for children in children in households participating in Summer EBT card.