SLS 25RS-833 **ORIGINAL**

2025 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY SENATORS MCMATH AND BOUDREAUX

NUTRITION. Memorializes Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to reinstate and fund the Local Food for Schools Program.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Agriculture to reinstate and fund the Local Food for Schools Program to support Louisiana farmers, strengthen local food systems, and improve nutrition for children and communities, in alignment with national efforts to improve public health through locally grown food.

WHEREAS, the USDA Local Food for Schools (LFS) Program provided critical funding to help school districts purchase and serve locally grown, nutritious food products from regional farmers and producers; and

WHEREAS, the LFS Program allocated more than 3.7 million dollars in funding to the state of Louisiana, directly benefitting school food authorities and creating new market opportunities for farmers across the state; and

WHEREAS, this funding enabled Louisiana school districts to procure fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy, meats, and grains produced in Louisiana, nourishing students while investing in the local agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, the program fostered meaningful partnerships between farmers, food hubs, cooperatives, and schools, supporting resilient, community-based food systems that address hunger, improve health outcomes, and stimulate rural development; and

WHEREAS, the discontinuation of the Local Food for Schools Program has disrupted local supply chains, reduced school districts' purchasing power, and limited access to healthy, locally sourced meals for Louisiana's children; and

WHEREAS, restoring this program aligns with broader national goals, including efforts to "Make America Healthy Again" by improving access to unprocessed, nutrient-dense, and locally produced food, particularly in school settings, and reducing diet-related chronic disease in children and families; and

WHEREAS, investment in local food systems strengthens food security, promotes preventive health, and supports economic development across Louisiana and the United States.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Agriculture to reinstate and provide long-term funding for the Local Food for Schools Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the United States, the secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

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