

The Stop Child Summer Hunger Act of 2015 was introduced in June 2015 by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Susan Davis (D-CA). This bill would provide low-income families with children an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card, for the summer to purchase food, offering 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 would use the existing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT systems.

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 households participating in Summer EBT card.

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-price 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.

Requires sharing of information on making healthy food choices.

Local Education Agencies must provide information on cards in making healthy food choices and maximizing resources to families receiving the Summer EBT card.

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.