

# Support the Stop Child Summer Hunger Act of 2019

**T**he Stop Child Summer Hunger Act of 2019 ([S. 1941](#) / [H.R. 3378](#)), introduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Susan Davis (D-CA), would provide low-income families with children a Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card to purchase food. This bill provides additional support for families with children during the summer months and does not replace the existing Summer Nutrition Programs.

## What is a Summer EBT Card?

The Summer EBT card is similar to a debit card and would provide nutrition 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.

## Evaluation of USDA Summer EBT Pilot Project

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children program (Summer EBT), a pilot project designed to test the impact of providing summer nutrition benefits through an EBT card to low-income families with school-age children. An evaluation of the pilot found that the Summer EBT card helped reduce food insecurity and improve nutrition. The pilot project also found that providing the benefits through a SNAP model — instead of being modeled after the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) — resulted in a higher redemption rate and lower administrative costs. Due to the pilot project's success, Congress invested additional resources into Summer EBT through the annual appropriations process. For more information about the pilot project, read [FRAC's report](#).

## What Does the Bill Propose?

### **Provide 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 a Summer EBT card with funds for purchasing food at retail stores that have been approved to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

**Target low-income children.** By providing a Summer EBT card to children certified to receive free or reduced-price school meals during the school year, the program would help struggling families put food on the table.

**Offer benefits of \$150 per summer to families for each eligible child.** The amount would be adjusted annually based on inflation.

## How Will the Bill Benefit Communities?

**Combat childhood hunger.** Food insecurity increases during the summer months when children lose access to free and reduced-price school meals. Providing a Summer EBT card to families who rely on school breakfasts and lunches to make ends meet during the school year would give them additional resources to buy food that children would otherwise receive at school.

**Allow children to return to school in the fall healthy and ready to learn.** Food insecurity is detrimental to children's health and well-being. It can lead to poor health status, developmental risk, mental health problems and poor educational outcomes.

**Complement the Summer Nutrition Programs.** The bill designs Summer EBT to be a resource in addition to the existing Summer Nutrition Programs, which provide nutritious meals often in combination with educational and enrichment activities that keep children safe and supervised while their parents are working.