

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 68

Introduced by Assembly Member Parra

March 4, 2004

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 68—Relative to the federal child nutrition programs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 68, as introduced, Parra. Federal child nutrition programs.

This measure would memorialize the Congress of the United States to eliminate the reduced price school meals program category and to instead expand the free school meals program category to provide free meals for all children in families that are below 185% of the applicable family size income level.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The federal School Lunch Program was declared
2 to be the policy of the United States Congress in 1946, as a measure
3 of national security; and

4 WHEREAS, Over 503 million lunches are served in over
5 10,000 California public schools each year; and

6 WHEREAS, The federal School Breakfast Program has
7 contributed to the welfare of California children for over 30 years
8 by making nutritious meals available in California public schools;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Over 167 million breakfasts are served in over
11 7,500 California public schools each year; and

12 WHEREAS, Child nutrition programs, including the federal
13 School Lunch Program and federal School Breakfast Program, are

1 important to the health and well-being of the children of
2 California; and

3 WHEREAS, Child nutrition programs encourage the domestic
4 consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities; and

5 WHEREAS, There is evidence of continued need for child
6 nutrition programs to nourish the minds and bodies of California
7 children; and

8 WHEREAS, School meal programs offer nutritionally
9 balanced and low-cost or free breakfasts and lunches to California
10 children each schoolday; and

11 WHEREAS, Reduced price school meals are offered, in
12 participating schools, to children in families that are between 130
13 percent of the applicable family size income levels and 185 percent
14 of the applicable family size income levels; and

15 WHEREAS, Many families in the reduced price income level
16 find it difficult to pay the reduced fee and, for some families, the
17 fee is an insurmountable barrier to participation; and

18 WHEREAS, The Special Supplemental Food Program for
19 Women, Infants, and Children provides free benefits to all
20 participants in families with income below 185 percent of the
21 applicable family size income levels; now, therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California,*
23 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California supports the
24 reauthorization of federal child nutrition programs and urges the
25 President and the Congress of the United States to eliminate the
26 reduced price school meals program category, and expand the free
27 school meals program category to provide free meals for all
28 children in families with income below 185 percent of the
29 applicable family size income levels; and be it further

30 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
31 of this resolution to each Senator and Representative from
32 California in the Congress of the United States.

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