

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

Reps. Miller, Edwards, Paiz, Byrnes, Brabec, Coffia, Mentzer, Brixie, MacDonell, Conlin, Fitzgerald, Steckloff, Dievendorf, Young, Grant, Snyder, Rheingans, Wegela, Morgan, Neeley, O'Neal, Hill, Puri, Hope, Rogers, Scott, Weiss, Price, McFall, McKinney, Wilson, Skaggs, Martus, Hood, Glanville, Haadsma, Witwer and Xiong offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution to urge the federal government to
2 increase funding for Double Up Food Bucks programs.

3 Whereas, Double Up Food Bucks programs increase the purchasing
4 power of individuals who receive Supplemental Nutritional
5 Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits by providing a dollar-for-dollar
6 match of SNAP benefits spent on fresh fruits and vegetables at
7 participating grocery stores and farmers markets. The benefit is
8 available in the form of a credit redeemable for future purchases
9 of fresh fruits and vegetables; and

1 Whereas, Michigan's Double Up Food Bucks program was piloted
2 in Detroit in 2009 and became a national model. Today, Double Up
3 Food Bucks are offered in more than 235 locations across Michigan,
4 and 2,928 retailers throughout the country participate in nutrition
5 incentive programs; and

6 Whereas, These programs help lower-income families who
7 struggle to afford nutritious food essential to their health and
8 well-being. In 2022, SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks were used to
9 purchase 12.2 million dollars in fruits and vegetables for more
10 than 113,500 households. Every year, more than 1.5 million Michigan
11 residents use SNAP benefits to help put food on the table, and over
12 211,000 households used the Double Up Food Bucks program in 2023;
13 and

14 Whereas, Michigan's Double Up Food Bucks program creates new
15 markets for Michigan farmers, putting more money into farmers'
16 pockets and strengthening local economies. Of the farmers who have
17 participated in Double Up Food Bucks, 90 percent sold more fruits
18 and vegetables, and 85 percent made additional profits. In 2023,
19 782 Michigan farms directly benefited from this program; and

20 Whereas, Every month, participating grocers and farmers
21 markets are reimbursed for the cost of the Double Up Food Bucks
22 benefits utilized by families. The cost is paid for by the Fair
23 Food Network, a private nonprofit that developed and administers
24 Double Up Food Bucks programs. The programs are funded by state
25 appropriations, private nonprofit foundations, and federal grants;
26 and

27 Whereas, Double Up Food Bucks programs are greatly in need of
28 additional federal funding. During a five-month period from August
29 2022 through December 2022, the Fair Food Network was forced to

1 suspend Double Up earning at most participating grocers in
2 Michigan, and from January through September 2023, the maximum
3 daily limit on matched benefits was reduced from 20 dollars to 10
4 dollars per household. These measures were caused by an increase in
5 program participation and a reduction in budgetary support; and

6 Whereas, The future scaling of the Double Up Food Bucks
7 program will rely on receiving awards from the United States
8 Department of Agriculture's Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive
9 Program, created in the 2018 Farm Bill. These federal awards cover
10 50 percent of eligible project costs and help to ensure the
11 viability of programs committed to providing fresh fruits and
12 vegetables to income-eligible consumers. Additional grants and
13 federal funding for Double Up Food Bucks programs are critical to
14 providing nutritional support to families; now, therefore, be it

15 Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate
16 concurring), That we urge the federal government to increase
17 funding for Double Up Food Bucks programs and lower the non-federal
18 match in order to further leverage the state of Michigan's
19 investment; and be it further

20 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
21 President of the United States, the United States Secretary of
22 Agriculture, and the members of the Michigan congressional
23 delegation, and the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and
24 Senate Committees on Agriculture.