

# Student Food Security Act of 2021

## Section by Section

**Senators Elizabeth Warren, Chris Murphy, Alex Padilla, and Bernie Sanders**

**Representatives Jahana Hayes, Al Lawson, and Norma Torres**

### **TITLE I – Amending the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008**

#### *Section 101*

Makes students affirmatively eligible for SNAP if they meet the existing list of exemptions in current law (e.g. having a disability or parenting a young child), and expands SNAP eligibility to students who are enrolled at least half time and are:

- 1) Eligible to participate in a state or federal work study program; or
- 2) If they are a dependent student, has an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) or student aid index of \$0 or less, or meet the financial eligibility criteria for the maximum Pell Grant, even if they have not filed the FAFSA; or
- 3) If they are an independent student, belong to a household that is otherwise eligible to participate in SNAP.

#### *Section 102*

Requires Secretary of Agriculture to submit a report to Congress on the Food and Nutrition Service's strategy to address student hunger and publish an updated State Outreach Plan Guidance.

#### *Section 103*

Creates a demonstration program to administer up to ten projects at IHEs to allow students to use SNAP benefits to purchase meals at on-campus dining halls or retail stores, or to be exempt from the requirement to purchase a campus meal plan.

#### *Section 104*

Designates an effective date 180 days after enactment.

### **TITLE II – Amending the Higher Education Act of 1965**

#### *Section 201*

Requires the creation of a data sharing agreement between the Departments of Education, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Treasury, Health and Human Services, and any other applicable federal agency to securely identify students who have applied for federal financial aid and who may be eligible for SNAP, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Federal housing assistance, and any other federal programs that support basic needs.

Requires the Department of Education to notify any student who may be eligible for these programs based on their FAFSA information of their potential eligibility and provide state and federal

resources on how to apply. Requires a report to Congress describing summary statistics on eligible students.

*Section 202*

Requires the Department of Education to include measures of food and housing insecurity and homelessness in the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study.

*Section 203*

Creates a student basic needs grant program, which provides competitive planning and coordination grants to eligible institutions. Grants shall be used to establish a student food and housing security steering committee, conduct research regarding food and housing insecurity on their campus, develop a strategy to address these issues, and implement the strategy, which may include conducting outreach and educating students about available public programs, coordinating and collaborating with government and community-based organizations, and hiring personnel.

Grants may be up to \$5 million over 5 years.

Requires the Secretary to report to Congress on the program and identify and disseminate best practices.

Reserves 33% of grant funds for community colleges; gives priority to institutions serving high percentages of Pell recipients, HBCUs, and Minority Serving Institutions.

Authorizes \$1 billion per year for the next ten years for the grant program.