

1 HJR282
2 159589-1
3 By Representative Robinson (O)
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 11-MAR-14

8 URGING CONGRESS AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE
9 ACTION TO ELIMINATE FOOD DESERTS.

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11 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture
12 defines food desert as any census district where at least 20
13 percent of the inhabitants are below the poverty line and 33
14 percent live over a mile from the nearest supermarket or if in
15 a rural area, over 10 miles; and

16 WHEREAS, approximately 23.5 million Americans live
17 in a food desert, in both rural and urban areas; and

18 WHEREAS, food deserts are one of the main
19 contributing factors to the obesity epidemic in the United
20 States, by forcing poor people to rely on processed and fast
21 food instead of fresh vegetables, fruit, and proteins; and

22 WHEREAS, adult obesity rates are 51 percent higher
23 for African Americans than for whites and 21 percent higher
24 than for Latinos; and

25 WHEREAS, African American children are more likely
26 to become obese than white children according to the Centers
27 for Disease Control and Prevention; and

1 WHEREAS, food deserts frequently exist due to
2 economic stagnation and disinvestment; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the members of this body call
5 for access to healthy, fresh, and affordable food in rural and
6 urban areas to improve overall health by combating obesity,
7 diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and other health-related
8 problems that can be aided by a healthy diet.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution affirms
10 Alabama's commitment to wellness in mind, body, and spirit and
11 our demand for the placement of supermarkets, farmer's
12 markets, fast food restaurants that sell healthy menu choices,
13 and local convenience stores within these communities lacking
14 access.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
16 Representatives requests that the United States Department of
17 Agriculture, Congress, and agencies work together for the
18 elimination of food deserts in the communities where
19 low-income people must travel at least a mile to buy fresh
20 produce and proteins as a result of grocery stores and
21 affordable fresh food disappearing from their communities.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
23 Representatives applauds the actions already taken and
24 requests that Congress increase allocations to the Healthy
25 Food Financing Initiative, which is a collaborative effort by
26 the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and
27 the Treasury to bring grocery stores and other healthy food

1 retailers in underserved urban and rural communities in
2 America.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House
4 of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an
5 appropriate copy of this resolution to the President of the
6 United States, the Vice President of the United States,
7 members of the United States House of Representatives and the
8 United States Senate, and other federal and state government
9 officials as appropriate.