

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

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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.