

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a program for the procurement of domestically grown unprocessed fruits and vegetables to provide healthier school meals, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a program for the procurement of domestically grown unprocessed fruits and vegetables to provide healthier school meals, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Local School Foods  
5 Expansion Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM FOR PROCUREMENT OF DOMESTICALLY**  
2 **GROWN UNPROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETA-**  
3 **BLES.**

4 Section 6(f) of the Richard B. Russell National  
5 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1755(f)) is amended—

6 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking  
7 “PILOT PROJECT FOR PROCUREMENT OF” and in-  
8 serting “PROGRAM FOR PROCUREMENT OF DOMES-  
9 TICALLY GROWN”;

10 (2) in paragraph (1)—

11 (A) by striking “conduct a pilot project”  
12 and inserting “carry out a program (referred to  
13 in this subsection as the ‘program’)”;

14 (B) by inserting “domestically grown” be-  
15 fore “unprocessed”; and

16 (C) by striking “8” and inserting “14”;

17 (3) by striking “pilot project” each place it ap-  
18 pears and inserting “program”;

19 (4) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding  
20 subparagraph (A), by inserting “domestically  
21 grown” before “unprocessed”;

22 (5) in paragraph (4)—

23 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)  
24 and (C) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respec-  
25 tively; and

1 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)  
2 the following:

3 “(B) the demonstrated commitment of the  
4 State to support small, local, and socially dis-  
5 advantaged farmers;

6 “(C) the demonstrated commitment of the  
7 State to support Tribal agricultural producers  
8 and communities utilizing traditional foods;

9 “(D) whether the State will serve a high  
10 proportion of children from socially disadvan-  
11 taged backgrounds in carrying out the pro-  
12 gram;”;

13 (6) in paragraph (5)—

14 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking  
15 “RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING” and in-  
16 serting “RECORDKEEPING, REPORTING, AND  
17 EVALUATION”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

19 (i) in clause (i), by striking “and” at  
20 the end;

21 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking the pe-  
22 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

23 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
24 lowing:

1 “(iii) the challenges and opportunities  
2 presented by the program in the State.”;  
3 and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(C) PROGRAM EVALUATION.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2  
7 years after the date of enactment of this  
8 subparagraph, the Secretary shall evaluate  
9 the impact of the program, including with  
10 respect to—

11 “(I) the quantity and cost of  
12 each type of unprocessed fruit and  
13 vegetable procured by each State  
14 under the program;

15 “(II) the benefit of the procured  
16 unprocessed fruits and vegetables to  
17 school food service in each State, in-  
18 cluding the benefit to meeting school  
19 meal requirements;

20 “(III) the economic impact of the  
21 program on agricultural producers in  
22 the State;

23 “(IV) the economic, geographic,  
24 social, and administrative barriers to  
25 participation, including the reimburse-

1                   ment process, experienced by agricul-  
2                   tural producers and school food au-  
3                   thorities; and

4                   “(V) eligibility requirements for  
5                   agricultural producers, including any  
6                   barriers to becoming approved ven-  
7                   dors.

8                   “(ii) REPORT.—Not later than 4  
9                   years after the date of enactment of this  
10                  subparagraph, the Secretary shall submit  
11                  to the Committee on Agriculture of the  
12                  House of Representatives and the Com-  
13                  mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-  
14                  estry of the Senate a report that describes  
15                  the results of the evaluation conducted  
16                  under clause (i) and an analysis of that  
17                  evaluation.”; and

18                  (7) by adding at the end the following:

19                  “(6) FUNDING.—

20                         “(A) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is ap-  
21                         propriated to carry out this subsection  
22                         \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024  
23                         through 2028.

24                         “(B) RESERVATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE  
25                         COSTS; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

1           “(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds ap-  
2           propriated under subparagraph (A) for  
3           each fiscal year, \$10,000,000 shall be re-  
4           served for States selected under the pro-  
5           gram under paragraph (1) to carry out the  
6           activities described in clause (ii)(I).

7           “(ii) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS; TECH-  
8           NICAL ASSISTANCE.—

9                   “(I) IN GENERAL.—The funds  
10                  reserved under clause (i) shall be  
11                  used—

12                           “(aa) for the administrative  
13                           costs of carrying out the pro-  
14                           gram, including costs of satis-  
15                           fying record keeping and report-  
16                           ing requirements;

17                           “(bb) to coordinate among  
18                           or share with agencies and de-  
19                           partments involved in carrying  
20                           out the program in the State;  
21                           and

22                           “(cc) to provide technical as-  
23                           sistance and outreach to—

1                   “(AA) vendors to be-  
2                   come certified to participate  
3                   in the program; and

4                   “(BB) school food au-  
5                   thorities, regional food hubs,  
6                   State and local agencies, In-  
7                   dian Tribal organizations,  
8                   agricultural producers, so-  
9                   cially disadvantaged farm-  
10                  ers, and other entities to  
11                  participate in the program.

12                  “(II) MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.—Of  
13                  the funds reserved under clause (i),  
14                  each State selected under paragraph  
15                  (3)(A) shall receive not less than  
16                  \$300,000 for each fiscal year during  
17                  which the State participates in the  
18                  program.

19                  “(C) RESERVATION FOR TECHNICAL AS-  
20                  SISTANCE TO NONPARTICIPATING STATES.—Of  
21                  the funds appropriated under subparagraph (A)  
22                  for each fiscal year, \$1,000,000 shall be re-  
23                  served—

