

1 Supervisor Eddie Cullen, Chairperson,
2 From the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, reporting on:

3
4 File No. 16-430

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6 (ITEM) A resolution by Supervisors West, Nicholson, Sartori, and Cullen,
7 opposing the Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016 (H.R. 5003) and
8 urging the United States Congress to expand access to nutritious meals to end child
9 hunger in America, by recommending adoption of the following:

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11 **A RESOLUTION**

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13 WHEREAS, the Child Nutrition and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
14 Reauthorization Act (Child Nutrition Act) authorizes all of the Federal school meal and
15 child nutrition programs, including the School Breakfast, National School Lunch, Child
16 and Adult Care Food, Summer Food Service, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Programs,
17 and WIC; and

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19 WHEREAS, although the Child Nutrition Act is permanently authorized,
20 Congress must review the child nutrition programs through the reauthorization process
21 every five years; and

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23 WHEREAS, the reauthorization process allows Congress to debate new funding
24 levels, find ways to strengthen and improve programs, and develop new policies to
25 make sure children have access to healthy, nutritious food; and

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27 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives has developed its recommendations
28 for reauthorization in the Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016 (the Act),
29 and released it from committee on May 18, 2016; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), a national non-profit
32 organization working to address hunger, has released a statement opposing the Act
33 because provisions of the bill would:

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- 36 • Significantly weaken the Community Eligibility Provision affecting the eligibility of
 - 37 7,000-18,000 high-poverty schools currently in the program, and another
 - 38 11,000 schools that qualify, but are not yet in the program
 - 39 • Increase verification requirements, causing eligible students to lose access to
 - 40 free or reduced-priced meals
 - 41 • Interfere with school districts' ability to conduct effective outreach to enroll
 - 42 families eligible for free and reduced-price meals
 - 43 • Neglect to meet the needs of children in aftercare for extended hours by taking
 - 44 away the option for an evening snack
 - 45 • Fail to address shortfalls in the summer food program
 - 46 • Fail to take the opportunity to expand access to the WIC program

- 47 • Significantly curtail United States Department of Agriculture's autonomy to
- 48 promote child nutrition programs
- 49 • Significantly weaken evidence-based school nutrition standards for meals
- 50 • Diminish new rules around snacks and beverages

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54 WHEREAS, the First Focus Campaign for Children, a non-profit bipartisan
55 children's advocacy organization, opposes the Act because it puts many essential
56 children's food programs at risk and reduces nutritional standards; and

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58 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is also voicing
59 its opposition to the Act due to the rollbacks of nutrition standards; and

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61 WHEREAS, an analysis from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a
62 nonpartisan research and policy institute with a focus on how budget choices affect low-
63 income Americans, reports that the Act could increase food insecurity in high-poverty
64 neighborhoods; and

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66 WHEREAS, FRAC noted in a letter dated May 17, 2016, and signed by over 750
67 national, state, and local organizations, that the Act will have a disproportionate impact
68 on the most vulnerable families, such as those who are homeless, migrant, immigrant,
69 or have limited English proficiency; and

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71 WHEREAS, the Hunger Task Force reports that the Community Eligibility
72 Provision is working for Milwaukee County (the County), and that Milwaukee Public
73 Schools reported 10,000 more meals served every day during the 2014-15 school year
74 and that the West Allis/West Milwaukee School District doubled their breakfast
75 participation; and

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77 WHEREAS, the County has an interest in reducing hunger and improving the
78 health and academic outcomes of its most vulnerable children; and

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80 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
81 September 16, 2016, recommended adoption of this resolution (vote 3-0-1); now,
82 therefore,

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84 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County (the County) opposes the Improving Child
85 Nutrition and Education Act of 2016 (H.R. 5003) in its current form because it reduces
86 child nutrition programs, increases food insecurity among children, and harms
87 children's health and academic success; and

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89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County urges the United States Congress to
90 legislate improvements to the child nutrition program that will expand access to
91 nutritious meals, which supports children's development, health, and academic
92 performance; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon adoption, the County Office of Government Affairs is authorized and directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Wisconsin Congressional delegation.

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