

---

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Senator Melissa Hurtado, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

---

**Bill No:** AJR 6 **Hearing Date:** 7/1/25  
**Author:** Aguiar-Curry  
**Version:** 3/26/25 Introduced  
**Urgency:** **Fiscal:** No  
**Consultant:** Reichel Everhart

**Subject:** Child nutrition: federal programs: funding cuts

### **SUMMARY:**

This resolution would call on the state's representatives in Congress to continue to support investments in the federal Local Food for Schools and Child Care (LFSCC) program and would call on the President of the United States to work with Congress to support family farmers who produce fresh, locally-sourced food for school meals.

### **BACKGROUND AND EXISTING LAW:**

Existing Law:

- 1) Agricultural Marketing Services Local Food for Schools and Child Care program: USDA awards funds to states for food assistance purchases of domestic local foods for distribution to schools and child care institutions. LFSCC strengthens the food system for schools and childcare institutions by helping to build a fair, competitive, and resilient local food chain, and expand local and regional markets.<sup>1</sup>

### **PROPOSED LAW:**

This resolution:

- 1) Declares the following:
  - a. Over 30 million children eat school lunch every day, nationwide;
  - b. Healthy school meals ensure children are well-nourished, which contributes to better academic achievement and school attendance rates;

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/lfs>

- c. Buying locally grown food helps Californian farmers, food producers, employees, and their families;
  - d. Farming and related industries employ more than 22.1 million people, making up over 10.4 % of employment in the United States;
  - e. For more than 60 consecutive years, California has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing more than 400 crop and livestock products and accounting for over one-third of vegetables and nearly three-quarters of the fruits and nuts produced in the United States;
  - f. California is the nation's leader in agricultural exports, shipping \$23.6 billion in food and agricultural commodities around the world in 2022, which represents a 4.4 % increase from the previous year;
  - g. The federal Local Food for Schools and Child Care (LFSCC) program was established to build a more resilient food supply chain and has assisted in connecting hundreds of California farms, schools, and food banks, leading to revenues for farmers, growers, and other food producers, while creating more jobs for food system workers.
  - h. In 2022, the United States Department of Agriculture allocated over \$23 million in LFSCC funding to the State Department of Education from the Commodity Credit Corporation, providing funds to 319 school food authorities. Those funds helped schools purchase local, regional, and state-grown food at the same time supporting local farms, enhancing access to nutritious meals, and help stabilize local food systems;
  - i. On March 7, 2025, the Trump Administration canceled over \$70 million in anticipated LFSCC program funding for the current year and canceled over \$1 billion nationally for the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program and the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program;
  - j. Research demonstrates each dollar invested in local food systems generates an additional \$2.16 in economic activity, which indicates canceling \$70 million in funding could result in an estimated loss exceeding \$150 million in economic activity statewide;
  - k. The loss of federal investments jeopardizes the economic viability of farmers and food producers in California who are relying on these institutional markets.
- 2) States the Assembly and Senate of the State of California oppose cuts to the LFSCC program.
- 3) Calls on California's congressional delegation to continue to support investments in the federal Local Food for Schools and Child Care program.

- 4) Calls on the President of the United States to work with Congress to support family farmers.

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the author:

"AJR 6 calls on the Trump Administration to restore funding for the Local Food for Schools and Child Care (LFSCC) program. LFSCC provides healthy, locally sourced meals to students while supporting small farmers and food producers. School meal programs play a vital role in ensuring California schoolchildren receive the nutrition needed to thrive academically and physically. Additionally, the LFSCC program strengthens local economies by creating opportunities for California's farmers, their workers, and California's agricultural industry as a whole. Cutting this funding threatens students' well-being, weakens local food systems, and could cause California to lose over \$150 million in economic impact. Restoring these investments is essential to protecting California's most vulnerable children, supporting family farmers, and maintaining a strong California economy. Our Congressional Delegation and the Trump Administration should do everything possible to prevent the damage from cutting this program."

The California School Employees Association wrote in support of the resolution stating:

"The LFSCC program provides federal funding to school food authorities to help increase local food purchases in schools and expand economic opportunities for local farmers and ranchers. The California Department of Education has received over \$23 million through this program and distributed that money to schools to purchase local foods. Eliminating this program will hurt both kids and small family farmers, forcing school food authorities to spend limited nutrition funds on cheaper alternatives that are less likely to be locally sourced."

**ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:**

None received.

**COMMENTS:**

The LFSCC program, among other things, helps states address supply chain disruptions and support local and regional food systems. In December, 2021, LFSCC was part of several COVID relief programs and provided \$200 million in

non-competitive grant funding to state agencies through cooperative agreements for the purchase of local, unprocessed or minimally processed foods from farmers, ranchers, and small businesses to distribute to schools that participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs.

In October, 2024, USDA announced it would provide \$660 million for LFSCC to continue providing these services and add childcare. However, in March 2025, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service terminated this second round of funding with a 60-day notice that cooperative agreements would be ended because the program "no longer effectuates agency priorities."<sup>2</sup>

**PRIOR ACTIONS:**

Assembly Floor:	77 - 0
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	
Assembly Agriculture Committee:	8 - 0

**SUPPORT:**

California School Boards Association  
California School Employees Association

**-- END --**

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.farmtoschool.org/news-and-articles/action-alert-usda-terminates-660m-program-for-local-food-in-schools-and-child-care>