



Close the Child Hunger Gap: Support the Stop Child Summer Hunger Act of 2015 (S. 1539/H.R. 2715)

Summer meal programs connect low-income children with meals during the summer months. Still, for every 6 low-income children who get a lunch at school every day, only 1 also receives meals during the summer.

Too many families lack access to meals provided by summer feeding programs for reasons such as lack of transportation. In some areas, summer meal sites are not available because of geographical limitations. Additionally, according to a survey by Share Our Strength, 80 percent of children are home during the summer and have difficulty getting to summer meals sites.¹

The Stop Child Summer Hunger Act of 2015 (S. 1539/H.R. 2715) was introduced by U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and U.S. Rep. Susan Davis (D-Calif.). This bill expands access to food during the summer months by:

- 1. Providing Summer EBT cards to low-income families with children.** Families could use their Summer EBT (electronic benefit transfer) card, which is similar to a debit card, at participating food retail or grocery stores to purchase groceries during the summer months. Households with one or more children that are eligible for free- or reduced-price school breakfast or lunch would qualify for the Summer EBT program. EBT cards would be provided at the end of the academic school year to ensure there are no missed meals.
- 2. Loading Summer EBT cards with \$150 per eligible child.** Many low-income families have reported spending more on food during the summer, an average of \$316 per month.²



Joseph Moller/Bread for the World

- 3. Building on existing Summer EBT demonstration projects.** The Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (SEBTC) demonstration has shown that allotting even \$60 per child per month can reduce the most severe forms of food insecurity by about one-third.³

The Stop Child Summer Hunger Act would ensure that children who would otherwise not have access to nutritious summer meals do not go hungry during the summer months.

Endnotes

¹ Share Our Strength, Center for Best Practices. National Summer Meals Survey Major Findings. <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/sites/default/files/resources/National%20Summer%20Meals%20Survey%20Major%20Findings.pdf>

² Ibid.

³ USDA Explores Cost Effective Ways to Improve Summer Food Access for Kids. November 14, 2014. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/2014/fns-001114>