

## HR 5215

Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2016

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Agriculture and Food

**Introduced:** May 12, 2016

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition. (May 20, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5215>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** NC • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Plaskett, Stacey E. [D-VI-At Large]	D · VI		May 12, 2016
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		May 12, 2016
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		May 12, 2016
Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [D-OH-11]	D · OH		May 12, 2016
Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		May 12, 2016
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		May 12, 2016
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		May 12, 2016
Rep. Murphy, Patrick [D-FL-18]	D · FL		May 12, 2016
Rep. Hinojosa, Ruben [D-TX-15]	D · TX		May 24, 2016
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		May 24, 2016
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Sep 9, 2016

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	May 20, 2016

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Agriculture and Food

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 3657	Related bill	<b>Oct 15, 2015:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition.
114 HR 1025	Related bill	<b>Mar 9, 2015:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition.

## **Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2016**

This bill amends the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to revise the requirements for calculating Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program) benefits.

The bill increases the minimum SNAP benefit and requires benefits to be calculated using a low-cost food plan. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) must determine the requirements for the low-cost food plan, which is the diet required to feed a family of four, consisting of:

- a man and a woman 19-50 years of age,
- a child 6-8 years of age, and
- a child 9-11 years of age.

USDA must make adjustments to the plan to account for household size, changes in the cost of the diet, and the costs of food in specified areas.

The bill revises the amounts authorized for nutrition assistance block grants for Puerto Rico and American Samoa and requires the amounts to be modified based on adjustments to the low-cost food plan.

The bill modifies the requirements for calculating household income to determine SNAP eligibility by: (1) authorizing a standard medical expense deduction for households containing an elderly or disabled member, and (2) eliminating the cap on the deduction for excess shelter expenses.

The bill exempts from SNAP work requirements able-bodied adults without dependents who are not offered a position in a SNAP Employment and Training Program.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 20, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition.
- **May 12, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **May 12, 2016:** Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.