

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6725

To provide Federal funding for targeted purchases to buy food from producers who rely on local agricultural food markets affected by COVID–19, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2020

Ms. SCHRIER (for herself, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. DELBENE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To provide Federal funding for targeted purchases to buy food from producers who rely on local agricultural food markets affected by COVID–19, 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 “Farmers Feeding  
5 Families Coronavirus Response Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TARGETED PURCHASES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall  
8 use not less than \$300,000,000 of the funds available  
9 under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C.

1 612c), to purchase qualified agricultural products to pro-  
2 vide to food assistance programs, including the emergency  
3 food assistance program under the Emergency Food As-  
4 sistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.), of which  
5 the Secretary shall utilize—

6 (1) not less than \$150,000,000 to purchase spe-  
7 cialty crops;

8 (2) not less than \$75,000,000 to purchase  
9 dairy; and

10 (3) not less than \$75,000,000 to purchase meat  
11 and poultry products.

12 (b) QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT DE-  
13 FINED.—In this section, the term “qualified agricultural  
14 product” means a specialty crop, dairy, meat, or poultry  
15 product—

16 (1) that was packaged, marketed, intended to  
17 be harvested, or harvested for sale—

18 (A) to commercial or food service indus-  
19 tries; or

20 (B) through direct-to-consumer, direct-to-  
21 institution, direct-to-retail, or direct-to-res-  
22 taurant-or-store marketing channels, including  
23 local and regional food enterprises like food  
24 hubs, agricultural cooperatives and producer as-  
25 sociations; and

1           (2) for which decreased demand exists for such  
2           a product due to the COVID–19 outbreak.

3           (c) DIRECT MARKET PRODUCTS.—Of the amounts in  
4           subsection (a), to the maximum extent practicable, the  
5           Secretary of Agriculture shall use not less than 10 percent  
6           to purchase qualified agricultural products that would oth-  
7           erwise have been sold through direct-to-consumer, direct-  
8           to-institution, direct-to-retail, or direct-to-restaurant mar-  
9           keting channels.

10          (d) STATE PURCHASING FUNDS.—

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the amounts  
12           used under subsection (a), the Secretary of Agri-  
13           culture shall use not less than \$200,000,000 of the  
14           funds available under section 32 of the Act of Au-  
15           gust 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), to be apportioned  
16           among the States for the purpose of procuring addi-  
17           tional food products to support food assistance pro-  
18           grams within each State.

19           (2) AMOUNT AVAILABLE.—The Secretary shall  
20           allocate the amounts made available under para-  
21           graph (1) to each State in the amount proportionate  
22           to the share such State received under the formula  
23           under section 251.3(h) of title 7, Code of Federal  
24           Regulations, for such fiscal year 2020.

1           (3) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds available under  
2       this subsection shall be transferred to the State  
3       agency designated as responsible for distributing  
4       commodities pursuant to a State plan under the  
5       emergency food assistance program under the Emer-  
6       gency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501  
7       et seq.). The distributed funds may only be used  
8       to—

9           (A) purchase qualified agricultural prod-  
10       ucts to be donated to food assistance programs  
11       within the State or transferred directly to one  
12       or more eligible recipient agencies (as defined in  
13       section 201A of the Emergency Food Assist-  
14       ance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501)) for such  
15       procurement;

16          (B) purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire  
17       vehicles, including refrigerated vehicles, or other  
18       equipment to carry out activities related to pro-  
19       curement and distribution of qualified agricul-  
20       tural products;

21          (C) reimburse travel costs related to pro-  
22       curement of qualified agricultural products at  
23       the per mile rate established by the Commis-  
24       sioner of the Internal Revenue Service; and

1 (D) reimburse costs related to preparing,  
2 storing, and transporting qualified agricultural  
3 products, including transportation to or be-  
4 tween recipient agencies, as well as delivery to  
5 end-consumers.

6 (4) DIRECT MARKET SUPPORT IN-STATE.—  
7 Each State shall, to the maximum extent prac-  
8 ticable, use not less than 10 percent of the amounts  
9 allocated to such State under paragraph (2) to pur-  
10 chase crops and products that would otherwise have  
11 been sold through direct-to-consumer, direct-to-insti-  
12 tution, direct-to-retail, or direct-to-restaurant mar-  
13 keting channels.

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