

1 State of Arkansas  
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H.R. 1033

4 By: Representative McGinnis

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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

8 REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND  
9 FAMILIES TO ENSURE THAT A COMPREHENSIVE CHILD AND  
10 ADOLESCENT NUTRITION POLICY BE DEVELOPED FOR THE STATE OF  
11 ARKANSAS.

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### Subtitle

14 REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS ADVOCATES FOR  
15 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO ENSURE THAT A  
16 COMPREHENSIVE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT  
17 NUTRITION POLICY BE DEVELOPED FOR THE  
18 STATE OF ARKANSAS.

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20 WHEREAS, nutrition and food security are critical to childrens growth,  
21 development, and readiness to learn; and

22 WHEREAS, healthy eating patterns in childhood and adolescence promote  
23 optimal childhood health, growth, and intellectual development; prevent  
24 immediate health problems, such as iron deficiency anemia, obesity, eating  
25 disorders, and dental caries; and may prevent long term health problems, such  
26 as coronary heart disease, cancer, and strokes; and

27 WHEREAS, children who are malnourished or hungry are unable to function  
28 optimally in the classroom and are at risk of lower achievement in school; and

29 WHEREAS, the resultant diminished future capacity of and opportunities  
30 for these children will affect the states social and economic future; and

31 WHEREAS, the legislature finds that the state has an interest in helping  
32 children have access to nutritious food and encouragement to develop healthy  
33 eating behaviors, and to support this interest passed Arkansas Code § 6-18-  
34 705(1991) and House Resolution 1020 and House Resolution 1023 of 1995; and

35 WHEREAS, the programs essential to maximizing nutrition assistance and  
36 education for children and adolescents in the State of Arkansas are

1 administered by a variety of state agencies and many community-based  
2 organizations, but there is no structure to promote coordination, cooperation,  
3 and resource development of goals and standards; and

4 WHEREAS, malnutrition and hunger are a threat to Arkansas children and  
5 to the future of its citizenry; and

6 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families has a  
7 distinguished record of building consensus among a wide variety of stakeholder  
8 on issues that affect childrens health and education;

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11 NOW THEREFORE,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FIRST GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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15 THAT the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families is requested to  
16 ensure that a comprehensive child and adolescent nutrition policy for the  
17 State of Arkansas be developed according to the following guidelines:

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19 (1) Agencies and organizations should be invited to participate in  
20 developing this policy. This should include: the Legislature; the Governor;  
21 the Office of the Directors of the Departments of Health, Education, and Human  
22 Services; county and city officials; the Governors Family Partnership  
23 Council; the Arkansas Dietetic Association; the Arkansas School Food Service  
24 Association; the Arkansas Association of School Administrators; the Arkansas  
25 Education Association; the Arkansas Childrens Hospital; Arkansas in Coalition  
26 Against Hunger; Cooperative Extension Service; University of Arkansas;  
27 Arkansas Farm Bureau, parent-teacher associations; Head Start and other early  
28 childhood organizations; and other relevant organizations. Representation  
29 should also be assured for parents, teachers, school nurses, principals of  
30 elementary and secondary schools; superintendents of school districts,  
31 directors of educational service cooperatives, administrators and nutrition  
32 educators in county health and human service offices.

33 (2) The issues to be addressed include Dietary Guidelines for  
34 Americans, nutrition education, coordination of dietary and food selection  
35 standards across programs, cultural aspects of eating, training of providers

1 and educators, and public awareness.

2 (3) The policy recommendations should rely on current funding sources,  
3 resource coordination, and total funding needs.

4 (4) The policy should focus on programs for children from birth through  
5 twelfth grade including educational settings, public health programs, human  
6 services programs, and community programs.

7 (5) A continuing review process should be incorporated into the policy.

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

10 THAT the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families will report to the  
11 legislature by December 15, 1997, outlining progress and providing  
12 recommendations for further action; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

14 THAT a copy of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Speaker  
15 of the House to the Executive Director of the Arkansas Advocates for Children  
16 and Families and the Office of Governor.

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