

By: Senator(s) Robertson, Moffatt, Butler,
Chaney, Harden, Jackson (11th), Little,
White, Wilemon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 613

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT
2 OF EDUCATION TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND
3 CITY, COUNTY AND OTHER LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO DEVELOP SCHOOL
4 MENUS CONTAINING FOODS THAT WILL FOSTER LIFELONG HEALTHY EATING
5 HABITS AND PARTICULARLY FOODS CONTAINING MARINE-SOURCE LONG CHAIN
6 OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS.

7 WHEREAS, Omega-3 is the term used by scientists to define one
8 "family" of fatty acids known as "good fats" for their health
9 benefits and these fatty acids can be found in fish and marine
10 sources; and

11 WHEREAS, studies suggest that Omega-3 fatty acids may improve
12 memory, reduce symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis and other
13 autoimmune diseases and help reduce the risk of certain cancers
14 and kidney disorders; and

15 WHEREAS, learning disabilities and behavioral disorders have
16 been linked to low serum levels of Omega-3 fatty acids; and

17 WHEREAS, the American Heart Association states that Omega-3
18 fatty acids have been shown in epidemiological and clinical trials
19 to reduce the incidence of cardiovascular disease; and

20 WHEREAS, the vascular injury that leads to death begins in
21 childhood, in fact, one in ten fifteen to nineteen-year-olds
22 already has narrowing and hardening of the coronary arteries due
23 to food imbalances, and Mississippi's annual cost of
24 cardiovascular disease is approximately Three Billion Seven
25 Hundred Million Dollars; and

26 WHEREAS, the overweight adolescents are much more likely to
27 become overweight adults with an increased risk of developing
28 heart disease and stroke, diabetes, gallbladder disease, arthritis
29 and endometrial, breast, prostate and colon cancer; and

30 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
31 has determined that the diet of only two percent of school-aged
32 children meets the Food Guide Pyramid recommendations for all five
33 major food groups; and

34 WHEREAS, the Administrator of the White House Office of
35 Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory
36 Affairs has strongly urged the USDA and the United States
37 Department of Health and Human Services to consider revising the
38 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Food Guide Pyramid to
39 emphasize the benefits of reducing foods high in trans-fatty acids
40 and increasing consumption of foods rich in Omega-3 fatty acids;
41 and

42 WHEREAS, the USDA has testified before Congress that it has
43 worked with schools to more closely align the meals they serve
44 with dietary guidelines and that schools will earn USDA incentives
45 if they design nutritional programs that, among other factors,
46 serve meals that meet federal nutrition standards; and

47 WHEREAS, it is vital that the State Department of Education
48 explore all opportunities and options relative to increasing the
49 quantity of foods rich in marine-source long chain Omega-3 fatty
50 acids on school menus in order to promote the optimal health of
51 students in Mississippi schools: and

52 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
53 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
54 we do hereby request the Mississippi State Department of Education
55 to work cooperatively with the federal government and city, county
56 and other local school systems to develop school menus containing
57 foods that are appealing to children and high in nutrition and
58 that will foster lifelong healthy eating patterns and particularly
59 foods containing marine-source long chain Omega-3 fatty acids.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
61 furnished to the State Department of Education, the Mississippi

62 Division of School Lunch, the Mississippi Office of Innovation and
63 School Improvement and to members of the Capitol Press Corps.