

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Lee, Moore, McDermott, Cicilline, and Jeffries

**Sense of the House on a National Strategy to Eradicate Poverty and Increase Opportunity**

1. At the end of Title 7, add the following:

“Sense of the House on a National Strategy to Eradicate Poverty and Increase Opportunity

(a) The House finds that---

- (1) The prospect of upward mobility should be the right of every American.
- (2) Targeted, means-tested federal programs help lift millions of Americans out of poverty.
- (3) These programs empower their beneficiaries through job training, educational assistance, adequate food, housing, and healthcare to rise to the middle class.
- (4) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program alone lifts over 4 million people out of poverty, including over 2 million children. It is particularly effective in keeping children – over 1 million -- out of deep poverty (below half the poverty line). School breakfast and lunch programs help keep children ready to learn, allowing them to reach their full potential.
- (5) The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit together lift over 9 million people, including nearly 5 million children, out of poverty. President Ronald Reagan proposed a major EITC expansion in 1985 and then referred to the 1986 Tax Reform Act, which included the expansion, as “the best antipoverty, the best pro-family, the best job creation measure to come out of Congress.

(b) It is the Sense of the House of Representatives that we should support the goal of developing a national strategy to eliminate poverty, with the initial goal of cutting poverty in half in ten years, and to extend equitable access to economic opportunity to all Americans.

As Congress works to protect low income and middle class Americans from the negative impacts of budget cuts and deficit reductions on the critical domestic programs that millions of American families rely on to get by; priority must be given to creating

a national strategy on poverty to maximize the impact of anti-poverty programs across federal state and local governments. Improving the effective coordination and oversight across agencies and implementing a true unity of programs under a "whole of government" approach to shared goals and client based outcomes will help to streamline access, improve service delivery, and will strengthen and extend the reach of every federal dollar to fight poverty. The plan must include provisions that work to remove the barriers and obstacles that prevent the most vulnerable Americans from taking advantage of economic and educational opportunities and moving up the ladder of opportunity to join the middle class and reach for the American Dream.”

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution includes a Sense of the House calling for development of a National Strategy to eliminate poverty. The plan would implement a “whole of government” approach and remove the barriers and obstacles that prevent the most vulnerable Americans from taking advantage of opportunities and moving to join the middle class and reach for the American Dream.