

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Children and Families

Senate Bill 37

Relating to: federal waivers under the food stamp program.

By Senators George, Moore, Darling, Jauch, Risser, Erpenbach and Rosenzweig; cosponsored by Representatives Black, Young, Pocan, Albers, La Fave, Gronemus, J. Lehman, Riley and Morris-Tatum.

February 8, 2000 Referred to committee on Children and Families.

March 30, 2000 **Failed to concur in pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1.**

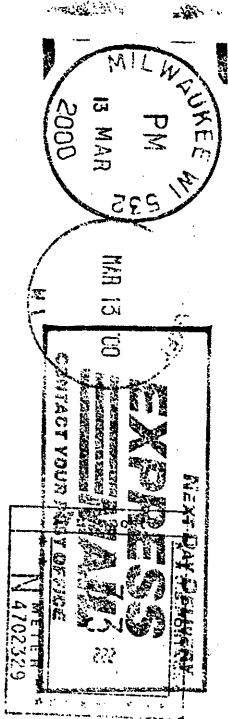
Janine Hale
Committee Clerk



**HUNGER
T A S K
FORCE**
of Milwaukee
SINCE 1974

201 S. Hawley Court
Milwaukee, WI 53214

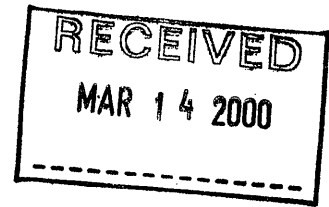
*Representative Bonnie Ludwig
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952*



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March 8, 2000

**HUNGER
TASK
FORCE**
of Milwaukee
SINCE 1974

Representative Bonnie Ladwig
Chair, Assembly Committee on Children and Families
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

Dear Chair Ladwig:

On behalf of our 83 food pantries and 40,000 individuals per month that we serve through these pantries, Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee respectfully requests that the Assembly Committee on Children and Families schedule Senate Bill 37 (SB 37).

SB 37 requires the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to request a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture which removes the requirement for individuals residing in an area with more than 10% unemployment or insufficient jobs to participate in the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program.

HTFM supports SB 37 because it would allow many individuals who, because of circumstances out of their control, have been ineligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program. These individuals are from rural and urban communities in Wisconsin, and they all have a right to participate in this program. No individual, particularly those who have low incomes, should be arbitrarily cut off from receiving nutritious food.

This bill would require the DWD to help these affected individuals by requesting a waiver on their behalf. SB 37 passed the State Senate on January 25, 2000 and includes sponsors from both parties. For these reasons, this bill warrants a public hearing by your committee.

Please consider our request for scheduling SB 37. If you have questions, please call us at 414-777-0483. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

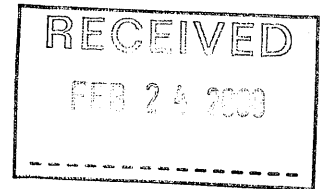
Jon Janowski
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Milwaukee, WI 53214

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February 21, 2000

Representative Bonnie Ladwig
Chair, Assembly Committee on Children & Families
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

Dear Chair Ladwig:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Grocers Association representing more than 1,500 independent grocers, retail grocery chain stores, warehouses and distributors, convenience stores, food brokers, suppliers and wholesalers, we respectfully request the Assembly Committee on Children & Families to schedule Senate Bill 37 (SB 37).

SB 37 requires the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development to request a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture which removes the requirement for individuals residing in an area with more than 10% unemployment or insufficient jobs to participate in the food stamp employment and training program.

The reason grocers support this legislation is simple: **we believe in providing food for every individual.** If an individual is unable to purchase food for any reason, whether it is a physical or financial limitation, we support the government stepping in to fill in the gap.

SB 37 does just that. It fills in the gap for individuals ineligible to participate in the food stamp program due to circumstances out of their control by requiring Wisconsin's DWD to remedy the situation by requesting a waiver on behalf of these individuals.

This bill has bi-partisan support from both houses and was passed by the state senate on January 25, 2000. For these reasons alone, this legislation warrants a fair hearing by your committee.

Please consider our request for scheduling SB 37. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Brandon Scholz
President

Michelle Kussow
Mgr. of Government Affairs

3/1 cld Michelle & ephnd