Feeding Homeless Youth during COVID-19 Act

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**Policy Brief Summary**

Feeding Homeless Youth during COVID-19 Act is a bill sponsored by Pramila Jayapal who is the representative for Washington’s seventh congressional district. Introduced on September 29, 2020, the bill directs the department of agriculture to compensate institutions that offer emergency shelter for meals and supplements provided under the Child and Adult Care Food Program during the pandemic (GovTrack.us. 2021). It also seeks to offer public health emergency services to people below 18 years and those receiving assistance from these shelters. Basically, the current laws articulate that people above the age of 18 years are not eligible to participate in this program. As such, the bill sought to increase access to free meals for young adults living in emergency shelters. Additionally, the bill seeks to address the issue of homelessness by pushing for the provision of housing for all so as to ensure democratic participation for all.

**Actions Taken on the Bill**

On September 29, 2020, the earlier version of the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. The bill had not been passed before the end of the 116th congress and it was reintroduced on February 18, 2021 in the 117th congress. It was enacted via other measures as its provisions were incorporated into the H.R. 1319: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 which was signed by the president on March 11, 2021 hence ending further activities on the bill (GovTrack.us. 2021).

**Social problem intended to address**

The Feeding Homeless Youth during COVID-19 Act sought to address the social problem of homelessness. It intended to expand the Child and Adult Care Food Program’s age of eligibility from 18 to 25 years (GovTrack.us. 2021). Through this, it sought to ensure that young adults experiencing homelessness get access to free meals offered in emergency shelters throughout the period of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

**Human rights**

Feeding Homeless Youth during COVID-19 Act bill pertains to human rights and social justice. Food and housing is a fundamental human right. Article 25 of the United Nations universal declaration of human rights holds that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequately. This covers issues such as food, clothing, housing, medical care, security, and social services. As such, since Feeding Homeless Youth during COVID-19 Act sought to provide increased access to food to the homeless young adults, it greatly touches on human rights and social justice (GovTrack.us. 2021).

**Grand challenges pertaining the problem**

The bill pertains to Ending Homeless as a grand challenge for social work. By expanding the eligibility age for the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the bill enhances easier mitigation of homelessness by ensuring that the young adults access the emergency shelters and get the meals they need. Also, it touches on eradicating social isolation and healthy development for all youth.

**References**

GovTrack.us. (2021). H.R. 8423 — 116th Congress: Feeding Homeless Youth During COVID–19 Act. Retrieved from: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr8423>

GovTrack.us. (2021). H.R. 1139 — 117th Congress: Feeding Homeless Youth During COVID–19 Act. Retrieved from <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/117/hr1139>