

**\* INFORMATION ON BACKGROUND ONLY \***

**U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff's *Fresh Food Act of 2024***

**The Problem:**

- Many Americans face challenges to accessing affordable, healthy food to feed their families. According to a 2019 [report](#) from USDA's Economic Research Service, over 39 million Americans live in areas with limited access to affordable and nutritious food.
  - In Georgia, over 50% of the state's census tracts are considered "low-income" or "low-access," which generally means at least 33% or more of the population live more than 1 mile from a food store in urban areas or more than 10 miles in rural areas.
- A separate USDA study on food insecurity, chronic disease, and health among working-age adults [reported](#) that food insecurity is associated with higher probabilities of chronic diseases including hypertension, coronary heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and kidney disease which underscores the importance of ensuring availability of fresh foods in all communities.

**The Solution:**

- Sen. Ossoff's *Fresh Food Act of 2024* aims to help families access fresh, healthy food while also helping local farmers and growers sell their products to local grocery stores.
- Sen. Ossoff's bill would provide tax benefits for grocery stores operating in underserved areas, including an increased Work Opportunity Tax Credit to invest in job seekers facing barriers to employment, and a new business tax credit based on the wholesale cost of fresh fruits, vegetables, meat and dairy sold during the year.
- The bill also includes a bonus incentive for grocers who source locally from local farmers and growers.

**How Sen. Ossoff's *Fresh Food Act of 2024* Works:**

- The new business tax credit will be calculated as a percentage of costs of fresh food sold during the tax year, with an additional 5% for the local sourcing bonus:

<b>Year 1 Business Tax Credit</b>	<b>Year 2 Business Tax Credit</b>	<b>Year 3 Business Tax Credit</b>
30% of costs of fresh food sold	28% of costs of fresh food sold	26% of costs of fresh food sold
35% if fresh food is sourced from local farmers	33% if fresh food is sourced from local farmers	31% if fresh food is sourced from local farmers

To qualify for Sen. Ossoff's legislation, grocery store buildings must be fewer than 80,000 square feet and used for retail; at least 25% of square feet must be used for selling fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, and dairy; and at least 25% of gross sales must be attributable to fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, and dairy.

Underserved areas are rural areas or areas where the population census tracts meet all the following criteria:

- Less than 500 people or 33% of the population reside more than 1 mile from a grocery store in a metropolitan area or 10 miles from a grocery store in a non-metropolitan area
- Poverty rate is at least 20%
- Median family income:
  - Does not exceed 80% of statewide median family income for non-metropolitan areas
  - Does not exceed 80% of statewide median family income or the metropolitan area median family income for metropolitan area