

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 422

Concerning the importance of the distribution of food in schools to hungry or malnourished children around the world.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2004

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. LEE, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. OTTER, Mr. KIND, Mr. LEACH, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. MOORE, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concerning the importance of the distribution of food in schools to hungry or malnourished children around the world.

Whereas there are more than 300,000,000 chronically hungry and malnourished children in the world;

Whereas more than half of these children go to school on an empty stomach, and almost as many do not attend school at all, but might if food were available;

Whereas the distribution of food in schools is one of the simplest and most effective strategies to fight hunger and malnourishment among children;

Whereas, when school meals are offered to hungry or malnourished children, attendance rates increase significantly, particularly for girls;

Whereas the distribution of food in schools encourages better school attendance, thereby improving literacy rates and fighting poverty;

Whereas improvement in the education of girls is one of the most important factors in reducing child malnutrition in developing countries;

Whereas girls who attend schools tend to marry later in life and have fewer children, thereby helping them escape a life of poverty;

Whereas, by improving literacy rates and increasing job opportunities, education addresses several of the root causes of terrorism;

Whereas the distribution of food in schools increases attendance of children who might otherwise be susceptible to recruitment by groups that offer them food in return for their attendance at extremist schools or participation in terrorist training camps;

Whereas the Global Food for Education Initiative pilot program, established in 2001, donated surplus United States agricultural commodities to the United Nations World Food Program and other recipients for distribution to nearly 7,000,000 hungry and malnourished children in 38 countries;

Whereas a recent Department of Agriculture evaluation found that the pilot program created measurable improvements in school attendance (particularly for girls), increased local employment and economic activity, produced greater involvement in local infrastructure and

community improvement projects, and increased participation by parents in the schools and the education of their children;

Whereas the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 replaced the pilot program with the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, which was named after former Senators McGovern and Dole for their distinguished work to eradicate hunger and poverty around the world; and

Whereas the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program provides food to nearly 2,000,000 hungry or malnourished children in 28 countries: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) expresses its grave concern about the con-
4 tinuing problem of hunger and the desperate need to
5 feed hungry and malnourished children around the
6 world;

7 (2) recognizes that the global distribution of
8 food in schools to children around the world in-
9 creases attendance, particularly for girls, and im-
10 proves literacy rates and increases job opportunities,
11 thereby helping to fight poverty;

12 (3) recognizes that education of children around
13 the world addresses several of the root causes of
14 international terrorism;

1 (4) recognizes that the world will be safer and
2 more promising for children as a result of better
3 school attendance;

4 (5) expresses its gratitude to former Senators
5 George McGovern and Robert Dole for supporting
6 the distribution of food in schools around the world
7 to children and for working to eradicate hunger and
8 poverty around the world;

9 (6) commends the Department of Agriculture,
10 the Agency for International Development, the De-
11 partment of State, the United Nations World Food
12 Program, private voluntary organizations, non-gov-
13 ernmental organizations, and cooperatives for facili-
14 tating the distribution of food in schools around the
15 world;

16 (7) expresses its continued support for the dis-
17 tribution of food in schools around the world;

18 (8) supports expansion of the George McGov-
19 ern-Robert Dole International Food for Education
20 and Child Nutrition Program; and

21 (9) requests the President to work with the
22 United Nations and its member states to expand
23 international contributions for the distribution of
24 food in schools around the world.

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