

other activities terminated pursuant to title VI shall remain available (for the duration of their period of availability) for necessary expenses in connection with the termination and resolution of such functions and activities subject to the submission of a plan to House and Senate appropriators in accordance with Public Law 105-277 (Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 1999).

Sec. 649. Definitions. *Function* includes any duty, obligation, power, authority, responsibility, right, privilege, activity, or program.

Office includes any office, administration, agency, bureau, institute, council, unit, organizational entity, or component thereof.

FOOD STAMP OUTREACH AND RESEARCH FOR KIDS ACT OF 1999 (FORK) WILL KEEP CHILDREN FROM GOING HUNGRY

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, today Representative SANDER LEVIN and I are introducing legislation to make sure that children in America do not go hungry. In 1998, over 14 million children lived in households that couldn't always afford to buy food. That was an increase of almost 4 million children over 1997. At the same time, the number of poor children not getting Food Stamps reached its highest level in a decade. Our bill, the Food Stamp Outreach and Research for Kids Act of 1999 (FORK), would help us give children who are currently going hungry the Food Stamps they need.

Some time ago, our local food banks started telling me that the number of people coming to them for help was increasing. They were concerned that they might run out of food if the demand kept going up. When we asked them who the new people coming to the food bank were, they said they were mostly low-income working families. When the food bank screened people using the eligibility guidelines, it looked like most of the new people who came to the Food Bank should have been receiving Food Stamps but were not.

Because of those reports and others like them, SANDER LEVIN and I asked the General Accounting Office to investigate and determine whether Food Stamp-eligible families were losing benefits, the cause of any declines, and what impact declines were having on children.

GAO recently finished its investigation, which confirmed many of the anecdotal reports. While a number of people have left the Food Stamp program because of the improved economy, economic growth alone does not explain the drop in Food Stamp participation. GAO found that demand for emergency and supplemental food was increasing and that some state agencies were not following federal laws regarding Food Stamp benefits. Perhaps most disturbing of all, GAO found that almost half of the people who have lost Food Stamps since 1996 are children.

Our bill, the Food Stamp Outreach and Research for Kids Act of 1999 (FORK), is designed to address GAO's findings and recommendations.

FORK would provide grant funding to food banks, schools, health clinics, local governments, and other entities that interact with

working families. The grants would allow those organizations to develop and expand innovative approaches to Food Stamp outreach, which would help the Food and Nutrition Service enroll many of the eligible families that currently go hungry.

FORK would also require the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to conduct on-site inspections of state Food Stamp programs to identify barriers to enrollment and work with states to develop corrective action plans.

FORK would authorize FNS to conduct research which will help it improve access, formulate nutrition policy, and measure program impacts and integrity.

FORK would require the Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services to work with state Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) programs to retrain caseworkers and make sure that prospective and former TANF recipients are informed about their Food Stamp eligibility.

Finally, FORK would authorize FNS to form public-private partnerships to expand its nutrition education program.

I hope our colleagues will join us in supporting this important legislation. I do not believe that anyone in Congress ever intended for children to go hungry because their parents left welfare and went to work. Now that we know it is happening, it is our responsibility to act quickly to make the Food Stamp program work for families in need.

HONORING FORMER SECRETARY LLOYD M. BENTSEN ON THE RECEIPT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, August 11, 1999, President William Jefferson Clinton will present the Medal of Freedom to Lloyd M. Bentsen—the 69th Secretary of the Treasury, member of the Senate and House of Representatives, and candidate for Vice President of the United States.

Lloyd Bentsen was born in Mission, in Texas' Rio Grande Valley in 1921. The first of four children to Edna Ruth Colbath Bentsen and Lloyd M. Bentsen, Sr. Lloyd Bentsen grew up in the South Texas farming community, seven miles from the Mexican border. He received his B.A. and law degree from the University of Texas in 1942. With World War II underway, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. After brief service as a private in intelligence work in Brazil, he became a pilot and in early 1944 began flying combat missions in B-24's from southern Italy with the 449th Bomb Group. At age 23 he was promoted to rank of Major and given command of a squadron of 600 men.

In 18 months of combat, Bentsen flew 35 missions against highly defended targets such as the Ploesti oil fields in Romania, which were critical to the German war machine. The 15th Air Force, to which the 449th was attached, is credited with destroying all the gasoline production within its range, or about half German's fuel on the continent. Bentsen's unit also flew against communications centers, aircraft factories, and industrial targets in Ger-

many, Italy, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. Bentsen participated in bombing raids in support of the Anzio campaign, and flew against targets in preparation for the landing in southern France.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, one of the Army Air Corps' and now the Air Force's highest commendations for valor. He also was awarded the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the medal and each subsequent cluster representing specific campaigns for which he was decorated. He was promoted to colonel in the Air Force Reserve before completing his military service.

After the war, Bentsen returned to his native Rio Grande Valley where he was elected as Hidalgo County Judge in 1946 and to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 15th Congressional District in 1948. He served three terms in the House during which he cast crucial votes against the poll tax and in support of programs for returning veterans. He declined to seek reelection in 1954 and decided to begin a career in business.

For 16 years, Bentsen was a businessman in Houston. By 1970, he had become President of Lincoln Consolidated, a financial holding institution, including insurance, banking, and real estate. In this capacity, he built the first integrated hotel in Houston.

Secretary Bentsen was elected a United States Senator from Texas in 1970 and served as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee from 1987 through early 1993. He also served as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Joint Economic Committee and was a member of the Senate Armed Services, Commerce, Science and Transportation, Intelligence, and Environment and Public Works Committees. In 1988, he was the Democratic Party nominee for Vice President of the United States.

During his 23 years in the U.S. Senate, Lloyd Bentsen drafted and passed progressive and far reaching legislation. He left an indelible mark on tax, trade, health care, and transportation legislation. His greatest achievements include the passage of the landmark Employer Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), the Trade Act of 1988, Equal Opportunity Education legislation, anti-age discrimination legislation for the elderly, Medicare and Medicaid expansion—particularly benefiting indigent children. He was also a leader in establishing a more equitable funding formula for federal highways. As a result, Texas' highways are in much better shape because of his efforts.

Senator Bentsen was nominated by President Clinton to be the 69th Secretary of the Treasury. He served from January 20, 1993 until December 22, 1994.

As Secretary of the Treasury, Lloyd Bentsen was an important architect of the President's economic recovery package that has helped fuel the longest peacetime economic expansion in more than 60 years, while bringing the federal budget into balance. He also led the President's effort to pass the North American Free Trade Agreement.

On December 27, 1994 he ended his 30-plus years of public service and returned to practice law in Houston, where he now resides with his wife of 55 years, the former Beryl Ann Longino of Lufkin, Texas. While public service has been their calling, their true blessing has been their three children, Lloyd III, Lan, and Tina and their respective spouses, Gail, Adele,