



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014

No. 22

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RIBBLE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 5, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable REID J. RIBBLE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Senate passed the farm bill

conference report, something the House did almost 2 weeks ago. I want to thank my House and Senate colleagues who stood firm and voted against the conference report because of the egregious cuts to SNAP, formerly known as food stamps. I am especially proud and thankful that none of my Massachusetts colleagues voted for the bill. Unfortunately, I think many of those who voted for this bill will ultimately come to regret their vote.

Now that the fight over SNAP funding and the farm bill is over, it is time to look forward and once again refocus on how we can end hunger now. Despite the attacks on the poor that come from the Republican leadership in this Congress, there are good things that are happening among the antihunger community, and there are opportunities out there that we can take advantage of as we work to end hunger now.

Every day, millions of hungry kids are able to eat a nutritious meal because of the school lunch program. In fact, 29 million children in more than 98,000 schools and residential child care institutions participate in the school lunch program on a typical day. Nearly 20 million kids receive their lunch at either a reduced price or free.

The school lunch program is a lifeline for these kids who come from poor families. It is not their fault that their parents don't earn enough for them to put food on the table. For most of these kids, this is the only nutritious meal, and in some cases, the only meal they will eat on a weekday. That is why this program is so important.

Imagine what happens to a child who goes to school hungry. It is harder for that child to pay attention in class, leading to difficulty learning and also leading to challenges in terms of their development, mentally and physically. Kids who go without food are literally at a disadvantage to those who are eating healthy meals. They are starting from a much worse position, and it is because America decides not to help.

That is changing. Participation in the school lunch program is strong, and the good news is that participation in the school breakfast program is rising.

I want to highlight a recent report from the Food Research and Action Center, or FRAC, as they are commonly known. FRAC reports that 311,000 more kids received school breakfast than the previous year.

We all know how important breakfast is. Our parents all told us to eat a healthy breakfast so we can learn and grow. I tell my kids the same thing every day, even though they don't always pay attention. The school breakfast program is a critical part of ensuring that kids from poor families are able to start the day off right; that they don't start the school day off hungry, so they can learn properly and they can develop.

Unlike the school lunch program, where the meal is served during the school day when kids are already in school, many of these school breakfast programs take place before school starts. Because of that starting time, millions of kids don't participate in the school breakfast program. That is

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H1595