

108TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 114

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2004

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 in the education of their children;

Whereas the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–171, 116 Stat. 134) replaced the pilot program with the McGovern–Dole International

Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, which was named after former Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole for their distinguished work to eradicate hunger and poverty around the world; and

Whereas the McGovern–Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program provides food to nearly 2,000,000 hungry or malnourished children in 21 countries: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
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, improves
10 literacy rates, and increases job opportunities, there-
11 by 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;

15 (4) recognizes that the world will be safer and
16 more promising for children as a result of better
17 school attendance;

18 (5) expresses its gratitude to former Senators
19 George McGovern and Robert Dole for supporting

1 the distribution of food in schools around the world
2 to children and for working to eradicate hunger and
3 poverty around the world;

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

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

13 (8) supports expansion of the McGovern–Dole
14 International Food for Education and Child Nutri-
15 tion Program; and

16 (9) requests the President to work with the
17 United Nations and its member states to expand
18 international contributions for the distribution of
19 food in schools around the world.

Passed the Senate June 3, 2004.

Attest:

EMILY J. REYNOLDS,

Secretary.