

## KEEP KIDS FED ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2089) to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that grants provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for State veterans' cemeteries do not restrict States from authorizing the interment of certain deceased members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces in such cemeteries, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2089

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022".

## SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS.

## (a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) TEMPORARY LUNCH REIMBURSEMENT.—Each lunch served under the school lunch program authorized under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) shall receive an additional reimbursement in the amount of 40 cents.

(2) TEMPORARY BREAKFAST REIMBURSEMENT.—Each breakfast served under the school breakfast program established by section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) shall receive an additional reimbursement in the amount of 15 cents.

(3) LIMITATION.—The additional reimbursement amounts authorized under this subsection shall only be available for the school year beginning July 2022.

(4) TEMPORARY GUIDELINES.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), for the school year beginning July 2022, the income guidelines for determining eligibility for free lunch under the school lunch program authorized under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and free breakfast under the school breakfast program established by section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) shall be 185 percent of the applicable family size income levels contained in the nonfarm income poverty guidelines prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget, as adjusted annually in accordance with section 9(b)(1)(B) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1)(B)).

## (5) APPROPRIATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is appropriated, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

(B) DISBURSEMENT.—A State agency shall disburse funds made available under subparagraph (A) to school food authorities participating in the school meal programs described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) EXTENSION OF WAIVERS.—Section 2202 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (42 U.S.C. 1760 note; Public Law 116-127) is amended—

## (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "due to the COVID-19 pandemic" after "(42 U.S.C. 1760(1))";

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and" after the semicolon and inserting "or"; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(B) ensuring continuity of program operation under a qualified program.";

## (2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2); and

(B) by striking "the following:" in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that follows through "A summary" in paragraph (1) and inserting "a summary"; and

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

## "(e) SUNSET.—

"(1) NATIONWIDE WAIVERS.—The authority of the Secretary to establish or grant a waiver under subsection (a) shall expire on September 30, 2022.

"(2) WAIVER RESTRICTION.—After June 30, 2022, a waiver established or granted under subsection (a) shall only apply to schools or summer food service program food service sites—

## "(A) operating—

"(i) the qualified program described in subsection (f)(1)(D); or

"(ii) the option described in section 13(a)(8) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(8)); and

"(B) not operating the qualified program described in subsection (f)(1)(A).

## "(3) OTHER WAIVERS.—

"(A) CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM WAIVER.—The authority of the Secretary to establish or grant a waiver under subsection (b) shall expire on June 30, 2022.

"(B) MEAL PATTERN WAIVER.—The authority of the Secretary to establish or grant a waiver under subsection (c) shall expire on June 30, 2023.

"(4) LIMITATIONS.—A waiver authorized by the Secretary under this section shall not be in effect after the date on which the authority of the Secretary to establish or grant that waiver under this subsection expires."

(c) APPROPRIATION.—There are appropriated, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as are necessary to provide waivers under section 2202(a) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (42 U.S.C. 1760 note; Public Law 116-127) that apply—

(1) only during the months of May through September in 2022; and

## (2) to—

(A) the summer food service program for children under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761); or

(B) the option described in section 13(a)(8) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(8)).

(d) NATIONWIDE WAIVER FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of school year 2022-2023, the Secretary of Agriculture may establish waivers under section 12(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(1))—

## (A) on a nationwide basis; and

(B) without regard to the requirements under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of such section that a State or eligible service provider shall submit an application for a waiver request.

(2) SUNSET.—A nationwide waiver established by the Secretary of Agriculture under section 12(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(1)) pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not be in effect after June 30, 2023.

## SEC. 3. CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM.

## (a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR.—Each meal and supplement served under the program authorized by section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766) shall receive additional reimbursement in the amount of 10 cents.

(2) LIMITATION.—The additional reimbursement amount authorized under paragraph (1) shall only be available for the school year beginning July 2022.

(b) TIER DETERMINATIONS FOR 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR.—For the school year beginning July 2022, a tier II family or group day care home described in subsection (f)(3)(A)(iii) of section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766) shall be considered a tier I family or group day care home for purposes of the program authorized under that section.

(c) APPROPRIATIONS.—There are appropriated, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

## SEC. 4. RESCISSIONS AND SUNSET.

## (a) RESCISSIONS.—

## (1) USDA.—

(A) Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available to the Department of Agriculture in section 1001(a) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (7 U.S.C. 7501 note; Public Law 117-2), \$1,000,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

(B) Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available to the Department of Agriculture in section 751 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 2105), \$400,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available to the Department of Education in section 2003 of title II of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 23) and allocated to institutions of higher education as defined in section 102(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(b)), \$400,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

(3) SBA.—Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available to the Small Business Administration in section 5005 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 91) and in section 323(d)(1)(H) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 2021) to carry out section 324 of such division of such Act (15 U.S.C. 9009a), \$1,500,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

(b) ADDITIONAL RESCISSION.—Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available to the Department of Agriculture under the heading "Agricultural Programs—Office of the Secretary" in title I of division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 505), \$600,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

(c) SUNSET.—Section 756 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (7 U.S.C. 2254c), is amended by striking "for fiscal year" and all that follows through "thereafter" and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2021 and 2022".

## SEC. 5. OPERATIONALLY READY.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that technical assistance is made available to States and school food authorities for purposes of assisting parents and school leaders with respect to the transition of operating school meal programs not pursuant to a waiver under section 2(d) or section 2202 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (42 U.S.C. 1760 note; Public Law 116-127).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2089.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, S. 2089 was amended to replace the language of that bill with the language of H.R. 8150, the bipartisan and bicameral Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022, in order to send the bill to the Senate for expedited passage.

Roughly 2 years ago, our communities experienced an unprecedented surge in child hunger, spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic. Just weeks into the pandemic, more than one of every three households with children, and nearly half of all mothers with young children, struggled with food insecurity.

In response, Congress took decisive action to ensure that child nutrition programs, our best tools for addressing child hunger, could continue feeding hungry children during the pandemic.

One of the most important steps we took was providing child nutrition programs with the flexibility they needed to expand access to school meals and address the challenges of serving students who are not physically in the school buildings.

This relief made a measurable difference in our fight against child hunger. By expanding access to child nutrition programs, we allowed an additional 10 million students to receive free school meals each day. From January 2021 to April 2021, food shortages among households with children fell by more than 40 percent.

Regrettably, unless Congress acts, these key flexibilities would expire at the end of this month.

The bipartisan and bicameral Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 is likely our best and last opportunity to preserve relief for child nutrition programs. This legislation would:

Maintain school meal flexibilities that do not increase costs;

Continue flexibilities to support summer food programs this year;

Provide additional support for child and adult care feeding programs; and

Increase school meal reimbursement rates for this upcoming school year.

As we continue to recover from the pandemic, the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 would take a critical step to support child nutrition programs and prevent children from going hungry during the ongoing public health emergency. This is a step well worth taking.

I thank the ranking member of the full committee, Dr. Foxx, and Senators STABENOW and BOOZMAN for working with me on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support this bipartisan legislation that will help ensure students receive healthy school meals. Students need access to nutritious meals so that they can be their best, both in and out of the classroom. Today's bipartisan legislation does just that.

During pandemic lockdowns, school food programs were critical to those in need. These programs play an important role in non-pandemic times, too.

It is important that we ensure this program is sustainable for schools, and that means responsible oversight and a return to regular order.

We want to make sure that students who rely on school meals have access to them and that schools can continue to supply them, even in the face of skyrocketing, record-high inflation.

As our constituents know, the price of just about everything has increased. The average family is spending \$450 more per month. Eggs are up 32 percent, milk is up 16 percent, and bacon is up 15 percent. Our school meals programs are no exception to these rising costs.

This measure will help schools cope with rising food prices by temporarily providing supplemental reimbursements as these programs transition back to normal operations.

I do think it is very important to emphasize that these increases are temporary and will last 1 year.

I appreciate the Democrats and the Senate for working with us to ensure these are temporary, supplemental funds to address inflation specifically. They are not an arbitrary increase in spending. Using the inflation crisis or the supply chain problem to increase Federal spending permanently would be especially unwise and irresponsible.

I also am glad the legislation requires USDA to provide school leaders and parents with support and guidance as the program transitions to normal operations.

It is Congress' job to ensure these programs are working as efficiently and effectively as possible. It is our duty to make sure these programs are fulfilling their intended purpose, which is to help students.

I am happy to see this legislation put these school nutrition programs back on the right track.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor and a leading advocate to reduce and eliminate child hunger.

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Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this legislation and for working tirelessly to negotiate a solution.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Keep Kids Fed

Act. As food costs continue to soar, this critical legislation is a lifeline for millions of American families struggling to make ends meet.

In my home State of Minnesota, one in nine children are food insecure. This bipartisan legislation builds on my bill, the MEALS Act, to ensure children continue to receive school meals this summer. I am proud to have been part of this fight.

While I wish this agreement could have provided a permanent solution, this is a vital step to prevent millions of children from going hungry throughout the next few months. In the meantime, I will continue to fight for the passage of my bill, the Universal School Meals Program Act, to ensure that no child in the richest country in the world goes hungry.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), a member of the Committee on Education and Labor and chair of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I rise today for the millions of children who will go hungry next week if Congress does not extend child nutrition waivers.

No student or child should ever go hungry in our country. At the start of the pandemic, Congress authorized waivers to help make it easier for schools to deliver meals to kids, and we gave 10 million more children access to healthy food.

Given the reality of higher prices at the grocery store, children and their families can't afford to lose the free, nutritious meals available at schools across the country. As a 40-year educator, I know hunger has been a crisis in our schools and our communities since long before the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, one in seven households today has a child struggling with food insecurity. In my home State of North Carolina, food insecurity has been a tragic fact of life for our kids and our students.

Before the pandemic, in North Carolina, 92,000 students were participating in the Summer Food Service Program, and 441,000 children were receiving SNAP assistance.

These numbers have only gone up. Our choice is clear: We can choose to act, or we can let millions of children go hungry.

Madam Speaker, as always, I am standing with our students, and I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 2089, as amended.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx), Republican leader of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, evidence is clear that students are able to focus more at

school if they are receiving adequate nutrition. Too many students are still suffering from the harmful effects of school closures, and we cannot afford to let students fall further behind.

The rise in food prices is putting most Americans in a tight spot. The same is true for schools. The bipartisan Keep Kids Fed Act will empower schools to meet the crises our country is facing, from supply chain problems to record-high inflation.

It is, however, extremely important to emphasize that the support provided in this legislation is both targeted and temporary, as all aid should be. We also worked hard to ensure that this legislation was budget-neutral so it does not put additional burden on taxpayers. Importantly, this legislation will return our Nation's school meal programs to regular order. This is the primary reason I support this legislation.

For over 2 years, Democrats used a permanent pandemic narrative to increase Federal spending across the board, including within school meal programs. This has fueled inflation. This is not only irresponsible but ignores the narrow limits Congress purposefully placed on these programs.

Congress never intended to provide universal free breakfasts and lunches to all K-12 students regardless of need. By returning these programs back to normal, we can uphold our responsibility to taxpayers and the principle that aid should be targeted and temporary.

The Keep Kids Fed Act offers a viable solution to the problems facing school meal programs while also refocusing these programs on their purpose: helping students in need.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN), the distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Keep Kids Fed Act, which will aim to ensure our communities, schools, and daycares can provide healthy meals to children this summer.

At a time when parents are struggling to put food on the table and prices at the grocery store are at an all-time high, I am grateful for this bicameral, bipartisan effort to address food insecurity.

Throughout my career, I have focused on making sure to stay in touch. I had the opportunity to sit with over 60 nutritionists for the school lunch programs, who had a sense of urgency and concern not about their jobs, but about the rising costs and their ability to make sure that young people, K-12, are able to have the meals in a dignified matter, to be able to be educated and overcome obstacles, and to make sure that they were fed and ready for class.

That being said, today, I thank Chairman SCOTT and all my colleagues

for their example to solve this immediate and pressing challenge, and I look forward to continuing to work with all of my colleagues to ensure that we create the ideal environments that allow all students to learn and thrive.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD two letters from No Kid Hungry and the Food Research and Action Center, better known as FRAC.

[From Share Our Strength]

SHARE OUR STRENGTH'S LISA DAVIS ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 'KEEP KIDS FED' ACT TO EXTEND CHILD NUTRITION WAIVERS

WASHINGTON, DC.—This afternoon, leadership from the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and the House Committee on Education and Labor announced an agreement to extend nationwide child nutrition waivers, which are set to expire on June 30. The Keep Kids Fed Act would extend some of these waivers through the 2022-2023 school year and provide school nutrition programs with additional funding to help address food price inflation and supply chain challenges. The following is a statement from No Kid Hungry Senior Vice President Lisa Davis:

"We are grateful that a deal has come together to help address the immense challenges facing schools and community organizations working tirelessly to feed kids this summer and during the school year. This issue couldn't be more urgent with waivers expiring in nine days and summer meals programs already up and running.

"Time is of the essence, especially for those operating summer meals sites without the certainty and flexibility of the waivers who will face difficulties turning on a dime. We know these waivers are needed and that they work. The reach of the summer meals program increased dramatically with them, doubling in 2021 and even tripling in 2020.

"While these waivers don't solve supply chain issues, lower the rising cost of food and gas, or solve our nation's inflation problem, they do help soften their impact on schools and community organizations and, ultimately, keep kids fed and nourished.

"As we know with legislation like this, there can be miles to go before it gets across the finish line. We urge Congress to move quickly on the Keep Kids Fed Act before nationwide child nutrition waivers expire on June 30."

[From Luis Guardia, president, Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)]

HUNGRY CHILDREN CAN'T WAIT: CONGRESS MUST ACT QUICKLY TO PASS CRITICAL LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON, June 21, 2022.—FRAC commends the bi-partisan legislation introduced today by Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR) and House Education and Labor Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Ranking Member Virginia Foxx (R-NC), to help support children, families, schools, and child care providers as they struggle to recover from the fallout of the pandemic. Provisions in the Keep Kids Fed Act would increase reimbursements to schools and child care, support access to summer meals by extending the summer waivers, allow children eligible for reduced-price school meals to receive free school meals, and streamline access to healthy meals for children in family child care.

We and our network of anti-hunger advocates all across the country call on Congress to pass this legislation immediately as time is running out. The child nutrition waivers that have been available since the onset of the pandemic are set to expire on June 30. This legislation would help mitigate the impact of the loss of the waivers and also would be critical to supporting children's access to summer meals and meals at childcare. The provisions in the legislation are only temporary and do not go as far as we would like, but they are a critical first step to help shield some of the impact of inflation, supply chain disruptions, and labor shortages.

Still, more must be done. FRAC looks forward to working with Congress to make much-needed, long-term improvements to the child nutrition programs to more fully address our nation's hunger crisis.

Hungry children can't wait.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, the Keep Kids Fed Act is a bipartisan, budget-neutral bill that supports students and protects taxpayers. This bill will return our school nutrition programs back to normal, pre-pandemic operations. I appreciate the majority working with us to ensure this is a true transition back to regular operation, which is fully paid for and includes a requirement to support parents and school leaders.

This legislation will also support schools dealing with the supply chain and inflation crisis. This allows our Nation's schools to focus on delivering healthy meals for students so they can focus on being successful in the classroom. I am pleased we were able to come to a bicameral and bipartisan solution, and I urge my colleagues to vote for the Keep Kids Fed Act.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, as I said at the beginning of the debate, the legislation before us is likely our last and best opportunity to protect millions of students' access to nutrition programs, which have been critical to feeding hungry children during the pandemic.

The simple reality is that schools, children, and families are still dealing with the impacts of COVID-19. As school meal programs continue to endure supply chain disruptions, inflation, and other challenges, the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 would provide school meal programs that are urgently needed for stability and will help continue providing students with nutritious meals that they need.

We know this bill alone will not end all hunger in America, but it will be an important step to stand up for our Nation's children and fulfill our basic responsibility to keep them from going hungry.

Again, I thank the ranking member of the committee, Dr. FOXX, and I thank the gentlewoman from California, Mrs. STEEL, for helping to bring

this bipartisan, bicameral legislation to the floor. I also thank Senators STABENOW and BOOZMAN for their work in bringing this legislation to reality.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 2089, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Keep Kids Fed Act, which provides vital funding to ensure our children are fed healthy meals over these next few summer months—and that schools and daycares are supported throughout the school year.

As one of the wealthiest nations in the world, no child should go hungry. Yet far too many children struggle with hunger in this country. This is a tragedy. For more than 22 million children who rely on school breakfast and lunch programs, summer vacation means worrying about when they will eat next.

We all know that hunger can have lifelong consequences for children—making it more difficult to learn . . . play . . . and connect with kids their age. Kids who go hungry during summer often start school behind, which can lead to serious health concerns like developmental delays . . . chronic illness . . . and mental health issues. They are at higher risk for anemia, asthma, diabetes—and more likely to experience anxiety and depression.

So, I am pleased that we have reached a bipartisan agreement on extending school meal waivers until the summer's end and continues to support schools and daycares throughout the year. These child nutrition waivers are a lifeline to schools, children, and hardworking families across the country.

During the pandemic, school meals were a lifeline to students—providing them with healthy meals whether they were attending school in person or virtually. They have been a critical component of our nation's response to this pandemic. But schools continue to face a variety of challenges, including supply chain disruptions, labor shortages, serving meals safely, and rising food prices. Waivers have been vital this school year to support school nutrition. And extending the waivers is the path forward to ensure all children have access to nutritious school meals over the summer months that they need to learn and thrive.

As I have said from the start—failure is not an option. And we need to get a deal across the finish line. It is our responsibility to ensure that our children do not go hungry. School meal waivers have given stability to hundreds of children who prior to this program, likely did not know where their next meal was coming from.

I am disappointed that House Republicans insisted on an offset. We need to feed children in this country—and that should never be up for debate.

With that, I am proud of this bill and the impact I know it will have—providing school workers . . . parents . . . and caregivers with the security of knowing that the children they care for will be fed through the summer.

So, I am voting in favor of this critical legislation—and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Keep Kids Fed Act.

I want to thank Chairman SCOTT for his steadfast leadership and determination to work to get something worked out to help ensure

that our school meals are available to as many of our students as possible.

The school meals provisions were an effective response by this Congress to the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools, children and families were disrupted as this deadly disease raced through our country. Congress acted to make sure that we provided flexibility to ensure that no child would miss a meal that they would otherwise have received in school.

Why is that important? Because Congress has long recognized that hunger and learning do not mix well, if at all. This isn't some theoretical or academic debate. I know what it's like to be hungry and in school. And I am saddened that decades after I went through that experience as a student, many other children still must deal with that reality each and every school day.

Food is not a luxury. So hearing that the USDA COVID waivers that had allowed millions of kids to stay nourished were expiring was an emergency for me. And I know the Chairman shares that sentiment.

Frankly, it has been hard to sleep thinking of what happens in communities like Milwaukee when families find this lifeline cut off arbitrarily even while the pandemic that spawned these provisions, continues.

The reality is that hunger and food insecurity did not take a break during this pandemic. In fact, reports indicate it got worse. Hunger doesn't take a summer vacation even though our schools do.

It shouldn't have taken all of this to get us to agree on this: Feed our kids so they can concentrate on learning and being kids. These waivers have done a great deal to help us achieve that and I hope we can continue to work to ensure that we can take the great lessons learned about how to effectively reach and nourish school children during this pandemic and use them to put in place permanent provisions that will ensure that all of our children can go to school and focus on their education.

That includes taking up and passing bills like the Universal School Meals Program Act which I have joined with Rep. OMAR in introducing that would provide the most cost-effective and inclusive model for ensuring all students have access to nutritious meals during the school day without facing barriers such as stigma or burdensome paperwork.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise in strong support of the House Amendment to S. 2089, the "Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022."

Today's bill is a matter of urgency.

If Congress does not act now to pass this emergency legislation, millions of children will spend their summer hungry. Millions of children may be forced to spend their school days not learning and growing but feeling the pangs of empty stomachs.

Hungry children cannot focus their attention on their studies and learning. They simply cannot thrive while trying to survive.

Free and reduced breakfast and lunch waivers are lifelines for families across the nation.

I think of the struggling families in my district who have battled against the COVID-19 pandemic for the past two years.

Families who now face record high inflation rates, skyrocketing gas prices, and the rising cost of food.

Families who are stretching dollars to pay for rent, to get to the doctor, to keep the lights on.

Families for whom every penny counts.

I think of how these families must have felt when they learned that the aid on which they had relied to feed their children was suddenly going to be taken away.

I imagine they felt helpless.

It is in our power to feed these children.

The "Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022" would allow schools to feed children throughout the upcoming school year. This bill would extend free meals and snacks for children during the summer months, and it would provide enhanced supports to Child and Adult Care programs—all without disrupting the budget.

In the summer of 2020, hungry children were provided with more than 10 million meals via the federally supported Summer Meal Program.

195,000 children were fed.

195,000 children were given apples, sandwiches, yogurts, juice boxes.

They were given the opportunity to enjoy a summer free of hunger.

That is reason enough to act.

The "Keep Kids Fed Act" would also increase reimbursements to school nutrition programs for both breakfast and lunch meals.

American families are not the only ones struggling to put food on the table amidst the current economic crisis.

School nutrition professionals have expressed deep concern over the impacts that supply-chain issues and inflation have had on their ability to provide quality meals to their students.

With the end of pandemic-relief nutritional aid fast approaching, and the cost of labor rising, some schools could see their yearly budgets decrease by 40 percent this year.

School cafeterias cannot produce meals out of thin air.

They need our help.

The House Amendment to S. 2089 would increase the reimbursement rates for the 2022–2023 school year by an additional 15 cents per breakfast and 40 cents per lunch—money that our nation's schools desperately need.

This bill would not fix the inflation problem, lower the cost of gas, or unclog the supply chain. But it would put food on the plates of hungry children across America.

That is why I rise in support of the House Amendment to S. 2089, the "Keep Kids Fed Act" and urge my colleagues to do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2089, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

#### ENHANCING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION THROUGH CAMPUS PLANNING ACT

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules