

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1700

To establish an international food for education and infant and child nutrition program to be carried out under section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LEACH, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. BARRETT, and Ms. BALDWIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To establish an international food for education and infant and child nutrition program to be carried out under section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3   **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “George McGovern-Rob-  
5   ert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nu-  
6   trition Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) According to the United Nations Food and  
4 Agriculture Organization (FAO) report, “The State  
5 of Food and Agriculture 1998”, approximately  
6 828,000,000 people are chronically undernourished  
7 in the world today. While no region is immune to  
8 hunger, the vast majority of these people live in 87  
9 low-income, food-deficit countries.

10 (2) Many of the world’s hungry are children,  
11 approximately 300,000,000. The United Nations  
12 Children’s Fund (UNICEF) report, “State of the  
13 World’s Children 2001”, states that 32 percent of  
14 the world’s children under five years of age—ap-  
15 proximately 193,000,000—have stunted growth,  
16 which is the key indicator for under-nutrition. Hun-  
17 ger in the early stages of development is particularly  
18 debilitating. As reported by UNICEF, optimal neu-  
19 ral development in a child, which affects physical,  
20 mental, and cognitive development, depends on good  
21 nutrition and stimulation during the first months  
22 and years of life.

23 (3) The causes of hunger are complex, but are  
24 most often associated with poverty and lack of em-  
25 powerment. In developing countries, where poverty is  
26 endemic, governments face low revenues and high

1        debt burdens, funding is inadequate for basic health  
2        and education, agricultural productivity and mar-  
3        keting systems are weak and under-performing, em-  
4        ployment opportunities are lacking, public institu-  
5        tions are often weak, in some countries, HIV/AIDS  
6        is pandemic, and many people struggle just to meet  
7        their basic needs.

8            (4) Poor children rarely receive adequate edu-  
9        cation. UNICEF reports that more than  
10       130,000,000 primary-school-age children in devel-  
11       oping countries do not go to school, and 60 percent  
12       of these children are girls. In 2000, the United Na-  
13       tions Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organiza-  
14       tion (UNESCO) reported that for developing coun-  
15       tries, an estimated 250,000,000 children from ages  
16       five to fourteen are laborers, and fifty percent work  
17       full time. Lack of education and the resulting poor  
18       literacy limit the growth potential of children. Edu-  
19       cation develops cognitive skills, improves long-term  
20       productivity and offers a child protection from the  
21       hazards of labor or exploitation. Long-term studies  
22       indicate that increased literacy rates are critical to  
23       economic development. In countries that achieve an  
24       80 percent or better literacy rate among girls and  
25       women, the birthrate decreases.

1           (5)(A) Food aid has been shown to have lasting  
2           benefits for children in developing countries when  
3           part of multi-faceted programs aimed at pregnant  
4           women, nursing mothers, infants and children five  
5           years and younger.

6           (B) Mother-child health (MCH) programs re-  
7           duce the incidence of malnutrition and under-nutri-  
8           tion and promote proper growth by providing supple-  
9           mental food to pregnant women and nursing moth-  
10          ers, along with nutritious take-home foods and  
11          health care to mothers and children under the age  
12          of two.

13          (C) Early childhood development programs pro-  
14          vide children between the ages of three and six with  
15          meals and training in basic skills, while mothers  
16          learn about basic sanitation, first aid and res-  
17          piratory and diarrheal diseases, the greatest killers  
18          of young children in poor countries.

19          (D) Food for Education programs reduce the  
20          incidence of hunger and enhance educational attend-  
21          ance and performance by providing school meals or  
22          take-home rations, along with improvements in edu-  
23          cational quality and the school environment.

24          (E) Although the conditions and challenges in  
25          developing countries differ greatly from those in the

1 United States, these international food aid programs  
2 are similar in concept to the women, infants and  
3 children (WIC) program, the Head Start program,  
4 and the school breakfast and school lunch programs  
5 in the United States.

6 (6) Over the past 50 years, United States inter-  
7 national food assistance has contributed to alle-  
8 viating hunger and its causes and is an integral part  
9 of United States foreign policy. From the Marshall  
10 Plan to the establishment in 1954 of the Food for  
11 Peace program (or Public Law 480) and the Food  
12 for Progress Act of 1985, American farmers have  
13 played a key role in ensuring that the United States  
14 is able to respond to emergencies such as famine,  
15 natural disasters, and war, and to contribute to  
16 global development initiatives. These programs con-  
17 tinue because food is greatly needed in poor coun-  
18 tries that cannot produce or afford to import ade-  
19 quate amounts of food to meet their minimal needs.

20 (7) 7,900,000 metric tons of agricultural com-  
21 modities, worth \$1,500,000,000 in commodity pur-  
22 chases, were approved during fiscal year 2000 to  
23 provide food aid to 91 countries, as authorized under  
24 section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, the  
25 Food for Progress Program, and Public Law 480.

1 Programs were implemented in the field by non-  
2 governmental and private voluntary organizations,  
3 cooperatives, the United Nations World Food Pro-  
4 gram, and governments.

5 (8) American farmers benefit directly from food  
6 aid programs by selling commodities for inter-  
7 national development and hunger programs. In the  
8 longer term, the economic uplift from food aid pro-  
9 grams improves the living standards and purchasing  
10 power of citizens in developing countries, expanding  
11 markets for American agricultural products, goods,  
12 and services.

13 (9) Two of the most successful and beneficial  
14 bipartisan programs ever launched on behalf of chil-  
15 dren in the United States have been the United  
16 States school lunch and school breakfast programs,  
17 and the women, infants, and children (WIC) pro-  
18 gram. While hunger among children has not yet  
19 been eradicated in the United States, over the past  
20 22 years, America has provided a nutritious meal to  
21 most students who cannot afford one. Currently,  
22 about 27,000,000 children are fed every day through  
23 these programs.

24 (10) On May 30, 2000, during the opening  
25 ceremonies of the National Nutrition Summit, Sen-

1       ators George McGovern and Robert Dole praised the  
2       Federal Government for reducing hunger in America  
3       since 1969. They called upon the United States Gov-  
4       ernment to reduce hunger in the developing world  
5       through child nutrition programs similar to the  
6       United States school lunch, school breakfast, and  
7       WIC programs.

8           (11) On July 23, 2000, the G–8 Summit in  
9       Okinawa, Japan, endorsed a proposal put forward  
10      by the United States, the Global Food for Education  
11      Initiative, to pursue a pilot preschool and school  
12      feeding program.

13          (12) On December 28, 2000, in addition to  
14      other international food aid program commitments,  
15      the United States launched a \$300,000,000 pilot  
16      program, the Global Food for Education Initiative,  
17      through the United States Department of Agri-  
18      culture, to provide meals, take-home rations, and  
19      other assistance to an estimated 9,000,000 needy  
20      pre-school and school-age children in 38 countries.  
21      Using authority under the Commodity Credit Cor-  
22      poration Charter Act and section 416(b) of the Agri-  
23      cultural Act of 1949, food commodities will be pur-  
24      chased from American farmers by the United States  
25      Department of Agriculture, which will be distributed

1 in fiscal year 2001 through 49 projects developed by  
2 United States-based private voluntary organizations  
3 and cooperatives, and by the United Nations World  
4 Food Program. Senators McGovern and Dole urged  
5 the United States Congress to make this a perma-  
6 nently funded program and to engage the inter-  
7 national community in a multilateral effort to end  
8 child hunger over the next three decades.

9 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**

10 The Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter in this Act  
11 referred to as the “Secretary”) shall, using the authority  
12 of section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (herein-  
13 after in this Act referred to as “section 416(b)”) and in  
14 accordance with this Act, provide eligible commodities and  
15 financial and technical assistance to establish, continue,  
16 and expand—

17 (1) preschool and school feeding programs to  
18 improve food security, reduce the incidence of hun-  
19 ger, and improve educational opportunity; and

20 (2) maternal, infant, and child nutrition pro-  
21 grams for pregnant women, nursing mothers, in-  
22 fants, and children 5 years of age and younger.

23 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBLE COMMODITIES AND COST ITEMS.**

24 Notwithstanding any other provision of law—



1           (1) any agricultural commodity is eligible for  
2           distribution under this Act;

3           (2) the Commodity Credit Corporation shall  
4           purchase agricultural commodities for use under this  
5           Act if its stocks are not sufficient to meet commit-  
6           ments entered into under this Act; and

7           (3) as necessary to achieve the purposes of this  
8           Act, the Secretary—

9                   (A) shall approve the use of Commodity  
10           Credit Corporation funds to pay the transpor-  
11           tation costs incurred in moving commodities  
12           (including prepositioned commodities) provided  
13           under this Act from the designated points of  
14           entry or ports of entry abroad to storage and  
15           distribution sites, and associated storage and  
16           distribution costs;

17                   (B) shall approve the use of Commodity  
18           Credit Corporation funds to pay the costs of ac-  
19           tivities conducted in the host country by a non-  
20           profit voluntary organization, cooperative, or  
21           intergovernmental agency or organization that  
22           would enhance the effectiveness of the activities  
23           implemented by such entities under this Act;  
24           and

1 (C) in the case of administrative expenses  
2 of private voluntary organizations, cooperatives,  
3 or intergovernmental organizations imple-  
4 menting activities under this Act, shall approve  
5 the use of Commodity Credit Corporation funds  
6 to meet itemized administrative expenses in-  
7 curred in connection with activities carried out  
8 under this Act; and

9 (4) for the purposes of this Act, the term “agri-  
10 cultural commodities” includes any agricultural com-  
11 modity, or the products thereof, produced in the  
12 United States.

13 **SEC. 5. ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.**

14 The Secretary may provide assistance under this Act  
15 to private voluntary organizations, cooperatives, intergov-  
16 ernmental organizations, governments and their agencies,  
17 and such other organizations as the Secretary determines  
18 are appropriate.

19 **SEC. 6. RULES BY SECRETARY.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall assure that  
21 rules governing this Act shall include provisions to—

22 (1) provide for the submission of proposals,  
23 each of which may include one or more countries, for  
24 commodities and other assistance under this Act;

1           (2) provide for eligible commodities and assist-  
2           ance on a multi-year basis;

3           (3) ensure eligible recipients demonstrate the  
4           organizational capacity and the ability to develop,  
5           implement, monitor, report on, and provide account-  
6           ability for activities conducted under this Act;

7           (4) streamline procedures for the development,  
8           review, and approval of proposals submitted in ac-  
9           cordance with this Act;

10          (5) ensure monitoring and reporting by eligible  
11          recipients on the use of commodities and other as-  
12          sistance provided under this Act; and

13          (6) allow for the sale or barter of commodities  
14          by eligible organizations to acquire funds to imple-  
15          ment activities that improve the food security of  
16          women and children or otherwise enhance the effec-  
17          tiveness of programs and activities authorized under  
18          this Act.

19          (b) PRIORITIES FOR PROGRAM FUNDING.—In car-  
20          rying out subsection (a) with respect to criteria for deter-  
21          mining the use of commodities and other assistance pro-  
22          vided for programs and activities authorized under this  
23          Act, the Secretary shall consider the ability of eligible re-  
24          cipients to—

1           (1) identify and assess the needs of bene-  
2           ficiaries, especially mothers and children five years  
3           of age and younger who are malnourished or under-  
4           nourished, and school-age children who are malnour-  
5           ished, under-nourished, or do not regularly attend  
6           school;

7           (2)(A) in the case of preschool and school-age  
8           children, target low-income areas where children's  
9           enrollment and attendance in school is low or girls'  
10          enrollment and participation in preschool or school is  
11          particularly low; and

12          (B) in the case of programs to benefit mothers  
13          and children five years of age or younger, coordinate  
14          supplementary feeding and nutrition programs with  
15          existing or newly-established maternal, infant, and  
16          children programs that provide health needs inter-  
17          ventions, and which may include maternal, prenatal,  
18          and postnatal and newborn care;

19          (3) involve indigenous institutions and commu-  
20          nities in the development and implementation of the  
21          program and foster local capacity-building and lead-  
22          ership; and

23          (4) carry out multi-year programs that foster  
24          self-sufficiency and ensure program longevity.

1 **SEC. 7. USE OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE.**

2       The Food and Nutrition service of the Department  
3 of Agriculture shall provide technical advice on the estab-  
4 lishment of programs under section 3(1) and on their im-  
5 plementation in the field in recipient countries.

6 **SEC. 8. MULTILATERAL INVOLVEMENT.**

7       The President is urged to endeavor to engage existing  
8 international food aid coordinating mechanisms to ensure  
9 multilateral commitments to and participation in pro-  
10 grams like those supported under this Act. The President  
11 shall report annually to Congress on the commitments and  
12 activities of governments in the global effort to reduce  
13 child hunger and increase school attendance.

14 **SEC. 9. PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT.**

15       The President and the Secretary are urged to encour-  
16 age the support and active involvement of the private sec-  
17 tor, foundations, and other individuals and organizations  
18 in programs assisted under this Act.

19 **SEC. 10. FUNDING LEVELS.**

20       The Commodity Credit Corporation shall make avail-  
21 able to carry out programs under this Act—

22           (1) in fiscal 2002, \$300,000,000 and in fiscal  
23 year 2003, \$600,000,000 for programs under sec-  
24 tion 3(1) and \$50,000,000 in fiscal year 2002 and  
25 in fiscal year 2003, \$100,000,000 for programs  
26 under section 3(2); and

1           (2) in each succeeding fiscal year \$750,000,000  
2       for programs under section 3(1) and \$250,000,000  
3       for programs under section 3(2).

4 **SEC. 11. COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGEN-**  
5 **CIES.**

6       Notwithstanding section 11 of the Commodity Credit  
7 Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i), the Secretary  
8 may approve the use of Commodity Credit Corporation  
9 funds to pay administrative expenses of any other agency  
10 of the Federal Government, including any bureau, office,  
11 administration, or agency of the Department of Agri-  
12 culture, assisting in the implementation of this Act.

13 **SEC. 12. REQUIREMENT TO SAFEGUARD LOCAL PRODUC-**  
14 **TION AND USUAL MARKETING.**

15       The requirement of section 403(a) of the Agricultural  
16 Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C.  
17 1733(a) and 1733(h)) shall apply with respect to the avail-  
18 ability of commodities under this Act.

○