

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 484

Designating June 7, 2012, as “National Hunger Awareness Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 6, 2012

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating June 7, 2012, as “National Hunger Awareness Day”.

Whereas food insecurity and hunger are a fact of life for millions of individuals in the United States and can produce physical, mental, and social impairments;

Whereas recent data published by the Department of Agriculture shows that approximately 48,800,000 individuals in the United States live in households experiencing hunger or food insecurity, and of that number, 32,600,000 are adults and 16,200,000 are children;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture data also shows that households with children experience food insecurity nearly twice as frequently as households without children;

Whereas 4.8 percent of all households in the United States (approximately 5,600,000 households) have accessed emergency food from a food pantry 1 or more times;

Whereas the report entitled “Household Food Security in the United States, 2010”, published by the Economic Research Service of the Department of Agriculture, found that in 2010, the most recent year for which data exists—

(1) 14.5 percent of all households in the United States experienced food insecurity at some point during the year;

(2) 20.2 percent of all households with children in the United States experienced food insecurity at some point during the year; and

(3) 7.9 percent of all households with elderly individuals in the United States experienced food insecurity at some point during the year;

Whereas the problem of hunger and food insecurity can be found in rural, suburban, and urban portions of the United States, touching nearly every community in the country;

Whereas, although substantial progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and food insecurity in the United States, many Americans remain vulnerable to hunger and the negative effects of food insecurity;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long tradition of providing food assistance to hungry individuals through acts of private generosity and public support programs;

Whereas the Federal Government provides nutritional support to millions of individuals through numerous Federal food assistance programs, including—

(1) the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

(2) the child nutrition program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);

(3) the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786);

(4) the emergency food assistance program established under the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.); and

(5) food donation programs;

Whereas there is a growing awareness of the important role that community-based organizations, institutions of faith, and charities play in assisting hungry and food-insecure individuals;

Whereas more than 61,000 local, community-based organizations rely on the support and efforts of more than 600,000 volunteers to provide food assistance and services to millions of vulnerable people; and

Whereas all people of the United States can participate in hunger relief efforts in their communities by—

(1) donating food and money to hunger relief efforts;

(2) volunteering for hunger relief efforts; and

(3) supporting public policies aimed at reducing hunger: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) designates June 7, 2012, as “National
2 Hunger Awareness Day”; and

3 (2) calls on the people of the United States to
4 observe National Hunger Awareness Day—

5 (A) with appropriate ceremonies, volunteer
6 activities, and other support for anti-hunger ad-
7 vocacy efforts and hunger relief charities, in-
8 cluding food banks, food rescue organizations,
9 food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency
10 shelters; and

11 (B) by improving programs and public
12 policies that reduce hunger and food insecurity
13 in the United States.

○