

victims, and to the students and faculty who survived—I too mourn with you.

Northern Illinois University is less than 100 miles northeast of my congressional district, so news of the shooting hit close to home for me. At a time like this we find ourselves asking “why?” and jumping to conclusions about campus security and gun control. However, we seldom talk about the stigma of mental health in our Nation. I find it appropriate that on the same day we are considering this resolution, we are also debating the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act, legislation that will make it easier for people to seek and receive mental health treatment.

I believe we need to do more on mental health care in this country in addition to other measures to make our schools, our children and our young adults safe.

Again, my condolences go out to all those affected by the horrific shooting at Northern Illinois University—may you find comfort in those still with you and my you come together as a community once again and move forward to better times.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1007, expressing the condolences of the House to those affected by the devastating shooting incident of February 14, 2008 at Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, Illinois.

The shootings at Northern Illinois University, on Thursday, February 14, reminded us once again that the wrath of violence can easily destroy the lives of many students seeking education. On that day, a gunman took the lives of 5 students and wounded 17 more. My deepest sympathies and thoughts are with the victims, their families, and the community of students, teachers, and staff.

This reaffirms the steps we must take as public officials to ensure that schools, colleges, and universities in the United States are a safe and secure environment for learning. We must take a hard look at gun regulation. We must regulate the process by which civilians are able to obtain firearms for the sake of protecting those who may be victims of senseless crimes. Americans must stop apologizing and actually do something about the problem. We must stop denying that problems like this will never happen in our communities. A system of educating students and parents about gun safety should be paralleled with education systems by providing students with counselors, or spiritual advisors.

I express my deepest condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who were killed in the tragic shooting: Gayle Dubpowski, Catalina Garcia, Julianna Gehant, RYANNE MACE, and Daniel Parameter. As citizens of the United States, we offer support to the victims' families with prayer and hope for a speedy recovery to those who were wounded. I commend the emergency responders, law enforcement officers, health care providers, and counselors who performed their duties with professionalism and dedication in response to the tragedy.

The Northern Illinois University Community must be determined to move ‘forward, together forward’, in the words of the Huskie fight song, and persevere through this tragedy. Indeed they must tread with heavy hearts but unbroken spirits.

I cannot begin to understand how the actions of something so terrible could occur in

one of our institutions of higher learning. Our Nation continues to grapple with this horrific event. We can never completely understand why these things happen. I realize that no words can heal the wounds of February 14, 2008 for the NIU family, but I extend my arms as a Member of the United States Congress in offering all of my prayers, support, and hugs for your family during this difficult time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1007.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1345

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1013) expressing the sense of Congress that providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on classroom performance.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1013

Whereas breakfast program participants under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 include public, private, elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as rural, suburban, and urban schools;

Whereas almost 17,000 schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program do not participate in the National School Breakfast Program;

Whereas in fiscal year 2006, 7,700,000 students in the United States consumed free or reduced-price school breakfasts provided under the National School Breakfast Program established by section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966;

Whereas less than half of the low-income students who participate in the National School Lunch Program also participate in the school breakfast program;

Whereas implementing or improving classroom breakfast programs have been shown to increase the participation of eligible students in breakfast consumption dramatically, doubling, and in some cases tripling, numbers, as evidenced by research in Minnesota, New York, and Wisconsin;

Whereas making breakfast widely available through different venues or a combination thereof, such as in the classroom, obtained as students exit their school bus, or outside the classroom, has been shown to lessen the stigma of receiving free or reduced-price breakfast, which often prevents eligible students from obtaining traditional breakfast in the cafeteria;

Whereas providing free universal breakfast, especially in the classroom, has been shown to significantly increase school breakfast participation rates and increase absences and tardiness;

Whereas studies have shown that access to nutritious programs such as the National School Lunch Program and National School Breakfast Program helps to create a strong learning environment for children and helps to improve children's concentration in the classroom;

Whereas providing breakfast in the classroom has been shown in several instances to improve attentiveness and academic performance, while reducing tardiness and disciplinary referrals;

Whereas students who eat a complete breakfast have been shown to make fewer mistakes and work faster in math exercises than those who eat a partial breakfast;

Whereas studies suggest that eating breakfast closer to classroom and test-taking time improves student performance on standardized tests relative to students who skip breakfast or have breakfast at home;

Whereas studies show that students who skip breakfast are more likely to have difficulty distinguishing among similar images, show increased errors, and have slower memory recall;

Whereas children who live in families that experience hunger have been shown to be more likely to have lower math scores, face an increased likelihood of repeating a grade, and receive more special education services;

Whereas studies suggest that children who eat breakfast have more adequate nutrition and intake of nutrients, such as calcium, fiber, protein, and vitamins A, E, D, and B-6; and

Whereas children who fail to eat breakfast, whether in school or at home, are more likely to be overweight than children who eat a daily healthy breakfast: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of the National School Breakfast Program and its overall positive effect on the lives of low-income children and families, as well as its effect on helping to improve a child's overall classroom performance;

(2) expresses support for States that have successfully implemented school breakfast programs in order to improve the test scores and grades of its participating students; and

(3) encourages states to strengthen their school breakfast programs by improving access for students, to promote improvements in the nutritional quality of breakfasts served, and to inform students and parents of healthy nutritional and lifestyle choices.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 1013 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she might consume to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank so much the gentleman from Illinois for yielding.

I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1013, which emphasizes

the importance of school breakfast programs and their positive impact on a child's overall academic performance.

Again, I would like to thank the Education and Labor Committee for bringing this resolution forward in honor of National School Breakfast Week.

Mr. Speaker, every 35 seconds a child is born into poverty in this country. A recent survey done by the Department of Agriculture reported the prevalence of persistent hunger among children in the United States to be about 18 percent. In fact, as a Nation, we've seen a steady increase in childhood poverty since 2000, and we're now at nearly 13 million poor children. This means that every year there's an increased need for child nutrition programs.

Children represent a disproportionate share of the poor, Mr. Speaker, in the United States. While children are only 25 percent of our total population, they represent 35 percent of the poor.

With increased energy costs, medical copayments, higher rents and mortgages, these children live in distressed families that have difficulty providing their children an adequate breakfast every day.

The National School Breakfast Program is one of the most important school nutrition programs because it provides children with the nutrients needed to get the school day off to a healthy start; and, indeed, the National School Breakfast Program serves as a critical safety net for America's poor.

In fiscal year 2006, 9.8 million students participated in the National School Breakfast Program, and a total of 1.7 billion breakfasts were served, 81 percent of which were free or at reduced prices.

This past year, my own State of Wisconsin saw the most significant increase in school breakfast participation with a 25.3 percent growth rate, and that is largely due to implementation of universal classroom breakfast in most of Milwaukee's public elementary schools.

School breakfasts under this program must meet the nutrition standards under the Dietary Guidelines for Americans which recommend that no more than 30 percent of an individual's calories come from fat and less than 10 percent from saturated fats. In addition, breakfasts must provide one-fourth of the Recommended Dietary Allowance for protein, calcium, iron, vitamin A, vitamin C, and calories.

A 2002 study done by Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School concluded that children who are at nutritional risk have significantly poorer attendance, punctuality, and poorer grades.

The study also showed that children whose parents reported food insufficiency were more likely to have repeated a grade in school, lower scores on standardized tests, lower grades in math, and more days tardy and absent from school.

Studies have also shown that students who fail to eat an adequate

breakfast increase their chances of becoming obese.

With the growing amount of uninsured children, we must work to establish and expand the National School Breakfast Program in all States.

So, in honor of National School Breakfast Week, I ask that you vote to pass this resolution.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1013, expressing the sense of the Congress that providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on classroom performance.

The National School Breakfast Program was created in 1966 to help schools serving breakfast to "nutritionally needy" children. Made permanent in 1975, the program focuses on those schools where assistance is needed to provide adequate nutrition for students.

The School Breakfast Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service through State education agencies, in agreement with local school food authorities, in nearly 84,000 schools and institutions.

In fiscal year 2006, over 9.7 million children participated in the School Breakfast Program daily. Of those, 7.9 million received their meals for free or at a reduced price. In my home State of Illinois, more than 223,000 students received free and reduced-price breakfasts daily.

Public or nonprofit private schools serving K-12 and public or nonprofit private residential child care institutions may participate in the School Breakfast Program. School districts and independent schools that choose to take part in the breakfast program receive cash subsidies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for each meal they serve. In return, they must serve breakfasts that meet Federal requirements, and they must offer free or reduced breakfasts to eligible children.

Many States that have implemented school breakfast programs have seen encouraging outcomes. Maryland has seen an increase in standardized test scores 17 percent above the State average, an 8 percent reduction in tardiness, and a reduction in referrals to the office for discipline by 20 percent.

Unfortunately, the problem persists that millions of children go to school hungry each day, even though breakfast is the most important meal of the day. The Federal child nutrition programs can offer a great deal in the promotion of nutrition and wellness, especially in terms of assisting those children most in need. That is why I stand in support of this resolution, encouraging every child to start the school day with a nutritious breakfast in order to learn, grow, and develop to their fullest potential.

I ask for my colleagues' support.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs).

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, let me start by recognizing the good work of my colleague, Congresswoman GWEN MOORE. I appreciate her efforts to bring this important program to our attention.

The School Breakfast Program began as a pilot program in 1966 and has grown to serve over 10 million children nationwide. In New Jersey, almost 145,000 students ate a school breakfast during the 2007 school year; yet there are many students who cannot participate because their school does not offer this program.

This is important because research has shown how vital a good breakfast is for learning. Children who eat a healthy breakfast have higher standardized test scores; do much better in math, reading, and vocabulary tests; and attend school more regularly compared with children who do not eat breakfast.

Congress should act to increase funding for this program so that many more students can be served. It is a smart investment in our future. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution and this important program.

I thank Congresswoman MOORE.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. So, if there are none on the other side, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1013, which expresses the sense of Congress that providing breakfast in school has a positive impact on classroom performance.

We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Indeed, good nutrition is a vital factor in a child's ability to grow and thrive. According to the Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition, hungry children have less energy for cognitive and social activities, thereby hampering their ability to learn.

The National School Breakfast Program was established as a pilot program by the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 and made permanent in 1975. The program was created to ensure that all students start the school day with a nutritious breakfast and enter the classroom ready to learn. Over the last five decades, the National School Breakfast Program has continued to grow. It now operates in nearly 84,000 public and nonprofit schools and residential care institutions nationwide. In 2006, 9.7 million children participated in the National School Breakfast Program each day; 7.9 million of those students received free or reduced-price breakfasts.

Again, I want to commend my colleague from Wisconsin, Representative GWENDOLYN MOORE, for introducing this resolution, join with all of those

who have expressed its merit, and urge passage.

Mr. MCGOVERN. We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. We also know that it's nearly impossible to learn on an empty stomach. These are two of the most important reasons why the school breakfast program is so important.

I'm pleased to be a cosponsor of this important resolution recognizing the importance of school breakfasts. I want to commend the gentlewoman from Wisconsin, Congresswoman MOORE, for introducing this important resolution and I want to recognize and honor the members of the School Nutrition Association who are here in Washington, DC, this week for their national conference.

The school breakfast program allows qualified students to eat a meal at school for either free or for a reduced price. Together with the school lunch program and after school meal programs, the school breakfast program allows America's school-aged children to receive nutritious meals while at school.

Unfortunately, there are shortcomings in the school meal program that need to be addressed in the future.

One issue is the underfunding of summer feeding programs. The Federal Government does not fund summer meals at the same level as it funds meals delivered at school. Any child who receives a meal at school shouldn't have to go without a meal during the summer months simply because Congress doesn't properly fund that part of the program.

Another is obesity and nutritious foods. Obesity is a real crisis and we need to ensure that our children are eating the most nutritious foods available. School meals must meet rigorous nutritional standards and they should be consistent nationwide. We also have to be conscious about the rising cost of food and the impact of these rising costs on the school meal programs.

A third issue is the difference between free and reduced price meals. Unfortunately, some qualified children receive free meals at school while others must pay a portion of the meal price.

Finally, I want to express my strong support for school breakfast programs that begin when class starts, or "at the bell." Most children who eat school breakfast must arrive at school before class starts. That can be both a hardship for the children and their families in trying to get them to school in time to eat. But it can also be a social stigma for these children who arrive early to eat because it's clear which children must arrive early to eat. We can eliminate that social stigma by serving school breakfasts at the bell.

The Child Nutrition Act will be reauthorized next year, and we will have an opportunity to make substantive improvements in these important school meal programs. But today, we are recognizing the importance of the school breakfast programs and honoring the people who administer and work on these programs in school districts across the country.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National School Breakfast Week and in support of a resolution that recognizes how providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on classroom performance.

It is often stated that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and yet a great number of children begin their school day

without access to a nutritious breakfast. As a former member of the House Education and Labor Committee and the father of two young boys, I understand the vital link between a healthy diet and successful performance in school. We must ensure that schools have the resources necessary to provide each student the nourishment necessary to get them through their day.

With over 8.1 million students participating in the school breakfast program, schools recognize the benefits of making sure that all children have a healthy breakfast to start their day; however, there are still many students not at the table and their academic progress may be suffering. It has been shown that school breakfast programs have led to a drastic reduction in school tardiness and provide students with the vital nutrients they need for remaining attentive in class and processing the information. They receive. We can simultaneously improve the physical well-being of our students while also improving their performance in the classroom.

The National School Breakfast Program provides students with the healthy start to the day that they need to succeed. I ask my fellow Members to join me in offering their full support of this resolution. Together we can ensure that our commitment to the physical health of our students matches our commitment to their academic progress.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 1013 Expressing the sense of the Congress that providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on classroom performance.

Research shows that eating breakfast affects a child's overall performance during school. A nutritious breakfast provides students with the energy needed to start the day. Students who eat breakfast before school do not face hunger symptoms such as headache, fatigue, sleepiness and restlessness. In turn eating breakfast helps students to think faster when doing school work and respond more clearly to teacher questions.

A good balanced breakfast has been linked to causing an increase in mental performance, helping to keep students from "drifting" during class, causing them to be calmer and less anxious. Those are things that are important for success in class.

Studies also show that eating a solid breakfast is a major way to fight child obesity. Because this is an easy way to fight obesity breakfast helps not only in the area of health but in academics as well. It is hard for our children to have their minds on school when their stomachs are empty. Because of this reason and the important link between adequate nourishment and educational performance I stand in support of H. Con. Res. 1013.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1013.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1424, PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1014 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1014

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1424) to amend section 712 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, section 2705 of the Public Health Service Act, and section 9812 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require equity in the provision of mental health and substance-related disorder benefits under group health plans. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. In lieu of the amendments recommended by the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. All points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. In the engrossment of H.R. 1424, the Clerk shall—

(a) add the text of H.R. 493, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 1424;

(b) conform the title of H.R. 1424 to reflect the addition to the engrossment of H.R. 493;

(c) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and

(d) conform provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

SEC. 3. During consideration of H.R. 1424 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

□ 1400

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order against the consideration of the resolution because it is in violation of section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act.

The resolution provides that "all points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 and 10 of rule XXI." This waiver of all points of order includes a waiver of section 425 of the Congressional Budget Act which causes the resolution to be in violation of section 426(a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia makes a point of order that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.