

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OBESITY IS A NATIONAL THREAT

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, today, Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON and I will deliver a letter to Speaker PELOSI supporting President Obama's request for \$1 billion per year in additional funding for the Child Nutrition Programs. Two hundred nineteen Members of Congress—Republicans and Democrats—joined together in supporting this historic request. The Education and Labor Committee is working on a bill that will meet this request, but we must be sure they have the proper funding to improve access to and quality of our children's school meals. Last week, former Generals Shalikashvili and Hugh Shelton wrote an Op-Ed on how obesity is now a national security threat. They support President Obama's request because it will make our nation healthier and safer. The Senate is already working on their bill. Unfortunately, their bill is less than half of the President's request. We cannot afford to ignore our children's health. A majority of the House believes we need a Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill that meets President Obama's request.

I include in the RECORD the bipartisan letter signed by 219 Members of Congress and the Op-Ed from the Washington Post authored by Generals Shalikashvili and Shelton.

MAY 6, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
*Speaker, House of Representatives, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, We are writing in strong support of reauthorizing Child Nutrition Programs this year. Under your leadership, this Congress has committed to addressing critical economic and health challenges of a generation. The reauthorization of the child nutrition programs is a crucial legislative component to this effort. President Obama has called for a historic investment in these programs in order to respond to two of the greatest child health challenges of our time, hunger and poor nutrition. Respectfully, we request your leadership in assisting in the identification of possible offsets to support President Obama's call for new investments to properly fund these important anti-hunger and nutrition programs.

President Obama included a \$1 billion increase in funding for the Child Nutrition Programs in both his FY 2010 and FY 2011 budgets. This request clearly highlights the importance of and the need to invest in these programs. Nearly one-quarter of children today live in households that don't always have enough food to feed the family. Furthermore, families that struggle to have enough food often also struggle to access healthful food. Poverty exacerbates children's risk of unhealthy weight gain, but poor nutrition affects children's health and well-being across all income levels. Today, nearly one-third of all children are overweight or obese. These challenges to children's health are present in every district across the country and are recognized as critical public health concerns.

No child should have to go hungry and all children should have access to enough food, and the right food, to help them to achieve their potential. The federal child nutrition programs are a critical tool for addressing these challenges. These programs provide children access to nutritious food and meals throughout the year through the National School Lunch program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. These programs fill in critical gaps for families in poverty as well as those who are struggling in this economy. For some children, the meals provided through the child nutrition programs are the only healthy and nutritious meals they will eat each day.

Similarly, the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children serves a unique role for low-income women and their children by providing nutrition education, supplemental foods and services to address nutritional risk. The evidence demonstrates that this program provides for a healthier start in life for children.

Today nearly 45 million individuals are served by these programs. While these programs work, there are millions of low-income children who don't have access to these benefits, and more can be done to ensure that these benefits are of high quality, based on current nutrition science. This Congress can continue to improve on their success; however, improving these programs will require a significant investment.

While we recognize the size of the federal deficit and the need to reduce this deficit, we support proper funding—offset and paid for—that allows for critical improvements in access to and the quality of the Child Nutrition Programs. Chairman Miller is working on a reauthorization that will properly marry improved access and nutrition quality to address the priorities outlined in the President's budget. We are committed to working with him on this effort. To support this effort, we are seeking your assistance in identifying offsets to properly fund these improvements.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to working with you further on this important reauthorization.

Sincerely,

McGovern; Emerson; Grijalva; Farr; DeGette; Pallone; Stark; Richardson; Snyder; Larsen; Carson; McCollum; Pingree; Hastings (FL); Baldwin; Capps; Polis; Clarke; Fudge; Carnahan; Kaptur; Welch; Capuano; Maloney; Ellison; Moore (WI); Loebssack; Delauro; Olver; Norton; McDermott; Holt; Filner; Frank (MA); Green, Al; Lynch; McCarthy (NY); Matsui; Grayson; Watson; Wu; Kucinich; Doyle; Tonko; Chu; Tierney; Pastor; DeFazio; Waters; Woolsey; Boccieri; Shea-Porter; Wasserman Schultz; Hinchey; Schakowsky; Foster; Blumenauer; Quigley; Rush; Towns; Clay; Lee (CA); Hinojosa; Serrano; Brady (PA); Bordallo; Waxman; Michaud; McMahon; Jackson, Jr.; Hill; Doggett; Sires; Oberstar; Titus; Tsongas; Markey (MA); Neal; Sablan; Castor; Bishop (GA); Gonzalez; Courtney; Wolf; Boucher; Sutton; Cuellar; Braley; Souder; Faleomavaega; Dahlkemper; Brown, Corrine; Ortiz; Reyes; Bishop (NY); Israel; Scott (VA); Conyers; Sánchez, Linda; Van Hollen; Pierluisi;

Schiff; Heinrich; Delahunt; Johnson; Eddie Bernice; Dingell; Davis (IL); Peters; Fattah; Green, Gene; Rodriguez; Davis (CA); Rothman; Cummings; Payne; Lewis (GA); Yarmuth; Herseth Sandlin; Owens; Kind; Weiner;

Berman; Nadler; Rahall; Edwards (MD); Lofgren; Paulsen; Gutierrez; Teague; Speier; Harman; Slaughter; Schauer; Hirono; Moore (KS); Scott (GA); Cao; Kennedy; Watt; Marshall; Kildee;

Berkley; Garamendi; Moran (VA); Thompson (MS); Sarbanes; Higgins; Sestak; Hare; Andrews; Melancon; Jackson Lee; Kilroy; Velázquez; Boswell; Roybal-Allard; Young (AK); Halvorson; Cohen; Butterfield; Cleaver;

Kilpatrick; Napolitano; Hall (NY); Honda; Arcuri; Altmine; Langevin; Luján; Lowey; Eshoo; Pascrell; Ackerman; Christensen; Schwartz; Johnson (GA); Kagen; Connolly; Crowley; Ryan (OH); Perlmutter;

Markey (CO); Engel; Rangel; Kratovil; Space; Calvert; Putnam; Hodes; Barrow; Meeks; Stupak; Meek; Etheridge; Price (NC); Salazar; Schrader; Boren; Murphy (CT); Davis (AL); Visclosky; Lipinski; Sherman; Berry; Costello; Maffei; Murphy (NY); Deutch; Inslee; Ruppersberger; Matheson; McIntyre; Kissell; Sanchez, Loretta; Schmidt; Driehaus; Wilson (OH); Dicks; Himes.

[From The Washington Post, Apr. 30, 2010]

THE LATEST NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT: OBESITY

(By John M. Shalikashvili and Hugh Shelton)

Are we becoming a nation too fat to defend ourselves?

It seems incredible, but these are the facts: As of 2005, at least 9 million young adults—27 percent of all Americans ages 17 to 24—were too overweight to serve in the military, according to the Army's analysis of national data. And since then, these high numbers have remained largely unchanged.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show obesity rates among young adults increasing dramatically nationwide. From 1998 to 2008, the number of states reporting that 40 percent or more of young adults are overweight or obese has risen from one to 39.

While other significant factors can keep our youth from joining the military—such as lacking a high school diploma or having a serious criminal record—being overweight or obese has become the leading medical reason recruits are rejected for military service. Since 1995, the proportion of potential recruits who failed their physical exams because of weight issues has increased nearly 70 percent, according to data reported by the Division of Preventive Medicine at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

We consider this problem so serious from a national security perspective that we have joined more than 130 other retired generals, admirals and senior military leaders in calling on Congress to pass new child nutrition legislation.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in **this typeface** indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

What children eat and drink during school hours constitutes as much as 40 percent of their daily nutrient intake. Properly managed, the school environment can be instrumental in fostering healthful eating habits among our children.

Researchers from Rice University and the University of Houston noted in the journal Health Affairs in March that increasing participation in federal nutrition programs “may be the most effective tool to use in combating obesity in poor children.”

As a nation, we need to take the next step. Our school districts need the resources to offer our children more vegetables, fruits and whole grains as well as products with less sugar, sodium, fat and calories in school cafeterias and vending machines. Yes, this will mean increasing funding for child nutrition programs. But with our nation spending at least \$75 billion a year on medical expenses related to obesity, we think these steps will pay off over the long term.

We urge Congress to pass a robust child nutrition bill that would:

Get the junk food and remaining high-calorie beverages out of our schools by adopting new standards, based on the latest research, for foods and drinks sold or served in our schools. Standards for school meals are 15 years old. Clearly, they need to be upgraded.

Support the administration’s proposal of an increase of \$1 billion per year for 10 years for child nutrition programs that would improve nutrition standards, upgrade the quality of meals served in schools and enable more children to have access to these programs.

Develop research-based strategies, implemented through our schools, that help parents and children adopt healthier lifelong eating and exercise habits.

Military concerns about the fitness of our children are not new. When the National School Lunch Act was first passed in 1946, it was seen as a matter of national security. Many of our military leaders recognized that poor nutrition was a significant factor reducing the pool of qualified candidates for service.

Our country is facing another serious health crisis. Obesity rates threaten the overall health of America and the future strength of our military. We must act, as we did after World War II, to ensure that our children can one day defend our country, if need be.

RECOGNIZING HENRY “HANK” PARKER AND HIS HISTORIC CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a lifetime of public service to the people of Connecticut by a lifelong friend to me, to my family, and to the families of our State: Henry E “Hank” Parker.

Born one of seven children in Baltimore, Hank first moved to Connecticut after serving two years in the Army, obtaining a degree from the Hampton Institute in Virginia, and turning down an offer to play with the Harlem Globetrotters. Maryland and Harlem’s loss was Connecticut’s gain. For the next fifty years, Hank would serve our State ably as an educator, activist, public official and powerful crusader for both social change and fiscal responsibility.

Upon receiving his MS in Education from Southern Connecticut State College, Hank served as Project Director at the First Community School in my hometown and soon became chairman of the New Haven Black Coalition in 1962. Amid the social and political tumult of the ensuing decade, he would become deeply involved in local and community politics, and become known throughout Connecticut as an influential, passionate, and exceptionally keen advocate for social justice.

In 1974, Hank was elected Connecticut State Treasurer, becoming not only just the second African-American to hold the position but the sole fiduciary of the State’s then \$3.3 billion pension fund. Among his achievements during his tenure, Hank created Yankee Mac, a \$450 million home mortgage program for the State that emphasized opportunities for urban renewal. He chaired the Governor’s Task Force on South Africa investment policies that yielded one of the first model anti-apartheid bills in America. And he chaired the 1977 State Citizen’s Committee that recognized Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday as a State holiday, seven years before Congress followed suit.

After stepping down in 1986—making him the longest-serving Connecticut State Treasurer in over 150 years—Hank became Senior Vice-President of Atalanta/Sosnoff Capital Corporation. In addition, he continued both his advocacy and community service efforts as a member of many important Boards, and as a lifelong member of the NAACP.

Endorsed by such national figures as Paul Newman and Muhammad Ali over the course of a career of good works, Hank has made a profound transformative impact on our State. For almost my entire life, he and his wife of over fifty years, former State Representative Janette Johnson Parker, have been a veritable institution in New Haven, and in my neighborhood of Wooster Square. I thank Hank, Jan, and their children Curtis and Janet for their service to our Connecticut community, and for their years of friendship to my family. Hank, Jan, Curtis, and Janet, congratulations and thank you to you all.

IN HONOR OF MRS. JOYCE E. PERRY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart but great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mrs. Joyce E. Perry. Joyce Perry was a woman who put her faith to work by mentoring young people in her community as a coach and as a teacher. A gifted athlete, devoted educator, and loving wife and mother, Joyce greatly advanced the sport of women’s basketball in the state of Delaware.

A native of Milford, Delaware, Joyce was an outstanding student athlete at the University of Delaware. Joyce was a trailblazer—co-captaining UD’s first women’s basketball teams and lettering on their first tennis and field hockey teams. She played a major role in the growth of the university’s Athletic Program and is revered as one of its most successful coaches.

Mrs. Perry began her college coaching career as head women’s basketball coach at Wesley College in Dover, Delaware, but soon returned to her alma mater by becoming UD’s second women’s basketball head coach in 1978. Joyce led the Lady Blue Hens for 18 seasons, the longest women’s basketball tenure in the school’s history. Her 266 career victories remain a UD career record for basketball—in both the men’s and women’s programs.

During Joyce’s tenure, the Lady Blue Hens had a record of 266–212, including six-straight winning seasons from 1987 to 1993, three 20-win campaigns, six East Coast Conference (ECC) regular season titles, and three straight ECC Tournament titles. She coached nine all-conference selections, three conference players of the year, and one conference rookie of the year. Her players earned numerous academic awards, and Mrs. Perry was twice named ECC Coach of the Year, once in 1984 (22–4) and again in 1989 (23–6). In 2004, Joyce was inducted into the University of Delaware Athletics Hall of Fame.

I am honored today to recognize Mrs. Joyce E. Perry—a woman of great compassion and of fierce completable spirit. She will be greatly missed; as a wife to husband Gregg, a former standout football player and current football coach at the University of Delaware, as a mother to sons Rhett and Trey, and as a Delaware athlete, coach, and mentor. Joyce’s influence and contributions have reached far and wide, both within and beyond our state; her mark is indelible.

HAITI ECONOMIC LIFT PROGRAM ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my strong support for H.R. 5160, the Haiti Economic Lift Program Act of 2010. I would like to thank my colleagues Congressmen RANGEL, LEVIN, and CAMP for introducing this important bipartisan legislation, which will expand trade preferences to Haiti in the wake of January’s devastating earthquake.

In the immediate aftermath of the January 12 earthquake, we saw images of unimaginable devastation from Haiti, followed by an unprecedented outpouring of international goodwill. Nearly five months after the earthquake, the situation in Haiti remains extremely critical. Thousands of people remain displaced from their homes and livelihoods.

I traveled to Port au Prince in early March, and I was inspired by the hope and courage of the Haitian people, even in the face of unimaginable loss. Even as we continue to work to ensure that medical care, shelter, and sanitation supplies reach Haitians affected by the earthquake, we must also turn our attention to Haiti’s future, and help Haitians rebuild a stronger country.

January’s earthquake not only damaged individual livelihoods, it demolished Haiti’s already precarious economy. This legislation is an important first step toward putting Haiti