

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 655

Expressing support for the designation of June 7, 2012, as National Hunger Awareness Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2012

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. REYES, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Ms. NORTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of June 7, 2012,
as National Hunger Awareness Day.

Whereas food insecurity and hunger are facts 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 show 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 show that households with children experience nearly twice the rate of food insecurity as those 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 one or more times;

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

(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 communities of the United States;

Whereas although substantial progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and food insecurity in the United States, many individuals in the United States 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 individuals experiencing hunger or food insecurity;

Whereas more than 50,000 local, community-based organizations rely on the support and efforts of more than 1,000,000 volunteers to provide food assistance and services to millions of vulnerable people;

Whereas all people of the United States can participate in hunger relief efforts in their communities by donating food and money to hunger relief efforts, volunteering for hunger relief efforts, and supporting public policies aimed at reducing hunger; and

Whereas June 7, 2012 would be an appropriate date to designate as National Hunger Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the designation of National Hun-
3 ger Awareness Day; and

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

6 (A) with appropriate ceremonies, volunteer
7 activities, and other support for local anti-hun-
8 ger advocacy efforts and hunger relief charities,
9 including food banks, food rescue organizations,
10 food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency
11 shelters; and

12 (B) by continuing to support programs and
13 public policies that reduce hunger and food in-
14 security in the United States.

○