

jeopardizing the future of our defenseless children.

Republicans claim their proposals to cut crucial nutrition programs are aimed at bureaucrats, but the real victims of these deadly cuts are the children of America.

The pain and suffering of childhood hunger can be seen in each of our 50 States.

Children who pass out on the school playground because of hunger;

Children who have learned the heart-breaking skill of stretching one packet of cheese flavoring for three meals of macaroni and cheese; and

Children who literally sob from the pain of stomach cramps because they have not eaten since the previous day.

These scenarios are not grossly exaggerated fictional accounts concocted to illustrate my point.

They are actual examples of childhood hunger in this country recently documented in the Los Angeles Times of children without the benefit of nutrition programs.

These tragic scenarios will become more frequent and more severe if Republican proposals to block grant vital nutrition programs are approved. For they will limit the money that will be available to feed our children.

Scientific evidence reveals that children are far more susceptible to the harmful effects of nutrient deprivation than previously known and, according to physicians, results in lifelong damage.

Once physical growth and cognitive development have been impaired, the damage is often irreversible.

The highly effective WIC and the national school lunch programs protect children from the physical and mental ravages caused by hunger.

As a direct result of Federal nutrition programs, growth stunting has declined by 65 percent according to the USDA.

The General Accounting Office reports that the WIC program saves \$3.50 in special education and Medicaid costs for every prenatal \$1 it spends.

In my home State of California, almost 2½ million children participate in these nutrition programs.

The future of these and other children is now endangered by the irresponsible and heartless cuts proposed by the Republican majority.

Teachers in the Los Angeles Unified School District, as in school districts throughout this country, support the school breakfast and school lunch program.

They know first-hand that children who are well-nourished are more alert, more attentive and more eager to learn as contrasted with hungry children who are listless and can barely raise their heads from their desks.

While children will be the first victims of the Republicans' callous and ill-conceived program cuts, all Americans will ultimately pay the price when our young people cannot fulfill

their academic potential and cannot grow into productive workers.

As a result, our Nation will no longer be a global competitor.

To deny food to our children is a betrayal of our values and our future as the richest Nation on Earth.

It is imperative that we maintain this safety net of nutrition for America's Children.

How can we in good conscience afford to do less?

Mrs. CLAYTON. You had emphasized the value of nutrition for education. I just wanted you to expand on that in terms of the value of nutrition to reduce the cost of health care. Part of, obviously, why nutrition is valuable is to make sure young people are healthy, and when they are not healthy, the cost of health care goes up.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Absolutely. If you talk to teachers throughout this country, they will tell you when children go to school hungry, not only do they not learn, but they are much more susceptible to disease and, therefore, the cost of health care is also increased.

Mrs. CLAYTON. I was thinking in this atmosphere of reduction and deficit reduction, it seems to be pound-foolish and to be penny-wise in trying to cut back on nutrition programs when you put at risk not only kids' learning abilities but also raise the cost of health care. It seems like if we were trying just to reduce the budget, we have chosen the wrong program, the WIC program, to do that or the school lunch program to do that.

□ 2215

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Absolutely, because in the long run I guess it is going to cost society much, much more.

REPUBLICANS STARVING CHILDREN TO PAY FOR THEIR CONTRACT ON AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHUGH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WOOLSEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] for organizing tonight's special orders. She is so appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I know personally the fear of not having enough money to buy food for my children. Twenty-seven years ago I was a single working mother with three small children forced to rely on Aid For Dependent Children and food stamps in order to give my children the health care, child care and food they needed. That experience never leaves me, Mr. Speaker. It is the basis for my commitment to make sure that every child enters the classroom safe, healthy and ready to learn, and without nutrition programs this will not be possible.

That is why I am shocked that at the same time Republicans are talking about taking school lunches away from almost 7,000 children in my congressional district, Mr. Speaker, they are refusing to cut pork barrel military projects like the F-22 fighter plane.

Health care providers, parents and teachers all know that the school lunch program is crucial to our children's education and to their health. In fact, the school lunch program is the source of more than one-third of the recommended daily allowance for the children it serves. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, eliminating Federal school meal programs, cutting funds and giving what is left over to the States is no way to take care of our children. Rather we should be talking about full funding our school lunch programs and full stomachs for our kids.

In fact, I have only one thing to say to this pea-brain plan. States do not get hungry, children do, and the public is not going to allow the Republicans to starve children just so they can pay for their Contract on America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

REPUBLICAN PROPOSALS ARE PLACING THE WELL-BEING OF OUR CHILDREN IN JEOPARDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. BISHOP] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deep concern over Republican proposals that would excessively cut nutrition programs—proposals which could jeopardize the future of our children and our ability to compete in the global economy.

Our country has had a long-standing, bipartisan commitment to ensuring an adequate nutritious diet for our most vulnerable citizens. Members on both sides of the aisle have always before recognized that the country's strength depends on having a healthy, productive population, and nutrition programs contribute substantially to that goal.

The School Lunch Program was started in 1946 as a national security measure in response to the large number of men enlisting in the armed forces who were found to be malnourished. Other Federal nutrition programs, such as the Food Stamp Program and WIC, were developed in response to findings of widespread hunger in the late 1960's. In 1967, for example, the Field Foundation sponsored a study that was shocking to much of America. It found that hunger and poverty were shortening the lives of many