

Our Nation has now been at war for a decade, yet a smaller percentage of our citizens have been in the Armed Forces. The Army Reserve offers a reminder that our Nation rests on the strength of brave soldiers who volunteer to step forward and make tremendous sacrifices.

Today, I wish a special 105th birthday to all the men and women serving in the United States Army Reserve and welcome some of them to Capitol Hill to participate in Army Day, to remind us all of the sacrifices that they make every day to defend this country.

To the men and women of the United States Army Reserve, I salute you. Thank you.

END HUNGER NOW—CHILDHOOD HUNGER IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about the national shame of child hunger in America. I wish it didn't exist, but we can't ignore the fact that there are more than 16 million kids in America who are food insecure. Quite simply, that means more than 16 million children went hungry in 2011. That's unconscionable and that is unacceptable.

Hunger has no place in the richest, most prosperous nation on Earth. Letting anyone in this country go without food is bad enough, but letting children go hungry is more than heartbreaking; it's just plain wrong. Yet we let it happen every day in America—16 million children, Mr. Speaker. That means one in five kids in America go to bed hungry and wake up hungry at some point in their lives during the year. That means one in five kids don't know when their next meal is coming.

We are allowing more than 16 million kids to wake up hungry, go to school hungry, and go to sleep hungry. We are allowing more than 16 million kids to be deprived of proper nutrition, the nutrition contained in good, healthy food that helps children's minds and bodies properly develop. We are allowing more than 16 million kids to struggle at school and have problems with learning simply because they suffer from hunger.

Child hunger has many impacts. Kids who don't eat enough good, healthy food will not develop properly. They have more health problems and require more costly health care than children who don't have to worry about hunger. Sometimes the lack of food results in developmental problems and learning disabilities. Other times, hunger simply doesn't allow kids to concentrate. These problems can lead to under-education, which can have long-term effects, including a lifetime of low-paying jobs and even unemployment.

America has several antihunger safety net programs to deal with hunger. Some of these programs are specifi-

cally designed for children. SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, is the biggest antihunger program in the Federal Government. It does a good job, but there are still many ways that it can be improved.

Over many years, we have also created the National School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program; and in order to meet increased demand, we now have after school snack and meal programs. But these programs are inadequate in many ways. The breakfast and lunch programs provide either a free or a reduced price meal. The free meal is available to those kids whose families are quite poor; but the reduced price meals are available to kids of families who are poor, but not poor enough to qualify for the free plan. This means there are days, and even weeks, when a child's family simply may not have enough money to pay for the reduced price meal. That's a serious problem.

Another problem is that breakfasts are typically served before school starts, meaning that poor kids have to get themselves to school early just to get a good meal. This can create a stigma where these kids get teased and bullied because they're poor, but it can also result in a pattern where these children don't have regular access to a school breakfast if their parents can't get them to school on time or if the school buses don't deliver them early enough to be able to benefit from this breakfast. Organizations like the EOS Foundation in Massachusetts and States like West Virginia are working to fix this by promoting Breakfast at the Bell programs, a solution I strongly support.

And then there are weekends, where schools aren't open. Food banks, churches, synagogues, mosques, and other antihunger organizations are filling that gap with food backpacks that are given out on Friday afternoons.

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Mr. Speaker, as a candidate, then-Senator Obama pledged to end childhood hunger by 2015. It was a good idea then, and it's a good idea now. We worked hard, and many of us pushed for a comprehensive childhood hunger plan. We even wore those buttons to show our support.

Mr. Speaker, 2015 is only 2 years away. There is no way we are going to meet that goal, but it doesn't mean we should give up. Now is the time to redouble our efforts. Now is the time to make the pledge to end hunger now. And that's not just a clever tag line. No, Mr. Speaker, we can end hunger now if we start with the commitment to develop a comprehensive plan to do so.

That's why I continue to call for Presidential leadership on this serious matter. We need a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition to develop a comprehensive plan that will address all aspects of hunger in America, especially child hunger. We need

this conference to bring all the stakeholders, like the Eos Foundation, the Governor, and other political leaders from West Virginia and other States and other organizations that are not typically in the antihunger movement. We need faith-based leaders, CEOs, leaders of food banks, pediatricians, schools, and nutritionists together in one room to develop a comprehensive plan, take assignments and make it work. If we do this, we can end hunger now.

Mr. Speaker, hunger is a political condition. We have everything we need to end it. We lack the political will.

I urge my colleagues to make this issue a priority. End hunger now.

CENSUS BUREAU ECONOMIC QUESTIONNAIRE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, generally, we believe that what's good for the goose is good for the gander. That's why I was a little bit shocked when it was brought to my attention by a number of my colleagues that they received an economic census in the mail—a very complex, 14-page document asking them in very great detail about their business, about their suppliers, about their cost, about who they sell to, and who their customers are. These were received by mom-and-pop businesses, sometimes just mom businesses, no pop—one-person businesses. One said:

It will take me two days to fill out this questionnaire. I have to work. If I don't work 2 days, my business will go down the drain.

I wondered how important this information was, so I wrote a letter to the Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau to ask just a few questions about it. I asked about their constitutional authority to do that, and they gave me their statutory authority. I'll talk about their letter in a minute. Then, while they didn't have time to answer my letter on a timely basis, they did have time to send another relatively harassing letter to the businesses threatening them with more penalties—a fine—and just scared the daylights out of them if they did not take time to return that form.

I finally got my response from them, and what I found was that they didn't answer all my questions. I asked them:

Please provide me with the information describing the universe the economic census questionnaires were mailed to and how they were selected.

No answer.

One constituent who received a questionnaire was a sole proprietor with no other employees; another was a sole proprietor with two employees.

Please provide me a summary, if you have one, as to how many of the businesses to which economic censuses were mailed were sole proprietors or small businesses or corporations? How many would you consider to be large corporations? Were there any Fortune 500 companies?