

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) prenatal care and proper nutrition for pregnant women reduces the incidence of birth abnormalities and low birth weight among infants;

(2) proper nutrition for infants and young children has very positive health and growth benefits; and

(3) women, infants, and children of military families stationed outside the United States are potentially at nutritional risk.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to ensure that women, infants, and children of military families stationed outside the United States receive supplemental foods and nutrition education if they generally would be eligible to receive supplemental foods and nutrition education provided in the United States under the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

**SEC. 3. SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION BENEFITS FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES STATIONED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**

Section 1060a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (h); and

(2) by striking subsections (a) through (e) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish and carry out a program to provide, at no cost to the recipient, supplemental foods and nutrition education to—

“(1) low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to 5 years of age of military families of the armed forces of the United States stationed outside the United States (and its territories and possessions); and

“(2) eligible civilians serving with, employed by, or accompanying the armed forces outside the United States (and its territories and possessions).

“(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall operate the program under this section in a manner that is similar to the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

“(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section that are as similar as practicable to regulations promulgated to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, but that take into account—

“(1) the need to use military personnel to carry out functions under the program established under this section, including functions relating to supplemental foods, nutrition education, eligibility determinations, oversight, enforcement, auditing, financial management, application reviews, delivery of benefits and program information, handling of local operations and administration, and reporting and recordkeeping;

“(2) the need to limit participation to certain military installations to ensure efficient program operations using funds made available to carry out this section;

“(3) the availability in foreign countries of exchange stores, commissary stores, and other sources of supplemental foods; and

“(4) other factors or circumstances determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense, including the need to phase-in program operations during fiscal year 2000.

“(d) ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall be responsible for the implementation, management, and operation of the program established under this section, including ensuring the proper expenditure of funds made available to carry out this section.

“(2) INVESTIGATION AND MONITORING.—The Inspectors General of the Armed Forces and the Department of Defense shall investigate and monitor the implementation of this section.

“(e) RECORDS.—The Secretary of Defense shall require that such accounts and records (including medical records) be maintained as are necessary to enable the Secretary of Defense to—

“(1) determine whether there has been compliance with this section; and

“(2) determine and evaluate the adequacy of benefits provided under this section.

“(f) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2001, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall submit a report describing the implementation of this section to—

“(A) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

“(B) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

“(C) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate; and

“(D) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

“(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include a description of participation rates, typical food packages, health and nutrition assessment procedures, eligibility determinations, management difficulties, and benefits of the program established under this section.

“(g) FUNDING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide to the Secretary of Defense to carry out this section—

“(A) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;

“(B) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2001; and

“(C) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

“(2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Secretary of Defense shall be entitled to receive the funds and shall accept the funds, without further appropriation.”.

### IMPORTED FOOD SAFETY ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise to join with Senator COLLINS in introducing S. 1123, the Imported Food Safety Act of 1999. This legislation will address a growing problem that affects everyone in this nation, the safety of the food that we eat.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates as many as 9,100 deaths are attributed to foodborne illness each year in the United States. In addition there are tens of millions of cases of foodborne illness that occur, the majority of which go unreported due to the fact that they are not severe enough to warrant medical attention.

The legislation that Senator COLLINS and I have crafted will target one of the most critical areas in helping to

provide Americans with the safest food possible—the safety of imported food. The CDC has recognized that as trade and economic development increases, the globalization of food supplies is likely to have an increasing impact on foodborne illnesses.

Currently, one-half of all the seafood and one-third of all the fresh fruit consumed in the U.S. comes from overseas. In fact, since the 1980's food imports to the U.S. have doubled, but federal inspections by Food and Drug Administration have dropped by 50 percent.

Over the years there have been foodborne pathogen outbreaks involving raspberries from Guatemala, strawberries from Mexico, scallions, parsley and cantaloupes from Mexico, carrots from Peru, coconut milk from Thailand, canned mushrooms from China and others. These outbreaks have serious consequences. The Mexican frozen strawberries I have just noted were distributed in the school lunch programs in several states, including my home state of Tennessee, were attributed to causing an outbreak of Hepatitis A in March of 1997.

The Collins-Frist bill will do several vital things to safeguard against potentially dangerous imported food. The bill would allow the U.S. Customs Service, using a system established by FDA, to deny entry of imported food that has been associated with repeated and separate events of foodborne disease.

The bill would also allow the FDA to require food being imported by entities with a history of import violations to be held in a secure storage facility pending FDA approval and Customs release.

To improve the surveillance of imported food, we authorize CDC to enter into cooperative agreements and provide technical assistance to the States to conduct additional surveillance and studies to address critical questions for the prevention and control of foodborne diseases associated with imported food, and authorize CDC to conduct applied research to develop new or improved diagnostic tests for emerging foodborne pathogens in human specimens, food, and relevant environmental samples.

These are just a few of the many provisions in this bill that will help improve the quality and safety of the imported food that we consume every day. I applaud the leadership of my colleague, Senator COLLINS, who as Chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held 4 comprehensive hearings last year on the issue of food safety. As Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Public Health, I look forward to working with Senator COLLINS and the rest of my colleagues on the issue of food safety and our overall efforts in improving