

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5463

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require a study of the time and duration of school lunch periods, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 17, 2019

Ms. SCHRIER (for herself and Ms. BONAMICI) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require a study of the time and duration of school lunch periods, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Healthy Meal Time
5 Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. MEAL TIME STUDY AND GUIDANCE.**

7 The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 1769) is amended by inserting after section
9 26 the following:

1 **“SEC. 27. MEAL TIME STUDY AND GUIDANCE.**

2 “(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall—

3 “(1) not later than 1 year after the date on
4 which funds are first appropriated under subsection
5 (c), enter into an agreement with an independent,
6 nonpartisan, science-based research organization to
7 carry out a study on the time lunches are served, re-
8 cess is offered, and the duration of lunch periods at
9 schools participating in the school lunch program
10 under this Act; and

11 “(2) not later than 4 years after the date on
12 which funds are first appropriated under subsection
13 (c), publish on the publicly available website of the
14 Department a report that includes the findings of
15 the study required under paragraph (1).

16 “(b) DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF BEST
17 PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall—

18 “(1) not later than 1 year after the date on
19 which the report required under subsection (a)(2) is
20 published, in coordination with the Secretary of
21 Education, establish a task force to—

22 “(A) review such report;

23 “(B) review other research relating to the
24 time lunches are served, recess is offered, and
25 the duration of lunch periods in schools; and

1 “(C) develop best practices with respect to
2 the time lunches are served, recess is offered,
3 and the duration of lunch periods in schools to
4 ensure student health, including appropriate
5 nutritional intake; and

6 “(2) not later than 2 years after the date on
7 which the report required under subsection (a)(2) is
8 published—

9 “(A) review the best practices developed
10 under paragraph (1)(C); and

11 “(B) issue guidance with respect to such
12 best practices to schools participating in the
13 school lunch program under this Act.

14 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
15 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
16 \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, to remain available until
17 expended.”.

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