

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 189

Recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting United States Agency for International Development's commitment to global nutrition through its multi-sectoral nutrition strategy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2019

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. MCGOVERN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting United States Agency for International Development's commitment to global nutrition through its multi-sectoral nutrition strategy.

Whereas 151 million children under the age of 5 in the world—22 percent—are stunted, or chronically undernourished, and in countries highly affected by undernutrition, stunting affects 1 in every 3 children;

Whereas wasting, or acute malnutrition, continues to threaten the lives of an estimated 7.5 percent or nearly 51 mil-

lion children under the age of 5 globally, and more than 38 million children under the age of 5 are overweight;

Whereas malnutrition directly or indirectly causes 45 percent of all deaths—2.6 million—of children under age 5 annually and puts those who survive at risk of impaired brain development, lower IQ, weakened immune systems, and greater risk of serious diseases;

Whereas undernourished adolescent girls have impaired cognitive ability and productivity and their future babies are at increased risk for low birth weight and death;

Whereas iron deficiency anemia, associated with undernutrition, contributes to 1 in 5 maternal deaths (or 20 percent of maternal mortality);

Whereas poor maternal nutrition contributes to poor fetal development and low birth weight, and an estimated 60 to 80 percent of neonatal deaths occur in low birth weight babies;

Whereas a large body of scientific evidence supports the benefits of improved breastfeeding practices on the short-term and long-term health and development of children and their mothers;

Whereas a growing evidence base demonstrates that reducing maternal and child malnutrition, especially in the critical 1,000 days between pregnancy and age 2, is imperative to ending preventable maternal and child deaths, improving cognitive and physical development, and strengthening children's immune systems to bolster resistance to disease;

Whereas leading economists and Nobel Laureates have identified improving child nutrition as the most cost-effective way to enhance global health and development;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development’s Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy’s approach addresses both direct and underlying causes of malnutrition, and its focus on linking humanitarian assistance with development programming helps build resilience to shocks in vulnerable communities;

Whereas malnutrition is a universal issue that no country in the world can afford to overlook, and countries with high burdens of malnutrition, including stunting, wasting, anemia, and micronutrient deficiency, will struggle to achieve sustainable and equitable economic growth;

Whereas the United States plays a lead role supporting the goals of Scaling Up Nutrition, a global movement of 60 countries to prioritize nutrition, particularly during the 1,000-day window of opportunity between a mother’s pregnancy and her child’s second birthday, through effective policy and dedicated national resources; and

Whereas the world has reduced undernutrition since 1990, yet global progress has been too slow to ensure each child can attain a full and prosperous future regardless of where he or she was born and at the current pace, the global community will not reach its global nutrition targets set for 2025: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) reaffirms that—

3 (A) food security and good nutrition in
4 early childhood saves lives and lays the founda-
5 tion for healthy physical and cognitive growth
6 and development;

1 (B) the potential benefit of good nutrition
2 is life-long and influences a child's entire fu-
3 ture, with entire communities and nations ulti-
4 mately prospering;

5 (C) the right nutrition helps children learn,
6 helps protect them from illness, increases their
7 productivity and earning potential, and sup-
8 ports the well-being and health of their future
9 offspring; and

10 (D) women who are well-nourished and do
11 not suffer from anemia are less likely to die in
12 childbirth and to give birth to children who are
13 malnourished, breaking the intergenerational
14 cycle of malnutrition;

15 (2) reaffirms that—

16 (A) good nutrition is also an economic
17 issue central to reducing poverty and putting
18 countries on path to economic development;

19 (B) adults who were well-nourished as chil-
20 dren earn up to 46 percent more than those
21 who were malnourished;

22 (C) countries with a very high burden of
23 early childhood malnutrition have lower eco-
24 nomic growth rates due to lost income and pro-
25 ductivity; and

1 (D) the cost to nations is substantial with
2 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) losses esti-
3 mated between 3 to 16 percent with overall po-
4 tential impacts to the global economy as high as
5 \$3.5 trillion per year;

6 (3) commends United States leadership in help-
7 ing developing countries meet the nutritional needs
8 of women and children, and supports continued ef-
9 forts;

10 (4) commends United States Agency for Inter-
11 national Development's (USAID) recognition that
12 nutrition interventions are among the lifesaving
13 interventions that can have the greatest impact in
14 ending preventable child and maternal deaths;

15 (5) recognizes the USAID Multi-Sectoral Nutri-
16 tion Strategy, the United States Government Global
17 Nutrition Coordination Plan, and the Global Food
18 Security Strategy as platforms through which to
19 help reach global nutrition targets by 2025, as
20 agreed to at the World Health Assembly in 2012;

21 (6) recognizes the vision and goals of the Scal-
22 ing Up Nutrition movement as a global partnership
23 to support country-led efforts to improve maternal
24 and child nutrition involving governments, civil soci-

1 ety, the United Nations, donors, businesses, and re-
2 searchers;

3 (7) recognizes that progress against global mal-
4 nutrition must be accelerated using innovative,
5 scaled-up approaches to improve the systems that af-
6 fect the nutritional status of women and children;
7 and

8 (8) calls for transformative efforts across sec-
9 tors at USAID—

10 (A) to accelerate progress to end maternal
11 and child malnutrition, including through Coun-
12 try Development Cooperation Strategies that
13 align with country’s national nutrition plans;
14 and

15 (B) to include improved and clear methods
16 to track nutrition funding and outcomes across
17 all United States Government global nutrition
18 programs, especially those in global health, food
19 security, agriculture, basic education, food as-
20 sistance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene
21 (WASH).

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