



H.Con.Res. 344 – Recognizing that we are facing a global food crisis

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 344 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) on May 7, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 344 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 9, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 344 resolves that the House of Representatives (with the Senate concurring):

- It is the sense of Congress that--
 - in emergency situations, children have different needs than those of adults, and nutritional deficiencies disproportionately affect children; and
 - in the context of the current global food crisis, the nutritional needs of children must be a humanitarian priority; and
- Congress--
 - recognizes that we are facing a global food crisis caused by, among other things, rising fuel prices, increased diversion of land to biofuel production, drought, and increases in population;
 - recognizes that lack of adequate nutrition is particularly damaging to children, as it stunts their growth, leaves them more vulnerable to numerous diseases, and hunger affects children's ability to learn; and
 - calls for a world forum to be held, on the issue of rising food prices and international response, and for the United States to play an active role in alleviating the crisis.

BACKGROUND

According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, 37 countries throughout the world are experiencing lack of access to food or shortfalls in food production. Food prices have also risen 43 percent in the past year, according to the International Monetary Fund. Haiti and Tajikistan are among the countries most severely impacted by the current food shortage and price increases.

In fiscal year 2008, the U.S. Agency for International Development has provided \$1.4 billion worth of food and related assistance worldwide. Significant causes of the food shortfall and price increases are increased fuel costs, more biofuel production on previously agricultural land, overpopulation and drought.

STAFF CONTACT

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