

child nutrition programs through a strong bipartisan reauthorization bill. Signed into law by President Harry S. Truman in 1946, the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act created the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) “as a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation’s children.” Serving 7.1 million students annually in 1946, the program has grown to over 30 million students per day in 2015.

For many students in congressional districts like mine, having access to nutritious meals is extremely important. Today, approximately 15 million children live in households facing food insecurity and receive a majority of their calories for the day at school. The Community Eligibility provision in current law provides free, nutritious meals to 8.5 million low-income children in 18,000 higher-poverty schools and eliminates the burdensome application requirements for districts, schools, and families. Under this provision, high-poverty school districts are able to offer universal school meals to all students without the addition of complex paperwork for families, as long as the school district demonstrates that 40 percent of their students already qualify for other federally certified free meals programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Had I been present at the full committee markup, I would have joined my House Democratic colleagues in expressing concerns and opposing H.R. 5003, the “Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016.” This highly partisan bill contains harmful provisions that would make it more difficult for low-income schools to feed their students. We must keep in mind that nutrition programs for children and families impact our nation’s economy, national security, and classrooms. Our most vulnerable children and families deserve more from the federal government, which I have always believed has a responsibility to help those most in need.

To be sure, H.R. 5003 is a misguided piece of legislation that would weaken the nutrition safety net for our nation’s students and families. I am deeply concerned that this bill significantly alters the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), lacks meaningful investments for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program, adds barriers to the school meals verification process, and rolls back important evidenced-based criteria to school nutrition standards.

By passing the Republican proposed 2016 CNR legislation, the CEP threshold would be raised to 60 percent and cause too many vulnerable students, including up to nearly 47,000 students in my district, to potentially lose access to free school meals. These districts do not have the framework, funding or capacity to deal with the considerable amount of administrative work that comes with increasing the CEP.

For these reasons, I will continue to urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 5003 in its current form and instead work to ensure that children and families have access to robust federal nutrition programs. My Democratic colleagues and I strongly believe that Congress must work to address food insecurity and hunger in America by making it easier for more needy children to access federal child nutrition programs. Our nation’s most vulnerable children deserve nothing less.

RECOGNIZING MARINE CORPORAL
JASON HALLETT

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and sacrifice made by Marine Corporal Jason Hallett.

On October 23rd, 2010, Corporal Hallett was serving as part of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine in Sangin, Afghanistan. While clearing a compound of IEDs, a device detonated, severely injuring Corporal Hallett. In the explosion he lost both legs above the knees, his right arm above the elbow, and suffered severe damage to his left hand. Under heavy fire from insurgents, Corporal Hallett was carried across an open field and transported back to the closest Forward Operating Base (FOB) where life-saving measures were performed.

During medical treatment and rehabilitation, Corporal Hallett never lost the motivation and dedication to succeed. Since returning to his home in Colorado, Corporal Hallett has begun studying finance at Colorado State University, a passion he developed during his recovery.

It is inspiring to see the dedication Corporal Hallett shows to helping fellow veterans. Corporal Hallett embodies the values that make America exceptional. He has shown true leadership in his community, and the impact of his story has been profound. He is an inspiration to us all. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks for his service and continued efforts to improve the lives of veterans.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Marine Corporal Jason Hallett for his commitment to family, community, and the United States of America.

HANNAH HOFFMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hannah Hoffman for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Hannah Hoffman is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Hannah Hoffman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Hannah Hoffman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Monday, May 23, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on roll call vote 229 and “yea” on roll call vote 230.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote Number 229 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill (H.R. 4889), the Kelsey Smith Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS
ENTERING OUR ARMED FORCES

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor high school graduates from the Broome-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services area who are entering the United States Armed Forces. These young men and women have made an admirable decision to defend our country. I join the Conklin Kiwanis Club in honoring them.

The Conklin Kiwanis Club will hold a special celebration to honor these graduating high school seniors. “The First to Say Thank You” event will take place on Tuesday, May 24th at Susquehanna Valley High School in Conklin.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask you join me in honoring the following students entering the Army National Guard: Sabrina Robinson, Afton; Cydney Mallory, Chenango Valley; Jonathan White, Downsville; Tyler Festa, Dryden; Debick Wilson, Harpursville; Chris Thornton, Oneonta; Jacob Johannessen-Butler, Roscoe; Kaitlyn Howard, Sherburne-Earlville; Rebecca Urda, Trumansburg; Dan Spring, Tully; Zach Abdullah, Windsor; Zach Emmons, Windsor.

Honoring the students entering the United States Air Force: Katherine M. Colwell, New Milford, PA; Ryan T. Simmons, Chenango Forks.

Honoring the students entering the United States Army: Sean Sousa, Binghamton; Dylan Bean, Candor; Dylan Jumper, Chenango Forks; Izaiah Cabello, Chenango Valley; Michael Doan, Chenango Valley; Nicholas Mace, Chenango Valley; Donald Moore, Chenango Valley; Robert McDowell, Hancock; Ashlyn Dudek, Harpursville; Tyler Lavergne, Harpursville; Joshua Wagoner, Johnson City; Sydney Aleba, Whitney Point; Nytice Saunders, Whitney Point; Mr. Isaac Hyde, Windsor; Mr. Jeffrey Colwell, Windsor.

Honoring the students entering the United States Marines: Joseph Cardenas, Afton; Ray Zukowsky, Bainbridge; Rebecca Wlasiuk,