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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 201

Offered March 7, 2022

Commending the Virginia School Breakfast Program.

Patrons—Pillion, Boysko and Mason; Delegate: O'Quinn

WHEREAS, the Virginia School Breakfast Program, administered by the Virginia Department of Education, provides nutritious breakfast meals to students in school districts throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, 11 percent of children were food insecure in Virginia in 2019, and more families have experienced food insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, school-aged children who experience hunger are more likely to be absent from school, visit the school nurse, and experience more challenges than children with a nutritious diet; and

WHEREAS, a school breakfast, often the only morning meal available to many children, helps improve children's overall diet, builds healthy eating habits, and enhances their ability to learn and perform academically; and

WHEREAS, the School Breakfast Program, administered by the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, provides nutritious breakfast options in accordance with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans to nearly 15 million children across 91,000 schools and institutions in the United States each day, based on pre-pandemic data; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Education, recognizing the value of adequate and proper nutrition for each child, administers the School Breakfast Program in the Commonwealth with the help of dedicated administrators at local school districts; and

WHEREAS, local school food authorities operating the Virginia School Breakfast Program served more than 58 million breakfast meals in 2019, reaching approximately 360,000 students; and

WHEREAS, organizations like No Kid Hungry and the School Nutrition Association offer information, tools, resources, and grants to support schools in implementing and expanding school breakfast programs; and

WHEREAS, National School Breakfast Week is observed annually to promote the importance of a nutritious breakfast to student health and learning, and to recognize the critical role of the School Breakfast Program in meeting the nutritional needs of children across the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia School Breakfast Program for its outstanding contributions to students across the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to members of the Bristol Public Schools Nutrition Department on behalf of school nutrition professionals throughout the Commonwealth as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for the critical importance of the Virginia School Breakfast Program.

INTRODUCED

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