

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1313**

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**Statement for the Record**  
**House Committee on Rules Hearing on H.R. 8319, the Continuing Appropriations Act,**  
**2021 and Other Extensions Act**  
**Hon. Rodney Davis**  
**Illinois**  
**Monday, September 21, 2020**

Thank you, Chairman McGovern and Ranking Member Cole, for your commitment to keeping our government funded, and working together on a bipartisan basis to ensure that we remain operational as our nation reopens and we work to rebuild amid the new-normal of the coronavirus pandemic.


I have offered an amendment to this year's continuing resolution along with my colleagues, Representatives Abigail Spanberger (D-VA), Don Bacon (R-NE) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) in an effort to address the lapsing waiver authority, which has unfortunately gone unaddressed in the Continuing Resolution being considered today.

My amendment extends the child nutrition waiver authority deadline to December 31, 2021 as authorized under Section 2202 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act; directs the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to, within 30 days of enactment, extend child nutrition waivers granted as of September 11, 2020 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year; and authorizes such sums necessary in order to fund the child nutrition waivers under section 2102 and 2202 of FFCRA. All of these steps are necessary to ensure that our schools have the funding and flexibilities to keep kids safe and fed.

I've discussed with local school administrators in my district the new and evolving challenges brought on by the coronavirus as they continue to work through the details of their virtual, hybrid and in-person learning models. The logistical nightmare that they are faced with is not only costly, but dangerous in terms of keeping kids socially distanced, if they cannot continue utilizing summer feeding program models, and cannot utilize the additional flexibilities that ease the burdens caused by this virus.

As you know, USDA has authorized the continuation of these waivers only through December 31, 2020, well short of the entire school year, and has declined to authorize further absent additional authorities and appropriations. Our nation's children cannot become the collateral damage of partisan finger-pointing. Regardless of the authorities we can debate may or should be utilized, we must address this issue immediately and provide USDA with explicit direction to immediately extend these waivers, along with the additional funding.

If we truly want to slow the spread of coronavirus, and ensure that children have access to nutritious meals, it is not practical or wise to leave this issue unaddressed. Mr. Chairman, I've been proud to work with you on these child nutrition issues in the past, and I encourage you to make in order this bipartisan amendment to ensure that our nation's most vulnerable children have access to healthy meals despite where they live, or the manner in which their school is operating. Thank you for your consideration of this amendment, and I yield back.



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress