

## **EXTENSION OF REMARKS**

### **HONORING NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK**

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

**in the House of Representatives**

**October 6, 2005**

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize National School Lunch Week. This year, the event is being held during the week of October 10-14, 2005. In honor of this event, I would like to take a moment to share with you a few facts relating to the National School Lunch Program:

- President Harry Truman established the National School Lunch Program in 1946 in response to the large number of World War II recruits that were rejected due to malnutrition.
- Today, the school lunch program serves more than 28 million students each day.
- Just over half of those students who participate in the school lunch program receive their lunch free or at a reduced cost.
- Over 92 percent of all students nationwide have access to school lunch and about 58 percent of those students participate on a given day.
- The school lunch program operates in 99 percent of all public schools and 85 percent of private schools. That's a total of 99,538 public and non-profit private schools.
- The National School Lunch Program is the largest of the federal child nutrition programs both in terms of spending and children served.
- In fiscal year 2005, \$6.8 billion was appropriated for the school lunch program.

For some children, a school lunch is the only healthy meal they eat all day. School lunches can contribute positively to children's health, and can improve academic performance by increasing children's learning capacity and lengthening their attention spans. The National School Lunch Program plays an important role in protecting the health and well-being of many of the nation's school-age children.

I commend the nation's dedicated educators, food service professionals, and most of all, parents who work to ensure the ongoing success of the National School Lunch Program, and to ensure that children have access to nutritious and balanced meals at school.