



TODAY'S MESSAGE

House
Democratic
Leadership

Communications

Rep. Richard Durbin,
Rep. Kweisi Mfume
Vice Chairs

Wednesday, March 1, 1995

GOP WELFARE REFORM BILL CONTINUES ASSAULT ON KIDS

The House Ways and Means Committee is currently considering the Welfare Reform Consolidation Act of 1995. The GOP bill would dramatically slash funding levels for school lunches and vital nutrition programs for America's children.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS: WOMEN AND CHILDREN PAY FIRST

The Republicans continue to show that when it comes to making budget cuts to pay for *their* priorities -- like tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans -- America's children pay the heaviest price.

The Republican welfare plan would cut funding levels for school lunches for children, infant baby formula, and eliminate 185,000 meals a day for children in family day care homes.

GOP SIDES WITH CORPORATIONS OVER INFANTS

As reported in yesterday's *Wall Street Journal*, four U.S. drug firms stand to gain as much as \$1 billion under the Republican plan to overhaul federal nutrition programs for pregnant women and children.

More than 100,000 babies would lose vital nutritional assistance like formula and food, while corporations that produce baby formula would no longer have to compete for government contracts. This would result in increased costs to the government, more profits for the corporations -- and less food for children.

GOP WELFARE PLAN MAKES CHILDREN MOST VULNERABLE IN RECESSION

Under the Republican block grant program, children would be the first to feel the impact of a major downturn in the economy.

In a recession, states would have to respond to more children needing school lunches by either cutting back on the quality of food or simply not providing lunches for children who need to eat.

FUNDING LEVELS SERIOUSLY REDUCED IN GOP BILL

A new U.S. Department of Agriculture analysis of the Welfare Reform Consolidation Act shows that *school-based nutrition programs* would be funded at **\$104 million less** in FY 1996 and **\$1.3 billion less** between FY 1996 and 2000 under the Republican welfare plan. Family based nutrition programs would see a **\$987 million cut** in funding levels in FY 1996 and a **\$5.3 billion cut** over the next five years.