WASHINGTON - Today, U.S. Representative David Trone (MD-06) was in Washington, DC to preside over the House floor and introduce the Food and Nutrition Provider Emergency Support Act of 2020 to give emergency funding to the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), a federal program that provides nutritious meals to qualifying children and adults. This bill is likely to be included in the Heroes Act, the coronavirus response package that the House is currently slated to consider on Friday.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the CACFP program has provided critical nutrition and meal support to child care centers and after school programs, children and adult day care centers, and children residing in emergency shelters. At a time when many children and adults rely on meals and snacks from these programs, additional funding is necessary so participating institutions and sponsors implementing CACFP can continue feeding children in need. Many schools are also using this program to provide dinner for children who are out of school during this unprecedented public health crisis.

“No child or adult should wonder where their next meal is coming from, especially during a global pandemic that has threatened the physical, mental, and economic health of our nation,” said Congressman Trone. “This emergency funding provides the federal support to the state and local organizations that make sure the most vulnerable in our communities have access to nutritious meals and snacks during this unprecedented crisis.”

The funding will be administered by states and distributed to providers based on a formula that takes into account the typical level of reimbursement a provider would receive to operate the program, and the reimbursement being received during the pandemic.

You can see a copy of the bill text here.

In Congress, David Trone has made investing in school meal programs a top priority. This month, he led a bipartisan effort to urge the USDA to waive restrictions on access to school meals during the COVID-19 outbreak. He recently led a bipartisan effort, the CARE for Kids Act, to extend automatic eligibility for free school meals to certain vulnerable groups of children. Last summer, he took a tour of his district to highlight the importance of the Summer Meals Programs in schools, where he was joined by celebrity chef Bryan Voltaggio from Frederick, MD. In his position on the Education and Labor Committee, he has supported several bills related to protecting and expanding school meal program.
H. R. _____

To provide reimbursements for the child care operational emergency costs of certain institutions during the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Trone introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To provide reimbursements for the child care operational emergency costs of certain institutions during the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2. SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3. This Act may be cited as the “Coronavirus Emergency Relief for the Child and Adult Care Food Program Act”.

4. 
SEC. 2. CHILD CARE OPERATIONAL EMERGENCY COSTS DURING COVID–19 PANDEMIC.

(a) USE OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS TO COVER CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM CHILD CARE OPERATIONAL EMERGENCY COSTS DURING COVID–19 PANDEMIC.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) REQUIRED ALLOTMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall allocate to each State that participates in the reimbursement program under paragraph (3) such amounts as may be necessary to carry out reimbursements under such paragraph for each reimbursement month, including, subject to paragraph (4)(C), administrative expenses necessary to make such reimbursements.

(B) GUIDANCE WITH RESPECT TO PROGRAM.—Not later than 10 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue guidance with respect to the reimbursement program under paragraph (3).

(2) REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION.—To participate in the reimbursement program under paragraph (3), not later than 30 days after the date described in paragraph (1), a State
shall submit an application to the Secretary that in-
cludes a plan to calculate and disburse reimburse-
ments under the reimbursement program under
paragraph (3).

(3) Reimbursement amount.—Using the
amounts allocated under paragraph (1)(A), a State
participating in the reimbursement program under
this paragraph shall make reimbursements for child
care operational emergency costs for each reimburse-
ment month as follows:

(A) For each new covered institution in the
State for the reimbursement month, an amount
equal to 55 percent of—

(i) the average monthly amount such
covered institution was reimbursed under
subsection (e) and subsection (f) of section
17 of the Richard B. Russell National
School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766) for
meals and supplements served by such new
covered institution during the alternate pe-
riod; minus

(ii) the amount such covered institu-
tion was reimbursed under such section for
meals and supplements served by such new
covered institution during such reimbursement month.

(B) For each covered institution not described in subparagraph (A) in the State for the reimbursement month, an amount equal to 55 percent of—

(i) the amount such covered institution was reimbursed under subsection (c) and subsection (f) of section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766) for meals and supplements served by such covered institution during the month beginning one year before such reimbursement month; minus

(ii) the amount such covered institution was reimbursed under such section for meals and supplements served by such covered institution during such reimbursement month.

(C) For each new sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home in the State for the reimbursement month, an amount equal to 55 percent of—

(i) the average monthly amount such new sponsoring organization of a family or
group day care home was reimbursed under section 17(f)(3)(B) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(f)(3)(B)) for administrative funds for the alternate period; minus

(ii) the amount such new sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home was reimbursed under such section for administrative funds for the reimbursement month.

(D) For each sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home not described in subparagraph (C) in the State for the reimbursement month, an amount equal to 55 percent of—

(i) the amount such sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home was reimbursed under section 17(f)(3)(B) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(f)(3)(B)) for administrative funds for the month beginning one year before such reimbursement month; minus

(ii) the amount such sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home was reimbursed under section 17(f)(3)(B) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(f)(3)(B)) for administrative funds for the alternate period; minus
home was reimbursed under such section
for administrative funds for such reim-
bursement month.

(4) TREATMENT OF FUNDS.—

(A) AVAILABILITY.—Funds allocated to a
State under paragraph (1)(A) shall remain
available until March 30, 2021.

(B) UNAFFILIATED CENTER.—In the case
of a covered institution or a new covered insti-
tution that is an unaffiliated center that is
sponsored by a sponsoring organization and re-
ceives funds for a reimbursement month under
subparagraph (A) or (B), such unaffiliated cen-
ter shall provide to such sponsoring organiza-
tion an amount of such funds as agreed to by
the sponsoring organization and the unaffiliated
center, except such amount may not be greater
be than 15 percent of such funds.

(C) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A State
may reserve not more than 1 percent of the
funds allocated under paragraph (1)(A) for ad-
ministrative expenses to carry out this sub-
section.

(D) UNEXPENDED BALANCE.—On Sep-
tember 30, 2021, any amounts allocated to a
State under paragraph (1)(A) or reimbursed to a new covered institution, covered institution, new sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home, or sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home that are unexpended by such State, new covered institution, covered institution, new sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home, or sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home, shall revert to the Secretary.

(5) REPORTS.—Each State that carries out a reimbursement program under paragraph (3) shall, not later than September 30, 2021, submit a report to the Secretary that includes a summary of the use of such funds by the State and each new covered institution, covered institution, new sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home, or sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CHILD CARE OPERATIONAL EMERGENCY COSTS.—The term “child care operational emergency costs” means the costs under the child and adult care food program under section 17 of the Richard
B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766) incurred by a new covered institution, covered institution, new sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home, or sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home—

(A) during a public health emergency;

(B) that are related to the ongoing operation, modified operation, or temporary suspension of operation (including administrative costs) of such new covered institution, covered institution, new sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home, sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home, or sponsoring organization of an unaffiliated center; and

(C) except as provided under subsection (b), that are not reimbursed under a Federal grant.

(2) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term “covered institution” means—

(A) an institution (as defined in section 17(a)(2) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(a)(2))); and

(B) a family or group day care home.
(3) **NEW COVERED INSTITUTION.**—The term “new covered institution” means a covered institution for which no reimbursements were made for meals and supplements under section 17(c) or (f) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766) with respect to the previous reimbursement period.

(4) **NEW SPONSORING ORGANIZATION OF A FAMILY OR GROUP DAY CARE.**—The term “new sponsoring organization of a family or group day care” means a sponsoring organization of a family or group day care home for which no reimbursements for administrative funds were made under section 17(f)(3)(B) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(f)(3)(B)) for the previous reimbursement period.

(5) **PREVIOUS REIMBURSEMENT PERIOD.**—The term “previous reimbursement period” means the period beginning March 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2019.

(6) **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.**—The term “public health emergency” means a public health emergency declared pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) resulting from the COVID–19 pandemic.

(8) Secretary.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(9) State.—The term “State” has the meaning given such term in section 12(d)(8) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(d)(8)).