Rep. Schuitmaker offered the following concurrent resolution:

House Concurrent Resolution No. 44.

A concurrent resolution to memorialize Congress and the Michigan Department of Education to support an increase in the nutritional quality and options available through school lunch programs.

Whereas, All children, regardless of income, need a healthy school lunch each day in compliance with the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Program established in 1946; and

Whereas, A disproportionate rise in poor health indicators, including obesity, risk for heart disease, diagnoses of cancer, and adult onset diabetes, are linked to diet. Studies indicate that almost 1 in 3 American children are overweight or obese. A significant percentage of children who rely on free and reduced-price school meals are considered at risk for these diet-related degenerative diseases; and

Whereas, Health experts recommend a greater emphasis in the American diet on fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes, which contain fiber and essential nutrients, including vitamins and minerals, are low in fat and calories, and contain no cholesterol. Exposure to more plant-based entrees in the school cafeteria would positively influence children's health; and

Whereas, In order to provide variety and encourage consumption and participation, school lunch programs should offer a selection of menu items and foods from which children may choose, including plant-based meals and nondairy healthful beverage alternatives; therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That we memorialize Congress and the Michigan Department of Education to support an increase in the nutritional quality and options available through school lunch programs; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Michigan Department of Education.