

September 27, 2010

The Honorable George Miller
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Dear Chairman Miller:

We the undersigned groups support you and your efforts to pass a child nutrition bill before the programs expire on September 30. Like your version of the bill, the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act (S. 3307) includes many important and significant improvements over current law. We urge you and your colleagues to vote in favor of the bill before time runs out.

Some of the key provisions in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act for reducing obesity and supporting healthy eating by children include, updated nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools, increased lunch reimbursements, and training to help schools serve healthier meals. The bill includes a number of provisions to expand access to child nutrition programs for hungry kids, including expansion of afterschool meals for at-risk children and improvements to direct certification to enroll more low-income children for free meals. The bill is bipartisan and fully paid for.

The Census Bureau announced recently that 44 million Americans live in poverty. Nearly one in four children faces hunger. At the same time, one-third of children are either overweight or obese. The restricted budgets responsible for episodes of hunger lead some families to fill up on inexpensive foods high in calories, but low in nutrition. As a result, hunger and obesity often coexist.

We strongly encourage all members of Congress to recognize the urgency of the moment and take swift action to pass the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which has the potential to benefit future generations of Americans.

While we are concerned that the bill is paid for, in part, through withdrawing some of the temporary increases in SNAP benefits five months earlier than expected, the uncertain political climate, coupled with historic need among America's children and families, compels us to call for action by the House on S. 3307 before the programs expire.

The commitment to curb both hunger and obesity must be addressed. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act is our best chance to accomplish this goal.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Better Children's Diets
America Walks

American Association for Health
Education

American Beverage Association

American College of Sports Medicine	Colorado Children's Campaign
American Diabetes Association	Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute
American Dietetic Association	Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children
American Heart Association	Consumer Federation of America
American Institute for Cancer Research	Earth Day Network
American Public Health Association	Eat Smart, Move More South Carolina
American School Health Association	Elyria City Health District (OH)
American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery	Fitness Forward
American Society of Bariatric Physicians	Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools
Apple Processors Association	The Food Trust
Arkansas 5 a Day Coalition	Health Promotion Council
Arkansas Action for Healthy Kids	Healthy Schools Campaign
Association of State & Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors	HealthyPlanet's Healthy School Lunch Program
California Center for Public Health Advocacy	Heartland Flavors
California WIC Association	Humana Inc.
Campaign to End Obesity	Indiana Nutrition Council
CardioVision 2020	International Dairy Foods Association
Center for Communications, Health & the Environment	Kalusugan Community Services
Center for Science in the Public Interest	Maricopa County Department of Public Health (AZ)
Child Nutrition Initiative	Mars, Inc.
The Coca-Cola Company	National Action Against Obesity

National Assembly on School-Based Health Care

National Association for Health & Fitness: The Network of Governor's Councils & State Coalitions

Nation Association of Chronic Disease Directors

National Association of County & City Health Officials

National Association of School Nurses

National Association of State Boards of Education

National Congress of Black Women, Inc.

National Consumers League

National Dental Association

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Physicians Alliance

National PTA

National Research Center for Women & Families

National WIC Association

Nemours Foundation

Nestlé USA

New York State Healthy Eating & Physical Activity Alliance

North Carolina Prevention Partners

North Dakota Dietetic Association

Obesity Action Coalition

Ohio Public Health Association

Oral Health America

The Obesity Society

Partners for a Healthier Community

Partners for a Healthy Nevada

Partnership for Prevention

PepsiCo

Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association

Produce for Better Health Foundation

Produce Marketing Association

Project MANA (Making Adequate Nutrition Accessible)

Public Health Institute

Public Health - Seattle & King County

Queen of Hearts Foundation

San Diego State University, Center for Behavioral Epidemiology & Community Health

Save the Children

Society for Nutrition Education

Society for Public Health Education

Southern Nevada Health District

Soyfoods Association of North America

Trust for America's Health

United Fresh Produce Association

Voices for Illinois Children

WalkSanDiego

Wisconsin Dietetic Association

Yale University, Prevention Research
Center