

US House of Representatives  
The Honorable David G. Reichert  
2737 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue, S.E.  
Suite 202  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Dear Congressman David G. Reichert,

I am writing to encourage your support of The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-265), which provides the opportunity to improve federal child nutrition programs. These programs are currently working to expand the availability of nutritious meals and snacks to more children during school, in after school programs, and in childcare and to improve the quality of food in schools.

As a dietetic intern at Bastyr University, I have recently completed a rotation at the Child Nutrition Services office in the Auburn, Washington School District, and have witnessed first hand the role that the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 plays in the lives of children in the community. In this district, Pioneer Elementary school was recently named as a *2008-2009 School of Distinction*. This award specifically recognizes Pioneer Elementary as being in the top 5% of all schools that exceeded this year's state average performance of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) exam, and for demonstrating outstanding improvement over time in math and reading. It is no coincidence that this school has only been part of the National School Lunch Program's Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Grant, which provides funds to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for school meals and snacks. Fresh fruits and vegetables provide children with vitamins, minerals, and an excellent source of fuel, which is needed for optimal learning.

Your support of this act will assure working families have access to nutritious food for their children in safe and nurturing environments in early childhood settings, after school and during the summer.

Thank you for your time and for your ongoing support in bringing nutrition to our communities in Washington State, a state in which I am proud to live.

Sincerely,

Ms. Michelle Lesher, RN MSN