

Child Nutrition Programs Reauthorization

Problem: The diets of most children fall short of recommendations for good health.

1. More than one in five American households and one in ten children still experience food insecurity.
2. Childhood obesity has more than doubled in children and quadrupled in adolescents in the past 30 years.

Solution: A bipartisan Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill to strengthen and improve child nutrition programs.

1. Child Nutrition Programs provide infrastructure to improve:
 - Children's diets and health on a national scale
 - School attendance
 - Test scores and educational attainment
2. Social and economic benefits of the Child Nutrition Programs extend into our communities:
 - Improvements in the diet of other family members
 - Healthier options in the general food marketplace,
 - Economic stimulus to communities,
 - Stable customers for American agriculture,
 - Job creation
 - Poverty reduction

Personal Story: _____

Please support and strengthen child nutrition programs. These programs provide meals, snacks and nutrition education that support healthy children who will develop into healthy adults.

The Senate Ask: Please support the bipartisan Senate Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill, Improving Child Nutrition Integrity and Access Act of 2016, and encourage the chairman to move it to the Floor.

The House Ask: We ask you to oppose provisions within H.R. 5003, Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016, that would harm children's health.

Please oppose:

1. Moving the threshold for community eligibility from 40% to 60% - this will cause fewer children to have access to health meals
 - The impact and the burden of paperwork on parents, teachers and school nutrition administrators will divert attention away from serving children healthy meals.
2. Instituting a block grant pilot for school meals programs resulting in more malnourished Children
 - This will restrict the number of children served by these programs.
 - Block grants:
 - Do not respond to increased need during economic downturns;
 - Do not keep up with rising costs;
 - Do not require science based nutrition standards for children
 - Allow states to divert federal funds from the intended program goals
3. Eliminating evidence-based nutrition standards for children's meals which are working in 98% of schools
4. Eliminate the word "fresh" from the fresh fruit and vegetable program
 - This policy change eliminates the purpose of this successful outcome-based programs to introduce students to the world of produce—such as tasting an apple for the first time.
 - These introductions to produce help build lifelong healthy habits.