

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 15, 2010

Dear Colleague,

Childhood hunger and poor nutrition are two of the greatest public health challenges facing our country today. Nearly one-third of children are overweight or obese and nearly a quarter of children live in households that are struggling to put enough food on the table. S. 3307, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, provides critical tools for families, communities, schools, and child care providers to answer these serious challenges. We are writing to ask your support for passage of S. 3307 when it comes to the floor during this lame duck session.

S. 3307 addresses the critical challenges of child obesity and hunger with historic improvements to the child nutrition programs and the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Specifically, this bill:

- Helps schools provide healthier meals to students by increasing the lunch reimbursement rate by 6 cents per meal - *the first increase in over 30 years.*
- Significantly reduces the availability of high calorie junk foods and sugary beverages on school campuses.
- Ensures more than 100,000 more eligible children can access school meals through direct certification.
- Ensures children in all communities across the country can access healthy meals after school.
- Strengthens local wellness policies to help schools, communities and parents identify and implement strategies to make a real difference in helping children to develop healthy behaviors when they're away from home.
- Leverages public and private partnerships to reduce childhood hunger and obesity, and identifies successful community-wide strategies to improve child nutrition and well-being.
- Simplifies methods for providing the school meals programs in high poverty schools.
- Supports child care providers with tools and resources to improve nutrition and wellness for young children in child care.
- Enhances efforts to encourage and support mothers who choose to breastfeed their infants.
- Modernizes the WIC program by helping States to adopt electronic benefit systems.

While we support this important investment in child nutrition programs, we remain greatly concerned that the Senate chose to pay for this bill with a reduction in SNAP benefits that were provided through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). As you know, SNAP is a cornerstone of the Nation's nutrition safety net and effectively reduces food insecurity and stimulates the local economy.

We have expressed our opposition to using SNAP as a source of funds for any legislative priority to President Obama and we are confident that the President and his Administration share these concerns. We have been assured that they will work with Congress to restore this cut and use their current authorities to protect the integrity of SNAP and further improve children's access to the nutrition programs.

The President and the First Lady were right to call the country's attention to childhood obesity and childhood hunger. We hope you will join with us to respond to this call and promote a healthier future for our Nation. Please join us and over 1200 anti-hunger, public health, anti-poverty and faith groups in supporting S. 3307, The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. If you have any questions, please contact Ria Ruiz ([Alexandria.Ruiz@mail.house.gov](mailto:Alexandria.Ruiz@mail.house.gov)).

Sincerely,



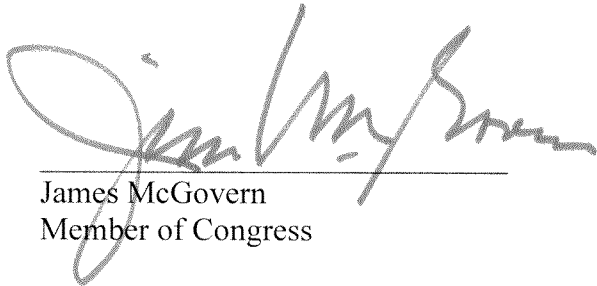
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George Miller  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor



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Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



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James McGovern  
Member of Congress