

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Chairman,
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Ranking Member,
House Committee on Agriculture
1305 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman,
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
328 Russell Senate Office Building

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Ranking Member,
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
637 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Peterson, Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Goodlatte and Ranking Member Chambliss:

As Congress reauthorizes the Farm Bill, one of our top priorities is expanding funding to make more fresh fruits and vegetables available in child nutrition programs. The nutrition and public health community has a strong and compelling interest in increasing children's consumption of fruits and vegetables, as most children in America eat less than half of the fruits and vegetables recommended for good health in the 2005 Dietary Guidelines.

Therefore, we support the nutrition policy priorities incorporated in the "EAT Healthy America Act" introduced in Congress in September 2006:

- National expansion of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program in schools
- Increasing funding for the DoD Fresh Program
- Increasing Section 32 fruit and vegetable purchases
- Conducting a pilot program to provide incentives for Food Stamp Recipients to buy fruits and vegetables.
- Requiring scientific review and Update of WIC Food Packages every 10 years
- Broadening the definition of nutrition education in the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program to include comprehensive public health approaches.

We strongly urge that these provisions be included in the 2007 Farm Bill passed by Congress.

While nutrition policy is not solely a Farm Bill issue, the 2007 Farm Bill provides a unique opportunity to make sure that new policies are considered that would help America's children meet the Dietary Guidelines by increasing the availability of and access to fresh fruits and vegetables in school nutrition programs. For example, the successful Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, and the DoD Fresh Program, expanded in the 2002 Farm Bill, are model school programs that help children to eat more fruits and vegetables and create healthier school food environments.

To this end, we urge Congress to support farm policy that improves the health and wellbeing of our nation's children.

Sincerely,

American College of Preventive Medicine
American Heart Association
American Medical Association

American Medical Student Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors
Bloomfield, Connecticut Public Schools
California Center for Public Health Advocacy
California Food Policy Advocates
Center for Communications, Health and the Environment
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Children's Hunger Alliance
Consumer Federation of America
Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tompkins County
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Department of Public Health, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina
Eastern Illinois University – School of Family and Consumer Sciences
Erie Center on Health & Aging
Farmington Public Schools, Food Service Department
Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health – University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Flying Dragon Wellness
Food Play Productions
Francis Stern Nutrition Center
HealthyPlanet's Healthy School Lunch Program
James Madison University – Dept. Health of Health Sciences
Joan Gussow- Columbia University
Kathleen Schoen
Kids First
Mary V. Dye MPH, RD
Michigan Nutrition Network
Nani Ola Productions
National Association for Sport and Physical Education
National Black Church Initiative
National Recreation and Park Association
New Entry Sustainable Farming Project
New York City Nutrition Education Network
New York Coalition for Healthy School Foods
New York State Nutrition Council
Nutrition Network/Project LEAN – Monterey County Health Department
Ohio Action for Healthy Kids
Operation Wellness – Ball State University
Partners in Ending Hunger
Produce for Better Health Foundation

Produce Marketing Association
Researchers Against Inactivity-related Disorders
Samuels & Associates
School Nutrition Association
Shape Up America!
Shaping America's Health
Southern Nevada Health District – Division of Community Health
The Food Trust
The Healthy Schools Campaign
University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill, School of Public Health
United Fresh Produce Association
Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.
Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
Westchester Coalition for Better School Food

CC:
House Committee on Agriculture
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry