

October 8, 2015

Hon. Pat Roberts, Chair
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
U.S. Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Debbie Stabenow, Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
U.S. Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. John Kline, Chair
Committee on Education and the
Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Bobby Scott, Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the
Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Roberts, Kline, and Ranking Members Stabenow and Scott:

We the undersigned organizations, write to express our strong support for keeping the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) "Fresh" in the 2015 Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act.

For over a decade the FFVP has been a model of success. It has benefited more than 4 million young students in 7,500 of our nation's lowest income elementary schools by providing them with a fresh fruit or vegetable snack every day at school.

A comprehensive national evaluation of the FFVP demonstrated that the Program is effective and significantly increases children's consumption of fruits and vegetables, without increasing their average intake of calories. The FFVP is helping children create healthy eating habits that will last a lifetime. Participating schools report that the FFVP is key to encouraging children to try new fruits and vegetables. A recent University of Arkansas study provides the first evidence that the FFVP plays a role in reducing childhood obesity in participating students

Furthermore the United States Department of Agriculture and state child nutrition officials report that FFVP schools easily implemented the new school lunch nutrition standards, and attributed this success to the wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables students were already introduced to in the FFVP.

We urge the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee and the House Education and the Workforce Committee to keep the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program "Fresh" in the 2015 Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill.

Very respectfully,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Action for Healthy Kids
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Public Health Association
Arkansas Public Health Association
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Center for Science in the Public Interest
ChangeLab Solutions
Coalition for Healthy School Food
Colorado Public Health Association
Fair Food Network
Healthy School Campaign
Iowa Public Health Association
Kansas Public Health Association
Minnesota Public Health Association
National PTA
National Education Association
National WIC Association
NEA Healthy Futures
Nemours
New York State Public Health Association
North Carolina Public Health Association
Ohio Public Health Association
PEW Charitable Trusts
Public Health Institute
South Dakota Public Health Association
Real Food for Kids
Texas Action for Healthy Kids
The American Academy of Sports Dietitians and Nutritionists
The Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Teachers College, Columbia Univ.
The Lunch Tray
United Fresh Produce Association
Vermont Public Health Association

CC: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
CC: House Education and the Workforce Committee