



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Statement of Tom Stenzel, President and CEO, United Fresh Produce Association  
On the House Education and the Workforce Committee's  
"Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016" H.R. 5003**

"The child nutrition reauthorization bill passed today by the House Education and the Workforce Committee is a disappointing step that does little to advance Congressional efforts to pass any legislation this year. This bill incorporates extreme positions rather than addressing many of the real issues needed to win bipartisan support on the House floor, and fails to recognize that compromise will be necessary if any bill is to become law. Unfortunately, today's mark-up did nothing to advance any realistic chance of passing Child Nutrition Reauthorization in 2016.

When we focus on kids' health, there is widespread agreement throughout the public health community and tangible evidence that kids are eating healthier school meals and snacks and making healthier choices thanks to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 passed by Congress on a wide bipartisan basis. In the four years since the new standards under the Act were rolled out, we are seeing better nutrition for kids today, a school environment that motivates kids to make healthier choices, and even more success with implementation among school districts nation-wide. Now is not the time to go back.

We urge leaders of the House of Representatives to recognize that this bill has little chance of passing, and instead, encourage members to begin the real work of discussing a bipartisan compromise that might best serve children in the years ahead. Thoughtful people who want to see Child Nutrition Reauthorization in 2016 need to find the compromises that will achieve that goal."

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Founded in 1904, the **United Fresh Produce Association** brings together companies across every segment of the fresh produce supply chain, including growers, shippers, fresh-cut processors, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, foodservice operators, industry suppliers and allied associations. We empower industry leaders to shape sound government policy. We deliver the resources and expertise companies need to succeed in managing complex business and technical issues. We provide the training and development individuals need to advance their careers in produce. Through these endeavors, we unite our industry with a common purpose – to build long-term value for our members and grow produce consumption.