

## ***Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 (H.R. 8150)***

### **Background**

Children need healthy meals to learn and grow. Children in food insecure households have a [higher risk](#) of being hospitalized in early childhood and suffering from chronic diseases, such as asthma. For adolescents, food insecurity is [linked](#) to mental health issues, such as depression and suicidal ideation.

Even before the pandemic, too many children did not have access to healthy food. In 2018, nearly [1 in every 7 households](#) with children struggled to put enough food on the table. Just weeks into the pandemic, more than [1 in every 3 households](#) with children and [nearly half](#) of all mothers with young children struggled with food insecurity.

In response, Congress took action to help address and prevent child hunger— including through the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#). Specifically, this bill provided the U.S. Department of Agriculture with the flexibility it needed to expand eligibility for school meals and address the challenges of serving students who were not physically present in school buildings.

### **The Problem**

Unfortunately, Congress did not extend the key flexibilities provided to the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* (FFCRA). Yet, schools are still grappling with the impact of the pandemic, such as rising food costs and ongoing supply chain issues. If Congress fails to extend certain flexibilities under FFCRA, they will expire on June 30, 2022, potentially stripping millions of students of access to healthy meals.

### **The Solution**

The *Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022* extends flexibilities provided through FFCRA and ensures that schools can continue to provide meals for students. Specifically, the bill:

- Provides nationwide waiver authority for school meal flexibilities that do not increase costs;
- Allows waivers related to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during the summer months;
- Increases reimbursement rates for the 2022-2023 school year by an additional 15 cents per breakfast and 40 cents per lunch; and
- Provides enhanced support to the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP).