



June 21, 2010

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Miller:

Voices for America's Children (Voices), the nation's largest network of multi-issue child advocacy organizations, with 60 members in 45 states, supports the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act of 2010 (H.R. 5504). We applaud your efforts to include provisions in the bill that if fully funded make substantial new investments to increase access, encourage participation and enhances nutritional quality in child nutrition programs. Voices for America's Children supports H.R. 5504 and is particularly supportive of the following:

- Direct certification of children in foster care and phase-in of those participating in the Medicaid program;
- Competitive grants to encourage expansions in the School Breakfast Program;
- Paperless options for universal school meals in high poverty areas;
- Option to provide an additional snack or meal for children in child care longer than 8 hours (in some states);
- Protections against discrimination or segregation of children eligible for free or reduced price lunch; and
- Enhancements in nutritional quality by allowing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to set standards on foods sold on school campuses.

Voices is committed to working with Chairman Miller and the members of the House and Senate to secure a strong bill that moves toward the president's budget request of \$1 billion a year (\$10 billion over 10 years). We believe federal child nutrition programs play a critical role in helping children, especially those in both rural and urban places where access to healthy foods may be limited. It is vital that healthy meals be accessible in places where children gather, like school, child care centers and after-school locations. Given this, we would like to work with the Committee to commit additional resources for expanding the Afterschool Meal Program that provides funding for meals served to children and youth (up to age 18) who participate in afterschool and youth development programs, similar to the Senate's bill (S. 3307).

We applaud Chairman Miller, Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities, Chair Carolyn McCarthy, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Todd Platts for their leadership on this bill.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Bentley", written in a cursive style.

William H. Bentley
President and Chief Executive Officer
cc: Committee on Education and Labor