

July 9, 2013

Representative Tom Latham
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Mike McIntyre
2133 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Latham and McIntyre:

We write to express our strong support for the **School Food Modernization Act**. We appreciate your leadership in advancing this important legislation.

As the legislation you have sponsored recognizes, American schools are actively working to provide increasingly healthy and appealing meal offerings, but too many school kitchens were built decades ago without adequate capacity for procuring, refrigerating, preparing and serving the foods they'd like to offer today. Many schools need improved equipment or even infrastructure for activities such as baking, cooling and scratch cooking. In addition, making changes to school meals requires increased training and technical assistance that is often not accessible to the school nutrition workforce.

The School Food Modernization Act gives school districts and food service administrators the tools and resources they need to prepare meals that not only meet the updated USDA school food standards but also provide wholesome, delicious meals that children will enjoy. The bill provides loan guarantees for kitchen infrastructure and equipment upgrades, authorizes grants for small but critical equipment purchases, and supports innovative training opportunities to strengthen the school food service workforce. This legislation is particularly important because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that as many as one-third of U.S. students are already overweight or obese. We know that American children spend more time in school than anywhere outside of their homes, and the choices they make during the school day can influence their health over a lifetime. Now more than ever, it is vital to help our schools provide healthy choices for all children.

We applaud your efforts on behalf of America's school children, and we look forward to working with you to help advance this important legislative initiative.

Sincerely yours,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Action for Healthy Kids
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Institute for Cancer Research
Association of School Business Officials
CA Center for Public Health Advocacy

California Association of Nutrition & Activity
California Food Policy Advocates
Campbell Soup Company
Center for Communications, Health, & the Environment
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Defeat Diabetes Foundation
Farm Sanctuary
Farm to School Network
Foodservice Consultants Society International - The Americas Division
Globe Food Equipment Company
Iowa Public Health Association
Kansas City Healthy Kids
LTI (Low Temp Industries)
Mars, Inc.
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Parent Teacher's Association
National Research Center for Women and Families
NC Prevention Partners
Nestlé
Oregon Public Health Institute
Partnership for Prevention
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Real Food For Kids - Montgomery
School Food FOCUS National Office
United Fresh