

National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity

October 19, 2007

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
328 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
637 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Chambliss:

Thank you for your support of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program and for your commitment to expand this effective nutrition program to more American children.

We the undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for national expansion of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and for the funding levels provided in Senator Harkin's Chairman's mark (draft) released on October 4, 2007. While we understand that the Chairman's mark is a draft and subject to broader farm bill agreement, we believe that the level of funding provided is a necessary and critical step that will pay future dividends in terms of improved child health and nutrition.

As outlined in the nutrition title, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program would be funded at \$225 million annually. This funding level would enable more than 50 schools in every state to participate in the program. States also could receive additional funding based on their student populations. In total, 4.5 million low-income elementary school children would benefit from receiving a fresh fruit or vegetable snack every day at school. This proposal also includes funding for an evaluation of the program.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is a valuable nutrition program that results in children eating more fruits and vegetables and creates healthier school food environments. It is an important strategy to improve children's health and reduce their risk of overweight/obesity and other diet-related health problems. While optimally we would like the program to reach every elementary school child in the nation, we recognize that there are significant constraints on funding in the farm bill and believe that this is a very positive step forward.

Understanding that the Chairman's mark is only a first step in the Senate farm bill process, we urge the Senate Agriculture Committee to expand this program nationally and we support the funding level of \$225 million per year as provided in the draft nutrition title.

Very Respectfully,

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Cancer Society

American College of Preventive Medicine
American Heart Association

For more information, contact any NANA member organization or Margo G. Wootan at 202-777-8354, or mwootan@cspinet.org.

American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Walks
Amputee Coalition of America
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors
Center for Communications, Health & the Environment (CECHE)
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Community Food Security Coalition
Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute
Comprehensive Health Education Foundation
Consumer Federation of America
FGE Food and Nutrition Team
Fitness Forward
Healthy Schools Campaign
HealthyPlanet's Healthy School Lunch Program
Highbridge Woodycrest Center
Iowa Public Health Association
Jordan Energy and Food Enterprises, LLC
Kansas Public Health Association
Marathon Kids
Montana Public Health Association
National Action Against Obesity
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of School Nurses
National Physicians Alliance
National Recreation and Park Association
National Research Center for Women and Families
National WIC Association
New York Coalition for Healthy School Food
New York State Nutrition Council
Partners for a Healthy Nevada
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prevention Institute
Produce Marketing Association
Program in Nutrition & Food Science, Hunter College City University of New York
Project Bread
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Public Health Association of New York City
Researchers Against Inactivity-Related Disorders
Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center
Save the Children
School Nutrition Association
Shape Up America
Society for Nutrition Education
Society for Public Health Education
South Dakota Public Health Association
Trust for America's Health
United Fresh Produce Association
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
U.S. Apple Association
Washington Health Foundation
Washington State Public Health
YMCA of the USA