

# National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity

January 11, 2008

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

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Chairman  
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Peterson and Ranking Members Chambliss and Goodlatte:

We the undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for national expansion of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program at the \$225 million/year funding level provided in the Senate's farm bill. While we understand that the Farm Bill is subject to broader agreement, we believe that the level of funding provided in the Senate bill is a necessary and critical step that will pay future dividends in terms of improved child nutrition and health.

As outlined in the Senate bill, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program would be funded at \$225 million annually. In total, 4.5 million low-income elementary school children in 5,000 schools nationwide would benefit from receiving a fresh fruit or vegetable snack every day at school. This funding level would provide a base grant to every state that would enable more than 50 schools in every state to participate in the program; with additional funding based on total population. The Senate's bill 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.

We urge the Farm Bill Conferees to support the funding level of \$225 million per year as provided in the Senate's bill to expand the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program nationally.

Very Respectfully,

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Cancer Society  
American Public Health Association  
America Walks  
American School Health Association  
Amputee Coalition of America

American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Heart Association  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Public  
Health Nutrition Directors  
California Food Policy Advocates

Campaign to End Obesity  
CardioVision 2020  
Center for Communications, Health & the Environment (CECHE)  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Children's Defense Fund  
Community Food Security Coalition  
Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute  
Comprehensive Health Education Foundation  
Consumer Federation of America  
Directors of Health Promotion and Education  
FGE Food and Nutrition Team  
Fitness Forward  
Healthy Schools Campaign  
HealthyPlanet's Healthy School Lunch Program  
Highbridge Woodycrest Center  
IDEA Health & Fitness Association  
Iowa Public Health Association  
Jordan Energy and Food Enterprises, LLC  
Kansas Public Health Association  
Marathon Kids  
Maryland Healthy Eating & Active Lifestyle Coalition  
Mercy Hospital, Young People's Healthy Heart Program  
Montana Public Health Association  
National Action Against Obesity  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association for Sport and Physical Education  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of State Boards of Education  
National Physicians Alliance  
National PTA  
National Recreation and Park Association  
National Research Center for Women and Families  
National WIC Association  
New York City Nutrition Education Network  
New York Coalition for Healthy School Food  
New York State Nutrition Council  
The Obesity Action Coalition  
Operation Wellness  
Partners for a Healthy Nevada  
Pennsylvania Public Health Association  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Prevention Institute  
Produce for Better Health  
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  
Samuels & Associates  
Save the Children  
School Nutrition Association  
Shape Up America  
Society for Nutrition Education  
Society for Public Health Education  
South Dakota Public Health Association  
The Cooper Institute  
Trust for America's Health

United Fresh Produce Association

University of Arkansas for Medical

Sciences

University of North Carolina Asheville,  
Department of Health and Wellness

U.S. Apple Association

Washington Health Foundation

Washington State Food and Nutrition Council

Washington State Public Health

YMCA of the USA