



March 26, 2010

The Honorable Olympia Snowe
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1903

Dear Senator Snowe:

When the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act comes to the floor for a vote, please vote to add one more dollar a day to the National School Lunch Program and for the implementation of the IOM Guidelines.

The Let's Go! School Nutrition Workgroup represents 9 school districts in Southern Maine and we are very interested in this bill. We work together to develop innovative, creative, and workable solutions to the constraints we face in serving students healthy meals. Our goal is to increase the nutritional quality of the food we serve, but time and time again, it is the financial constraints that we face that hinder progress.

This is not just another bill. As president of the School Nutrition Association, Dora Rivas, MS, RD, SNS, eloquently testified, the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act means "nutrition for a hungry child, fuel for a successful school day, a healthy solution for a busy parent and a chance for children to learn about balanced meals and establish lifelong positive eating habits."

As you may know, the USDA currently provides \$2.68 for every 'free' meal served. However, only \$1 to \$1.25 of this actually goes to food. The rest goes to keep the program running by paying our staff, purchasing equipment, and other similar overhead expenses. Could you provide a healthy, high quality meal for students with only \$1? It's not an easy task.

The President, as you know, has proposed an additional \$1 billion per year for child nutrition reauthorization. While this is a commendable step in the right direction, it would provide less than a dime increase for school lunches – not even enough to put an extra apple on the tray.

The reality is that we need an extra \$1 to make improvements to the quality and nutrition of the foods served. In addition to this \$1, we ask you to support implementation of the IOM school food guidelines to ensure that more money is equated to healthier food.

Despite the extraordinary challenges facing our nation, investing in our children must remain a top priority. By reauthorizing the Child Nutrition Act with this addendum, you can provide our children with a healthier life and future.

We look forward to hearing your stance on the issue.

Sincerely,

The Let's Go! School Nutrition Workgroup:

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