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April 21, 2010

Let's Go! School Nutrition Workgroup
PO Box 15200
Portland, ME 04101

Dear Friends:

Thank you for contacting me with your support for increased funding for the National School Lunch Program when the Senate considers the child nutrition reauthorization bill this year. I appreciate your taking the time to do so.

I share your concern that the current federal reimbursement to districts for school lunches is insufficient in relation to the average cost of providing a free meal to students. Congress must be sensitive to the fact that the costs of food, transportation, labor and benefits, training, and equipment have increased, but reimbursements have not kept pace.

I believe that children need to have greater access to nutritious, food both during the school year and summer break. Deteriorating economic conditions and rising food insecurity, as well as child hunger, make it imperative that additional steps be taken to increase access to these programs by eligible children. Child nutrition programs also must do a better job at responding to the problem of poor nutrition and childhood obesity among our nation's children.

I will continue to strongly support child nutrition programs and appreciate having the benefit of your views.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

SMC: iss