



March 23, 2010

Hon. Blanche Lincoln, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry  
328A Russell Senate House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lincoln:

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) is pleased that the Child Nutrition Reauthorization process is moving forward with the release of your Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. We applaud your efforts to launch this process to attack America's persistent child hunger problem, and that the legislation signals that the needs of low-income children for nutritious meals and snacks is a top priority for the Senate.

FRAC particularly applauds provisions that take steps forward to ensure that low-income children can participate in child nutrition programs and receive the meals they need, including: an expansion of the Afterschool Meal Program to all 50 states; improvements in processes for certification for school meals; new paperless options for universal meals; and enhancements to the nutritional quality of food served in school-based and preschool settings. The legislation will improve the overall school food environment by establishing national nutrition standards for all foods sold on the school campus throughout the school day. The legislation also reduces paperwork for preschool programs and provides improvements, including a one-year certification for children, to the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program.

FRAC is committed to working with you and others in the Senate to continue to move forward on key priorities, and to find additional funds, and the right mix of funds, to reach these goals and add more improvements in the programs, especially broader access for low-income children. We also are concerned that funding should not be taken from the SNAP Nutrition Education Program, a proposed change that would weaken investments in encouraging healthy eating.

A strong Child Nutrition bill is a key step in reaching the President's goal of ending childhood hunger by 2015 and in reducing childhood obesity. We appreciate all you have done toward that end and we look forward to working together to pass legislation that aggressively pursues these goals.

Sincerely,

James D. Weill  
President