

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

We strongly support your Healthy Local Policies (HeLP) for Schools Act, which would strengthen local school nutrition and physical activity wellness policies to help foster school environments that support healthy eating and physical activity.

One in three young people is either overweight or obese, raising their risk for heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes, which are responsible for two-thirds of deaths in the U.S. Habits and diets during childhood affect health throughout life, and research shows that well-implemented school programs can effectively promote physical activity and healthy eating.

Established in the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, local wellness policies call for school districts to address nutrition and physical activity in schools. That law has resulted in many schools adopting policies for foods sold on campus, physical activity, and nutrition education. However, implementation across the country has not been uniformly strong. In addition, many schools lack access to resources and best practices to help them implement wellness policies, and many local wellness policies remain unavailable to parents and other key members of the school community.

The HeLP for Schools Act would strengthen local school nutrition and physical activity wellness policies by enhancing their implementation, establishing standing local wellness policy committees, making the wellness policies more transparent to parents and school staff, and including policies for physical education and food marketing in schools.

The bill would enhance and strengthen current national investments in the child nutrition programs and support child health. Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation to support nutrition and physical activity by school children.

Respectfully,

America Walks

American Alliance for Health, Physical
Education, Recreation, and Dance

American Diabetes Association

American Dietetic Association

American Heart Association

American Institute for Cancer Research

American Public Health Association

American School Health Association

American Society of Bariatric Physicians

Association of State and Territorial Public
Health Nutrition Directors

B. Sackin & Associates
Be Active New York State
California Center for Public Health Advocacy
CardioVision 2020
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Community Health Partnership: Oregon's
Public Health Institute
Consumer Federation of America
Directors of Health Promotion and
Education
Eat Smart, Move More South Carolina
Ehrens Consulting, Bismarck, ND
Fitness Forward
FGE Food and Nutrition Team
Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools
(FARMS)
Health Promotion Council
Healthy Schools Campaign
HealthyPlanet
Hunter College, Program in Nutrition
Maternity Care Coalition
National Action Against Obesity
National Association for Sport and Physical
Education
National Association of State Boards of
Education
National Consumers League
National PTA
National WIC Association
North Dakota Dietetic Association
Obesity Action Coalition
Oral Health America
Partners for a Healthy Nevada
Partnership for Prevention
Physicians Committee for Responsible
Medicine
Prevention Research Center, Yale University
School of Medicine
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses
Association
Produce for Better Health
Produce Marketing Association
Shape Up America
Save the Children
Society for Nutrition Education
Teachers College, Columbia University,
Program in Nutrition and Center for Food
& Environment
Trust for America's Health
United Fresh Produce Association