

National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity

January 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