



Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

November 1, 2017

Dear Representative:

Medical experts tell us that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Research shows that students who eat school breakfast perform better on standardized tests, behave better in the classroom and have better attendance. This is why we urge your support of **H.R. 3738, the Healthy Breakfasts Help Kids Learn Act.**

H.R. 3738 would provide an additional 6 cents in USDA commodity support for each breakfast served in schools participating in the National School Breakfast Program. Currently, the USDA Foods program provides 100% American grown foods to serve within school meals. While USDA Foods may be served as part of a school breakfast, a state's USDA Foods entitlement is based **only** on the number of lunches served and does not account for the more than 14 million breakfasts served every school day.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act updated nutrition standards that required schools to increase the quantity of whole grains, fruits and vegetables they serve, but federal funding increases have not kept pace with costs. USDA estimated the cost of meeting new school breakfast mandates would increase food and labor expenses by 27 cents per breakfast, yet no additional funding or USDA Foods entitlement was provided to help schools manage increased breakfast costs. Schools are still struggling to stretch their budgets to provide healthy meals for students, but it hasn't been easy.

Expanding USDA Foods to support the School Breakfast Program would ease the burden on financially strapped meal programs and help advance USDA's mission of supporting America's farmers. 6 cents in breakfast commodities would allow schools to dramatically increase the purchase of U.S. farmer-grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

With 13 million children living in food insecure households in this country, school breakfast is vital to ensuring students receive the nutrition they need to succeed in school. Please help us by cosponsoring H.R. 3738, the Healthy Breakfasts Help Kids Learn Act.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lynn Harvey, RDN, LDN, FAND, SNS
President

Patricia Montague, CAE
Chief Executive Officer