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BLOCK GRANTS: Putting School Meals on the Chopping Block



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Questions & Answers

- Type your questions into the “Question” box at any time during the webinar.
- Questions will be addressed during the webinar and at the end as time allows.



Today's Speaker



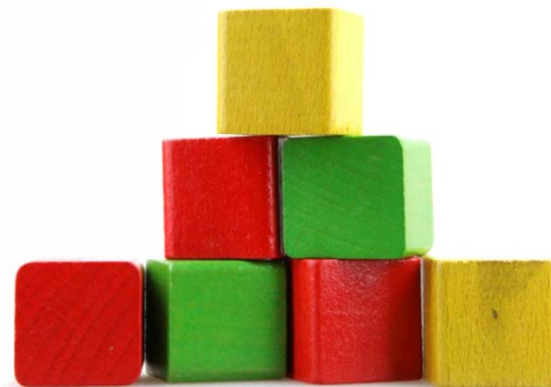
Cathy Schuchart
SNA Staff Vice President of
Government Affairs & Media
Relations

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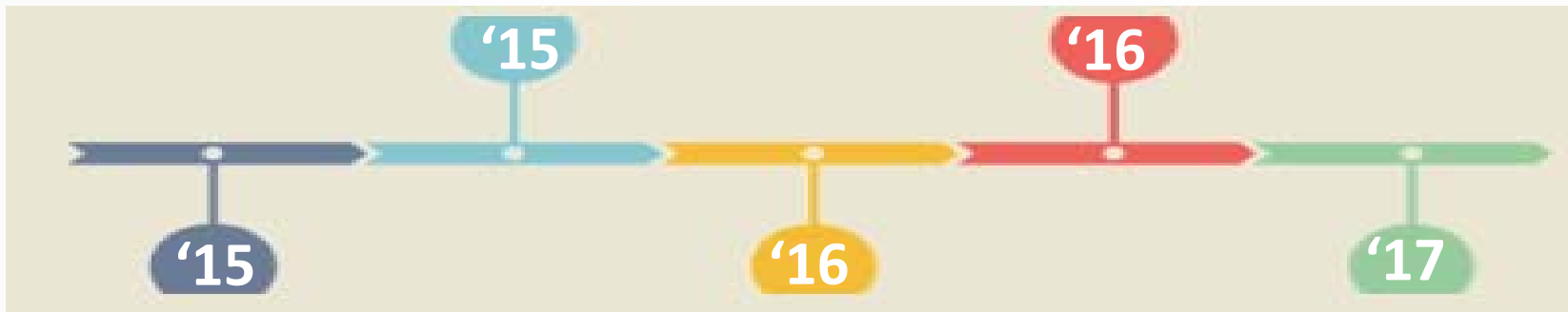


TODAY'S TOPICS

- Update on Child Nutrition Reauthorization
- Why are we talking about block grants?
- Block Grant vs School Meal Funding
- How can you help *#StopTheBlock* to protect school meals?



Update on Child Nutrition Reauthorization



Spring 2015

- ✓ House Educ. and the Workforce Committee & Senate Agriculture Committee held hearings on CNR

September 2015

- ✓ Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 due for reauthorization
- ✓ Child nutrition programs continue to operate

January 2016

- ✓ Senate Agriculture Committee passes its CNR bill

May 2016

- ✓ House Education Committee passes H.R. 5003 which includes a three state block grant provision

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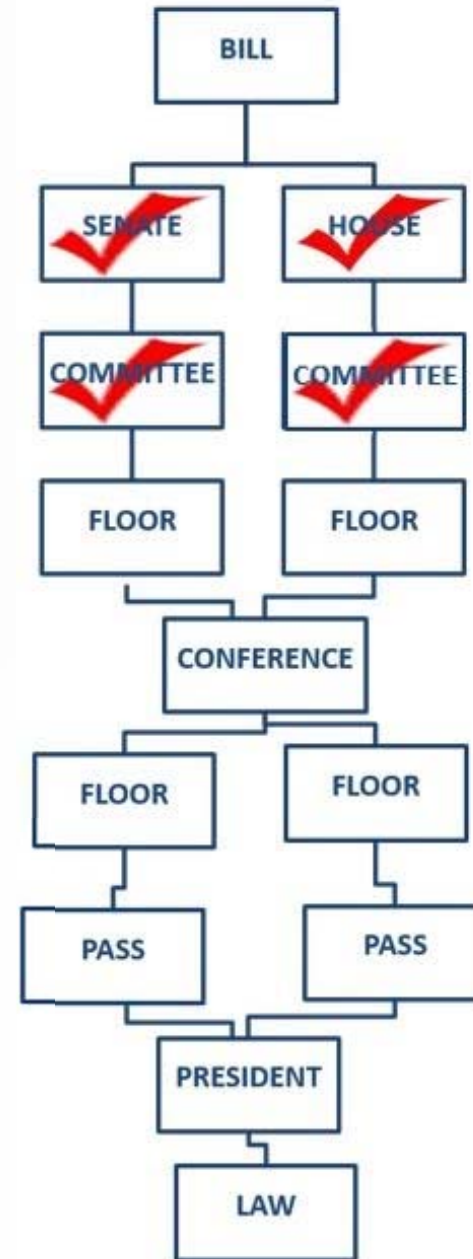
The Road Ahead

- Schedule Floor time for a vote on both bills

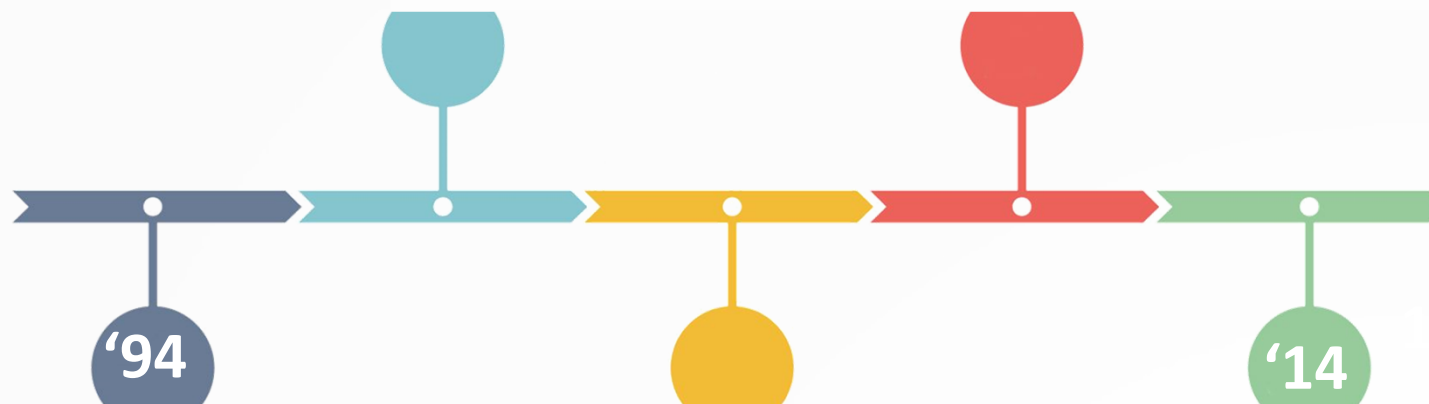
Days Left in Session

U.S. House: **20**

U.S. Senate: **26**



Block Grants: Then & Now



THEN

- ✓ **1994** - Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America"
- ✓ *Congress' first attempt to implement block grants nationwide in school meals failed in **1995** and was defeated with bipartisan support*

NOW

- ✓ **2014** - Paul Ryan's "Expanding Opportunity in America"
- ✓ **2016** – 3 state pilot included in H.R. 5003
- ✓ **2016** – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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Block Grants, also known as:

“State flexibility fund”

“Flexible funding streams”

“Innovative opportunity grants for states”

“Demonstration pilots”

“Flexible spending grants to states”

Take Action to #StopTheBlock



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Mobilize SNA Block Grant Opposition Task Force

- Jean Ronnei, SNA President
- Becky Domokos-Bays, SNA President-elect
- Dr. Lynn Harvey, SNA Vice President
- Debbi Beauvais, SNA Northeast Regional Director
- Gay Anderson, SNA Public Policy and Legislation Committee
- Doug Davis, Chair, SNA Public Policy and Legislation Committee
- Lori Adkins, SNA Public Policy and Legislation Committee
- Gary Vonck, SNA Industry Representative
- Cheryl Isberner, Marketing Manager, Land O'Lakes Dairy Foods
- Patricia Montague, SNA CEO
- Cathy Schuchart, SNA SVP Government Affairs and Media Relations
- Sherri Lehman, SN Director, Federal Government Affairs
- Diane Pratt-Heavner, SNA Director, Media Relations





LEGISLATION & POLICY

- > SNA Legislative Action Center
 - Advocacy Tools
 - Take Action
- > Federal Legislation & Regulations
- > State Policy & Grassroots
- > SNA PAC: Political Action Committee

Stop the Block



Congress is considering a school meal block grant proposal. Block grants would cut funds for school meal programs and abolish federal nutrition standards and meal eligibility mandates. **Children in need could lose access to free or reduced price school meals under this proposal.**

SNA is urging members to ask Congress to oppose school meal block grants. **Below are three ways to take action and details on how SNA is fighting to #STOPtheBLOCK.**

1. Visit [SchoolNutrition.org/Take Action](#) to send an Action Alert email to your Members of Congress in opposition to block grants.
2. **Call your Senators and Representatives.** Click [here](#) and scroll down to "Look Up Your Legislators." Enter your zip code to find links to their contact information and Twitter handles. For sample script to use in communicating with Members of Congress, click [here](#).
3. **Spread the word through social media.** Click [here](#) for sample tweets and posts.

LEARN MORE ABOUT BLOCK GRANTS

- Fact Sheet
- FAQs
- Talking Points
- Sample Tweets/Posts

RELATED

Legislation & Policy

Invest in Healthy School Meals!

30 million students rely on school meals every school day to nourish their bodies & minds... but rising costs threaten meal programs and limit menu improvements.

8-10 programs have taken steps to address nutritional factors, such as cutting menus, hiring & training more staff.

nearly HALF of programs have reduced staffing, leaving fewer hands to do more work.

Updated nutrition standards cost schools \$3 billion+

- 2016 Position Paper
- Tuesday Morning newsletter
- Advocacy Tools
- State and Grassroots Advocacy Tools
- 114th Congress: Child Nutrition Bills Introduced

QUESTIONS?



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