



June 2, 2016

Chairman John Kline
U.S. House Committee on Education and the
Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Robert C. “Bobby” Scott
U.S. House Committee on Education and the
Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Todd Rokita
Subcommittee on Early Childhood,
Elementary, and Secondary Education
1717 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Marcia L. Fudge
Subcommittee on Early Childhood,
Elementary, and Secondary Education
2344 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kline, Ranking Member Scott, Chairman Rokita, and Ranking Member Fudge:

We write today to express our deep concern with your Committee’s passage of H.R. 5003, the Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016. Although we appreciated the bill’s proposed increase to school breakfast reimbursements, we are alarmed by the inclusion of a block grant pilot program, permitting three states to abandon federal requirements, including mandates on student eligibility for free and reduced price meals and nutrition standards for meals.

For 70 years, the United States has maintained an unwavering commitment to ensuring our nation’s children have dependable access to healthy meals at school. This reckless block grant proposal is the first step toward eliminating this federal guarantee that all children – including America’s most vulnerable students – will have access to the nutrition they need to succeed in school.

School meal programs in participating states would lose critical funds under the proposal. For example, the block grant would not include federal reimbursements for meals provided to full paid students or the additional 6 cent lunch reimbursement earned under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. Funding under the block grant would remain frozen at Fiscal Year 2016 rates for the entirety of the three-year grant cycle.

In a September 2015 report, the Congressional Budget Office warned that “block grants that are smaller than the funding that current legislation would provide would probably eliminate access to nutrition programs for some children and reduce it for others. Such grants would also leave the programs unable to respond automatically to economic downturns.”



We remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring children nationwide have consistent access to nutritious meals at school. We urge you to work towards a bipartisan child nutrition reauthorization bill that protects school meals programs for students.

Sincerely,

Alabama SNA (<i>ASNA</i>)	Montana SNA (<i>MTSNA</i>)
Alaska SNA (<i>AKSNA</i>)	Nebraska SNA (<i>NSNA</i>)
SNA of Arizona (<i>SNAAZ</i>)	Nevada SNA (<i>NVSNA</i>)
Arkansas SNA (<i>ASNA</i>)	SNA of New Hampshire (<i>SNANH</i>)
California SNA (<i>CSNA</i>)	New Jersey SNA (<i>NJ-SNA</i>)
Colorado SNA (<i>CSNA</i>)	SNA of New Mexico (<i>SNANM</i>)
SNA of Connecticut (<i>SNACT</i>)	New York SNA (<i>NYSNA</i>)
Delaware SNA (<i>DSNA</i>)	SNA of North Carolina (<i>SNA-NC</i>)
Florida SNA (<i>FSNA</i>)	North Dakota SNA (<i>NDSNA</i>)
Georgia SNA (<i>GSNA</i>)	SNA of Ohio (<i>SNA of OH</i>)
Hawaii SNA (<i>HSNA</i>)	SNA of Oklahoma (<i>SNA of OK</i>)
Idaho SNA (<i>ISNA</i>)	Oregon SNA (<i>OSNA</i>)
Illinois SNA (<i>ILSNA</i>)	SNA of Pennsylvania (<i>SNAPa</i>)
Indiana SNA (<i>ISNA</i>)	SNA of South Carolina (<i>SNA of SC</i>)
SNA of Iowa (<i>SNAI</i>)	SNA of South Dakota (<i>SNASD</i>)
SNA of Kansas (<i>SNA-KS</i>)	Tennessee SNA (<i>TSNA</i>)
Kentucky SNA (<i>KSNA</i>)	Texas ASN (<i>TASN</i>)
SNA of Louisiana (<i>SNAL</i>)	SNA of Utah (<i>SNAU</i>)
Maine SNA (<i>MSNA</i>)	SNA of Vermont (<i>SNA-VT</i>)
Maryland SNA (<i>MSNA</i>)	SNA of Virginia (<i>SNA-VA</i>)
SNA of Massachusetts (<i>SNA of Mass</i>)	Washington SNA (<i>WSNA</i>)
SNA of Michigan (<i>SNAM</i>)	West Virginia SNA (<i>WVSNA</i>)
Minnesota SNA (<i>MSNA</i>)	SNA of Wisconsin (<i>SNA-WI</i>)
Mississippi SNA (<i>MSNA</i>)	SNA of Wyoming (<i>SNA of WY</i>)
Missouri SNA (<i>MSNA</i>)	