

November 15, 2012

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Chairman Lucas and Ranking Members Roberts and Peterson:

We the undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for protecting the funding and integrity of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program as provided in the Senate's Farm Bill (S. 3240).

The Senate bill preserves the current funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and also maintains the program as a 'fresh' fruit and vegetable program for low-income elementary school students. This funding will enable more than 3 million low-income elementary school students in more than 7,000 elementary schools nationwide to benefit from receiving a fresh fruit or vegetable snack every day at school.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is an effective and valuable nutrition program that results in children being exposed to a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and significantly increases their overall consumption, without increasing their average intake of calories. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is an important strategy to provide children with healthy school environments that work to improve children's eating habits, promote good health, and reduce their risk of overweight/obesity and other diet related health problems.

We urge the Farm Bill Conferees to protect both the funding and integrity of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program as provided in the Senate's Farm Bill (S.3240).

Very respectfully,

A World Fit For Kids!
Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Advocates for Health in Action

Alianza Nacional de Campesinas
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance
American Association for Health Education
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc.
American Heart Association
American Institute for Cancer Research
American Public Health Association
Arizona Public Health Association
Arkansas Center for Health Improvement
Arkansas Child Health Advisory Committee
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian and Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention Alliance
Association of State & Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Boston Public Schools
Bread for the World
California Black Women's Health Project
California Center for Public Health Advocacy
California Food and Justice Coalition
California Food Policy Advocates
California School Health Centers Association
Cambridge Public Schools
CAN DO Houston
CAN-Act - California Association of Nutrition & Activity Programs
Center for Civil Justice
Center for Communications, Health & the Environment
Center for Ecoliteracy
Center for Land-Based Learning
Center for Livable Future
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Connecticut Public Health Association
CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College; Program in Nutrition
DC Farm to School Network
DC Greens
Defeat Diabetes Foundation
Directors of Health Promotion and Education
Durham County Board of Health
Eastern Market Corporation
Eat Smart, Move More South Carolina
Environmental Working Group
Fair Food
Family Resource and Referral Center
FamilyFarmed.org
Farm to Table Food Services

First Focus Campaign for Children
Food Chain Workers Alliance
Food Family Farming Foundation
Fresh Producers
Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition
Hattie Mae and Pals Foundation
Healthy Farms Healthy People Coalition
Healthy Schools Campaign
Illinois Public Health Association
Indiana Rural Health Association
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Iowa Public Health Association
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Kansas Public Health Association
Leah's Pantry
Louisville Farm to Table
Maine Children's Alliance
Michigan After-School Partnership
Michigan League for Human Services
Michigan's Children
Minnesota Public Health Association
Mississippi Public Health Association
Missouri Public Health Association
MO Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Montana Public Health Association
National Congress of Black Women, Inc.
National Hypertension Association
National Parent Teacher Association
National WIC Association
NCO Community Action Agency
New Hampshire Public Health Association
New Jersey Public Health Association
New York Coalition for Healthy School Food
North Carolina Alliance for Health
Oakland Unified School District
Ohio Public Health Association
Oregon Public Health Association
Public Health Institute
Real Food Colorado
RESULTS
School food FOCUS National Office
Shape Up America!
Sheridan Way School
Slow Food USA
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

Sustainable Food Center
Tennessee Public Health Association
Texans Care for Children
The Integrative Medical Group of Irvine
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
Upstream Public Health
Urban & Environmental Policy Institute
Utah Public Health Association
Victor Community Support Services
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Voices for Virginia's Children
Washington State Public Health Association
Wellness in the Schools
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families
Wisconsin Public Health Association