



Society for Nutrition Education **Public Policy Legislative &** **Regulatory Update** **May 2002**

This newsletter highlights key legislative and regulatory news about nutrition education issues from Washington, D.C. This report has been prepared by SNE's Public Policy Consultant, Waterman & Associates.

SNE Officials Meet with USDA Under Secretary Bost

SNE leaders recently had the opportunity to dialogue with Eric Bost, USDA Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services and his staff in Washington, D.C. on a variety of nutrition education issues. Specifically, SNE members discussed the importance of establishing priorities for research and other programs related to food and health, as well as the critical and timely need for effective educational models. SNE also thanked USDA staff for their support of the 5-A-Day meeting.

SNE Official Testifies on Child Nutrition Programs & WIC

SNE member, Fern Gale Estrow, MS, RD, CDN, testified recently before a USDA-sponsored listening session on Child Nutrition Reauthorization in New York City. She stressed the importance of nutrition education within the child nutrition programs and urged USDA to use this opportunity to work towards finding a long-term effective solution to promoting nutrition to program participants.

President Signs 2002 Farm Bill -- Food Stamps Restored to Legal Immigrants

On Monday, May 13, President Bush signed the 2002 farm bill into law. After months of debate, key lawmakers were successful in forging a compromised agreement between the House and Senate versions of the new farm bill, *The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002*. The impasse over restoration of food stamp benefits to legal immigrants was finally broken after the House passed a resolution, offered by Rep. Joe Baca (D-CA), instructing conferees to accept the Senate Agriculture Committee language. The Senate bill restores benefits to legal immigrants who have been in the country for five years, as well as children and disabled individuals regardless of their date of entry.

Additionally, the framework includes a provision to provide five months of transitional benefits to households that leave the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block. The agreement includes program simplification provisions and a new quality assurance system. The nutrition title of the agreement includes an overall increase of \$6.4 billion over 10 years.

Click here to review the other key provisions relating to food and nutrition issues contained in the Farm Bill - <http://www.agriculture.house.gov/fbconfsum.pdf>

Senate Health and Education Committee to Hold Child Obesity Hearing

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee will have a full committee hearing on May 21, 2002 to investigate the issue of child obesity. Committee Chairman Edward Kennedy (D-MA) will chair the hearing. As of May 13th, the committee did not have a witness list nor has the committee linked this hearing and the upcoming findings to any particular legislation.

HHS Launches Campaign to “Take Time to Care About Diabetes”

HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson launched a nationwide campaign in May to raise women's awareness about diabetes, a serious condition that affects more than 17 million Americans, more than half of them women.

The campaign, sponsored by HHS' Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as several associations, emphasizes that women can make a positive difference to the whole family's health, including their own.

This announcement is part of HHS' effort to highlight disease prevention as the primary way that Americans can improve their health and personal well-being while reducing their health care costs. Secretary Thompson has made disease prevention and health promotion a top priority, and the President's budget for fiscal year 2003 proposes a \$20 million new pilot program, "Healthy Communities," to help deliver community-wide prevention support. Overall, HHS would spend more than \$16 billion for all disease prevention activities under the President's budget.

Additional information on the diabetes campaign is available on the FDA Diabetes Information site: <http://www.fda.gov/diabetes/> and Take Time to Care site: <http://www.fda.gov/womens/taketimetocare/diabetes/default.htm>.

Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant Opportunity

The Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice are currently accepting applications for grants for the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative, which will support the implementation and enhancement of comprehensive community-wide strategies for promoting healthy childhood development and creating safe and drug-free schools. Local educational agencies (LEAs) or consortia of LEAs are eligible to receive funds. The application deadline is June 21, 2002. The estimated average size of awards is \$2,000,000.

For more information, contact: Kellie Dressler Tetrick, SS/HS Program Coordinator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, 810 7th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20531, (202) 514-4817, or dresslek@ojp.usdoj.gov. To view the grant specifics, visit: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2002-2/042502b.html>.

**** SAVE THE DATE: SNE -- Advancing Women's Health for Healthy Communities, July 27 - 31, 2002, St. Paul, MN ****

