



**Society for Nutrition Education
Advisory Committee on Public Policy
Policy Action Alert – April 12, 2010
Make Child Nutrition a Priority Now!**

SNE Members,

Please urge Congress to renew and fund the school nutrition programs!

SNE's Advisory Committee on Public Policy needs your help to urge the Senate to renew and fund the school nutrition programs. In this tough economy, with American families struggling to make ends meet, school meals take on economic as well as nutrition importance. Also, with childhood obesity is one of the most pressing health problems facing our nation's youth, the quality of school meals is critically important.

Help improve children's health today: **ask Congress to renew and fund the school nutrition programs**. A model letter for emailing Congress and the Administration is provided below. Please don't delay – your email today can help make improvements to school nutrition programs a reality by the beginning of the next school year.

Please follow these simple steps to make your voice heard:

1. Go to http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

This site will lead you to the websites of your elected representatives. You will need your 9-digit zip code to find your Representative; if you don't know it, follow the links to the U.S. Postal Service.

2. Copy and paste the letter below, and add any other relevant comments or observations from your experience.

Thank you!

The SNE Advisory Committee on Public Policy

<Sample Letter>

Dear Senator:

Given the many pressing issues Congress and the Administration have had to deal with recently, renewal of the child nutrition programs has been delayed for more than a year. But the future of the nation rests on the future health of our children. Our children's nutrition and health can wait no longer.

More than 12.5 million American children are obese. Also, in this tough economy, American families are struggling to make ends meet, and depend on the school lunch, breakfast, and other child nutrition programs to feed their families. A recent study reveals that one out of every seven low-income, preschool-aged children is obese. The prevalence of obesity in low-income two to four year-olds increased from 12.4 percent in 1998 to 14.6 percent in 2008.

As a member of the Society for Nutrition Education (SNE), I ask that you work with Senate leaders, Senators Harry Reid and Mitch McConnell, to fully fund and move the child nutrition reauthorization bill to the Senate floor for a vote in April.

I congratulate Senators Blanche Lincoln and Saxby Chambliss for working across party lines to pass a strong child nutrition bill out of the Senate Agriculture Committee. It's now time for the full Senate to pass the bill so that the new reforms and resources will reach children by the next school year.

Please let me know if I can count on your support.

Sincerely,

<Your name>