



Society for Nutrition Education  
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## CNR ACTION ALERT

### ***SNE DISCUSSES CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION ON THE HILL***

Tracy Fox, Vice President of SNE, recently discussed the role of nutrition education and promotion in the upcoming Child Nutrition Reauthorization during a briefing at the House and Senate.

These briefings are just one example of how SNE is actively working to advance healthy eating and behaviors in today's children and adolescents, as well as the role of nutrition educators. Please find attached SNE's statements at the House and Senate.

Further information on SNE's Child Nutrition Reauthorization recommendations and advocacy work can be found at: [www.sne.org](http://www.sne.org), click on SNE Public Policy, and then go to SNE's Child Nutrition Reauthorization statements and letters. SNE is also working with the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity (NANA) and the Child Nutrition Forum.

We encourage members to use SNE materials to reach out to their local Congressional members, especially thanking the briefing sponsors, Rep. McCarthy (D-NY) and Sen. Lincoln (D-AR), and co-sponsors, Rep. Platts (R-PA) and Sen. Lugar (R-IN). Use the following site to locate your current Representative and Senators: <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

Below is an example that can easily be cut and pasted into a quick email or used to guide a phone call or message. Start with introducing yourself and add local examples of how the Child Nutrition Reauthorization impacts relevant state efforts. When referencing the Legislator be sure to use "The Honorable Ms. Smith" and "Dear Senator Smith or Representative Smith".

*Tom Vilsack, the President-elect Barack Obama's choice for agriculture secretary stated he would put "nutrition at the center of all food assistance programs." To put nutrition at center in the child nutrition programs will require more than improving the quality of school meals or getting rid of junk food in vending machines. Evidence demonstrates that even if schools serve more nutritious foods, students may not eat them. We also know – and the research has shown – that using a variety of delivery points and communication tools to get the message out about healthy eating increases the likelihood of success. This means not only teaching kids about nutrition in the classroom – it also means using the cafeteria as a learning lab; developing effective media campaigns at the school, district, state – and even the federal level; working with PTAs and other parent organizations, school and community leaders to further the messages. And, this can only come about with a well funded and comprehensive nutrition education and promotion platform.*

*As a nutrition educator, I recommend that Team Nutrition Networks play a key role in coordinating nutrition education and promotion activities. To be effective, Team Nutrition should be funded at the level of one cent per meal served in school lunch, child care, and summer programs to provide approximately \$70 million per year. This will allow for integrated and comprehensive nutrition education and promotion programs coordinated at the national level, administered at the state level to meet unique state needs, and disseminated to the local level based on prioritized community needs.*

*A well-funded Team Nutrition Networks would provide for better collaboration among federal agencies and programs like CDC's Coordinated School Health program; enhance efforts at the local level to develop wellness policies that have an impact; and result in integration of nutrition education messages across the spectrum of nutrition assistance programs.*

*Thank you for considering my input on child nutrition programs.*

SNE appreciates Tracy's leadership and hopes each member will reach out to their Congressional members to advance healthy eating and behaviors in today's children and adolescents.

Thanks for your help in these endeavors!

SNE ACPP Child Nutrition Reauthorization Subcommittee,

[Marilyn Briggs](#) - Co-Chair

[Sheila Fleischhacker](#) - Co-Chair

[Tracy Fox](#)

[Fern Gale Estrow](#)

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