



October 29, 2007

The United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Food Stamp Nutrition Education in the Farm Bill

Dear Senator:

As the Senate considers the 2007 Farm Bill, the Society for Nutrition Education respectfully urges you to support the use of public health approaches in Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE). Specifically, we urge you to support an amendment by Senator Bob Casey that would include Sense of Congress language on FSNE that mirrors the bipartisan language included in H.R. 2419, Section 4022 (see attached).

Throughout the United States, FSNE is making a real difference to help low-income individuals and families make healthy food choices consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans. By empowering children—and their parents—to make healthy choices, FSNE programs can bring about positive lifestyle changes, particularly increased fruit and vegetable consumption. Yet we can do more to help FSNE programs successfully and cost-efficiently target food stamp recipients and empower healthy behavior changes consistent with the Dietary Guidelines.

Research has shown that nutrition education must be delivered via multiple channels that cumulatively reinforce positive nutritional behavior. Expert bodies, such as the Institute of Medicine, indicate that dietary and physical activity behavior change is more likely to result from the combined application of public health approaches and education than from individual education alone. Importantly, this change does not require any new funding. Rather, state FSNE programs should have the option to use their existing federal funds to implement and evaluate all effective strategies for nutrition education and reach more FSNE-eligible individuals and families.

With your support, FSNE can play a greater role in promoting healthy eating and the consumption of fruits and vegetables, helping to reverse the epidemics of obesity, type II diabetes, and other serious health problems that

disproportionately impact low-income Americans. Thank you for consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Palmer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Debrah Palmer, PhD  
President, Society for Nutrition Education

Enc: Sense of Congress Language on Food Stamp Nutrition Education.

## **SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING FOOD STAMP NUTRITION EDUCATION**

*(a) Findings- The Congress finds the following:*

*(1) Nutrition education under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 plays an essential role in improving the dietary and physical activity practices of low income Americans, helping to reduce food insecurity, prevent obesity, and reduce the risks of chronic disease.*

*(2) Expert bodies, such as the Institute of Medicine, indicate that dietary and physical activity behavior change is more likely to result from the combined application of public health approaches and education than from individual education alone.*

*(3) State programs are currently implementing Food Stamp Nutrition Education using effective strategies, including direct education, group activities, and social marketing.*

*(b) Support Food Stamp Nutrition Education- The Secretary of Agriculture shall support and encourage the most effective interventions for Food Stamp Nutrition Education, including public health approaches as well as traditional education, to increase the likelihood that recipients of food stamp benefits and those who are potentially eligible for food stamps will choose diets and physical activity practices consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. To promote the most effective implementation of publicly funded programs, state Food Stamp Nutrition Education activities should be coordinated with other federally funded food assistance and public health programs and should leverage public/private partnerships to maximize resources and impact.*