



November 4, 2009

The Honorable John F. Kerry
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

On behalf of the Society for Nutrition Education (SNE), thank you for your past support and authorship of a bill to require the President to call a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition.

During the 110th Congress, you introduced S. 3108 to establish a White House Conference so that its members could make fundamental policy recommendations on ways to end hunger and to improve nutrition in the United States. We ask respectfully that you consider introducing a similar bill this year.

As you remember, Representative Jim McGovern introduced the House version of the legislation in the last session. He has done so again in the 111th Congress (H.R. 1869/H.R.2297). SNE sent letters to members of Congress earlier this year to request that they co-sponsor the measure and urged SNE members to contact their members of Congress directly to request that they do so.

As you know, the first such conference was held in 1969 and had a major impact on improving the effectiveness of federal programs in reducing food insecurity; improving nutrition, food safety and consumer protection; providing nutrition education in schools, kindergarten through grade twelve; and expanding educational and job opportunities. Given persistent problems associated with nutrition and food related issues, including incidence of diet-related diseases, escalation of childhood and adult obesity, all too-frequent breakdowns in our food safety system, and failure of most Americans to eat in accordance with the dietary guidelines, there is an urgent need for re-evaluation of federal programs designed to improve the nutritional health of Americans.

Many policies and programs are being implemented nationwide at local, state, and federal levels. Bringing together the key government agencies as well as leaders working on issues of hunger, food insecurity, nutrition education, and nutrition science will focus attention on actions to improve services, expand successful collaborative programs, address continuing needs, and maximize emerging opportunities.

If you chose to introduce a Senate companion bill this year, we stand ready to support you and your bill in whatever way possible. Please do not hesitate to have your staff contact Jackie Williams, Executive Director of SNE if we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoffrey W. Greene". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Geoffrey Greene, PhD, RD, LDN
President

The Society for Nutrition Education (SNE) is an international organization of nutrition education professionals who conduct research; develop and disseminate innovative nutrition education strategies; and communicate information on food, nutrition, and health issues to students, professionals, policy makers, and the public.