



September 12, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
United States Senate  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

We, the undersigned members of the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity, thank you for your leadership in securing updated national school nutrition standards for foods sold through vending machines, school stores, a la carte, and other venues outside the school meal programs.

The Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act laid the groundwork for improving the nutritional quality of competitive foods nationwide. Thanks to your leadership and the efforts of parents, health professionals, schools, and others, we are just a year away from removing unhealthy foods and beverages from schools across the country. The new national school nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools, combined with recent improvements to the school meal programs, will ensure that all school foods meet healthy nutrition standards.

As you know, child nutrition and obesity inextricably affect our nation's physical and fiscal health. With one out of every three children in America overweight or obese and most children consuming diets too high in saturated fat, sodium, and sugars, and too low in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, improving school foods is a key step toward supporting healthful eating by children. Strong nutrition standards for school foods will improve children's diets, support health and nutrition education, reinforce parents' efforts to help their children eat healthfully, and help protect the federal investment in school meals.

We thank you and your staff for your support, hard work, and leadership.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Action for Healthy Kids  
Advocates for Better Children's Diets  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Sports Dietitians and Nutritionists  
American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
American Institute for Cancer Research  
American Public Health Association  
American School Health Association  
American Society of Bariatric Physicians  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition (CT)  
California Association of Nutrition & Activity Programs (CAN-Act)  
California Center for Public Health Advocacy  
California Convergence Coordinating Office  
California Food Policy Advocates  
Center for Communications, Health & the Environment  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
ChangeLab Solutions  
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (WA)  
Consumer Federation of America  
Day One (CA)  
Defeat Diabetes Foundation  
Directors of Health Promotion and Education  
Earth Day Network  
FamilyCook Productions  
Farm Sanctuary  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Genesee Dietetic Association (NY)  
HealthMPowers, Inc. (GA)  
Healthy Schools Campaign  
Institute for America's Health  
Iowa Public Health Association  
KC Healthy Kids  
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California  
Leadership for Healthy Communities  
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Maine Public Health Association  
Maternity Care Coalition  
Michigan Association of School Nurses  
National Action Against Obesity  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Physicians Alliance  
National PTA  
National Research Center for Women & Families / Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund  
National Student Nurses Association  
National WIC Association  
Nemours  
New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
Nutrition in the Schools (PA)  
Ohio Public Health Association  
Oregon Public Health Institute  
Parent, Educators, and Advocates Connection for Healthy School Food (CA)  
Partners for a Healthy Nevada  
Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln (NE)  
Partnership for Prevention  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Prevention Institute  
Prevention Partners  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
Public Health Advocacy Institute  
Public Health Institute  
Real Food For Kids – Montgomery (MD)  
Real Food For Kids (VA)  
Recipe for Success Foundation  
Shape Up America!  
Strategic Alliance (CA)  
SuperKids Nutrition  
The Jones Center (AR)  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
The Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior  
Trust For America's Health  
United Fresh Produce Association